ENPS’s Student Leadership Forum

On Monday May 21st, the House Captains and Vice House Captains gathered for a leadership workshop with Mrs Edgar and Mr Mullen. First we discussed our understanding of what it means to be a student leader at ENPS. We talked about finding ways to help our school and younger students, and talked about being encouraging, respectful, helpful and responsible to others. We talked about what the school is doing well and it’s areas for improvements so that together we can improve our school. We believe the good things about our school are the friendliness of teachers and other students, the new gym, the school’s music program and the technology in classrooms like iPads and Interactive Whiteboards. The school’s wireless internet system has also improved over the past few years which now allows us to put this technology to good use. We are looking forward to our next workshop when we will do some more planning and put our brainstorms into action.

By Stephanie (6MG) and Adam (6MG)

Enrol Now for 2013

Parents are advised that Essendon North Primary School are accepting enrolments for students to commence in 2013 for Grades Prep—6.

Our school is not zoned but we do have an enrolment ceiling.

We welcome all enrolment enquiries.

Enrolment packs are available from our school office.

For further information please call 9379 3979 or email essendon.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Dates to Remember

Thursday, 24th May
- Big Day Out—Grades 3 & 4
- FOEN Committee Meeting
- Fire Brigade Visit—Preps

Friday, 25th May
- Parent Helpers Session 9am

Thursday, 31st May
- JSC—Challenge Day—Wear Yellow and Bring a Gold Coin Donation

Friday, 1st June
- Fire Brigade Visit—Preps

Wednesday, 6th June
- Werribee Park Mansion Grade 5

Monday, 11th June
- Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Saturday, 16th June
- FOEN Trivia Night

Monday, 18th June
- School Council Meeting

Thursday, 21st June
- FOEN Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 27th June
- Parent Teacher Interviews 1.30-7pm

Friday, 29th June
- Last Day of Term 2

Monday, 16th July
- First Day of Term 3
A Message from Scott Mullen
Principal…

2011 ENPS Performance Report

All government schools are assessed each year against a variety of criteria, and the results are compared to other schools. Essendon North Primary School consistently performs very well in each of these measures and 2011 was no exception.

a.) My School Website

The National Assessment Program for Literacy And Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a program that tests every student in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. The My School website is a Federal government initiative which compares NAPLAN results with every other Australian school, as well as comparing results of each school with a select group of 50 ‘similar’ Australian schools. According to the My School website, Essendon North Primary School performs ‘similar’ to or above the averages of ‘similar’ schools and all schools in every area at both 3 and year 5 levels. Whilst principals are pretty keen not to read too much into one off tests, the results are pleasing and consistent with the forms of assessment we conduct at ENPS.

b.) Student Opinion

All students in Grades 5 and 6 complete a confidential survey each year that is collated by the Department of Education to provide feedback on how students feel about their school. Our 2011 student opinion data was outstanding. Students consider our school to be exceptionally safe, the teachers to be caring and concerned about their progress, lessons to be stimulating and appropriate, and students feel very positive and confident about their lives at school. Our student opinion results are also amongst Victoria's highest results. This does not come as a surprise to us as secondary school principals often comment very favourably about the students from Essendon North Primary School, and students themselves consistently speak very positively about their school.

c.) Parent Opinion

Each year the Department of Education randomly selects 15% of parents to complete a confidential survey about the school. The data is aggregated by the Department and compared to all other Victorian schools in 18 different areas ranging from Reporting and Homework to Student Motivation, Student Safety and Quality of Teaching. Essendon North Primary School has once again returned results in all 18 areas much higher than the average of all other schools. Parents scored us exceptionally high in areas such as School Improvement, Approachability, Homework, and Student Behaviour, Engagement and Transitions. Over the past few years, the school has seen significant improvements in the opinions of parents within our community.

d.) Staff Opinion

Staff opinion surveys are generally a measure of attitude toward work. All employees of the Department of Education are asked to complete an online survey each year. The data is collected and compared to all other schools in the state. Our staff rated Professional Learning, Staff Wellbeing, and Student Behaviour and Motivation the highest. Over the past few years, the school has seen great improvements in the collective attitudes and opinions amongst staff. The positive nature and professional commitment in which staff undertake their responsibilities in educating your child would no doubt be the envy of most schools, and often brings praise from many parents in our school community.

e.) Student Enrolments

Student enrolments can be a key indicator of community confidence in a school. Over the past ten years, the school has consistently had an enrolment of between 460 and 504 students. Every year in February the Department of Education conducts an enrolment census in every government school. Last year on census day, Essendon North Primary School had 485 students (244 boys and 241 girls). In 2011, approximately 25% of children who attended our school lived closer to other schools but their parents drove them further to bring them to ENPS. When asked about why they view Essendon North so favourably, parents consistently referred to the high standards, excellent student behavior, individualized teaching and learning, the use of technologies in classrooms and the high quality of the school’s facilities.

f.) Class Sizes

There are always a lot of questions about a school’s class sizes, particularly from prospective families. In 2011, the school’s average class size across Prep to Year Two was 21.3 students per class, and the average class size across Three to Six was 24.4 students per class. Both these class averages were below the Department’s expected maximum average of 22 students across Prep to Year Two, and 26 students across Years 3 to 6.

g.) School Finances

ENPS has continued to provide new resources and facilities to support the achievement of high quality educational outcomes. Throughout 2011, the school received government grants, parent contributions and levies, and funds that were raised through community activities. These additional funds enabled the school to resource Literacy and Numeracy programs as a school priority, and provide new technologies for classrooms including new iPads, MacBooks and Interactive Whiteboards. The additional funds raised enabled the school to also reinstate playground equipment and install a new wireless network. The network had not been replaced since the school’s Navigator project in mid 1990’s.

h.) School Facilities

School facilities were bolstered by the construction of our new multi-million dollar indoor Gymnasium. The gym took much longer to complete than initially planned but it was great to have the building finally handed over at the end of last year. Last year also saw the establishment of a permanent Performing Arts Centre, the installation of a new wireless network across the school, the installation of a new Junior and Grade 3/4 Playground, the installation of solar energy across the school as well as a range of beautification projects such as new line markings for ball games, a chess set and tree planting.

i.) Overall

By all measures, 2011 was another fantastic year and all members of the school community should be proud of the school’s achievements. The children have been fantastic, parents have been wonderfully supportive of the school and the teachers continue to impress everyone with their dedication and commitment. Congratulations!
Semester One Reports

Teachers are in the process of assessing and moderating semester one’s student learning. Next week, teachers will be released for a day to continue this work and start writing your child’s report. You will receive your child’s report on Friday June 22nd. The school will be holding parent teacher interviews Wednesday June 27th from 1.30pm until 7pm, and students will be dismissed on this day at 1pm. This year, the school will be trialing a new online booking system for parents to book an appointment time with teachers. You will receive details on how to book an appointment time shortly.

Homework

Homework can be a topic of conversation and opinion in any school, and Essendon North Primary School is no exception. The homework that teachers provide is consistent with the Department of Education’s homework guidelines, and is intended to establish good homework patterns from an early age. Teachers will generally set homework across a team that will relate directly to the work that students are doing in the classroom and will be matched to the ability of a student. Every student is expected to read every night, and this needs to be monitored regularly by both teachers and parents. Revision of spelling and the automatic recalling of number facts are recommended too. The recommended homework per day is:

Prep to Year 4:
- Should not be seen as a chore
- Enables the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering of extra information or materials
- Will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents/carer or older siblings
- Will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.

Years 5 and 6:
- Should include daily independent reading
- Use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school
- Will extend class work, projects, assignments and research
- Will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations.

Teachers will follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete their homework. In most cases, the school will be unable to provide students with homework if they are absent for an extended period of time (i.e: vacation). This is because homework reinforces classroom learning and children need to be at school to learn these concepts in the first place.

Supervision of Students

Following the Department of Education’s guidelines, families need to be aware that students are supervised in the playground from 8.30am onwards. If your child arrives at school prior to 8.30am and is not accompanied by an adult, arrangements will be made for your child to attend the Before School Program. All classrooms will be open by no later than 8.40am for your child to prepare and set up for their learning day. Supervision of students will conclude at 3.30pm. In the event that your child is not collected by this time, arrangements will then be made for your child to attend the After Care Program. If any parent has any questions or concerns, please come and see me. Alternatively, parents are able to contact Camp Australia (Before and After Care Program).

Scott Mullen
Principal
mullen.scott.sm@edumail.vic.gov.au

A Message from Margo Edgar

Acting Assistant Principal…

The current era is a wonderful time to be an educator. We are going through a period of great change in the world and in schools. More than ever before the changes to the way we communicate and collaborate with others are opening up a world of possibilities.

Current research into understanding the way we learn and developing best practices for learning and teaching is increasing our knowledge, skills and understanding of effective strategies for teaching literacy and numeracy. Education practices around the world are being continually developed and refined in our quest to maximise learning outcomes for all students.

Just as we expect our medical and dental practitioners to move with the times and use current best practice when they are treating us, we should have these same expectations of our teachers.

Education has moved forward since we were at school, because research and evidenced based best practice has developed more successful and effective ways of supporting our students to become literate, numerate and curious life long learners.

Claire Taylor (ENPS Literacy Coach) and I are running an information session for Prep - 6 parents on reading and how you can help in the classroom and at home. The teaching of literacy over recent years has been developed and refined to match recognised current best practice for developing strategic readers and writers for this century.

A major focus is developing the students ability to comprehend text at a literal, inferential and evaluative level. We read to understand not to just say the words. This is why teachers often keep students at a particular level rather than moving them up. We are working on taking students beyond just being able to read the words aloud. We are working on developing their ability to comprehend the text. Students are only ready to be moved when they can comprehend the text at a literal, inferential and evaluative level. As educators we have a range of assessment and data collection techniques that we use to make those decisions.

The knowledge, information and research on current best practice that we have at our fingertips as educators makes this a fabulous era to be a teacher. The opportunity to reflect upon, refine, change and adapt our teaching practices are challenging but also rewarding as we observe the growth and development of our students.

Parent Helper sessions
Friday 25th May and Monday 28th May at 9.00am Foyer of the Gym

Margo Edgar
Acting Assistant Principal
Congratulations to:

Prep AC  James & Lachlan
Prep AJ  Jensen
Prep KD  Claire
Prep MS  Anh & Veronica
Prep ST  Perri
1 HN  Alannah & Harry
1 MT  Amanta, Katherine & Anden
34 AS  Mitchell
34 EG  Caitlan
34 JK  Aalyah & Elias
34 MG  DJ & Sarah
34 MM  Charlie & Ciaran
34 SF  Kayla & Pippa
5 AM  Madeline & Anna
5 CM  Jinnan
6 LS  Jesse & Emily
6 MG  Elif & Elisa
Music  Conor, Jye, Monty & Caelan

On Thursday, 31st May, Essendon North Primary School’s JSC will be holding ‘A Day in May’ where children and staff are encouraged to wear yellow to school and bring along a gold coin donation. All funds raised will be donated to the Musical Moments Trust which was established by Challenge, a non-profit organisation that supports children living with cancer. Challenge established the Trust in honour of an inspirational little boy who, regardless of the way he was feeling during his cancer treatment, smiled, danced, played instruments, sang to music and created songs – music was a wonderful and natural way for him to forget about his illness for a while.

The purpose of the Trust is to provide other pre and primary school children the same positive experiences by funding access to music therapy or music lessons, allowing them to lose themselves in the moment.

Challenge offers services to children and their families to help them through the toughest time of their lives. Challenge is committed to providing daily support for the entire family through quality, tailored programs and services which are designed to help them move forward through their cancer journey.

We hope you will enthusiastically support this important day and look forward to seeing everyone dressed in yellow! If you’d like to find out more about The Musical Moments trust or Challenge, you can visit www.challenge.org.au

Oliveia in grade 5 and Jacob in grade 6 have qualified to represent the Essendon District at the Western Metropolitan Regional Cross Country Championships in June. At the recent Essendon District Cross Country Races, Olivia won the 11 year girls event quite impressively and Jacob came second in the 12/13 year boys event. Kelly in grade 5 just missed out on qualifying for the next stage, finishing 5th in the 10 and under girls event. She was beaten for that spot in a very close contest for 4th place, the other runner just getting her nose in front right on the finish line. All students representing Essendon North at the event did the school proud.
Newsletter

Once a fortnight each family is provided with a hard copy of the newsletter via the eldest student in the family, as well as it being available through our school’s website.

We are introducing an additional source of communicating with our families via an electronic version which can be emailed directly to you.

It is important that all families receive the fortnightly newsletter so that we can keep you informed of the wonderful things happening around our school.

This will also ease the problem of newsletters getting lost and not making it home to our parents.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to: essendon.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or fill in the form below and return it to your child’s teacher or the school office.

Look forward to receiving your copy of the newsletter in your inbox from Wednesday, 6th June.

Kaye Sperling
Business Manager

There is no limit to the amount of email addresses per household. Why not get a newsletter to home, at work and send one to a relative!

Oldest Child’s Name: ____________________________ Grade: ______

Please replace our family’s hard copy with an electronic copy to the following email address/es:

| First Name: | First Name: |
| Last Name: | Last Name: |
| Email: | Email: |

| First Name: | First Name: |
| Last Name: | Last Name: |
| Email: | Email: |
Essendon Keilor College
Year 7 Scholarships 2013

Four scholarships supporting excellence will be awarded to academically talented Grade 6 students who can demonstrate outstanding abilities in one or more of the following categories: Leadership, Sport and/or the Performing Arts.

Four opportunities exist across the Niddrie and East Keilor Campuses.

Each scholarship will cover school fees, the first year of the student’s books and the basic uniform to the maximum value of $1000.00

Application forms are available at each campus office and must be submitted by Friday, 15th June, 2012. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, August 3rd, 2012.

Please contact the College on 8331 0100 if you have any enquiries.

Limelight Drama School

Drama Classes held after school 3.15—4.30pm on Thursdays in the Performing Arts Hall.

Now Casting for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

25% off Classes for First 5 Callers

Contact: Olivia Connolly 0407 537 305
Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children’s) long-term best interests.

If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce children’s resilience.

Robber # 1: Fight all their battles for them
Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

Resilience notion # 1: Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

Robber # 2: Make their problem, your problem
Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here’s a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold!

Resilience notion # 2: Make their problem, their problem.

Robber # 3: Give kids too much voice
In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

Resilience notion # 3: Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

Robber # 4: Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform
Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

Resilience notion # 4: Keep expectations in line with children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

Robber # 5: Let kids give in too easily
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like a teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting term half way through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

Resilience notion # 5: Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

Robber # 6: Neglect to develop independence
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

Resilience notion # 6: Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Robber # 7: Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations
There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the school concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

Resilience notion # 7: Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Sometimes the manageable hardships that children experience such as a friend moving away, not being invited to a party or completing a difficult school project are fabulous learning opportunities.

They help kids to stretch and grow. Dealing with them effectively also teaches kids that they are capable of coping when they meet some of life’s curve balls.

And that is a huge lesson to learn at any age.

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au
While you are there subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s hugely popular email newsletter.

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