



East Hills Public School

`working together for our children's future`

NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 2021

Issue 2, Week 6

Key Dates Term 1 2021

Every Monday	Jellybeans Music Program
Every Tuesday	Multi-Sports Program
Monday 1 March – Friday 5 March	Swim scheme
Tuesday 9 March	Belonging Day
Thursday 11 March	Selective High School Test
Monday 15 March	P&C Annual General Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday 16 March	Stage 1 Excursion to Pioneer Village
Thursday 18 March	Harmony Day
Wednesday 24 March	Whole School Photos
Thursday 25 March	Young Leaders Day & Stage 2 Excursion
Tuesday 30 March	Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 31 March	Zone Open Rugby League Trials
Friday 2 April	First Day of holidays – Good Friday

Dear parents and carers,

Meet the Teacher

It was wonderful to greet each of you, as you entered the grounds on Tuesday afternoon for "Meet the Teacher". I would like to thank our teachers for meeting with families face to face and being as welcoming and informative about the year of learning ahead for each stage across the school. I hope that you all received your information booklets along with a deeper

knowledge and connection with your child's classroom and their teacher. It is really important if you missed this meeting to schedule a time to meet with your child's classroom teacher.

Seesaw App

You will be given assistance in setting up the **Seesaw app** on your phone to ensure communication continues throughout the school year.

Skoolbag App

It is crucial that you have the **Skoolbag app** active as well. It is via Skoolbag, that school notifications regarding events, notes and newsletters are made available.

Sentral

Our school continues to use **Sentral** as an organisational software, for student attendance, student reports, record of meetings and incidents as well as an online booking system for parent and teacher interviews. Please contact the school if you are having any connection issues with the individualised link that was sent home in week 5.

Facebook

Our school Facebook page is our central platform where we celebrate and share learning. It is an opportunity to share in school life and generate positive discussions about learning with your children and family. Our students are really proud of their school and we thank you for the positive comments and support via this platform.

Jellybeans music

The Jellybeans music program will run every Monday for all students in term 1 and term 3. Students look forward to this lesson and are

making growth in their ability to read and play percussion instruments as well as develop their vocals.

Multi-Sport program

The *Multi-Sport* program is delivered to every student in the school. Half an hour is dedicated to dance, whilst half an hour focuses on skill development. This term we are developing our athletics skills, and will reflect these skills at our school athletics carnival in week 10.

Attendance

School attendance of all children from the age of 6 is a legal requirement in Australia. Under these regulations, schools are required to keep thorough and precise records of student attendance, including partial absence (arriving late and leaving early). Please ensure that your child is at school, on time, every day. Should your child require a sick day, please provide a letter and/or doctors certificate explaining this absence. Unapproved leave is marked as unjustified. The school bell rings at 8.55am. Rolls are marked at 9am with morning routines beginning promptly. To reduce your child's anxiety and embarrassment, please ensure your child arrives to school before 8.55am, so they have time to unpack and prepare for their day of learning. Student attendance is monitored by both the school and the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO). Families may be called to a meeting should their child's attendance be of concern.

Learner dispositions

You will hear your children talk about how to be a great learner. The following learner dispositions are explicitly taught and embedded into all lessons.

REFLECTION

A reflective learner thinks about their learning with honesty, gratitude and an open-mind, as they seek to:

- understand how they learn best, building a strong self-awareness,
- monitor where they are in their learning,
- evaluate their successes, strengths and mistakes,
- plan where to go next,
- set goals as they strive for continual improvement; and
- appreciate and celebrate their progress.

When I am reflective:

- o I can talk about my learning,
- o I can be flexible and change my approach as I go,
- o I can set goals and grow as a learner,
- o I can explain:
 - *how I am doing?*
 - *where I am going?*
 - *talk about my next steps for learning*

GRITTY

A gritty learner sets meaningful learning goals and pursues them with passion. They persevere with courage and determination until they finish what they started, even when they experience challenges and set-backs. Gritty learners;

- are resilient when faced with challenges and committed to persisting even when learning gets difficult,
- seek new ideas and perspectives to help them succeed in their learning,
- understand that achieving long-term goals is about hard-work, not just talent or luck,
- stay strong in face of pain, fear or grief; and
- are confident, committed and optimistic.

When I am gritty:

- o I take risks with my learning.
- o I can bounce back from frustrations, failures, mistakes and adversity
- o I can use my growth mindset to overcome challenges
- o I stick with my goals even when it is difficult

CURIOUS

A curious learner is inquisitive and takes an active interest exploring new things. They have a strong desire to build knowledge and make meaning from what they are learning, applying this knowledge to different situations. Curious learners;

- focus their questioning to clarify understandings,
- seek to build deeper knowledge,
- are engaged in their learning and embrace opportunities,
- make connections to their prior knowledge; and
- understand that learning is lifelong and never ends.

When I am curious:

- o I show interest in learning,
- o I ask questions and try to find the answers
- o I am eager to acquire knowledge

COLLABORATIVE

A collaborative learner works together in pairs or groups to complete a task, generate ideas, solve a problem or achieve a goal. Effective collaboration involves positive social interaction, the sharing of

ideas and the active contribution of all group members. Collaboration divides the task and multiplies the success. Collaborative learners;

- actively contribute when working with others,
- work well in both pairs and groups,
- respect the contributions of others,
- show commitment to the task; and
- aim for positive group dynamics and effective conflict resolution.

When I am collaborative:

- o I work with others to achieve my learning goals
- o I am a responsible and considerate group member
- o I use excellent communication skills

OWNERSHIP

A learner who has ownership understands that they are responsible for their own learning, personal growth and success. They have self-motivation and a strong belief that success in learning is within their control. Learners with ownership;

- demonstrate life skills and personal qualities such as, initiative, self-direction and productivity,
- are responsible and considerate when working with others,
- connect ideas to what they already know,
- fix their own mistakes and see these as opportunities to learn and grow: and
- believe that with hard work and consistency they can achieve their goals

When I have ownership:

- o I know that I am responsible for my own learning and behaviour
- o I am motivated, engaged and self-directed
- o I solve problems, rather than make excuses
- o I use my time well and get the job done.

These learner dispositions are shared with students on morning assemblies and taught and discussed more thoroughly in the classroom and in the morning routine.

Linking home and school

Students from kindergarten to year 6 will receive a username and password to access their **Reading Eggs and Mathletics accounts**. These accounts are accessed during class time and are also available from home. Students complete a mini assessment on each of these platforms and this determines their individualised start and access to skill appropriate activities and games. Research shows that homework for primary aged students

is ineffective, however, mastery learning has a huge impact. Teachers will assign activities in alignment with the skills being taught in class each week. We encourage a 20 minute timeslot on each platform each day at home (40 min total). It has been reported to me by parents that students will ask to have more time than this. Please use your discretion and set timers in support of limiting screen time. Please contact your classroom teacher via the Seesaw app, if you have not received your child's username and password.

Belonging program

Our school continues to hold the privilege of leading the Indigenous Belonging Program in our school network. This program has been running for 16 years, with our school leading these last few years. It aims to bring together students of indigenous culture and provide opportunities for them to connect with each other, the land and celebrate their culture. We currently have 180 indigenous students registered to attend these cultural days. Many thanks to the support of our local schools, we are able to connect students from kindergarten to year 12. Please keep an eye out on Facebook, we will be sharing the learning and experiences with you!

Koori breakfast

Information will be coming home to indigenous students and their families to attend a Koori breakfast. It is at this gathering that classroom teachers will work with parents, our Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) Aunty Carol and students to create Personalised Learning Plans for our students. Please keep an eye out on Skoolbag for this information.

Peer support and student leadership

East Hills Public School offer many opportunities to grow leaders. Our *student leadership team* was voted in using our Australian democratic system. Issa Barry, Ameena Abdulwahab, Heba Mourad, Marcus Zhou, Malak Chamma and Mahmoud Fadel will represent our students, in 2021. We congratulated our *sports captains* in week 4, who will be leading their house groups at our athletics carnival in week 10.

This Thursday our *Student Representative Council (SRC)* students from year 2 to 6, will be

presented with their badges.

We are still finalising our *library monitors* for 2021!

I would like to publically thank Mrs Murray for leading our peer support program in our school. Peer support is led by year 6 students and aims to develop understanding, friendship and connection to others. Students across the school engage with their peer support leaders on a Wednesday afternoon in term 1. The program will be adapted each term throughout 2021.

Sport

Our PSSA competition is underway! Please view Facebook for highlights each week. Thank you to Mr Harris and Ms ten Kate for their organisation of both PSSA and school sport opportunities on Friday. Please be reminded that students must be in their full sports uniform and hat to participate in sporting activities.

Sensory Playground

Our sensory playground was completed at the end of the school holidays. This resource will be available to all students across the school. Many thanks to our P&C for assisting with the cost of this installation. We were fortunate to have Kate Johnston utilise the remainder of another projects funds to support this school project. We are grateful for the work Kate continues to do for our school.

School Improvement Plan

Thank you to all the parents who shared information with us via our parent forums and surveys at the end of 2020. This information is being used as we develop our new school improvement plan. Our leadership team in the school have collated all the data collected from the community, students and staff to draft our future directions. I look forward to sharing this information with you in the coming weeks via our parent zoom sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. Please contact our Community Liaison Officer, Sue Booth for the link to participate in these sessions.

Year 7 enrolment, 2022

Year 6 parents, please view the skoolbag app for information regarding year 7 enrolments for

2022. Please contact the office if we can be of any assistance.

Staffing

I would like to introduce the successful applicant for the assistant principal special education position, Joel Redman. Joel will begin his appointment at East Hills Public School in term 2. Joel is looking forward to starting at East Hills.

P&C

Many thanks to our P&C for organising special meetings as we prepare to meet in week 8 for our AGM. P&C meetings are held at the school every Monday at 9.15am in week 3 and week 8 of each term. We look forward to welcoming many new faces. Please keep an eye on skoolbag for P&C updates.

Warmest regards,

Donna Casey

Principal

