

Newsletter

Monday 17th July 2017

Principal: Alex Artavilla
School Council President: Kylie Barker

School Supervision Times:
8.45am - 9.00am
3.15pm - 3.30pm

Uniform Shop Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm - 3.30pm

Key reminders:

- Footsteps Dance program every Monday or Tuesday (depends on class) for the rest of the term the end of the year.

Dates to remember 2017:

Term 3

Monday 17th July
Footsteps Dance Program
Will be held every Monday or Tuesday for the term.

Monday 21st August – 25th
Book Week

Friday 25th August
Dress Up Day for Book Week

Monday 4th September
Swimming Program Starts

Term 4

Monday 6th November
Curriculum Day – No Student at School

Don't forget if you have a sibling to be enrolled for next year, can you please hand in your enrolment as soon as possible to help with planning


Sunshine Heights
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter will be available online & will FlexiBuzzed each week

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone!

(Please note that there will be no newsletter sent home on Thursday this week. This notice will replace the newsletter for this week. The next newsletter will be Flexi buzzed on Thursday 27th of July)

Hope everyone was fortunate enough to have a few days of rest and relaxation over the past two weeks. School holidays are not a favourite time of the year for my adult friends and family that have primary school aged children, as they take on the challenge of supervising their children while working. Until my children started school, it was a world that I never knew existed. Hope all went well for those that were working over the past two weeks!

Term 3 is an exciting time for the school as we take part in a 'Peer Review' process, which involves reflecting on our learning journey over the past four years, to establish a new four-year school strategic plan, which will outline our key actions/strategies to enhance student learning, engagement and wellbeing. The first stage of the review commences on Wednesday this week and includes members of the Leadership Team, two challenge partners from other schools, a departmental representative, School Council President Kylie Barker and an external reviewer.

Apart from the 'Peer Review' process, there are a number of other key events/focus areas that will be occurring in Term 3.

This includes:

- **Greater focus on our 'Units of Work'**. Teams will once again be sending home a 'Term Newsletter' over the next week to outline what the students will be focusing on this term.



Thursday 19th July 2017



As a staff, we wanted to raise the profile of our 'Units of Work' to allow the students the opportunity to further apply their understandings as a reader, writer and mathematician. Units of work focus on key learning areas such as Humanities, Health, and Technologies – which can be referred to as the big ideas. The structure of the Units of Work in Term 3 have been developed from the work of the Creativity/Inquisitive Thinking working party.

- **Continuing to seek feedback via Parent/Student/Staff forums/discussions.** This includes:
 - A **parent information session** that has been organised from the feedback received from a Parent Invitational Forum that was held last term. This information session will focus on supporting parents with better understanding how we use the teaching strategy of 'small group instruction' to differentiate and cater for students working above and below the level in reading and writing. Details of this information session will be communicated in the coming days.
 - On **Wednesday 2nd of August 10am in the staffroom**, I have scheduled another Parent Forum, which I have titled '**Wonderings about Learning**'. This parent forum/discussion was suggested via the Parent Forum survey. Although we have a clear mission and vision, and are guided by departmental priorities, research and expert consultants (which underpin our philosophy of how we believe students learn best), we also want to ensure that we are open to different ideas, suggestions and opinions that could further support us in achieving our goals and targets. We also understand that we are not perfect but we are on a journey, which we are continually building on, and refining each year.

This is why forums like this are important, as there may be ideas/suggestions raised that we can explore further and take on board immediately or there may be ideas/suggestions raised that we may already be working towards which gives us the chance to communicate our future intentions. The purpose of this forum is give parents the opportunity to:

- Ask questions to find out more about why we do, what we do
- Share ideas about different learning approaches that the school may be interested in exploring.

All members of the Leadership team will be attending this forum, which will be guided by the questions raised. Hope you can join us. A notice will be Flexi buzzed in the coming days.

Reviewing the way we celebrate and showcase our students!

Something that we have been reviewing as a staff has been 'Student of the Week' awards. The purpose of the student of the week award is to recognise one student a week per class that demonstrates the values of the school or to celebrate a learning/behaviour achievement. The challenge teachers face with the student of the week award is that you can only choose one person each week (this is due to time constraints). The benefits of the student of the week award:

- Recognition of achievement
- Celebrating this recognition in front of their peers and the school community

After discussions as a staff, we want to better recognise and celebrate the special qualities of the students at assembly each week. Something that we are exploring is the idea of no longer having 'Student of the Week' Awards from 2018. Instead, we are looking at the idea of 'Spotlighting' the special qualities that one student brings to their class and the school, and sharing this at assembly



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each week. This would involve one student from each class being 'spotlighted' at assembly over the course of the year.

The special qualities of the student will be collated by the class with the teacher, and shared by a peer in front of the school community. It will be a celebration of what makes each of us such a special and valued member of our school community. It is a great way to further highlight our strengths and individual personalities. It is also a great way for us to recognise and look for the good qualities in people.

Our thinking is that the order of the spotlighting will be decided by the teacher, which may include working through the 'attendance roll'. However, our goal is to let parents know of the day their child will be spotlighted well in advance, by deciding on the order at the beginning of the year.

I am excited by this idea, as it gives the students greater responsibility in recognising and celebrating the uniqueness and special qualities of other students that they work and play with each day.

Finally...

Footstep dancing commenced today! Dances to be showcased at the end of the year!

We also had a number of works over the holiday, which included:

- New access ramp has been installed outside Building B opposite Prep line up area
- The big green tank has been relocated to the back of the gym – part of our grounds masterplan which has opened up this space.
- We had a broken pipe outside the staffroom which was repaired over the holidays
- We have repaired areas where the Year 3s line up and placed some fake grass in this space

- Group of parents have added some new Artwork on the outside walls where the Year 1 and 2 students line up! The 'Tree of Life' art piece looks amazing! Big thank you to these parents and their helpers!

Looking forward to catching up with everyone throughout term three!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights Primary School