Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations!

I just wanted to begin the newsletter this week by congratulating our 2016 Preps who have successfully completed their first full week of school last week!

Riding like a Ride2School Poster!
Well...sort of...

Thank you so much to all the families that were able to support Ride2School Day last week! It was great to see so many students and families arriving to school by riding, walking, scooting or skating.

This included 201 students on the day, which is an amazing effort! Big thank you to those families that need to drive to school but found a location to park that was not around the perimeter of the school! It was so much calmer and safer on the roads before and after school! Our goal as a school community is to try and enjoy the more active/environmentally and school traffic friendly forms of transport more often!

I just wanted to acknowledge and thank everyone for making the effort and any future efforts over the year!

I know as a parent that this is much easier said than done, which is why I love how promotional materials for Ride2School Days include images of families happily enjoying the breeze flowing into their face as they cruise to school with not a worry in the world! I remember before my daughters could ride their bikes thinking how exciting it will be to ride around where we live to spend time at the park or to pick up some bread from the local bakery. This is how I remember my childhood! But once again, my memory of my childhood usually begins around the age of 12. This is because, now that my daughters can ride their bikes, not every experience is a joyful one! Especially, when they were just starting out! However, I think things were worse when they were travelling on scooters!

My daughters seem to associate riding their bikes with imaginative play. Honestly, as soon as my youngest daughter jumps on her bike she her
transforms into an ‘intergalactic warrior’ that must defeat and lead all other ‘intergalactic warriors’ that join her on her riding mission (the other warriors are myself, my wife and my eldest daughter). I think I spend most of our riding journey reminding her to concentrate on the road! To add to my stress levels, my eldest daughter likes to keep herself entertained by sticking as close as possible to the curb of the road then pulling out for parked cars like she is on a high speed pursuit travelling down a major highway. My wife says I need to relax more! She rides like one of those people on the posters! Me, I’m barking orders to my girls, checking for opening doors of parked cars, speeding up to check intersections, providing motivational speeches to everyone when we need to travel up a steep road, looking out for stones on the road, shouting out 5 second ‘drive way’ warnings, and watching out for magpies (all year round! seriously I think one swooped me last week because I kicked a soccer ball against a tree that is was sitting in – my wife thinks I’m imagining things).

However, the worst riding experiences that I have had have been my fault as I may have tested my daughter’s endurance levels and taken them on a journey that was a bit too far! These have usually ended up with fatigue setting in, and then one of them falling off. When they fall off they actually blame the bike and don’t want to ride anymore. I usually get, ‘I just want to go home!’ It takes me around 15 minutes to convince them that the best form of transport at this particular point to get us home is the bike. Then we spend the next 3 hours heading home, riding, at walking speed so that we don’t aggravate the injury, that doesn’t really exist—in my eyes anyway.

Ok, maybe I bring this on myself! I did notice how happy and relaxed families were as they arrived on their bikes to school on Friday! It must be me! I might need some tips on how to ride bikes as a family like the Ride2School posters!

Anyway, thanks again to everyone and I hope that you are able to enjoy riding, walking, scooting or skating more often as it sends a great message to the students about being active and environmentally friendly! Also, with limited parking around the school, it enhances safety on the roads during the busy drop off and pick up times!

**School Council election update**

**Introducing the members of the 2016 Sunshine Heights Primary School Council:**
- Glenn Wintringham
- Khalad Karim
- Lisa McCarthy
- Kylie Barker
- Jacinta Goldie
- Carlos Rosado
- Sharon Noel
- Indira Gjoni
- John Mifsud
- Liz Dalgleish
- Luan Pham
- Natasha Pasquier
- Sonia Papadopoulos
- George Anastasiadis

Hope everyone had a great week.

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights P.S.

[Image of Swap Shop]

**MORE DONATIONS NEEDED!**

The Swap Shop is running low on stock. If your children have grown out of their school uniforms, please pass them to the office. Stay tuned for our new location and opening times!
Instrumental Lessons at School

Did you know that Music:

Develops mind, hand & eye co ordination
Enhances listening skills
Improves self esteem
Is fun!

Lessons starting from $14.00
Parents wishing to enrol more than 1 child.

Enrolment forms are available from the School Office or contact
Genesis Music School Direct on 0421 426 674.
Literacy and Numeracy Tips of the Week

**Literacy Tip:** Book talk is an important part of reading. Chat about the book before, during and after reading and really encourage your child to talk about their ideas and ask questions about the book.

**Numeracy Tip:** By presenting Mathematics as a story, children can make links to their everyday life. Begin by reading books to your child that include numbers and counting.

**Useful Literacy and Numeracy Websites**

**Literacy Websites:**
3. [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
4. [www.tumblebooks.com](http://www.tumblebooks.com)

**Numeracy Websites:**
4. [www.coolmath-games.com](http://www.coolmath-games.com)

Sonia Papadopoulos - Literacy
Gail Liakoureas - Numeracy
To showcase and celebrate the learning experiences offered at Sunshine Heights Primary School, on **Thursday 19th of May 1:00pm – 7:15pm** the students will have the opportunity to experience a ‘Twilight’ school day. On this day the students will arrive at school at 12:45pm for a 1:00pm start with school finishing at 7:15pm.

Twilight School will give parents/carers/grandparents the opportunity to visit and enjoy their child’s classrooms in action. We will also use this event to invite our kindergarten friends and families!

The school day times on our Twilight School Day will be as follows:

- 1:00 – 3:00pm  Session 1 and 2
- 3:00 – 3:30pm  RECESS
- 3:30 – 4:30pm  Session 3
- 4:30 – 4:40pm  Eating time
- 4:40 – 5:30pm  OUTSIDE TIME (this may vary depending on the time that the sun will be setting)
- 5:30 – 7:15pm  Session 4 and 5

Students will be expected to arrive at class/school at 12:45pm. At the end of the school day parents will be asked to pick their child up from the classroom. No child will be allowed to walk home from school – this is the same policy that applies for school concert nights. Parents will also be asked to inform the class teacher in writing prior to the day of alternative picking up arrangements (e.g. uncle/friend picking up student).

We are currently looking at the idea of pre-ordered meal arrangements for the students. More information regarding food arrangements will be provided in the coming months.

Parents/carers are encouraged to arrive at any time of the day for as long as they would like to stay. However, it will be important for parents to remember that it is a normal school day and that students will be expected to stay at school until the end of the day (unless they have after school sports/music session - the decision to attend the session is up to the parent/student – parents are encouraged to pick up their child from school at any time to attend the training session/lesson).

More details regarding the day are currently being finalised with staff to ensure it is a successful school event and will be shared with families weeks prior to the event.

**Other important information:**

- Police will be contacted to support at school crossings if official school crossing personnel are unable to man crossings before school starts – between 12:30 – 1:10pm.
- Staff members will man all school crossings (not just the ones around the school boundary) used by students before school starts. Crossings supervision will commence at 12:30pm. It would also be good to have parent volunteers assist with school crossings.
- A map of the school crossings that will be manned between 12:30pm and 1:10pm will be provided to all families.
- Parents will be required to sign in at the school office prior to visiting their child’s classroom.

**Twilight School will prove to be another exciting day for the students and the whole school community!**

Please contact the school if you have any further questions regarding ‘Twilight School’.
We warmly invite you to attend our

**Sunshine College**

**2015 WINNER**
**AN OUTSTANDING YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT**
**Victorian Education Excellence Awards**

**2016 INFORMATION EVENINGS**

**Tuesday 19 April — 4pm to 6pm**
North Sunshine Community at the North Campus
Northumberland Rd, Sunshine North

**Thursday 21 April — 4pm to 6pm**
Ardeer and West Sunshine Community at the Ardeer Campus
Corner Glengala Rd and Allison St, Ardeer

sunshine.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.sunshine.vic.edu.au
PH 8311 5200

**RSVP** Please register your attendance by leaving your name, the session you will attend and the number of people attending at College Administration on 8311 5200 or emailing the details to sunshine.co@edumail.vic.gov.au