Dear Parents and Carers,

The thing I enjoy most about my role is that I get the chance to watch the students grow as learners and people over the year/s. When I commenced in my role at Sunshine Heights Primary School in 2010, the current group of Year 5 and 6 students were in their final term of Prep and Year 1. To see them move through the school each year and watch them go from innocent individuals to responsible and respectful people is what makes being part of the education system such a rewarding experience.

This same group of students last week showcased leadership skills that they have developed over the years. The teachers of these students have set high expectations but most importantly are once again determined to allow them to ‘shine’.

Last week I sat back with admiration and watched the way the Year 5 and 6 students returned from their holiday. I observed the way they enthusiastically took on the responsibility of being a ‘buddy’ to our Prep students to ensure they have an amazing start to their school life. I also had the pleasure of listening to our new School Captains and Vice Captains speak so confidently and respectfully during their first two assemblies. They have set a high expectation for themselves and their fellow students. Big congratulations to these students and their teachers for continuing on with the work of our previous student leaders!

As a dad I am currently going through a stage where I feel like my daughters have gone from being toddlers to...to...to...to...being ‘not toddlers’!

Some of the things that I see them do and say nowadays I assumed was still at least a few more years away! You see my theory about how students grow from my Primary school experiences is that while they are in Year Prep and One they live in their own world that is full of joy and innocence. They don’t care about who they play with whether it’s a boy or girl. I honestly think if we didn’t point it out they wouldn’t even know that different genders existed! However, as I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, once they reach the end of Year 2, things start to change. Suddenly they become more aware of things in their world. They seem to become more conscious of what others think. It also seems to be the time that the ‘girls’ notice that boys exist and boys notice that girls exist. Well, my eldest daughter has just started Year 3. Yes, and me being still a relatively new dad I just assumed that my daughters would meet and notice boys when they were at least 28 year olds I see that as a good age – it would save me a lot of stress and surely make life much simpler. It’s not that I have problems with ‘boys’. I think they are great people. I grew up with three of them!

Anyway, at this stage, my daughters seem happy to just enjoy life and spend time playing and thinking about people that they get along with. So, you can imagine my reaction the day when I was joyfully wandering down the passageway and I overheard my daughters chatting in the bath. Now, it roughly takes me about 1 second to walk past the bathroom door. So when they are talking it is virtually impossible to pick up on what they are saying. However, on this evening, for some strange reason, maybe because my brain is consciously frightened about dealing with this issue until they are in their late 20s. But, in that moment I passed by the entrance of the door I heard my youngest daughter say to my eldest daughter,
'So which boys do you like this year.' I nearly passed out! I actually had to find somewhere to sit as I started to get light headed and to lose feeling in my left arm! It couldn’t be possible. This was way, way too early! 20 years to soon to be precise!

Once I collected my thoughts I had to sort out what was going on! Surely this wasn’t possible! Maybe I heard wrong! Maybe she actually said which boys ride a bike this year! Yes, that’s it! Everyone wants to know if boys ride bikes! I’m not sure why my daughters care, but it’s possible! They ride bikes…their friends ride bikes…I ride a bike! Bikes are good! They’ve got wheels and pedals and you can put a bell on them! Yes, that’s it!

I couldn’t contain myself. As soon as they were out of the bath and dressed I casually started up an after bath/pre bed conversation.

‘So. You know that thing you were both talking about in the bath.’
‘Yeah our Slovenian toys.’
‘No, the other thing’.
‘Oh, the smiggle pencils.’
‘No, the other thing.’
‘What. Soap?’
‘I think (or hope) it was about which boys bring a bike to school?’
‘What? Bikes? We didn’t talk about bikes?’ (Nooooooooooooooooo!) – what I was thinking!
‘Okay! About boys you like! What was that about?’
‘Oh! Every year we say which boys we like.’
(Whhhhhhhaaaaattttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttttt...
Currently we have a number of processes in place including:

- Building and maintaining a culture that is focused on strong, positive working partnerships between parents and teachers, Weekly newsletter, Year Level newsletter that is sent home at the start of each term, Website, Twitter

For 2015, we will be trialing a new program that we believe will further enhance communication with families. This program is called ‘Tiqbiz’ and enables schools to send messages/photos to families as a text message.

We are hoping that all families register for the program which is an ‘App’ that can be downloaded in your ‘App’ store.

A small flyer has been sent home with instructions from the company. However, if you need any support with downloading and using the ‘App’ please contact the school.

Parents will need to register and find the school. You will then need to select the boxes that apply to you. This includes receiving:

- Whole school messages
- Prep messages
- Year 1/2 messages
- Year 3/4 messages
- Year 5/6 messages

You are more than welcome to choose more than one box. Once you have registered and selected your ‘boxes’ you will be able to receive messages from the school. These messages may include reminders, celebration notes and/or emergency information.

Note that there are other features of ‘Tiqbiz’ that we are currently exploring. However, at the moment we are only using the tool to communicate messages to parents. Note that it is important that if you are using an Apple that you click ‘allow’ notifications when asked.

Please also note that we are still learning about the program and hope to start using it more regularly in the next few weeks.

I am really looking forward to having this program up and running in the school, as it will further enhance communication at the school.

Alex Artavilla
Principal

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Presentation at Friday Assembly

Prep:
A  Angelie Le
B  Matilda Kortlang
C  Khloe Kuloski
D  Arlo Mykyta

One:
A  Pranesh Naikar
B  Novak Sobot

Two
1/2A  Mia Nguyen
2A  Riyaq Mohamoud
2B  Malak Kesha

Three:
A  Lalita King
B  Nivetha Ranjithkumar

Four:
A  Sara Banjanin
B  Rhibbon-Joey Monomai-Motuliki

Five:
A  Omar Abdelbagi
B  Azra Pepic

Six:
A  Vinith Murugamoorthy
B  Harris Liyanage

Sport:  Lily Tran (2B)
Spanish:  Adrian Singh (3A)
Art:  Willow Howatt-Cikos (3A)

Congratulations Everyone
Great Achievement!
PE NEWS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

My name is Rasha I am the new physical education teacher for this year. I am excited to be teaching your children/child.

Students in the early years of schooling experience steady growth, they generally have abundant energy and a sense of adventure. Which brings me to my next point that our grade 5/6’s this year will have a chance to experience a new adventure and build on their skills within the participation to inter school sports. Inter school sports is a great opportunity for students to experience sports in a friendly, social and competitive environment. Students each week on a Friday morning will participate in the sport they had chosen throughout the week. Some weeks students will get to travel to different venues to play other schools. There will be more information about travel in the weeks to come. I’m so excited to see all students have a chance to show off their skills they have learnt in physical education and experience something new.

Our first game is this Friday, 13th of February against Ardeer South. It is a home game so students will be staying inside the school grounds. Students will need to be in full sports uniform. Due to hot weather students will need hats, sunscreen and drink bottles. Students playing soccer will need to wear long soccer/football socks.

Rasha

EDUCATION SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Don’t forget if you have a current Health Care Card you have until the Friday 27th of February to fill in the form to claim the book pack stationary. You can get a copy of the form from the front office. If you have any queries or require any help please see the office staff.

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
5% Discount to 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.
2015
The International Year of Soils

Our aim is to enhance the school grounds using sustainable plants and methods. Run by parents, we will help to reconnect the students with nature and become environmentally responsible.

Come and join us: Friday mornings!

Planting mulching and watering are some of the easy jobs we do, so you don't need to know anything about gardening. Preschoolers welcome.

If you can't make it on a Friday, we will be organising some weekend sessions, so pop your name on the list, have a look at our Pinterest page, and get your green thumb on!

Summer planting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basil</th>
<th>Okra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>Onion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beetroot</td>
<td>Oregano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bok Choy</td>
<td>Parsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Parsnip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussel Sprouts</td>
<td>Pumpkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>Radish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsicum</td>
<td>Rhubarb (crowns)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrot</td>
<td>Rocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilli</td>
<td>Rockmelon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chives</td>
<td>Shallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coriander</td>
<td>Silverbeet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>Quash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>Sunflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endive</td>
<td>Sweet Corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fennel</td>
<td>Tomato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohl Rabi</td>
<td>Turnip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leek</td>
<td>Watermelon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>Zucchini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pumpkin seedlings are flowering, so here’s hoping for the world’s largest pumpkin!

Friday mornings 9-10.30
Tel: Lisa 0423 329 734
Email: vinlisa@optusnet.com.au

Pinterest  www.pinterest.com/sunnybees/
**Parenting Program**

About the program

The program uses mindful reflection to support parents of children of all ages to:

- review and enhance their patterns of communication with their children
- promote more respectful interactions
- encourage the development of children’s positive self-identity.

When: Each Friday from 20 February—27 March 2015
Where: Sunshine Heights Primary School
1-19 Mailey Street, West Sunshine Vic 3020
Time: 9.15am—11.15am

**This is a FREE program**

There is a FREE child minding service available

To RSVP contact Vesna Begovic on 9311 4209 or Munira Adam on 9680 9444.

This program is run as a partnership between:

**MacKillop Family Services**

**REGIONAL PARENTING SERVICE — (ParentsLink)**