Dear Parents and Carers,

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

REMINDER THAT THERE IS NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 3rd – Student Free Day AND TUESDAY 4th OF NOVEMBER – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

For the newsletter this week I just wanted to share a lot of different pieces of information and reminders

**Year Level Newsletters**

At the start of each term, the teachers work together in their teams to prepare an information newsletter for parents. This ‘Year Level Newsletter’ is sent home during the first two weeks of each term and provides an overview for parents of what the students will be learning about and any major events. The specialist team learning overview is placed directly on the school website. Please take the time to read these documents so that you are able to share your child’s learning journey over the next 11 weeks. If you have any questions about these documents please contact your child’s teacher or a member of the specialist team.

**Parent Survey – Students Reports**

Last week a Parent Survey about student reports was sent home to all families. Thank you to the families that have been able to complete the survey! The information we received from the survey will help us enhance the way we communicate student learning to parents. Please contact the office if you need another copy.

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

Reminder that we are also currently reviewing our Anti-Bullying Policy! Information about the reviewing process for this policy was included in the previous newsletter.

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**New Bike Racks!**

For those that were able to drop by the school this week you may have noticed our new bike racks! Although we have a number of families that live too far away from school to be able to walk or ride each day, we do have a number of families that may enjoy leaving the car at home each day. For those families, we are currently increasing the number of places that the students can leave their bike if they decide to ride to school. Reminder that all students that ride to school must wear a helmet and must have a lock for their bike or scooter.

**New students to the school**

Once again I need to thank and congratulate our amazing students for being such caring and responsible people! Over the past week we have had a number of new families join the school community for a variety of reasons. For these students, starting at a new school can be a very nervous experience. However, something which I value greatly and which the students have responded to so positively is the importance of taking care of one another inside and outside of the classroom. Our students have played a huge role in supporting our new families with becoming a part of the Sunshine Heights Primary School Community.

**Library renovations**

I am excited to announce that we have an exciting idea for the final part of the library, which includes the outdoor eating area.

The idea was raised by a group of our year 6 students! Keep an eye on that space over the next two months!

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**Important Dates for 2015…**

- **Year One to Six start Friday 30th January**
- **Prep students to start Monday 2nd February**
Information for parents who currently receive EMA regarding the cessation of the EMA program at the end of 2014 year

Dear Parents of Sunshine Heights Primary School,

The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Yours sincerely

Carol Maddern
School Council President

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal.

Twitter!

Don’t forget that you can keep up to date with things happening at the school on ‘Twitter’. Our Twitter name is @4744SHPS

Staff Leadership Programs and Network Conference

Over the past couple of weeks I have been in and out of the school attending the final sessions of the leadership programs that a number of the staff have been involved in this year. A number of these programs conclude with the participants presenting their learning to the Principals of their school. I am also involved in an organising community that is preparing a one day conference for all teachers in Deer Park and Sunshine schools. The purpose of the conference day is to support all teachers with enhancing their understandings of the teaching strategies that have the greatest impact on student learning. Our goal as a network of Principals is to ensure that we provide high quality educational programs for all students in the Deer Park/Sunshine area. The conference will be held on Thursday 29th of January 2015 and involve over 600 teachers.

I feel very fortunate to be working with a group of staff at Sunshine Heights that are always willing to take on and accept leadership responsibilities to ensure the school functions effectively and smoothly at all times.

And…that is it for now (I think!)

Reminder that I will be commencing my leave on Wednesday 22nd October until the 12th of November!

Student Free Days for 2015...

Wednesday 28th January
Thursday 29th January
Friday 5th June

There is also one more date to be set for term four 2015. Parents will be notified over the next few weeks

Hope everyone had a great week!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Presentation at Friday Assembly

Prep:
A  Sophie Le
B  Carla Prelorenzo
C  Hamdi Mahamed

One:
A  Aaroon Hoang
B  Moujtaba Abdelbagi

Two
1/2A  Ethan Pateras
2A  Amir Hasani

Three:
A  Rosie Lam & Francesca Do
B  Andy Tran

Four:
A  Dennis Do
B  Roqiah Moballeghe

Five:
A  Harris Liyanage
B  Kim Nguyen

Six:
A  Bao Le
B  Layla Whitu

Sport:  Denzel Savage
ICT:    Rose Lam
Art:    Elena Suprihartono

Congratulations Everyone
Great Achievement!

Grade 5/6 Phillip Island Camp

A reminder to parents to return the Medical Information Form by tomorrow Friday 17th October. We need this information to finalise our preparation for camp. Students with asthma will need to have a completed Asthma Management Plan attached to their Medical Information Forms if one has not been provided to the school already.

A clothing list will be handed out to campers next Wednesday, the week prior to camp.
Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

Grade 5/6 team

GRADE 6 FRIDAY FOOD STALL

As part of our Graduation fundraising initiative, the Grade 6 students will be cooking up some terrifically tasty treats to sell each Friday at recess.

Please check the newsletter each week to see what has been planned as we will list all the ingredients in the food. Purchasing the items is entirely voluntary and if you have any concerns whatsoever, we strongly encourage you to not allow your child to buy anything from the stall.

Thank you,
Grade 6 teachers and students

This Week:  Jelly

Only $1.00 each

We will be selling them in the old canteen at recess.

The ingredients are: Jelly Chrystal and Water
If you have any allergies to these products we advise you not to buy them.

Thank you for supporting us!
Grade 6 Team
FUNDRAISING NEWS

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<td>Easter Raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fathers’ Day Stall</td>
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**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.

NO JOB TO BIG OR TO SMALL:

PAINTING, GARDENING, FIXING

GIVE JOHN A CALL!