Dear Parents/Carers,

Oh My Gosh! I knew it was a big thing growing up, and from experiences throughout my time working in schools! But, to live through the lead up to a camp through the eyes of a parent that has a child attending has provided me with a huge insight into how excited students are about heading off for the adventure!

My first real camp occurred when I was in Year 7 and we headed off into the bush to camp for 3 nights! Sure I was excited, but three nights in the bush was to me at the time the closest thing to living on the edge! I can’t even remember if we had toilets or we had to hold everything in until we returned home! The funny thing was that the ‘bush’ that we camped in was only a 5 minute walk from my house!

So you see, my eldest daughter, who is now in Year 3 left for her first overnight camp yesterday! Yes Yesterday! But, pretty much her excitement for the camp started at the end of last year! I thought this was understandable as it was a major event for the coming year. However, what I struggled to comprehend, which I have now experienced, was how much the level of excitement would rise as the date got closer! I must point out that I love the fact that she is so excited! However, it nearly got to a point when I considered asking the school to send the students earlier! Get it over with! I mean, I thought Christmas was big! Even a birthday! But I actually believe that school camps top the list of the most looked forward to event of a primary school aged child!

Sure, I loved camps growing up! I loved that I had the chance to sleep in the ‘bush’... in a sleeping bag...on the ground...inside a tent... with a piece of tarp as a mattress! What more could you ask for! (Ok, maybe someone could have offered me a mattress. Or even Mum or Dad could of dropped off my bed). But, my daughter was so excited about the trip that she has virtually not slept for two weeks! The first time she got up in the middle of the night and said that she can’t stop thinking about the camp (which was in two weeks!), I actually thought she was the one responsible for organising it! If it wasn’t 2:37am in the morning I would of called the school and asked why they had decided to let a 9 year old organise such an important event! At 2:42am I woke up a bit more and thought I better make sure that there wasn’t anything worrying her about the camp. At 3:17am she felt that she told me everything and thought that it was better that we chat about it in the morning. I did mention that it was technically the morning but I do prefer chatting more when it is more into the morning – the sort of morning when you can see things outside without a torch.

This was just one of the many excitable experiences that I enjoyed in the lead up to the camp! Just a word of warning for parents that have yet to enjoy it!

All in all, camps are the best! They are a chance for the students to experience something different with their friends and to challenge themselves! The students leave excited and come back even more excited with many stories! Big thank you to the parents of the 3/4 students that headed off yesterday and a big thank you to the staff for organising and enjoying the experience with the students!
Condition Assessment Report

Last term, I was contacted by the Department of Education to inform me that the school will receive a grant of $421,000 to complete works based on a Condition Assessment Report that was conducted in all Victorian schools in 2012.

I have been provided with more details of how the grant will be used after attending a training workshop last term. Unfortunately this grant cannot be used for repairing external or internal areas of the school (However, I was informed that a further grant is likely to be provided for this in the coming years – unfortunately an exact date is not known).

The grant money that we have received must be used to repair and upgrade the following:
- Sewage systems
- Storm water pipes
- Electricity

These areas were identified by the report as being ‘worn’. As the funds we will be receiving are over $200,000, the project must be managed by the Department of Education. A representative of the Department will be organizing a project manager within DET who will organize an architect to prepare a scope of works in consultation with the school. The architect prepares documentation to go out to tender to builders (who must be listed on the Construction Suppliers Register of the Department of Education). The architect evaluates the tender prices received and makes a recommendation to the department and the school on the preferred builder.

This will be a role of school council over the next six months and I will keep the school community informed of any developments.

School Council update

I’d like to welcome and introduce the newest member of School Council Glen who is the father of Audrey in Prep. Glen expressed an interest in joining School Council to fill the vacancy of Carol Maddern who had to resign for personal reasons after many years volunteering her time to the group. Glen’s term office concludes on March 31st 2016. Reminder to other parents that are interested in being a member of School Council that information about elections for 2016 will be provided during the first few weeks of school next year.

School Council includes 15 members (9 parent members, 5 Department of Education and Training members and 1 community member). Membership on School Council is for 2 years.

Hope everyone had a great week!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights Primary School
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Presentation at Friday Assembly

Prep:
A  Brooklyn Moa  
B  Malik Omar  
C  Mikayla Todorovski  
D  Hayri Guner  

One:
A  Teresa Nguyen  
B  Matteo Casipit  

Two
1/2A  Aashna Ruberu  
2A  TBA  
2B  Grace Li  

Three:
A  Mahamad Hassan  
B  TBA  

Four:
A  TBA  
B  Abdullahi Hassan  

Five:
A  James Nguyen  
B  Azra Pepic  

Six:
A  Ricky Nguyen  
B  TBA  

Multimedia:  Faiza Hashi  
Sport:  TBA  
Spanish:  Ciara Lombardi  
Art:  Raiden Nguyen  

Congratulations Everyone  
Great Achievement!

UPLIFT COLLECTIVE FUNDRAISING NEWS

Raising extra funds for kids, thanks to the work of our students!

Easter Raffle  $1,155.20  
Mother’s Day  $812.37  
Father’s Day  $588.00  

La Discoteca  $1,757.00  

Instrumental Lessons at School
Did you know that Music:
Develops mind, hand & eye co-ordination,  
Enhances listening skills,  
Improves self-esteem, AND IS FUN!

Lessons starting from $14.00, 5% Discount to Parents wishing to enrol more than one child.  Enrolment forms are available from the School Office or contact Genesis Music School Direct on 0421 426 674.

Your Skip Bin Specialists - Less Waste to Landfill

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TO SMALL:  
PAINTING, GARDENING, FIXING GIVE JOHN A CALL!

Genesis Music School  
discover the world of music  

Instrumental Lessons at School
Did you know that Music:
Develops mind, hand & eye co-ordination,  
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Improves self-esteem, AND IS FUN!

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Planning for 2016

Students leaving Sunshine Heights PS in 2016

Effective planning for 2016 is reliant on ensuring that we have accurate projected student enrolment numbers.

To support us with finalising our plans and employing the correct number of staff for 2016, **if you know that your child will NOT be attending Sunshine Heights Primary School next year could you please complete the tear off slip below and return it to the office as soon as possible.** We do understand that family circumstances will change from time to time and as such children need to move schools.

(Note we do not need notification from our current year 6 students).

Please detach and return to office

Plans for 2016

My child/ren ................................................................. of Year ................................ will not be returning to Sunshine Heights Primary School in 2015.

At this stage I anticipate they will be attending: .................................................. Primary School.

Signed: ................................................. Date:

Print Name:  ...........................................................................................................

More school uniform donations needed.

Give your items to the office, or just bring them with you. (No more blue donation bins)