Principals Report

Dear Parents and Caretakers,

I just wanted to begin this week's newsletter by highlighting some key events and dates that we have recently organised!

Harmony Day 20th of March 2015

Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. In 2014 we took the whole school to Federation Square to perform a flash mob and showcase how well we get along as a community of over 45 different cultures. Don’t forget you can watch this event on our website! For 2015, we are going to once again showcase our amazing students and the diversity of the school. Rather than heading off to the city, we are going to send a wave of students dressed in orange to the Sunshine Market Place. We are hoping to have parents join us for the day. We are also organising for the students to share a dance and song! It’s a great time to start preparing your orange outfit! We will also be filming the event for those that are unable to join us!

Student Free Days 2015

Please note that we have had to change one of our student free days that was scheduled for Term 4. The student free day in term 4 will now be held on Monday 2nd of November. We have already had two student free days. Our next student free day will be on Friday 5th of June.

The purpose of both these days will be to support teachers with preparing student reports and working on enhancing the function of Professional Learning Teams.

Reminders:

- 1,000,000 Thanks! Thank you so much to all the parents that have been able to complete their homework and write a 1,000,000 words or less letter to their child’s teacher!
- Tiqbiz! Big thank you also to the families that have joined us on Tiqbiz! We currently have 95 people that have registered!

I also wanted to use this week’s newsletter to thank Senora Irene who has worked tirelessly over the past three months to introduce the language of Spanish to Sunshine Heights!

Muchas gracias Señora Irene

Wherever I go in the school nowadays I’m greeted with a chorus of ‘Hola’ from our students in Year Prep to 4!

My Spanish is coming along slowly. I have pretty much mastered Good Morning (Buenos días), Goodbye (Adios) and Hello (Hola).
I’m currently working on my Good Afternoon (Buenas tardes) and see you soon (Hasta pronto). I must admit that I thought that my limited Italian would assist me with some of the Spanish words but my limited Italian is very limited to my own version of Italian.

Ok, to be honest, I must admit that my track record in regards to learning a second language hasn’t been too great. For those that don’t know, both my parents were born in Italy. They both spoke Italian at home, even while I was in the room! They both read Italian newspapers and watched Italian TV and bought food with Italian writing on it! Mum used to play Italian music. They both did Italian things like make homemade sauce and sausages and watched the World Cup.

I know what you must be thinking! But no, for some reason my ears failed to deliver to my brain the information that I needed to speak Italian. How could this be possible you may ask! I’m either gifted in not learning a language or my mum and dad weren’t really speaking Italian when I was around – maybe they just pretended to say words so that I wouldn’t understand them so when they wanted to share secrets with each other I would have no idea about what they were saying! Imagine if that was true! I wouldn’t be surprised, because funnily enough, out of my 3 brothers and sister I seem to be the only one that has difficulty conversing with others beyond greeting people with a confident ‘Ciao’. Maybe it’s a big family joke that started when I was 3! If so they have kept it going for a long time!

Only knowing the word Ciao use to get awkward at times as people would expect more from me (being someone with an Italian background) but all I could offer was a smile and a nod of the head. At least I could finish off the conversation (or what there was of it) with another ‘Ciao’. Without the word ‘Ciao’ I’d just be a ‘hello’ man! But with ‘Ciao’ I was both a ‘hello’ and a ‘goodbye’ man. Sometimes I use to just say ‘Ciao Ciao’ really quickly – I was in and out of a conversation like a flash of light – no pressure to build a bank of words! I’d walk away feeling good about the fact that my lack of Italian wasn’t exposed and they would walk away thinking – ‘did I just have a conversation with him because he did say hello and goodbye?’ – win win! Everyone goes home happy! If I was in the mood I’d even throw in a couple of ‘Si’ (yes) and ‘No’ (no).

Anyway, over the years I have developed my own Italian dialect and sometimes I feel disappointed that it hasn’t taken off with others. Maybe this is how dialects in Italy developed – from someone who just couldn’t get the pronunciation right! I can imagine everyone in the village just saying ‘Actually that sounds good. Let’s all speak just-not-right-Italian so that the village down the road has no idea what we are saying!’

I hope your child has been coming home teaching you some of the Spanish they have already learnt! My goal is to sing a full Ricky Martin in Spanish at the festive concert at the end of the year! (just kidding!!!!)

Hope everyone had a great week!

Adios!

Alex Artavilla
Principal

Classroom Helpers
Are you interested in helping out in the classroom? Students have settled in to the routines of their new classroom and we are now calling on any parents/community members who are interested in providing extra support.

We appreciate the time and effort that parents are able to devote to our school. However, for this to run successfully it is important that parent helpers have a good understanding of these factors:

- Confidentiality
- Classrooms must continue to run in a smooth and orderly fashion
- Support provided must be consistent with the instruction provided by classroom teachers
- ‘Working With Children’ Check

To support parents, we are asking that all classroom helpers attend a one hour session to cover all the information mentioned above. This session will take place on Thursday 5th of March. If you are unable to make it to this session please contact Jacinta Goldie to make other arrangements. If necessary, we can run another session in Term 2.

To be part of the Parent Helpers Group you would have had to have completed the Parent Helpers Course.

A notice will be going home tomorrow.
PE NEWS

Hi Parents, Guardians and Families,

I am happy to report that our grade 5/6’s have continued in their sporting endeavours with great successes, not only did most teams once again produce great results for Sunshine Heights Primary but the energy and enthusiasm that each student presented on the day created a great, fun and social atmosphere like a sporting event should feel like.

The scores for this week were:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Sunshine Heights</th>
<th>Score 1</th>
<th>Sunshine</th>
<th>Score 2</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bat Tennis</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next week on the 27th of Feb we are playing against Christ the King Primary School it will also be an away game. So students need to bring their hats, water bottles and if you’re in soccer boots, long socks and shorts.

Wish us luck.

Kind regards Rasha

HOW EXCITING

Montanasa Dance Studios will be running a free dance workshop at our school next Tuesday 2nd March at lunch time in the gym, between 1:40pm & 2:10pm.

Free and all welcome.

Come along and have some fun!
NO MORE LOST PROPERTY!

Here are 4 different sites you can try for ordering iron-on labels for clothing and hats. This is a fantastic way to avoid lost clothes; the label cannot be cut off and is easy to read!

Easy Iron-on Name Labels from Identity Direct Australia


Stuck On You® Kids Labels - StuckOnYou.com.au


Name Labels Post in 24hrs - OzLabels.com.au


Clothing Labels - Easy Online Design or Upload Logo


EDUCATION SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Don’t forget if you have a current Health Care Card you have until TOMORROW 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.

Your Skip Bin Specialists - Less Waste to Landfill

Building, construction, renovations and household collections
Bin sizes 2m³ to 31m³
Recycling services
Competitive prices
Marrell Bins
Bulk bins for builders
Long and short term solutions
Same day delivery
All suburbs

Free quote 9551 1111
www.transpacific.com.au
Recover Recycle Redeem

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

NO MORE LOST PROPERTY!

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5. Clothing Labels - Easy Online Design or Upload Logo

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.
Changing the way we raise funds at the Sunshine Heights PS

(Please note that there is a summary of this information included with this notice)

A major focus for us as a school community, as outlined in our Mission and Vision statement, is to build a strong, positive learning culture that allows the students to develop the skills, behaviors and knowledge of a successful citizen. This includes building their entrepreneurial skills so that they can make a positive and sustainable impact on the school, our environment and their local community.

Something that we have been focusing on as a staff over the past few years is allowing the students to take authentic action in contributing to the social, emotional and academic development of the whole school community. We have seen such things as the Fiesta, Preps selling healthy snacks to raise funds for a fruit tree, Year 6s raising funds for their end of year celebrations, Year 3/4 students working together to reduce waste in the school, the Uplift Collective organising events to promote healthy bodies and minds.

To make our Mission and Vision a reality, we need to analyze everything we do to ensure that we are continually thinking about the type of culture that we are striving to achieve and the behaviors that we want to instill/model to the students.

As a result of this, School Council has also been reflecting on their role within school (which includes fundraising) and how they can support the implementation of the Mission and Vision.

The primary purpose of fundraising events in schools is to raise extra funds that are mainly directed to an educational or facilities need. They are also used to provide experiences for the students and families.

Based on recent discussions at School Council, and the Mission and Vision of the school, we want our students to become entrepreneurial, we want every part of the way in which the school functions to be about the students and to send them messages that builds a strong, vibrant and successful society. We most importantly want our students to make decisions that impact positively on them and the school.

This is why School Council, which includes both teachers and parents, have decided to trial a new approach of the way extra funds are raised at the school.

In 2015, rather than having a committee that work together to plan and organise events throughout the year, the way in which funds will be raised will be directly influenced by the students through their learning experiences, and through becoming entrepreneurial. In a sense, we are aiming to have our students notice something that we need to improve or add, and to work together to raise funds in taking an action.

**So what does this mean for us as a school?**

- It means that we will enhance the role of the students in the school in an authentic way
- It means that we would no longer have a fundraising committee
- It means that we may not raise as much extra money as in previous years in our bid to provide more authentic experiences for the students
So how would this work?

The most important factor in all this that was discussed and agreed to by all members of School Council was that for this to work effectively there would be no expectations on teachers and students. Especially as we are trialing a new approach and to ensure authenticity. School Council and members of the Leadership team will support the teachers and students with the role they could play. This includes:

- Sharing examples/suggestions
- Allowing time and support

So what would this look like and what would be the suggested process?

1. The process needs to begin with an idea, with a suggestion, with a solution to a problem – this would come from the students. Ideally from the taking action stage of their integrated unit of work.
2. The class would then pitch the idea to the Principal. This includes:
   a. The need for the action
   b. Specific details of the action
   c. The estimated cost for the action
   d. How funds will be raised to cover the cost of the action
   e. How the action will impact positively on the school community and the mission/vision/values of the school
3. The Principal will then determine the following:
   a. What further information needs to be included?
   b. Whether the action contributes to the Mission/Vision of the school.
   c. Does the action pose an issue for the safety and wellbeing of the students?
4. Once approved by the Principal, the proposal will then be communicated to all members of School Council for approval. This is to ensure that requirements for a fundraising event have been considered as per the department guidelines.

What role can parents play in the fundraising process?

Parent participation is an important component for the success of this new approach. The role that parents play in the fundraising process depends on the needs of the action. Teachers and students will inform parents when assistance is required.

Concluding note:

I am extremely excited about this initiative as it sends a clear message to the students about the type of school that we are striving to become - one that puts the students at the center of all decisions and one that has a strong community feel.

I’d like to thank School Council for challenging the way we work and think as a community. This is a very innovative and exciting approach, which is why it will be great to hear the thoughts of members of the community throughout the year.

An example of how this is currently working

The first fundraising event of 2015

The 2015 Uplift Collective would like to raise funds in 2015 to provide more inspiring spaces for the students to enjoy during their recess and lunchtime break. The Easter Raffle has been a major feature of the school fundraising calendar. In 2015, the Uplift Collective will be working together to raise funds for a new outdoor space by overseeing the Easter Raffle. Over the next couple of weeks the group will be encouraging families to donate an Easter Egg. They will then create prizes using the donations and sell tickets to families. Details of the space will be revealed in the coming months!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights Primary School
On behalf of School Council
Raising additional funds at Sunshine Heights Primary School

In line with our Mission and Vision Statement, we are giving our students the opportunity to drive the need for action, what cost is needed and how the funds will be raised.

All ideas and proposals will be approved throughout the year by the Principal and School Council.

Please get involved when your children bring home their ideas!

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