Dear Parents and Carers,

Reminders:

- **Harmony Day 20th of March 2015**
- **Student free days 2015 – the final student free days of the year are Friday 4th of June and Monday 2nd of November.**
- **Twilight School! On Thursday 21st of May students will start school at 1:00pm and finish at 7:00pm.**
- **Tiqbiz! Big thank you also to the families that have joined us on Tiqbiz! We currently have 104 people that have registered!**

**Just doing your best...**

One of our school values that I have been thinking about a lot lately is ‘doing your best.’ As a school we set high expectations for the students with both the way they learn and the way they treat themselves and others. Our goal is to not only expect the students to ‘do their best’ at all times, but to build a culture where everyone wants to try their hardest to succeed and develop into a better learner and person. This is one of the most exciting things about being an educator as you work with the students to find the right balance between ensuring they work at their optimal level while also ensuring they maintain high levels of confidence. Without self-confidence then students will hesitate to take risks. Without taking risks then they are less likely to challenge themselves to do better.

Writing is a perfect example of this as it relies primarily on students being risk takers as they move into a world where they can entertain and inform others.

This is why it is essential that teachers have an understanding of how students learn to become effective writers. This commences with a student being able to orally tell a story followed by students experimenting with marks on a page or a picture – then being able to tell a message.

At Sunshine Heights Primary School, we are focused on the idea of having high expectations while also maintaining realistic expectations. For me, ensuring that we have realistic expectations enables us to focus on where a student is at and what we need to focus on next to enhance their learning or development. Working from where a student is at enables them to take the necessary risks and to ‘do their best’. Evidence of this is the amazing work that our student writers are producing, that is continually displayed throughout the school.

However, ‘doing your best’ is easier said than done. As I have discovered at home. Sometimes, ‘doing your best’ can be perceived as just giving something a go without any expectation. I am currently experiencing this as a parent. You see, I have one daughter that will sit for hours coloring in a picture to absolute perfection. When she is finished there is not one single speck of white left! Every inch of the picture has been colored. Even the pencil shade goes in the same direction!

I have another daughter that will colour in with a blue ‘pen’ in less than 30 seconds and then proudly show me what she has produced. When I ask her if she has tried her best she says, ‘Of course!’

When I ask her why she doesn’t go and try and use different colours she says, ‘I like blue’.
When I say to her, aren’t ducks yellow? She says, ‘This one’s blue.’

When I say, do you really think you did your best? She says, ‘Yes! It took me ages!’

There are a few ways that I could have dealt with this.

One way could be to just lie and say that it is the best ever piece of work that could be produced by a blue pen.

Another way could have been that I was totally honest with her and said that it didn’t take ages because it was done technically during a commercial break and that is not even close to being ages and frankly you’ve just scribbled on a piece of paper with the closest thing you could find because you were too lazy to go and get your coloured pencils out of the cupboard!

Or...I could of just walked away and pretended it didn’t happen.

But then, before I could start dealing with the situation, she starts to cry! Yes! Full tears rolling down her cheeks! Maybe she read my facial expression! I asked her what was wrong. She said, ‘Why can’t I color in like Lyla’ (her sister)!

I said, ‘Because you use a blue pen and think that 30 seconds is ages (just kidding – I didn’t say this!)’ What I really said was, ‘What do you mean?’ – sensing a break though on my quest to raise her coloring in standards (and her ability to do her best!).

She said, ‘Lyla’s pictures always look really good!’ I asked her why she thinks Lyla’s are always really good.

At this point, I felt like I had a parenting break through moment! You know those moments we have as parents when one second we are wondering whether we have the ability to bring up a goldfish let alone a child, then three seconds later we are dealt a situation that we manage like a expert that could potentially become a life changing moment!

So here I was, trying to work out how I was supposed to maintain my child’s self-confidence, by delivering news about her coloring ability, that could possibly set her up for a pre-teen break down, when she starts up a conversation, on her own, that could make her aware of the fact that if you want to be good at coloring then you need to use more than just a blue pen and take at least 5 minutes!

So I ask her again, ‘Why do you think Lyla’s pictures are always really good?’

Her response – wait for it...

‘Because she is 8 (followed by one of those wailing cries)’

Because she is 8, I repeat in disbelief.

‘Yes!’ – wailing cry etc. etc. etc.

‘So you think...that if you keep using blue pen...and maybe even reduce your time coloring... that you will reach the same standard as Lyla in a couple of years...when you are also 8...?’

‘Yes!’ – wailing cry again.

End of conversation.

Seriously, I’m happy to say that it turned out to be a good learning experience for my youngest daughter as she started to realize, after a short conversation (once I had gained my composure) that maybe she didn’t really try her best.

I’m pleased to say, that she no longer uses a blue pen...and she has increased her coloring time to about 1 minute 38 seconds!

Doing your best is more than just having a go. It’s about supporting students to work at their optimal level and having high expectations, so that they have the confidence to take risks and challenge themselves.

Hope everyone had a great week,

Alex Artavilla
Principal
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Presentation at Friday Assembly

Prep:
A Hugo Schulz  
B Stella Weston-Barbuto  
C Jessica Tran  
D Malik Kesha

One:
A Taha Savlak  
B Isabella Prenga

Two
1/2A Ayden Ford-Geyer  
2A Mara Rico  
2B Thomas Patterson

Three:
A Sumayo Abdi  
B Yasin Ali

Four:
A Janet Ireland  
B Phylisha Do

Five:
A Hung Tran  
B Benjamin Cao

Six:
A Jade Lennie  
B Tony Huynh

Sport: Rosie Lam (4A)  
Spanish: Roshan Narain-Ali  
Art: Thien Thach Nguyen (3B)  

Congratulations Everyone  
Great Achievement!

PE NEWS

Hi Parents, Guardians and Families,

Well week 3 has just past in inter-school sports and students are performing spectacularly, we are now in week 4 half way through the summer sports for this year.

The grade 5/6’s have been leading the school with great representation of sportsmanship and fearless competition against other schools. With still four more games to go I am confident that students will continue to produce a positive representation of the expected qualities that Sunshine Heights has taught them from day one.

Last week we played against Christ the Kings Primary School

The scores were.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Sunshine Heights</th>
<th>Christ the King</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights Mixed</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball GIRLS</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights Girls</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat Tennis</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Sunshine Heights</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This week we are playing away against Sunshine Harvester, 132 Hertford Road Sunshine on Friday the 6th of March.

So keep wishing us that luck, as it seems to be working.

Kind regards Rasha

Canteen Price Rise

Just for parents information please be advised that there has been a slight price increase in the Canteen Menu. If you need a new copy please see the office.
Instrumental Lessons at School

Did you know that Music:
- Develops mind, hand & eye coordination
- 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.
NEWS FROM OUR GRADE 5 / 6 TEAMS

Over the coming weeks, we will showcase some samples of writing from our Grade 5/6 students. Our focus has been to use ‘seeds’ to inspire us as writers. This week we have also included some thoughts about behaviours demonstrated by excellent/poor leaders.

The Rose Cycle

In my garden... a lone rose bush stands,
Tended by my father’s caring hands,
Five pale milky-white roses grow,
Rising from the ground below,
The sun shines as the roses flower,
With sparkling dew, after a shower,
As the leaves fall, so do the petals,
And the bush is bare as winter settles,
Three moons pass, in the bleak cold,
Then the clouds begin to unfold,
The sun comes out, as before,
And the rose cycle begins once more.

By Elena Suprihartono 6B

My Family

My inspiration is my parents and family. They taught me to be responsible, growing up to respect my elders and looking after my sister Maria-Elsa. I feel lucky to have a big family because we all get on together.

Dezmond 6B
**BEHAVIOURS DEMONSTRATED BY EXCELLENT / POOR LEADERS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOOD LEADER</th>
<th>BAD LEADER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Stands up for themselves and others.</td>
<td>- Judges people by their looks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- A respect other’s culture and religions.</td>
<td>- Is a follower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Take responsibility.</td>
<td>- Bullies others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Has a voice.</td>
<td>- Disrespectful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Will never ignore people.</td>
<td>- Doesn’t listen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Smiles at younger students and also older.</td>
<td>- Ignores people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Stands up for their rights!</td>
<td>- Tease people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cares for others.</td>
<td>- Leave others out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Plays with students who are lonely.</td>
<td>- Makes people feel uncomfortable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Always welcomes people.</td>
<td>- Doesn’t welcome people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Always think positive.</td>
<td>- Will never use their manners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Never thinks negative.</td>
<td>- Always think negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Won’t say anything mean</td>
<td></td>
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**Transition Information**

As part of the Transition Program, our Year 6 students will be involved in a visit to Sunshine College (West Campus) and Braybrook S.C to experience a day at a secondary school. On both occasions, the classroom teachers will be attending with the students. A note will go home to the Year 6 students seeking permission to walk across to Sunshine College (West Campus) and for bus transportation to Braybrook (at no cost to parents).

If you have any questions about these programs, please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teachers. Thank you,

Christine Forrest, Tanya Bolger, Sara Vaccari

**Braybrook S.C**  Visiting Grade 5/6 students on Thursday 5th March
Grade 6 students/teachers visiting Braybrook on Thursday 19th March

**Sunshine College (West Campus)**  Visiting Grade 5/6 students on Wednesday 11th March 2.15pm
Grade 6 students/teachers visiting SWSC on Wednesday 18th March