Dear Parents and Carers of Sunshine Heights Primary School,

A major focus for teachers in 2013 is to not only build on what we have achieved over the past few years, but it is also to further enhance the way we teach students to write. Many children find writing challenging and it is our role to make it a purposeful and enjoyable experience. We want every student to feel like a writer! We want them to experience what a writer/author goes through and how they overcome the challenges they face to entertain, enthrall, inform and reflect.

One of the most important elements of an effective writing program is a ‘Writers Notebook’. These are introduced to students more formally in Year 3. A ‘Writers Notebook’ teaches a student about the importance of having a place (book/box) for writing ideas and inspirations. It helps students to overcome the feeling of what not to write about as it teaches them how to collect writing ideas from things they hear, see and experience.

As a staff we have all committed to having our own ‘Writers Notebook’ to better understand what the students go through when we ask them to write. There is no limit to what can be included in a ‘Writers Notebook’. I started using a ‘Writers Notebook’ in 2012. The first thing that I experienced when I decided to put aside 10 minutes each night was—nothing. I tried to think but nothing came out. I asked my daughters for ideas but the only thing they came up with was to write about a magical land under water that was full of mermaids and fairies. I don’t have anything against mermaids—I asked them for another idea. Their second suggestion—‘What about a magical land in the sky that was full of flying mermaids and fairies?’ To their disappointment I asked for one more idea. Lyla walked off on me, while Ava screamed out excitedly ‘What about a story about a sausage called John that turns into a person and meets a monster called Bruno!’ I weighed up all three options—mermaids…flying mermaids…sausages—turning—into—people. As you can imagine it was a very difficult choice so I went with John the sausage meets Bruno the monster. Ava even helped me with storyline that included Bruno the monster with lots of spikes and buckets on his head. It is still sitting in draft form in my Notebook with many other experiences that I’ve had.

Please take the time to talk to your child or your teacher about their writer’s notebook! You may even want to start one for yourself – having your child seeing you write in front of them with your own writers notebook would have a huge positive impact on their learning.
School Values

In this week’s newsletter we have also included the ‘Values’ of the school, which were developed with students, parents and staff in 2012. The Values underpin our expectations and decisions. It is essential that all students, parents and staff understand and demonstrate the Values of the school at all times. Being a part of Sunshine Heights Primary School demonstrates your commitment to our Values. Please take the time to talk about the Values with your whole family. This includes:

- What they mean
- What they look like
- Examples of them being demonstrated – in class, the yard and at home

You may even focus on one value each week as a family.

School Council Elections 2013

School Councils play an important role in all Victorian Government schools. School Councils include the Principal, members of staff and members of the parent community. The function of school council include:

- Establishing the broad direction and vision of the school within the school’s community
- Participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- Approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure
- Developing, reviewing and updating school policies
- Raising funds for school-related purposes
- Maintaining the school’s grounds and facilities
- Entering into contracts (such as for cleaning or construction work)
- Reporting annually to the school community and to the Department
- Creating interest in the school in the wider community
- Informing itself of and taking into account the views of the community
- Regulating and facilitating the after-hours use of school premises and grounds

The election process to fill vacancies for the 2013 School Council is currently occurring with nominations closing at 4pm on Thursday 14th of February. Thank you to staff and parents that have expressed an interest in becoming a member of the School Council for 2013. All nominations will be placed in the School Notice Board on Friday 15th of February.

Parents and staff will be notified of developments regarding the school council elections. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Hope everyone has a fantastic week.

Alex Artavilla
Principal

Fundraising Team

If you are interest in becoming a volunteer in our Fundraising Team please feel free to attend our Fundraising meeting on Friday morning at 9.30am or contact the office.
PAYMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

Can parents please ensure when making payments to the office that money is placed in a labelled envelope with the child’s name, class, the reason for the payment and the amount enclosed e.g.;

Name: Kate Smith
Class: Prep A
Reason: IMAX Excursion
Amount: $10 enclosed

We also ask that parents provide the correct change when possible as we prefer not to pass money onto students.

Thank you for your assistance

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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Presentations at Friday Assembly

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<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Prep C</th>
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<td>Alex Kuloski</td>
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<td>Sara Banjanin</td>
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<td>Maria Feilo-Hasini</td>
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<td>Vanessa Le</td>
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<td>Kimberley Gray</td>
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<td>Lamisa Sattar</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE GREAT EFFORT!!
2013 Events Planner

Please note:

- Events planner will be updated regularly
- Changes may occur

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<tr>
<th>Student Free Days for 2013</th>
<th>TERM 1 – 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Friday 8th of March</td>
<td>29th January – 28th March</td>
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<td>• Friday 24th May</td>
<td>- All Wednesdays in February Preps are not required at school.</td>
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- 15th February Fundraising Meeting
- 21st February School Council 6.15pm
- Monday the 4th of March Preps start full time
- 9th March Student Free Day
- 21st March Whole School Photos

Instrumental Lessons at School

Did you know that Music:

Develops mind, hand & eye co ordination

Enhances listening skills

Improves self esteem

Is fun!

‘...to help young people discover that learning is not a destination, but a journey, an incredibly wonderful journey to be devoured, savoured and cherished.’

Peter Loel Boonshaft - Teaching Music with Purpose 2006

Enrolment forms are available from the School Office or Contact Genesis Music School Direct on 0421 426 674
Our School Values
SUNSHINE HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Sunshine Heights Primary School Community works collaboratively to provide and maintain a safe, warm and friendly environment. As a school community we draw upon the knowledge experience and expertise of our community members to enhance and enrich our school.

Students learn to become responsible and resilient citizens by responding to challenges within a supportive climate.

The Values that underpin all our decisions and behaviours to ensure we will develop students that become citizens that lead and contribute to a productive and rewarding life in an educated, just and open society include:

**Care and Compassion**
- Care for self and others
- Consider the feelings and needs of others in all situations
- Act in a kind, helpful and generous manner towards others
- Respect our environment and creatures in it

**Doing Your Best**
- Always try your hardest
- When you play and work aim to do your best
- It’s okay to make mistakes so that we learn from them!

**Honesty and Trustworthiness**
- Be honest, sincere and seek the truth

**Respect**
- Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view
- Have respect for yourself and pride in who you are

**Responsibility**
- Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways
- Contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment
- Be organised with your time and belongings
- Demonstrate self-control in your thoughts, feelings and actions

**Understanding and Inclusion**
- Accept others and their cultures
- Work and play co-operatively with others
- Help to make our environment safe and happy
- Help others to join in activities and games

**Resilience**
- Keep trying especially when things get hard
- Be positive in everything you do
- When things happen that you don’t like express your feelings in an appropriate way
- Learn to let things go and move on

As members of the Sunshine Heights Primary School community, we have all agreed to demonstrate and promote our Values that underpin the way we work and act both at school and home.

Please take the time to about these with your children as often as possible.