Principal’s Report

Final newsletter of Term One 2018!

Reminder that tomorrow (Thursday 29th March) is the last day of Term One. School finishes at 2:30pm.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to everyone for such a great start to 2018. A big congratulations to the Preps as they have settled so well into school life thanks to the work of their families and the teachers. I know many of them will be looking forward to the two-week break!

Even though Term 1 is such a short term, it is amazing to look back over the past 8 weeks to reflect on what we have achieved!

This has included beginning the year with a new look and image, new uniform, new uniform shop, new canteen, new specialist program in the form of Performing Arts/Music, new line design and five new staff members! Ok, maybe everyone is looking forward to the two-week break!

Despite so many new things, it has been an exciting start to the year!

Our Harmony Day trip to the city adventure was a great way to end the term. Also, I’ve loved seeing the sprinkle of Harmony in the playground every day this week with students wearing their new special edition orange polo.

Looking towards Term 2

Moving into Term 2, we will continue to build a community of readers, writers and mathematicians, which are our school priorities. We are also focused on making sure we allow the students to use the skills and behaviours that they develop from these key learning areas, in other areas of learning. The reading, writing and mathematics sessions are workshops, which focus on such things as building understanding through explicit instruction, goal setting, skill development, problem solving, feedback and questioning. For example, when a student is reading a book and they come across a word they don’t know, then they need to problem solve to work out the word by looking at the picture, looking at the first word etc.

Students then have the opportunity to apply these understandings during the Big Ideas Unit of Work. In Term 2, this will focus around a biology unit from Prep to 6, and will be launched by the whole school visiting our adopted area of Kororoit Creek on Friday 20th of April.

Welcome ‘Seesaw’

The specialist program also plays a major role in supporting this work as the underlining behaviours and skills of a learner are the same. The specialist team have been doing some fantastic work together over the past couple of years, which has led to the introduction of ‘Seesaw’, which is an ‘app’ that allows the teachers to capture and share student learning with parents.
Most importantly, it allows the students to reflect on their own learning which is a powerful aspect of learning.

Tonight after school, the specialist team are offering an information session at 3:45pm in the library for interested parents to learn more about Seesaw.

This is a new and exciting initiative introduced by the specialist team, which will also give parents greater insight into what happens in specialist classes. There will be a lot of trial and error during the early stages so I thank everyone in advance for their understanding for supporting the actions of the specialist team.

‘School photos on Thursday 19th April’
During the first week back on Thursday 19th of April, there are whole school photos. Don’t forget that the photo company would prefer that you order and pay online you need to order photos online. To do this you need to go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter the school code: 937 Z9R NG7. An information notice was sent home on Thursday last week. Please collect an envelope from the office if you prefer to pay cash.

‘Earth Day Trip to Kororoit Creek Friday 20th April’
To celebrate Earth Day in 2018 we will once again be sending the whole school community to Kororoit Creek to add another 500 more plants/scrubs to our adopted area. This will take our total to 2,000. In 2015 we adopted a part of Kororoit Creek to not only support Melbourne Water and Brimbank Council with taking care of our natural environment, but to also promote to the students the importance of looking after our local community. Please note that this is a local excursion experience, which parents have approved on the student enrolment forms. However, please inform your child’s teacher by Wednesday 18th of April if you do not want your child to participate in this event. However, we are hoping that all students take part in the day. The students will spend around 2 hours at the creek and will also take part in some workshops.

Parents and families are able to walk with their child’s class or meet the students at the creek. The location of our adopted area is located at the end of Sanders Avenue, Kororoit Creek Trail entrance. When you enter the Kororoit Creek trail from Sanders Avenue, follow the path right.

‘Twilight School Day 24th of May 2018’
To celebrate Education Week and to showcase what a normal school day looks like at Sunshine Heights Primary School, we have scheduled our Twilight School Day for Thursday 24th of May. For our new families, our Twilight School Day is a normal school day except school starts at 1:00pm and finishes at 7:15pm! Yes, lunch becomes dinner and recess becomes lunch!

Parents, grandparents are encouraged to drop in at any time during the day to see their child in action during a normal school day!

Having this day allows parents that are usually unable to come into the school, to visit after work.

Although we hope that all students have the opportunity to enjoy the experience of arriving at 12:50pm for school, we do understand that this is not possible for some. A notice will be going home early in Term 2 so that we can find out more about which students may require alternative supervision arrangements in the morning.

Canteen update…
If you haven’t had the chance to register for Quickcliq, which is the online order system for the new canteen, then hopefully you have time over the next two weeks. As we move into some cooler weather, ‘True Soul Kitchen’ have created a new menu for Term 2. We will be sharing this with everyone in the coming days.

See everyone in two weeks!
Otherwise, I hope everyone is able to enjoy some time off over the next two weeks. Thanks again for your support over the past 8 weeks and I look forward to catching up with everyone on the first day of Term Two, which is on the 16th of April 2018.

Hope everyone had a great week!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights PS