

# Final Newsletter of the Year!

**Reminder that tomorrow is the last day of the school year.  
School finishes at 1:30pm  
Assembly at 12:00pm in the gym**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again for another amazing year! The evening of the Art Show/Festive Concert was a great way to celebrate 2017. The students once again demonstrated and showcased their artistic talents! Big thank you to our Arts Teachers Francine Sculli and Aasta De Kort, and all the parent/staff helpers for all the time and energy that went into transforming the gym into a gallery. It was also a nice way to thank and farewell Vic Borszczow after 34 years at Sunshine Heights Primary School. Thank you to everyone for supporting the evening and adding to the positivity of the evening!

It was fantastic to hear so much positive feedback about our new identity/logo! It's exciting to be going into 2018 with a new look that will remind us each day of our aspirations. We wanted something that better reflected our local community and made people think. We also wanted to have something that people would not expect. The reasoning for this is that as a staff, we are keen to challenge ourselves – to try different things – to make things even better – but to stay focused on the right work. This is the idea behind 'expecting the unexpected'. The new logo highlights this. It's not a logo with books, or a school building or with a picture of a 'sun' because we are from Sunshine. It's a logo that goes deeper than that. It represents a direction and a way of thinking.

When I reflect on what we have achieved as a school community over the past 12 months, I feel proud of how well we all work together for the benefit of the students.

There were many highlights from 2017 that included our Spanish Day, Twilight School Day, Harmony Day, Unit of Work Exhibitions, introduction of the Student Lunchtime Gardening Group to name a few!

We also need to thank and farewell 3 staff members that have had an amazing impact during their time at Sunshine Heights Primary School. This includes Melissa Kemp, Tamara Gray and Belinda Perera (who has been at Sunshine Heights Primary School for 17 years!).

We also need to wish Fleur Lacey all the best for the arrival of her first child and wish Sara Vaccari all the best as she'll be taking leave for a year to take on an exciting adventure.

Moving into 2018, I am excited about the introduction of Performing Arts/Music, which will be provided by new staff member Greg Perkins. We also welcome new teachers Amalia Georgopoulos, Christina Karagounis, Michelle Rangott and Lorna Russell. They have all had the opportunity to drop into the school a few times over the past month and we are very excited to have them as part of our school community team in 2018!

Big thank you also to our Before and After School providers World4Kids for once again supporting the school by donating the brilliant sound system, the massive stage, the sensational screen and the unbelievable fireworks! I also need to mention that the director of the contracted company Ted Hatzakortzian spent the evening at the school to assist with organising and packing up the event! Please pass your thanks onto World4Kids if you get the chance.

Thank you to our amazing staff for putting so much time and effort into the making the school such a great place for the students to learn and play! Every member of staff at Sunshine Heights Primary School go above and beyond what is required as they genuinely care about the needs of the students and working positively with families.

A huge thank you once again to all the families of Sunshine Heights Primary School! As a staff we are very appreciative of the respect and trust you have in the school! It is inevitable that there will be times when concerns need to be raised, and I know that staff have appreciated how these situations have been discussed in a respectful and honest manner.

Another thank you to our Year 6 students that will be heading off to secondary school! What a brilliant group of individuals who demonstrated how fantastic they are at their graduation ceremony on Tuesday night. You will all be sadly missed!

To the families that will be leaving us in 2016 we thank you for your support and wish you well for the future!

Finally to the students, one last big thank you! We all need to be so proud of the students and the respect they show for their school and each other. Of course, there are days when things don't go perfectly, but they are all willing to work together to sort out challenging moments and to bounce back from difficult situations. A big life lesson that they demonstrate each day. Have a well deserved rest over the holiday!

#### **2018 School Council Membership details**

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank members of School Council that includes staff and parents. It has been a huge year for this group, which has included:

- Preparing plans for our grounds (which has been a massive job! I have to highlight the work and time of parents Jeff Nelson, Gordon McKenzie and staff member Sally Fowler)
- Reviewing and refining a number of policies
- Relentlessly exploring a food service option/canteen that meets departmental guidelines
- Developing a new identity for the school!
- Establishment of a new four Year School Strategic Plan that will take us to a new and exciting level, but also allow us to add flavour and creativity.

It is a great group to work with as they are focused on the needs of every student. Special thank you to School Council President Kylie Barker for her support, advice, feedback and time.

To the School Council members who will be completing their term of office in March 2018, thank you for volunteering your time over the past one and/or two years. This includes:

- Carlos Rosado
- Glenn Winteringham
- Indira Gjoni
- Kylie Barker
- Khalad Karim
- Sharon Noel

The number of vacancies available for the 2018 election include:

Parent members: 5

DEECD members: 2

#### *SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2018*

Notice of election and call for nominations Thursday, 8th February 2018

Closing date for nominations Thursday, 23rd February 2018

This includes assessing nominations and determining whether a ballot will take place

First council meeting (of new members) to elect office bearers (the principal will preside) is on Wednesday 21st of March 2018 at 6:40pm

#### Key Dates for 2019

- Teachers return on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of January
- Year 1 – 6 students return on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 2018 Prep students commence on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of February

Student free days 2016 – reminder that students do not come to school on these days:

- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of January
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of January
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of January
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of November

**Hope everyone has a fantastic holiday and festive season!**

**See you in 2018!**

Thanks again,  
Alex Artavilla  
Principal