

NEWSLETTER

Available online and Flexi buzzed each week.

Thursday 31st May 2018

KEY REMINDERS

True Soul Kitchen news...

Don't forget you can also order sandwiches for lunch from the canteen. This includes cheese & salad, chicken with salad or just salad. Even spring rolls or sweet potato chips!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 27th June

Parent Teacher Interviews

Last Day Term Two

29th June – school finishes at 2:30pm.
Casual Dress Day

Year 2 Sleepover

Friday 14th September

Year 5 and 6 Camp

October 31st – 2nd November

Year 3 and 4 Camp

7th – 9th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week of writing! Big thank you once again to the Student Writers Group for organising so many amazing recess and lunchtime workshops which were facilitated by the students. It was also great to have so many visiting writers and illustrators join us during the week!

Twilight School Day

Thank you so much to everyone for supporting the Twilight School Day last week! It has been nice to hear so much positive feedback from parents, staff and students about the event. Most importantly about the things that they saw happening in the classrooms.

I know my daughters had a very enjoyable time, although they seemed to get a little bit too comfortable virtually taking over the office space, to assist parents and visitors. My youngest daughter even felt that it was ok to take over the PA system at the end of evening when everyone had headed off home and were probably in bed!

The thing I love most about the Twilight School Day is that we get the chance to give everyone an insight into what happens each day – minus my daughters! Schools are very complex organisations. They include varying opinions about how students learn and what works best. The Twilight School Day gives us the chance to share the philosophy we have adopted based on reputable research, the needs of the community and students, the environment of our school, and departmental priorities.

Early on in my Principal career, two statements that resonated with me from a leadership workshop that I attended which has helped guide the way I lead the school includes:

'Everything works, but focus on what works best. If you want to know the difference focus on quality research, focus on building an evidence based environment, and understand the context of where you are working.'

'Apart from the home life of a student (which you have no control over), the quality of the teacher has the greatest impact on a child's social, emotional and academic development. This is then followed by the leadership of the school.'

These two statements pretty much underpin the way I work and think. This includes making sure that everything we do positively impacts on what we are striving to achieve, and that an environment/culture is created so that teachers have the opportunity to thrive.

There are many good ideas out there, and number a of these ideas sound amazing. However, will these ideas have the impact we want?

Principal
Alex Artavilla

School Council President
Kylie Barker

School Supervision Times
8.45am - 9.00am
3.15pm - 3.30pm



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This is the key question. This is why as a staff we are continually referring to quality research, rather than an opinion piece that may sound amazing. We also have consultants that work with us as critical friends to ensure that we remain focused on the right work.

During the Twilight School Day visit, you may have seen things about how your child learns that you'd like to know more about – please take the time to chat to your child's teacher about this, as it also gives your child's teacher the chance to articulate our philosophy of learning. Thanks again everyone for supporting the event!

Parent Teacher meetings

Don't forget that Parent Teacher meetings will be occurring on Wednesday 27th of June. Meetings will occur between 1:00pm to 7:15pm. A notice will be sent home in the coming days so that parents can book an interview time online.

What the teachers have been up to...

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the teachers are currently in the middle of a three-week period where they will be released to work with their team for 2 to 3 days to complete assessments with the students individually, to learn more about what they have achieved as a reader over the past 6 months. They will also participate in a team professional practice day to build consistency across the school of how students become writers.

Canteen Survey results

Thank you to the families that were able to complete the Canteen survey that was sent via Flexi buzz using 'Survey Monkey'. I have already shared a lot of the feedback with True Soul Kitchen. Here is a quick summary of the results:

- 37 responses were received
- The thing that people liked most about the new canteen included:
 - Fresh and healthy food options
 - Lots of options
 - Reasonably priced considering food is freshly made

- Kids that have tried the meals really like them
- Suggestions and ideas raised included (note I have tried to summarise the main points rather than list all suggestions):
 - Remind families that they can order rolls and sandwiches for lunch as well as the hot food daily options
 - Provide option to order on the day using cash (which has now been implemented thanks to feedback via the survey)
 - Continue to explore other food options that would appeal more to the students – especially those that are less likely to eat current options (*note that other food options would include healthy choices*)
 - Review prices for certain items
 - Consider more options
 - Promote food options for parents to buy and try
- In terms of how people are going with the online ordering system:
 - 55% find the system easy to use
 - 45% do not find it easy to use or do not feel comfortable using it. Key reasons for this include:
 - The surcharge
 - Process for ordering for more than one child
 - Putting credit card details online
- In terms of any further comments or questions or wonderings. Summary include:
 - Lots of positive feedback
 - Lots of support for the vision of True Soul Kitchen
 - Innovative ideas to ensure that True Soul Kitchen continues to be part of the Sunshine Heights Primary School community
 - Lots of food option ideas that match the vision of True Soul Kitchen

The full results will be shared with the team at True Soul Kitchen. They are continually open to feedback, which I am more than happy to pass on to them.

Hope everyone had a nice week.

Alex Artavilla

Principal