Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ride2School Day tomorrow!
Forecast is looking perfect! Let’s see if we can get the whole school to ride, walk, scoot or skate tomorrow! Reminder that as with last year, we will be locking up bikes and scooters against the front fence of the Mailey street side of the school. For those that live too far to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school, we would like to encourage those families to park one or two blocks away from the school and to walk the rest of the distance! Don’t forget helmets and locks!

Harmony Day 2017!
We have our annual Harmony Day celebration on Tuesday next week March 21st! Reminder that we are hoping students dress up on the day in bright colours, dress up as a Troll or dress in orange (otherwise school uniform). It is ok for students to have hair spray and face paint however these must be placed on the students at home. Hope you can meet us in the city! Reminder that we are aiming to perform at 10:40am (please note that we could perform earlier or later depending on the arrival of the buses). We are performing on Southbank at the Queensbridge Square (big red/orange stage). A number of parents have asked about having a Troll hair-do and wearing a hat. We might be lucky to be performing in the shade. For children that have a Troll hair-do on the day, we might collect their hats and provide them to the students if required.

School Council ‘election of office bearers’
On Wednesday evening this week, the new members of the school council had a meeting to conduct the election of office bearers for 2017. Once again I’d like to thank our outgoing members John Mifsud (Callum in Year 2), Luan Pham (Ethan Year 4) and Liz Dalgleish (Lana Year 4 and Hugo Year 2) for...
their time and support during their term in office. The school council office bearers for 2017 include:

- School Council President: Kylie Barker
- School Council Vice President: Carlos Rosado
- Finance subcommittee convenor: Carlos Rosado
- Policy Subcommittee convenor: Sarah Weston
- Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee convenor: Gordon McKenzie
- Out of Hours School Care Subcommittee convenor: Micheal Dimkopoulos
- Canteen Subcommittee: Lisa McCarthy

Reminder that you do not need to be a member of school council to join a subcommittee. Times and meeting dates of sub committees will be published in the newsletter and the school website in the coming weeks. I’m looking forward to working with all members of school council throughout the year.

What we are up to as a Staff

As we head into the final few weeks of the school year, just a reminder to parents that during the second last week of each term, teachers are released for a full day to work with their team to review the learning of the past 10 weeks to set up a learning plan for the next term. (Prep team will be meeting on the Monday of the last week)

This year we also have another group of teachers attending a 3-day workshop to learn more about the classroom teaching instructions that have the greatest impact on student learning. Over the past 2 years up to 10 staff members have attended the workshops which will be one of our key focus areas for our new school strategic plan. In 2017, the team leaders will be attending the workshops. Sally Fowler and Fleur Lacey are overseeing the implementation of this work as part of a leadership opportunity, Sally and Fleur need to be congratulated for the work they have been doing which also includes the work around ‘Growth Mindset’ (which forms part of the Classroom Instructions that Work workshops).

What we have in Common

Finally, as part of our Harmony Day celebrations, I thought I would capture some of the traditions of families in our community. The reason for this is that I strongly believe that despite our diversity we should recognise what we have in common (rather than focus on what makes us different). For example, the making of the ‘tomato sauce’ is an important tradition for my family as it plays a major role in complimenting the homemade ravioli, fettuccini, lasagne etc.

For my family the three big food traditions were making the bread, making the sauce and making sausages (and anything else you can eat from a pig).

One of my fondest memories growing up was watching my nonna knead huge amounts of dough in a bath size wooden tub in the backyard of her house. This was then followed by baking a year’s worth of bread for each family in her homemade ‘wood fire’ oven (everyone had a minimum of two extremely large freezers in their house or shed for storage).

For me, I use to hang around near the oven waiting for the bread to be pulled out so that I could have a piece hot and slathered with butter! I think I use to eat 5 loaves of bread and ten tubs of butter in one day!

Making sausages wasn’t as a romantic experience, as my most vivid childhood memory was walking into the shed and seeing a full size pig hanging from the roof of the shed getting ready for the next day. Look, I do enjoy a sausage and when they are homemade and seasoned by my mum and dad, well it was a time of the year that I looked forward to. However, nowadays I don’t have the active lifestyle to counteract the impact that homemade sausages could have on me.

Fortunately, the food tradition that has lasted the test of time for me is the making ‘sauce’. Yes, some say that nowadays you can just buy it at the shops...but...as I learned from growing up and eating at various Italian households, everyone’s sauce tasted differently...and my favourite tasting sauce was coincidently my mums. This is why this year I needed to learn how she did it! This year I wasn’t going to play the part of only picking the shed and seeing a full size pig hanging from the roof of the shed getting ready for the next day. Look, I do enjoy a sausage and when they are homemade and seasoned by my mum and dad, well it was a time of the year that I looked forward to. However, nowadays I don’t have the active lifestyle to counteract the impact that homemade sausages could have on me.

So on the long weekend I headed off to Cobram for a ‘masterclass’ tomato sauce making adventure. I look forward to sharing my experience with you in future newsletters, however with Harmony Day next week I am keen to find out about the many traditions that families share within our school community – not just religious or food related traditions. The reason for doing this is because although we have a diverse community there is so much that we have in common! Family traditions is one of these – no matter how big or small.
I’d love to hear about your family tradition/s! If you find the time please email me at: sunshine.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au with the subject heading: (YOUR FAMILY NAME) TRADITIONS. You may even want to send through some photos.

My aim is to make a display from this in the school to showcase what we have in common – our family traditions. Another family tradition that I enjoyed growing up (which was once again food related) was our evening drives to Yarrawonga where we enjoyed a Choc-Wedge! Yes, food does play a big part in the life of my family.

Look forward to hearing about your traditions!

Hope you can join us for Ride2School Day and Harmony Day!

Hope everyone had a great week!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights PS

Important Harmony Day
Information for Parents

- Students will need to bring along a drink bottle and snacks (preferable in a paper bag) with their name on it. Students will have lunch at school when they return.

- Students will need to have sun screen on and are encouraged to bring along their own roll-on sunscreen that they can apply later in the day.

- Arrangements will be made for any students that are unable to attend the event. However, it would be fantastic to have all 411 students come along!

- We would also like to encourage everyone to dress up as a Troll, or have a Troll hair-do or to wear orange on the day!

- Reminder that we are hoping students dress up on the day in bright colours, dress up as a Troll or dress in orange (otherwise school uniform). It’s ok for students to have hair spray and face paint however these must be placed on the students at home.

- It would be great to have all students at school on time between 8.40am – 8.55am.
Thursday 16th February 2017

Book Packs
Reminder that book packs ($160.00) are now due to be paid, these can be paid via QKR, EFTPOS or at the office. Your earliest attention would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Fundraising
Pop Up Book Store $4,757.88

Interschool Sport Draw for Summer Sport 2017
Friday the 17th of March away against Albion North – Travelling by Bus
Friday the 24th of March home against Our Lady’s

We have been notified by the Brimbank Council that parking areas around schools are being patrolled on a regular basis and infringements will be issued to anyone that illegally parks.

Instrumental Lessons at School

Did you know that Music:
Develops mind hand & eye co-ordination
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