Welcome back everyone!

Hope everyone has had a great start to the year! Hope you like our new look newsletter! What a busy time it has been at the school over the break as we launch into our new logo and image! I still can’t believe how much was achieved in just 5 weeks!

Thank you for the positive feedback about the changes and additions to the school. I have to pass on a big thank you to our School Council Building and Grounds subcommittee members Gordon Mckenzie and Jeff Nelson. Jeff is responsible for the amazing line design creation, and Gordon as convenor of the subcommittee has worked tirelessly over the past few months organising quotes and companies to make the line design come to life. He also came to the school nearly every day over the break to help oversee the painting project, which took up to 3 weeks to complete. Trees for this space will also be included. We are awaiting a report from an engineer to ensure that this is possible without impacting on any pipes etc underground.

This year the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee will continue their work around the Grounds Master Plan, which will focus around an amazing design for the front of the school. Jeff and staff member Sally Fowler were busy in 2017 shaping up ideas for the front of the school, which are looking pretty special.

Not only did we begin the year with a new look entrance and the amazing line design; we have also officially introduced our new uniform image. Hope everyone has been going okay with the transition to the use of the online store. We had a number of families come along on Monday for the Pop up Shop.

Over the break, we also added new carpet and painted the walls of two classrooms, which is part of our ongoing maintenance plan.

Add to this the introduction of our new Performing Arts/Music program and it has been an exciting way to begin the New Year!

I also need to say a big thank you to the staff as they have been busy preparing for the year over the past three days. This included working with educational consultants Alan Wright and Vicki Froomes to deepen our understandings and knowledge of effective teaching strategies to support students as readers and writers.

School Council elections 2018

The process for electing members of school council will commence next week. Information will be sent home explaining the process. There are 5 parent
and 2 departmental vacancies. If you are interested in learning more about the role of school council, please see myself or a member of the current group.

Welcoming our 2018 Prep students
Not long to go until we welcome our new Prep students. Tonight after school, our 2018 Prep families and students will be meeting for a picnic dinner. The purpose of the picnic dinner is to give parents, teachers and students the chance to meet before the students formally begin school next week on Monday.

Finally...
Finally, I need to say another big thank you to the families that gave up their time over the holidays to water our plants!

Reminder that we have also launched an Instagram page and we will hopefully launch our new website in the coming days. The new website is a much simpler version of the old site that we hope captures the new feel/image of the school.

I think that is it for now! It’s been a busy day but everyone has settled in really well. Over the holidays, I was fortunate enough to be sitting under the big tree at the front of the school enjoying my lunch when a very large amount of bird poo landed on my head and t-shirt. It seriously felt like someone turned on a tap and left it running for up to 3 minutes! Wondering what I had done to deserve this, I was later told that it means ‘good luck’. Therefore, because I was treated to a downpour of bird poo inside the school ground, this must mean that we are in for another fantastic year! Or it could mean that I have not spoken kindly of the magpies that reside in our grounds on a number of occasions?

Anyway, have a great year and I look forward to catching up with everyone over the next few weeks!

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights PS