

NEWSLETTER

Available online and Flexi buzzed each week.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Book Week Dress Up Day – tomorrow!

Don't forget that tomorrow we are hoping students and staff could come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We will be having a parade in the morning at 9:15am in the gym. Note that there will be no assembly in the afternoon. Hope you can join us for the parade.

Some key reminders

I also wanted to use the newsletter this week to highlight some key events and notices that were sent home this week:

- Year 5/6 Camp is next week from the 21st – 23rd of August. The students will be heading off to DOXA Malmsbury camp.
- Father's Day/Special person in our lives breakfast celebration – Friday 30th August at the Sunshine Social – food indication form was sent home last week. Return this form to the office.
- Our First People Unit of Work Excursion notices
- 3A Parent Teacher meetings (which were postponed last term)

Celebrating Our First People Unit of Work

To support the learning expectations of the Term 3 Unit of work around our First People, teams have organised Excursions that will be occurring later in the term. Notices were sent home this week. Just a reminder to please return signed permission forms and make payments by the due date indicated on the notice. Please contact the office if you need any support regarding payment or require any extra notice. Here is a summary of where students will be heading:

- Prep students – CERES Community environment park
- Year 1 and 2 students – Melbourne Museum, and a local walk
- Year 3 and 4 students – The Botanical Garden in the city
- Year 5 and 6 students – Cultural Education tour in the city

Thank you also to the families that were able to share feedback regarding Camps and Excursions. The feedback received has supported us with making decisions around camps and excursions.

Communication Survey – staff emails and Seesaw

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, I just wanted to share some thinking around questions/suggestions/wonderings raised in the survey. Firstly thanks again for the positive feedback regarding our communication practices as we do try different avenues and practices to try and accommodate the needs of all our families.

2019 Thursday 15 August

KEY REMINDERS

**Book Character
Dress Up Day
Friday 16
August!
Tomorrow.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Book Week Dress Up Day
Friday 16th of August

Year 5/6 Camp Doxa
21 - 23 August

Year 1/2 Museum Excursion
Wednesday 28 August

Year Prep CERES Excursion
Friday 30 August

Father's Day breakfast
@Sunshine Social
Friday 30 August 7:30am

Year 3/4 Botanical Excursion
Tuesday 10 September

Year 5/6 City Excursion
Monday 16 September

Principal
Alex Artavilla

School Council President
Gordon Mckenzie

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

'We are a child safe school and compliant with child safety standards. Child safety policies available on website.'



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State School no. 4744

A number of parents asked in the survey whether it would be possible to access the email address of teachers to allow direct communication. Our current communication approach between teachers and parents includes:

- Making contact by phone or an arranged meeting
- Catching up with teacher after school
- Communication books
- Scheduled meetings

The reason as to why I have discouraged communication between parents and teachers via email is based on previous experiences, which has resulted in causing stress amongst teachers and parents. This is due to emails being sent on the weekend or late in the evening about an issue that may have occurred during the day or week. Understanding the tone and intention of an email is difficult for people to interpret which is why I have always felt that contact by phone or in person is the best way to work through any concerns or difficult questions.

Although we have a fantastic parent/teacher community (and it would be more convenient for parents to contact teachers via email), it can take one person or one issue to have a negative impact on the wellbeing of a person. Social media is an example of this where the term 'keyboard warrior' is common practice.

Like all schools, difficult issues do arise. The thing I appreciate most about our school community is that these issues are discussed in a respectful and professional manner. Rather than trying to sort out issues via email, our approach is to work through things in person.

I also need to add that some teachers have provided their email address to specific parents due to the needs of a student where regular communication is required. This is a decision of the teacher.

Another suggestion that was raised was around the possibility of classroom teachers using Seesaw. It was fantastic to hear so much positive feedback from families about Seesaw. Seesaw was instigated and introduced by the specialist team to share with parents the work that their children were doing in specialist sessions. The specialist team needs to be congratulated for the time and energy that they put into utilising See Saw.

Using Seesaw in the classroom is something that has been considered. However, things that would need to be considered further include:

- The benefits and purpose in supporting the students with their learning
- The impact it would have on teaching and supporting students
- Do we have enough in place where parents can learn about and understand what students are focusing on in class?

Although there are no plans to utilise Seesaw in the classroom, it is an item that I am happy to raise with staff for further consideration.

Hope you are able to join us for our Book Week parade tomorrow morning in the gym.

Hope everyone had a nice week.

Alex Artavilla
Principal
Sunshine Heights Primary School