

NEWSLETTER

Available online and Flexi buzzed each week.

2019 Thursday 12 September

KEY REMINDERS

Curriculum/Student Free Days remaining for 2019

Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November

Reminder that students do not come to school on these days.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Year 5/6 City Excursion

Monday 16 September

Final day of Term 3 (Casual Dress Day/Foot Colours Day)

Friday 20th September on this day school finishes at 2:30pm.

First Day Term 4

Monday 7th October

Year 2 Sleepover

Friday 11th October

Year 3/4 Sunnystones Camp

6th – 8th November

Peruvian Fiesta Day

Wednesday 20th November

End of Year Festive Concert/Art Show

Thursday 12th December

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.'



SUNSHINE
HEIGHTS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a reminder to families that there are two more Curriculum/Student Free Days for 2019. This includes

- Friday 1st November
- Monday 4th November

Please note that Big Child Care will be operating for both days from 6:45am to 6:30pm. For bookings and information, please contact Big Child Care on 0432 802 045 and sunshineheights@bigchildcare.com.

Showcasing our learning about The First Australians

Tuesday 17th September 2:15pm to 3:10pm

Don't forget, to celebrate and showcase the amazing work and learning that the students have demonstrated throughout Term 3 during their Unit of Work about 'The First Australians', we are inviting parents and families to drop into the school on Tuesday 17 September between 2:30pm – 3:10pm for an Open Class Exhibition of Learning.

Heading into the final week of the term...

Next week we head into the final week of Term 3. To celebrate the end of the term we are encouraging the students to come to school on the last day dressed in their favourite 'Footy Colours' (AFL, NRL, A-league etc.).

We have a few other things planned for the final week which includes the Talent Show in the gym at 9am. Families are more than welcome to come along.

There is also the Year 5/6 City Excursion on Monday.

Don't forget that school finishes at 2:30pm on the last day of the term (20th September).

Wishing them well!

On behalf of the whole school community, I just wanted to send our best wishes to teachers Tania Kilkenny and Jenny Lupo, as they will be leaving us next term to start their family. It has been exciting to see so many of our teachers and staff moving into a new stage of life, and we look forward to meeting their little ones later next term. Jenny was one of the first teachers that I employed when I was appointed as Principal of Sunshine Heights, and Tania was in her second year of teaching.

For the remainder of the year, Jenny's class will be taught by Helen Kasikakis and Tania's class will be taught by Jamie Sturzo.

For those that haven't heard we have another little one on the way as Year 5 Seher Tan begins her family early next year.

Hmmm. How can we wish Tania and Jenny all the best at assembly next week? Stay tuned.

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State School no. 4744

For the newsletter this week I have invited our Literacy Coach Sonia Papadopoulous and Assistant Principal Curriculum Leader Jacinta Goldie to share a summary of our journey in supporting students as writers at Sunshine Heights PS. I'd like to thank and hope you enjoy what they have put together below.

Our Writing Journey at Sunshine Heights PS

So there we were...2016, the beginning of a new school year, inspired, having just read Alan Wright's *Igniting Writing* over the summer break. As a staff we wanted to generate a 'buzz' around writing and generate a 'buzz' we did. Our guest speaker on that day was Alan Wright himself. Alan is not only a published author and blogger but a highly regarded educational consultant. The day was full of great discussion and wonderings. We were guided to explore professional resources and what best practice was according to current research.

The big message that came out of this discussion was that 'Writers are observers, they write about what they know and what they are curious about. As writers they make choices from the beginning to the end of a piece, so from an idea to a published piece.'

Eager to start our writing journey with the students, we purchased a whole range of notebooks students could choose as their *Writer's Notebook*. The teachers even got to choose one. After all, they were going on the writing journey alongside the students. We spent the first few writing sessions of the school year with our students, sharing and listening to stories, taking notes and recording wonderings and memories and of course exploring our *Wonder Boxes*. By the end of these few days we had created a community of writers with lots of ideas they were excited to write about and share. We were amazed at the variety of ideas and messages the students were writing about and the thought and effort they were putting into their pieces. Students became invested in the pieces they were composing but it didn't end there. Students revisited pieces to make them even better, they borrowed ideas from published authors and experimented with writing techniques (craft) to make it more interesting for their intended audience.

As teachers we used our own *Writer's Notebooks* to model for the students which enabled us to put ourselves in the shoes of student writers to better understand the daily challenges they faced. We exposed students to a range of genres and styles of writing which they could choose to use depending on the purpose and intended audience of their piece. As students built up a collection of writing they were excited to take their favourite piece right through to publishing. Once again they were given lots of choice as to how their published piece would look. This included book form, posters, reports and, for our younger writers, simply putting their writing book outside their classroom to share with the school community.

Here we are now, 2019 and our students are just as engaged in writing as they were in 2016 and so our writing journey continues!

How we support our student writers

Although students make many decisions about their writing, they are supported by teachers through individual conferences. Conferences may occur at various stages of the writing process. The process is as follows: *planning, composing, revising, editing and publishing*. The purpose of conferencing is to support the writer with their most pressing need and to develop the **writer** not 'fix' the writing. These conferences are a conversation between two writers (one being the teacher and the other the student). During this time, teachers are giving students feedback and setting goals. Throughout the conference the student still has ownership of their writing and the teacher shows respect to them by not writing on their work. In regards to spelling, teachers still have high expectations of their students and encourage them to correct their spelling based on their personal spelling words, words on the words wall and around the room.

Over the coming weeks, we would love to share some tips about how you can continue to support your child at home with writing. Stay tuned....

Thank you Sonia and Jacinta. Please take the time to read some of the children's published pieces of work when you come in for the 'First Australians' open classroom exhibition. Our writing journey has been an exciting experience, which we are all very proud of as it has challenged and inspired our thinking.

Hope everyone had a great week.
Alex Artavilla
Principal