

NEWSLETTER

Available online and Flexi buzzed each week.

2019 Thursday 7 March

KEY REMINDERS

Download Flexi Buzz app.

Thank you to the families that have paid the 2019 Parent Payments (essential items for students) of \$160.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Prep parent information sessions:

Fri 8th March 9:15 – 10am Rm 7

Monday 11th March: Labour Day Public Holiday – **No School**

Thursday 21st March: Harmony Day on the steps of the Old Treasury Building

Year 6 Summer Interschool Sports dates (every Friday):

- Mar 8th St Paul's - Postponed.
- Mar 15th Sun North - Home.
- Mar 22nd Albion North - Away.
- Mar 29th Christ The King - Away.

Friday 22nd March: Ride2School Day + Casual Dress Day – ride, scoot, skate, walk or park a block away (try doing this every Friday!).

Friday 5th April: Last day Term One – casual dress day.

Principal
Alex Artavilla

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,

This week our Leading Teacher Sonia Papadopoulos and Learning Specialist Sally Fowler conducted parent information sessions for Prep families about the way in which we support students to read, write and become mathematicians – the morning session for Prep families will be held tomorrow morning.

The purpose of these sessions were to not only share some of the things that the preps will be doing throughout the year, but to also give parents the opportunity to ask any questions about our teaching and learning approaches.

The way in which students learn best has evolved since I was in primary school and even over my time working in education. In my first year of teaching, I spent a whole term teaching the students about the Beatles. We even created a display board outside the classroom with picture cut outs of Paul, John, Ringo and George. I'm not sure the students learned anything that would have supported their schooling journey – but I got the chance to share my newly acquired guitar skills. During the next term I was offered a mentor (which could have been a coincidence or a strategic move by the Principal). My mentor wasn't a big Beatles fan but became a huge influence on my career in education.

My second term at the small country school was spent learning about thinking styles and the way in which people learn. Although I had spent 4 years at University, it was my time at Numurkah Primary School that I started to shape the kind of teacher that I hoped to become. This centred on understanding the way in which people learn and think, and creating environments and experiences that supported this.

My educational journey has allowed me to refine my understandings about learning practices through conversations with other teachers, parents, students and even friends. Yes, being a teacher makes you the person that people turn to at a gathering to seek clarification about why times tables are no longer taught in schools (which isn't true) or why schools have issues with teaching phonics (which is also not true).

As a staff we continually reflect on quality research practices to review and refine the way we work. We are also looking at exploring ways that we can share this work with parents and to provide parents with the opportunity to ask questions and/or seek clarification. The Prep parent information sessions is one way we do this. However, all parents are encouraged to make a time to chat to their child's teacher or a member of leadership at any time in relation to our approaches regarding teaching and learning. Our Assistant Principal Jacinta Goldie oversees the whole curriculum and would be keen to meet with parents to discuss any wonderings or suggestions.

Mission, Vision and School Values

The mission, vision and values of the school were reviewed and developed 7 years ago, to clearly articulate the key priorities for the school in moving forward. They were developed in consultation with students, staff and parents through a future search approach. This included reflecting on the past and thinking about the future. Since the creation of the values, mission and vision, the community and staff has evolved. To ensure that our values, mission and vision reflect current departmental priorities, school community expectations

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State School no. 4744

and current research practices, we will be going through the process of reviewing and revising the mission, vision and values of the school in 2019. We will be seeking input from parents, students and staff, and support from an external consultant. More information about how you can provide input into the process will be communicated in the coming weeks.

School Council meeting update

School Council meeting was held last week. Key discussions from the meeting included:

- Principal's report included a snapshot of the key work that staff will be involved in this year. This included actions, goals and targets.
- Subcommittees discussed key focus areas for 2019. This will support any new members to the council group and/or new parents that would be keen to join a subcommittee this year. Don't forget that you don't need to be a council member to join a subcommittee. Current subcommittees include:
 - Buildings and Grounds
 - Policy
 - Canteen
 - Out of Hours School Care

Ride2School Day Friday 22nd of March

Yes the day after our Harmony Day celebration it is Ride2School Day. On this day we are hoping as many students, staff and parents walk, ride, scoot, skate or park a block away from school. It will also be a casual dress day.

Harmony Day Thursday March 21st

Thank you to the students that have returned permission form for Harmony Day. We are hoping to have all permission forms returned over the next week.

School Council election update

Voting has commenced and closes 4.00pm Wednesday 13th March 2019. Thanks to the families that have already voted. Please contact the office if you require extra ballot forms.

Twilight Day 2019

Reminder that to showcase and celebrate the learning experiences offered at Sunshine Heights Primary School, on Thursday 23rd of May 1:00pm – 7:15pm the students will have the opportunity to experience a 'Twilight' school day. On this day, the students will arrive at school at 12:45pm for a 1:00pm start with school finishing at 7:15pm. Parents/carers are encouraged to arrive at any time of the day for as long as they would like to stay. However, it will be important for parents to remember that it is a normal school day.

We are hoping that as many students as possible enjoy the Twilight school experience by arriving at school at 12:45pm on this day. However, we also understand that organising supervision arrangements for your child/ren from 8:45am to 12:45pm may be a challenge. This is why we are providing lots of notice prior to the event to allow parents time to organise supervision arrangements. However, this may still not be possible. A notice will be sent home to give parents the opportunity to inform us of how your child will be supervised prior to the event and whether you are having any challenges finding supervision for your child.

Hope everyone had a nice week.

Alex Artavilla
Principal