

# NEWSLETTER

Available online and Flexi buzzed each week.

2019 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February

## KEY REMINDERS

Parent Teacher meetings for Prep to 6 parents are scheduled for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. A form will be sent home in the coming days to allow parents to book a time online.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Prep – 6 Parent Teacher meetings 1pm to 7:45pm (includes Younger Sun Bookshop Fundraiser)

*Year 6 Summer Interschool Sports dates (every Friday):*

- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Our Lady's - Home.
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Ardeer South - Home.
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Sun Harvester - Away.
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup> St Paul's - Away.
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup> Sun North - Home.
- Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> Albion North - Away.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> Christ The King - Away.

**Principal**  
Alex Artavilla

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we are off and running. Welcome to our new families and students. I hope you have had an enjoyable first week back.

We are very proud of how all the students have settled back into school. Big thank you to the senior students that have given up their recess and lunchtime to support the Preps. I also need to thank and congratulate our School Captains for 2019 Belinda Vu, Anthony Tran, Onesime Ninteramiye and Grace Li as they completed their first official duties on Monday. This included welcoming Prep parents and students on their first day of school, and also welcoming local member for Footscray Katie Hall who kindly dropped in to celebrate the occasion with the students and their families.

On a personal note, my eldest daughter has started secondary school. Not sure what this means for me this year apart from the fact that it coincides with her becoming a teenager. Sounds scary. Teenager and secondary school. Compare this to the gentle sound of 'not a teenager and primary school'.

To prepare myself for the experience of having a secondary school teenager, I googled '*how to be a good, non-overpowering, very relaxed, but not too relaxed, easy going, but not a push over - secondary school/teenager parent*'. You would not believe what came up.

**GOOGLE SEARCH RESULT:** 'How to feel relaxed: 15 steps (with pictures)'.

It didn't make me feel any better knowing that I needed to follow 15 steps to deal with the experience of having a secondary school teenager. Especially when the 15 steps needed pictures! 15 steps. It takes less steps to send a rocket to the moon.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 – and then press the red blast button. 11 steps to fly to the moon (with no pictures needed). But you need to follow 15 steps (with pictures) to be a *good, non-overpowering, very relaxed, but not too relaxed, easy going, but not a push over secondary school/teenager parent*.


But that's not all, within the 15 steps you need to attend 32 Yoga classes a week, drink 73 cups of chamomile tea every day, and employ your own personal masseur.

You need a holiday after just reading the 15 steps. It even included 3 tips at the end of the 15 steps which advised not to use devices before bed as the artificial blue light from them can add to stress.

Anyway, apart from the stress of the 15 steps to deal with stress, my daughter has kicked off her secondary school journey on a positive note! I enjoyed the opportunity of travelling with her to school that she appreciated. I look forward to sharing with you over the year 'my life as a secondary school/teenager parent'.


## School Council elections

A notice has been sent home today calling for nominations for School Council. There are five parent member vacancies. If you are interested in joining School Council or would like to learn more about the role, please feel free to catch me in the yard or organise a time to meet via the office. School Council is a great way to get involved at the school through the work of various subcommittees.

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State School no. 4744

## Finally...

Communication is something that we value at Sunshine Heights and we are always looking for ways to improve the way in which we do this. Effective communication plays an important role in building strong positive working partnerships between home and school for the benefit of the students. If you have any concerns or questions about your child – whether social or academic, please make contact with your child's teacher – this would be greatly appreciated by your child's teacher.

To make contact with your child's teacher the approaches we encourage include:

- Catching up with them after school to arrange a time to meet or for a quick chat (note that teachers have scheduled meetings on certain days after school from 3:30pm, and before school teachers are preparing for the day. This is why arranging a meeting time to meet in person or to chat on the phone is preferred). Please note that all teachers are on duty in the yard after school every day from 3:15pm to 3:30pm – this is a great opportunity for a quick chat.
- Contacting teachers by phone. As teachers have classes all day, you can leave a message with the office staff (Vicky, Tina or Tram).

I have not encouraged the use of email for communication between parents and teachers, as I believe it is more personable to discuss matters in person or on the phone. Sometimes language and tone in an email messages can get misinterpreted and cause distress for a parent and/or teacher.

However, as outlined in our Issues Resolution policy, parents are able to approach their child's teacher or the leader of the team to resolve issues when students from other classes are involved or if it is a decision that has been made in relation to all of the grades in that level.

Parents should approach members of the Leadership team to resolve issues that have not been dealt with successfully by the teacher or Professional Learning Team Leader. Issues relating to staff members or complex student issues can also be referred to members of the Leadership team.

Parents should approach the Principal to resolve issues that cannot be resolved by the Leadership team and issues relating to school policy, management, staff members or complex student issues. For more information, The Issue's Resolution policy is available on our website.

Other key communication used by the school to provide and/or share information includes:

- **Newsletter** – produced every week and provided to families one week as a hardcopy and the next week via Flexi buzz.
- **Instagram site** - @sunshineheightsps – this is solely used to share our school journey.
- **Flexi buzz** – you need to download app. Used to provide information or updates. Will also be used in the unlikely event that there is an emergency at the school and parents need to be contacted.
- **Seesaw** – used by specialist team to share the work that students are doing in the class.

Thanks again everyone for a fantastic start to the year. Don't forget that on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of February we have Parent Teacher meetings for all students – including Prep parents. Details of how to book a time has been sent home with the newsletter today.

Have a great term and hope you can join us at assembly tomorrow from 2:30pm.

Alex Artavilla  
Principal

### Message from Mr Damnic P.E. and Sport Teacher

Year 6 Interschool Summer Sports Competition commences on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> against Our Lady's PS at home. Summer sports include: Soccer, Kanga Cricket, Basketball and Mini Tennis. Prior to the first game teams will be selected. Parents are more than welcome to come along and support the students. Fixture in newsletter in dates to remember section.