



SUNBURY HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

EVERY CHILD - EVERY OPPORTUNITY - HELPING CHILDREN SHINE

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Newsletter No: 2
 14th February, 2013

TERM CALENDAR

| DATE | DETAIL |
|---|---|
| FEBRUARY | |
| Sunday 17 th | Working Bee |
| Thursday 21st | Parent Teacher Interviews |
| Friday 22 nd | Gr 3-6 Athletics |
| Tuesday 26th | Start Smart Program Gr 1/2 |
| Wednesday 27 th | Start Smart Program Gr 3/4/5 |
| Thursday 28th | Start Smart Program Gr 5/6 |
| Thursday 28 th | Twilight Swimming Carnival |
| MARCH | |
| Monday 4th | Hume Division Swim Carnival |
| Monday 4 th – Wednesday 6 th | Gr 3 Doxa Camp |
| Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th | Gr 5 Doxa Camp |
| Monday 11 th | Labour Day Holiday NO SCHOOL |
| Thursday 14th | Rugby Clinic Prep-Gr 4 |
| Friday 15 th | Whole School Photos – details to follow |
| Tuesday 19th | Curriculum Day NO SCHOOL |
| Wednesday 20 th | District Athletics |
| Thursday 21st | Rugby Clinic Prep-Gr 4 |
| Tuesday 26 th | Cartoon Workshop Prep-Gr 6 |
| Thursday 28th | Term 1 ends..2.30pm |
| Friday 29 th | Good Friday |
| APRIL | |
| Monday 15th | Term 2 commences |

PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE (ADDRESS ABOVE)
 (Limited printed copies are available from the office.)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Council

At Monday evening's School Council meeting, Council was thrilled to hear about the settled start to the school year and send their congratulations to students, at all grade levels, on such a wonderful start to the year. School Councillors are hoping to catch up with new Prep families at the Prep Sausage Sizzle on Thursday February 21 and introduce themselves to you.

A recommendation and something that will be developed is a School Council page on our school website. This will help keep parents better informed about the school's decision making process and give you the contact details and information about the parents who are representing you.

A major focus of our meeting was sharing with Council the classroom programs that are well underway and the benefits of all classes participating in a Start Up Program that focussed on setting the scene for learning. The introduction of the RED Star program for our grade 3 and 4 students that will be launched soon by Cathie Morcom (its creator) was also met with great enthusiasm.

What is a School Council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent Members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of School Council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual School Council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the School Council or encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice of election and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All School Council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the School Council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections if a vote is required..

Contact me for further information.

Below is information regarding the formation of the new School Council.

School Council Election Timeline

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Monday 18 February | Call for nominations |
| Monday 25 February | Nominations close |

If an election is required: distribute ballot papers

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesday | 5th March | Close of ballot |
| Wednesday | 6 March | Declaration of poll |
| Tuesday | 12th March | New council formed |

Nomination forms will be available from the school office from Monday 18th February 2013.

Student Transition Meetings Grades 1-6

Student Transition Meetings have been scheduled for Thursday 21 February.

The aims of this initial meeting are:

- to provide an opportunity for your child to introduce you to their classroom teacher
- to provide information regarding the classroom expectations and for your child to show you their 2013 learning journal

- for you to provide any relevant information to the teacher that may assist your child's learning in 2013

Students in classes Prep -6 will be dismissed at 1.30 pm

- Students can leave at this time and head home as they normally do
- Attend after school care
- Remain at school and be involved in an alternative program until 3.15 dismissal time

On line registration forms are being sent home with students today. Anyone who does not have computer access will be able to complete their registration at school. If this day is not suitable, but you would like an appointment, please contact the school so an alternative arrangement can be made.

Due to an unavoidable commitment Mrs Pianura will conduct her meetings at a different time and will contact her own families individually.

Thursday February 21-- A Sizzling Start for Preps

As Prep parents have already had the opportunity to have a formal exchange of information session with their child's teacher, the Prep students will also be dismissed at 1.30 pm. Their evening will begin at 5pm with a sausage sizzle tea. Drinks and snacks will be available from the Canteen. This is also a good opportunity for you to become more aware of what is for sale at the canteen and an appropriate amount of money that can be sent to school. Classrooms will be open until 6.30 for parents, and I dare say grandparents, to visit and see what their children can already do and learn a little about how the Prep classroom runs.

House Swimming Sports

It was great to see many parents of students in grades 3-6 at our House Swimming Sports on Tuesday. It is always a fun day, and the children were thrilled to see you there barracking them and their house team on.

There are many people to thank for the organisation of the day. A lot goes on before the day and early in the morning to ensure a smooth and SunSmart program.

To all the staff a big thank you for all their hard work on the day and in preparation for the event. A super big thanks to Leanne Ratkowski whose planning and organisation ensured an extremely well run day. It was a close encounter with Fraser eventually coming out victorious. The newly elected House Captains Eddie Tichy and Shelby Magnone showed their appreciation for their team, staff organisation, parent support and the sportsmanship of other competitors when they accepted the trophy on Fraser's behalf.

The Sausage Sizzle and portable Canteen was a resoundingly successful lunch. Thank you to John Lillywhite, Maria Morby and Joanne Miller (Canteen Manager) for their coordination of the sausage sizzle and the other members of the school community who helped on the day. A special thank you to Margaret Maplesden, Kristy Allen and Mere Matenga for working on the stall for the entire day.

Rob Mitchell Presenting New Aboriginal Flag

It was very pleasing to receive a call from our Federal Member Rob Mitchell's Personal Assistant Hayley commenting favourably on our grade 6 student Jordan McDonald. Jordan had phoned to ask about the possibility of receiving a new flag. Hayley said "Also a thank you to Jordon McDonald; Jordon was very polite and clear when I spoke to him last Friday and in his email below said "

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Just before the school holidays our Aboriginal flag was stolen. I would like to ask you could you please replace this flag for us. My teacher Mr O'Keefe has asked me to send this to you in the hope that you could help us. You can contact him on this email address or by the details below.

Thank you Jordon McDonald Grade 6 student and flag monitor.

Rob will visit Sunbury Heights Primary School on Monday, 25 February at 2.30pm to present our school with a new Aboriginal flag.

AEU Stopwork Action February 14

A letter to all families was sent home last Monday in regard to Thursdays Stop Work.

On Thursday February 14, the Australian Education Union has called on its members to stop work for 24 hours (a full school day). Some members of our teaching and support staff are participating in this action and as a consequence we will not be able to run a full program / any program as normal for all our students. Parents will be informed on Tuesday 12 February if the child your class is in will be affected by the action.

Addressing Parent Communication

If parents like to use email as a form of communication please feel free to use the school email address:

sunbury.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and put the teacher's name in the subject box.

School and Community Newsletter

As a way to ensure we communicate more effectively with our families a hard copy of the school newsletter will be sent home to all families on a Thursday. Alternatively you can still access the newsletter on our website.

A community newsletter will be introduced early next week and this will be sent home once a term. The community newsletter will advise families of important dates and events and programs you can become involved in during the up and coming term.

Parent Concerns

As a parent, you may not always be aware of whom to approach if you have any concerns regarding school issues. These are the guidelines you need to follow if a concern may arise.

Addressing Parent Concerns

Sunbury Heights Primary School is committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and encourages good communication between our parents and the school.

Teaching and learning works best when parents and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve problems.

Parents' concerns and complaints most commonly relate to:

- The management of an incident between students at school
- The education or progress of their child
- The development and implementation of school; and general education policy

We need to know if you have any concerns about your child's education.

How do I raise an issue or make a complaint?

The school should always be the first point of contact.

How do I frame my concern?

- When contacting the school plan, what you will say, so you can clearly explain what the problem is
- Have some ideas about how the problem can be solved
- Talk about the problem with the child's teacher by telephone or appointment. Most problems can be solved this way.

Who do I talk to?

- Your child's teacher about learning issues and incidents that happen in the classroom or in the yard
- Cathie Morcom, Assistant Principal about issues relating to staff members or complex student issues

- Kaye Mills, Principal specifically about issues relating to school policy, school management, staff members or complex student issues.

Contacting School

Any appointments to speak with school staff should be arranged through the office.

For contact details for any staff member, call the office on 9744 3377.

What can I expect from the school?

- Confidentiality
- Respect and understanding for your point of view
- Courtesy
- An efficient and prompt response
- A desire to resolve concerns and complaints amicably
- A mutually agreeable outcome
- A restored working relationship

What if my issue isn't resolved?

If you still have a concern after talking to your child's teacher you may speak to Cathie Morcom or myself.

If the matter is not resolved by talking to us you can contact the community liaison officer at Northern Region Office on 9488 9488 who will assist us to find a solution.

You cannot speak sternly, make threats or discipline a child from another family. If you believe a child is misbehaving, then please notify the classroom or yard duty teacher immediately. It is the responsibility of the Principal and teaching staff to carry out any necessary disciplinary action in accordance with school and Department policies.

Regards

Kaye Mills

Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the following students, until the 17th February
Erica Allen, Kody Hughes, Jack Harrison, Elijah Bruce,
Brayden Ryan, Alosio Kapeli, Kaiden Mitchell

Parent/Teacher/Student exchange of information will be held between:

2.00pm – 7.30pm
THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY
2013.

You can now book school interviews for the times that suit **YOU**.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

SCHOOL CODE: GBDF9

BOOKINGS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 20th
FEBRUARY AT 4PM

Welcome back to School Banking for 2013.

TUESDAY is our Banking Day.

Please ensure all yellow wallets are handed into your child's teacher first thing in the morning to ensure their deposit is processed.

All money should be securely enclosed in the Velcro pocket and deposit slips **MUST** be completed.

Save from as little as 5c per week.

Each deposit earns a **SILVER TOKEN** this should be kept safe at home.....when they collect 10 tokens they can redeem for exciting rewards!

If your child would like to join the program please visit your local Commonwealth Bank with photo ID for yourself and your child's birth certificate – too easy!

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives \$5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.



Sunbury United Junior Soccer Club Inc 2013 Season Registration / 'Come and Play' Day

Spread the word to interested friends, family and neighbours.
2013 playing opportunities exist for boy and girls, men and women.

- Sunday 24th February 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Langama Park, Mitchells Lane, Sunbury (Mel Ref 381 K6)
- Free BBQ
- Boys & girls 5-18 years interested in playing for SUJSC in 2013 are welcome. Juniors intending to play in the 2012 season must attend registration day and bring a copy of their birth certificate.
- Men 18 years plus invited to join senior men's (Thirds Team).
- Women 18 years plus invited to join a new women's team.
- SUJSC committee & coaches will be available on the day to answer any questions.
- Friendly 'Small Sided Football' Games played throughout the day.

Enquiries :

Mick Gilligan

Gerard Feain

E-mail

Club Website

President, 0405 177 379

Committee Member, 0499 046 644

sunburyjsc@hotmail.com

www.sujsc.com.au

RUPERTSWOOD NETBALL CLUB

We are welcoming netball players in all age groups, U11, U13, U15, U18 to play on Saturday mornings in the Gisborne Netball Association Competition at Gisborne Secondary College. Please contact Allison on 0425 842 546 for more information.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

DUE BACK – Monday 18th February, 2013

If your child would like to make a purchase, please fill out the order form on the back of the brochure you are ordering from. If you are ordering from a few brochures, please fill out each order form and place in an envelope with correct money marked scholastic book club.

If you would like to pay by credit card, payments can be made online at www.scholastic.com.au/payment or free call 1800557908 with your credit card details. Please make sure you record your 11 digit receipt number on the back of your order form. Please place your order in an envelope, marked Scholastic Book Club.

This is a great opportunity to purchase quality books at reasonable prices. All orders will earn our school free books and resources.

Thanking you
Bev McIntyre
Liz Hill

Macedon Ranges
Dyslexiclever

Thursday 28th February 2013

(For teachers and parents—\$5 entry donation)

**7.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary P.S.
Kyneton**

43-47 Edgecombe Street Kyneton

Friday 1st March 2013

(For parents—no charge)

9.30am at Ethic. Café

63 Urquhart St. Woodend

Macedon Ranges

ALL WELCOME!

**— a wonderful opportunity to hear
from an acclaimed Dyscalculia
expert**

