



SUNBURY HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

EVERY CHILD - EVERY OPPORTUNITY - HELPING CHILDREN SHINE

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The Newsletter is available on our school's website
Please register your name now.

Newsletter No 2
16th February, 2012
TERM CALENDAR

| DATE | DETAIL |
|--|--|
| 2012 | |
| FEBRUARY | |
| Wed 22nd Feb | Student Transition Meeting 1.30pm Dismissal |
| Wed 22 nd Feb | Prep Sausage Sizzle – 6pm Classrooms open 5pm - 7pm |
| MARCH | |
| Mon 5th – Wed 7th March | Gr 5 Doxa Camp |
| Wed 7 th – Fri 9 th March | Gr 3 Doxa Camp |
| Tues 6th March | Preps Western Water Incursion |
| Tues 13 th March | School Council Meeting – 6.30pm |
| Fri 16th March | Gr 3 – 6 Athletics Day |
| Tues 20 th March | Curriculum Day |
| Wed 28th March | School Photos |
| Fri 30 th March | Term 1 ends 2.30pm Dismissal |

PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECIEVE YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE (ADDRESS ABOVE) AS THIS WILL BE THE FIRST AND LAST PAPER COPY FOR 2012.

(Limited copies are printed on Newsletter day and are available from the office.)

PANCAKE DAY

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Pancakes available

When: morning recess

Where: the canteen

Cost: \$1.00 each

- various

toppings available



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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 hard work on the day and in preparation for the day. A super big thanks to Leanne Ratkowski whose planning and organisation ensured an extremely well run day. It was a close encounter with Elliott eventually came out victorious. The newly elected House Captains Brooke and Grace showed their appreciation for their team, staff organisation, parent support and the sportsmanship of other competitors when they accepted the trophy on Elliott's behalf.

This year a Sausage Sizzle and a portable Canteen was introduced as an alternative lunch for students, staff and parents. It was a resounding success and also rose over \$400 for the school in fundraising. Thank you to John Lillywhite 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 Paul Tomas, Kerry Scott and John, Angela Ballinger, Ashley and Naomi Blay, Sumen Govender, Belinda Bruno and one of our new parents Mere Matenga.

Also thanks to Jodie and Lyam Butler, Jacqui Tyndall and Kylie Gifford our family helpers, for their judging expertise.

**STUDENT TRANSITION
MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
1.30PM DISMISSAL
3.15pm DISMISSAL for Preps**

Please remember to return ASAP..

WE ARE UNABLE TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION WITHOUT THESE FORMS

- **2012 Asthma Management Plan – MUST** be completed and signed on the back of the form if your child has Asthma medication kept at school.
- **2012 Medication Form – MUST** be completed and signed on the back of the form if your child has **ANY** medication at school ie: Ventolin, Panadol, creams etc. We are unable to administer medication without this form signed.

Mother's Day Stall,

Another event our students look forward to is the Mother's Day Stall. This year the stall is being coordinated by Belinda Bruno.

Belinda has enlisted the help of John Lillywhite to help with the enormous task of shopping for gifts but she is in need of other people who will help with the shopping, the wrapping and the selling of gifts on the day.

If you can help in any way please leave your contact details at the front office. Belinda will visit the Prep Sausage Sizzle next Wednesday night to introduce herself to some of our new parents who may wish to help.

Sunbury Heights AFL School Essendon Player Visit

This year we have been fortunate to have been named as an AFL school. An AFL school encourages children to participate in junior football as well as physical activity generally. Player appearances are an important part of the promotion and development of Australian Football. On Friday 17 February at 2.15pm-3.15pm two members of the Essendon Football Club will run a skills session with our school football squad. By being involved in school visits players encourage children to be interested in Australian Rules football and emphasises the benefits associated of playing a sport such as teamwork, leadership and resilience.

Student Transition Meetings

The beginning of the school year is a very important time for students, parents and staff. As part of the preparation for the school year, staff will conducted information sharing sessions to exchange information about each child. Parents, clearly, have much to offer with regard to informing teachers about their children. To this end, Student Transition Meetings have been scheduled for **Wednesday 22nd February** for grade 1-6.

The aims of this initial meeting are:

- to provide an opportunity to meet your child's classroom teacher
- for the parent to provide any relevant information to the teacher that may assist your child's learning in 2012
- to provide information regarding the classroom expectations

Online registration forms have been sent home with students and it is pleasing to see the number of people who have booked in already. Anyone who does not have computer access will be able to complete their registration at school in the library where Mrs McIntyre is able to assist you. If this day is not suitable, but you would like an appointment, please contact the school so an alternative arrangement can be made.

For students in grades 1 - 6 school will dismiss at 1.30pm.

- Children will be dismissed in the normal way at this time
- After school care will operate from 1.30pm.
- If you are unable to accommodate your child please contact the school office so that we are aware which children will be remaining at school until 3.15pm.

Prep Open Evening and Sausage Sizzle

As Prep parents have already had the opportunity to have a formal exchange of information session with their child's teacher, the Prep teachers will have a sausage sizzle and have their classrooms open from 5pm. It is a great opportunity for working parents to visit the school and meet some of the other parents whose child will become a friend of yours.

School Council Elections 2012

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 coopted 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 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.

Contact me for further information.

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

School Council Election Timeline

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Friday 17 th February | Call for nominations |
| Monday 24 th February | Nominations close |

If an election is required: Change dates on or before Monday 28th February

Distribute ballot papers

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday | 8 th March | Close of ballot |
| Wednesday | 23 rd February | Declaration of poll |
| Tuesday | 8 th March | New council formed |

Nomination forms will be available from the school office from Friday 17th February 2012.

Addressing 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.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians should be reminded that they are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students and inform them that student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers.

School and House Captains Presentation

Congratulations to our School and House Captains who were presented with their badges at last Monday's assembly by Jessica Hitchen and Emily Rawet. Jessica and Emily are ex students and this year is College and Vice Captains at Sunbury Down's Secondary College.

The speeches:

Good afternoon my name is Jessica Hitchen and I am a past student of Sunbury Heights primary School. I graduated as a grade 6 student in 2006 and was School Captain.

My favourite times in Primary School were participating in the swimming sports in Laver House and my grade 6 year with all my friends.

In grades 5 and 6, I had Mrs Adams as my teacher. I owe her everything. I am the person I am today because of the life lessons she taught me. I still remember her red face on the day of my graduation when she couldn't stop crying. I still bump into her from time to time.

I am in year 12 this year at SDSC the school next door and I am the female College Captain.

Grade 6's it isn't that scary going from primary school to high school but make the most of this year because it flies by so fast.

School Captains congratulations on your appointment into the role and I wish you well with your endeavours of leadership. Good luck to you all and I hope you have a fantastic year.

Good afternoon Mrs Mills, teachers, parents and students, my name is Emily Rawet and I am the female Vice Captain at Sunbury Downs College this year. When I went to primary school I attended your school. My primary school life was a positive time and I look on it with fond memories of school discos, the buddy program and also my Grade 6 Graduation.

In the early years of primary school Mrs Tyers was my teacher. As many of you would know Mrs Tyers is one of the nicest and caring teachers and person that you could know. After graduating my transition into high school was a smooth one, as I only moved across the way. I had a lot of friends, including Jessica.

To the Grade Sixes enjoy the final year of primary school, laugh, have fun with your friends, work hard and look forward to wonderful memories and friends you will make in the next chapter of your life high school.

School captains, good luck in your roles as leaders this year, enjoy it and fulfil your roles to the best of your abilities

Regards
Kaye Mills

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To the following students to 19th February 2012

*Alanah Sabol, Jack Harrison, Alosio Kapeli,
Kaiden Mitchell, Hailea Wood, Odin Holt, Patrick Dickson,
Hannah Hamilton & Mrs Hicks (Office)*

PUPIL OF THE WEEK – WEEK ENDING 17TH FEBRUARY 2012

| Teacher | Student | Reason |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Junior Danaher | Alanah Sabol | For using her manners and sharing her pencils. |
| Junior Wilson | Madison Shaw-Bartlett | For writing detailed sentences about friendships. |
| Middle Tyers | Jessica Terry | For always working quietly and finishing her work. |
| Middle Knight | Kristen Matenga | For a highly entertaining Class Captain poem. |
| Senior Jones (Andersen) | Uriah Matenga | Congratulations for settling so well into Sunbury Heights. |
| Senior Langmaid | Ebonni Draper | For being a communally responsibility student at the Swimming Sports. |
| Senior de Waart | Jordan Dent | For a terrific Powerpoint about fixing a tyre. |
| Miss Ratkowski PE | Kiara Taylor Stickland Lesoa Grace Ring Brooke Williams Luke Harrison Jade Tomass James Penny Isabella Tancevski | For a great effort organising events at the Swimming Carnival. |
| Mrs Caddaye ART | 6d | For making good decisions in Art. |
| Ms Harding Science | 2W | For asking interesting questions in Science. |

**PLAYGROUP
FRIDAY MORNINGS
9.00am – 11.00am**

Come along Mums, Dads and Bubs, have a coffee and share experiences with our kids.
Kids can play and parents can have a chance to be with others.
Don't be shy; it's great fun for all.
Join us on a **FRIDAY** from 9-11am. Cost \$2.00

**LIBRARY NEWS
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

DUE BACK - Monday 20th of February 2012

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 1800 557 908 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

**You may be eligible to receive \$500 with Saver Plus
Brotherhood of St Laurence is looking for families to receive
dollar for dollar matching for school costs**

- *Do you have a current Health Care card or Pensioner Concession card?*
- *Do you receive income from some regular work?*
- *Are you over 18?*
- *Do you have a child attending school this year or are you doing a vocational training course or an apprenticeship?*

If your answer is **YES** to these questions then you may be eligible to participate in the Saver Plus Program, delivered by Brotherhood of St Laurence in partnership with the ANZ Bank.

Saver Plus is a matched savings program that could assist you:

- Reach a savings goal
- Become a regular saver
- Build your money management skills

Saver Plus is a matched savings program in which you save money for education expenses (including a laptop or computer, excursions, camps, uniforms, school or sport shoes), and the ANZ bank will match \$1 for every \$1 you save, up to a maximum \$500.

If you think you are eligible and you are interested in joining the Saver Plus program, please contact Christian Unger from the Brotherhood of St Laurence on 9305 5100 or email cunger@bsl.org.au.

School Banking has arrived at Sunbury Heights PS!

Free Showbag to Students who open accounts in February



The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is here!

The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

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.

Taking part in School Banking is easy.

- If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or contact the School Banking Co-ordinator.
- If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no forms to fill in! Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online. Another option is to download a paper-based application form from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. Please note this option may take up to 2 weeks before a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book is sent to your home address to start banking at school.

Mr Knight - Diggers Rest Cricket Club

Just a quick invitation to anyone sitting around with nothing to do on Saturday afternoon. My cricket clubs having a pink stumps day. This is in association with the Jane McGrath foundation and is aimed at raising money for breast cancer.

There'll be lots of fun activities all day, face painting, bbq, raffles, auction and drinks at bar prices. There'll also be a good game of cricket going on, with our team playing the Heskett Hillbillies. All the players will have pink hats, pink shirts and pink zinc, and there'll be a handfull of players who will be dying hair/moustaches.

For more info heres a link to a story about it in the local paper:

<http://www.macedonrangesweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/players-pad-up-for-a-legend/2445735.aspx>

