Welcome to Grade 5/6 Sunbury Heights Primary School’s Newsletter! Find out what we will be up to this term.

**Staff**
- 5A – Erica Andersen
- 5P – Kym Pianura
- 6L – Nicole Langmaid
- 6O – Damian O’Keefe

**Upcoming events**
- **Swimming Sports**
  Tuesday 12th of February
- **Athletics Sports**
  Friday 22nd February
- **Parent Teacher Interviews**
  Thursday 22nd February
- **Grade 5 DOXA Camp**
  Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th March
- **Labour Day**
  Monday 11th March
- **School Photos**
  Friday 15th March
- **Curriculum Day**
  Tuesday 19th March
- **Last Day of Term 1**
  Thursday 28th March

**Writing**
Persuasive Texts will be this term’s writing focus in preparation for NAPLAN. Persuasive texts are written for the purpose of presenting a point of view in favour or against a specific topic. The ultimate aim is to try to convince the reader to agree with your opinion, or take a certain course of action, by giving reasons and examples to support your ideas. A writer of the persuasive text may draw on their own personal knowledge and experience or on detailed evidence based on knowledge of a particular subject or issue.

**Reading**
The 5/6 team will have a focus on non-fiction texts for term 1 and will begin the year looking at what a non-fiction text is and how to find key information within them. Non-fiction texts are pieces written about facts and students will be looking at a variety of different question types that help them remove and comprehend key information. Don’t forget to ask your child about the texts they are reading and remember to listen to them read regularly.

**Maths**
During term one, the 5 and 6 students will start with revising place values. As students have already done this in previous years. Starting with a topic they are familiar with gives the students the opportunity to start numeracy in the upper levels with something that they can succeed in and start the year confidently knowing they are capable of achieving success. After this the next topic will be adding and subtracting 6 digit numbers, which aligns with place value as the students have an understanding in the importance of aligning the numbers.

**Integrated Studies**
This term we will be having a short focus on *Fun In the Sun*. Students have been looking at vocab related to this topic, designing sun smart products, writing stories and reading about fun ways to be safe in the sun.

**Grade 5 DOXA Camp**
We are currently organising a camp for the grade 5’s for 2013. It will be held at DOXA Malmsbury Camp and is designed to support children’s communication skills, building relationships with peers and further developing team work skills. This camp encourages
students to work on these skills to help them during senior school years. It would be fantastic to see all year 5 students there in 2013 as it will form the basis of good friendships and working skills. The activities at camp will focus on goal setting, the development of positive values and environmental awareness. Teamwork, communication and decision making will be reinforced with the students. Some of the activities that your child will have the opportunity to experience may include: low ropes, cooking, initiatives, art tasks, walking. Prior to the camp, parents will have the opportunity to view the risk management document that covers strategies for supervision and emergency responses.

5/6 Sport:
Grades 5 and 6 this year will take part in the interschool sports and have the opportunity to try out for a sport they would like to participate in. The sports are netball, soccer, T-ball and football which we have done in previous years. As some students play one of these sports regularly during the year, it gives them and those who do not have access to these sports the opportunity to try a different sport or something new.

Cyber Safety
There has been constant media about cyber safety, cyber bullying and cyber crime that it’s time to guide your child through some of the do’s and don’ts. When students at Sunbury Heights PS start at the school they have to sign an internet usage agreement with the school. However internet safety does extend beyond the school gates. On Tuesday 5th February students participated in a multimedia tutorial that showed students how to use social media such as Facebook, mobile phones and computers responsibly and respectfully.

Buddies
The Preps started their time at Sunbury Heights eagerly and the grade 6 students were just as keen for them to start as they knew that soon Buddies would begin. The buddies program has been operating at Sunbury Heights Primary School for many years and it allows each of the grade prep students to have a grade 6 companion to show them around, help them in the yard and generally support them. Each Wednesday afternoon this year the grade preps and buddies will get together and have some fun working with computers, singing and dancing, creating craft items and learning about how to stay healthy and safe.

Home learning:
Students in 5/6 are set home learning tasks each week to reinforce and revise the content that has been shown during the week. The expectation is all students have their home learning completed. Communicating and working with parents through student dairies, together we are instilling organisational skills, responsibility, and the importance of a valued education. This in turn will prepare them for their high school years and know the expectations and what is required to succeed.

Student Leadership
Student leadership at Sunbury Heights is important and sort after when students begin grade 6. The students are required to write an application to apply for a job and are then selected by a panel of teachers. All the students who applied to be in the leadership program this year were successful. Sunbury Heights Primary School has the following jobs this year:
- School Captains
- House Captains
- Junior School Council
- Orchard Crew
- Media and Technology Crew
- Sign Writers
- Audio Tech
- Flag Monitors
- Sports Equipment Monitors

We wish all the students well with the job for the rest of the year!