Important Dates

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<td>Friday 28th July</td>
<td>Last Day of Term Two 2.30pm Dismissal</td>
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<td>Monday 15th July</td>
<td>Term Three Commences</td>
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<td>Monday 22nd July</td>
<td>SOLD Homework Club Launch</td>
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NEWS AND INFORMATION

Cooper Barnes Memorial Award Presentation – Georgia Sciberras

It was a pleasure to have Cooper’s family with us at assembly for the presentation of the Cooper Barnes Memorial Award on Monday. This year’s recipient of the award is Georgia Sciberras. Just like Cooper, Georgia is quiet but determined. She loves learning and enjoys a challenge. Georgia always strives to do her very best and willingly helps others. Georgia is certainly a very worthy recipient of this award. Well done Georgia!

ICAS Writing

Writing has been a focus at all year levels this term and many parents would have seen the improvement made by children in both handwriting and the content of written work. The following students have shown a particular talent in persuasive writing and were selected to sit the ICAS writing assessment last week:

- Rayden Yob
- Jamie Clanchy
- Cillian Quirke
- Ruby Ryan
- Chelsea Houston
- Sally deYoung
- Alyssa Wallace
- Jet Bastos
- Adam Fearnley
- Lauren Ashford
- Chelsea Hendahewa
- Kara Gifford
- Mitchell Maddox
- Marijana Stevana
- Caleb Bertram
- Kasey Sciberras

Student Achievement and Learning Conferences – Wednesday 26th June

It was wonderful to see our students participating in their own achievement and learning conferences last night. Research shows that when students are active participants in their own learning they learn more and the conferences provided students with an opportunity to show what they have learnt and discuss areas for future learning.

Like me, many parents would have been most impressed with the improvement shown in writing this term. Following a professional development session provided by the region, we made some improvements to our writing program. This involved a slightly different approach to handwriting which has been incredibly successful. The standard of book work across the school has improved significantly.

In addition to this, we introduced powerful writing strategies to the students. Students learnt how to use hyperbole, similes, expert opinion, power of three, repetition, alliteration and metaphors to improve their work. It was amazing to hear many of our students explaining these strategies to their parents.

Rugby Gala Day and Netball

Rugby has become very popular at Sunbury Heights due to some wonderful clinics run by the Melbourne Storm team. Students in years five and six (and even some grade fours) had the opportunity to play against teams from other schools this week. Our students excelled in regard to both their behaviour and skills. The boys’ team won their final and will now compete in the state championships in November.

During the winter sports competition our netball team were the winners of the small school division and they will be playing their next game on Friday 28th June, the last day of term.

Learning Lounge and Homework Club at Sunbury Heights

As part of our partnership with SOLD, a learning lounge and homework club is being set up in the community hub. The program will comment on Monday July 22nd. Initially, the program will focus on helping students with homework, the use of board games to support literacy and numeracy learning, and medication sessions. Students of all ages will be catered for and supervision will be provided by a special education tutor/teacher.

**Homework Club:** Mondays from 22nd July 2013 at 4pm.

**Mindful Meditation:** Smiling Minds Meditation session, each Wednesday at 4.30pm to 5.30pm (sessions will be grouped by age).

For further information and registration contact SOLD – info@sold.org.au or phone 0467 170 752
Your XO Questions Answered

How much time should children spend on the XO at home each night?
How much time will my child spend on the XO at school?

This will vary. Our teachers plan in teams and part of the planning will now include the use of the XO at home and at school. We certainly believe that children should spend time each day outside playing, and not always be using technology.

Why wasn't all parents given the opportunity to make this decision via the Newsletter or Facebook?

As much as possible new programs are introduced at the start of the year so parents are aware of costs. However, in this case the opportunity to be involved in this exciting program came along during the year and it was an offer too good to refuse.

What is the difference between the children logging on to a school education website and using the XO?

The XO has some software included and can also be used to log on to the Internet. This means that students can access a wide variety of educational programs from their XO. Our school uses IXL Maths and Study Ladder and the XO will be used for these programs. Next term, we are introducing new software, Kinetic, which has both maths and English learning activities. Again, the XO will be able to access this software.

Can we buy a charger for home?

At the moment we are looking at the options for charging the XOs. In the initial stages of the program we think it might be best if they are charged at school because this will help students to get into the habit of bringing the XO back to school each day!

Will we pay for Internet?

There will not be any additional charges for the use of the Internet as school.

Is the XO issued to one child or do other children get to use it?

Students who have paid for an XO will get their own. This will be the one they will use until they leave the school, at which time the XO will be returned to the school and allocated to another child. At this stage, we are still working out how we will manage the program if some students do not pay for usage fee.

What happens if my child breaks or damages the XO? What are the repair costs?

Hopefully this won’t happen but if it does we believe the XO is easy to repair and some repairs will actually be done by the students themselves (the older students will be shown how to make simple repairs). We do not have a definite answer for this, however, if the XO was not able to be repaired one solution would be for the family to pay the usage fee again and receive a new one. The usage fee really is extremely small as the school is paying over 70% of the costs.

Comments from families regarding the XO program.

- How fantastic – You rock Sunbury Heights!
- We are all looking forward to it!