



SUNBURY HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

EVERY CHILD - EVERY OPPORTUNITY - HELPING CHILDREN SHINE

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June 27th 2013

Important Dates

July	
Friday 28 th	Last Day of Term Two 2.30pm Dismissal
Monday 15 th July	Term Three Commences
Monday 22 nd July	SOLD Homework Club Launch



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	Sally deYoung	Chelsea Hendaheva	Caleb Bertram
Jamie Clanchy	Alyssa Wallace	Kara Gifford	Simote Feiloaki
Cillian Quirke	Jet Bastos	Mitchell Maddox	Kasey Sciberras
Ruby Ryan	Adam Fearnley	Marijana Stevana	Jamie Woodham
Chelsea Houston	Lauren Ashford		

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 completion 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following students, until the 21st July 2013 – Erynn Bulmer-Smyth, Kristen Matenga, Emma Bridges, Will Uili, Zachary Lynch, Jordan Williams, Evan Woolford-Fleming, Justin Taylor, Cedric Schwalger, R-Jay Bartlett, Arran Garner, Marcus Tancevski, Sian Crowe, Cody Walton, Jak Maddox, Natarsha Maddox, Tyler Chakley, Ciaran Garner, Skye Atkinson, Hollie Maxfield, Cillian Quirke, Alexeen Banting, Hayley Rooney, Ruby Ryan, Ryan Hazelman, Declan Corcoran, Ethan Rooney, Taylor Bartlett

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Grade	Student	Reason
1/2R	Hayley Rooney	For reaching 100 nights of reading.
1/2X	Jaymee Foss	For being a great member of 1/2X
1/2H	Zoe Ryan	For a fantastic effort with calculator maths.
3/4K	Jack Crosland	For showing initiative in his home learning.
3/4W	Samantha Mogridge	For showing persistence to improve her IXL results.
5P	Brenden Tringrove-Smith	For putting more effort into his work and trying hard to always make good choices.
5A	Jet Bastos	For an awesome oral presentation on Mitotours.
6L	Sean Knox	For displaying a responsible approach to all school captain jobs.
P.E.	3/4W	For a focused P.E. session.
ART	Mauola Faato	For always being focused and responsible in ART
Mrs D	Cheyenne Moreby	For brilliant improvement in reading and reaching Level 18.
Mr Synan	Tyson Mills	For excellent work in reaching Level 50 in 100 Reading Lessons.

184 children are paid up and ready to receive an XO.

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 was another costly education program added in the middle of the year instead of at the start?

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?

What programs will be used on 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.

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

Generally parents are invited to be involved in decision making through School Council. You do not need to be an actual member of School Council to come along and listen to what is going on. While our Facebook page is proving to be a great way to communicate with our families, not all families are using the page, and to be honest we get very little feedback from items in the newsletter. Individual computer devices are common in school these days and we had looked at various options to provide this for our families in the past, however, we were aware that financial factors would have limited access for our students. This was a cost effective way to allow all our children to have access to an individual device.

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 at 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!

