

20 November 2015

Principal's Report

Sunnybank Shines in 2015

As this is our last newsletter of the year, on behalf of our School community, I would like to thank all of our staff, students, families and vested community members for joining with us in enriching every child's education and empowering them to forge their 'way to excellence'. It is through our strong partnerships and connections that we can work together to improve the outcomes and opportunities of our students and school.

2015 has been an exceptional year for our school and we ask that you take a moment to read our 2015 Sunnybank Shines excerpt, detailing all the amazing accolades and accomplishments we've achieved together as a school.

Some of our highlights include:

- Up to 5.3% improvement in our school attendance rate – beating the State average
- Exceeding our targets for school-wide academic achievement (the number of students achieving C and above in their subjects)
- Presentation by the Honourable Minister for Education, Kate Jones, acknowledging the work of our staff and students in partnership with Kyabra and Sunnybank Primary School
- Metropolitan Region nomination for Trainee of the Year
- Profiling of our elite Track and Field program on Channel 10 news
- Filming of SBS TV Series, 'Family Law' to be screened in February 2016

We invite you to explore the pages of our school magazine, *Jepara*, to continue reflecting on an outstanding year of education and celebration.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our new senior student leaders for 2016.

POSITION	NAME
School Captain	Zixin Zhong
School Captain	Zuberi Salim
School Vice Captain	Nia Gesa
School Vice Captain	Thai Son Nguyen
International Captain	Sarah Yang
Cultural Leader	Tisiola Mahanga
Cultural Leader	Azen Ramathan
Community Leader	Spoghmei Khan
Community Leader	Abdelrhman Muhmed
Community Leader	Mazen Jaber
Sports Captain	Benjamin Tsang
Sports Captain	Zaino Abdullahi
House Captain	Tumau Pei
House Captain	Tayla Mauai
House Captain	Benjamin Tsang
House Captain	Zaino Abdullahi

Farewell to our Year 12 Students

This week we celebrated significant milestones for our year 12 students of 2015, including our year 12 Graduation and the year 12 Formal. It gave us an opportunity to reflect on a remarkable learning journey. We wish our students every success in their future and know that they leave as proud ambassadors of our school. We wish all of our students the very best in their chosen pathway and know that they will continue to strive.



International Students' Graduation Ceremony

This week we celebrated as our International students have completed their studies with us this year. It was a wonderful occasion. We wish our International graduates all the very best for their future and thank them for their wonderful input into our school community.



Remembrance Day

Last Wednesday, we were privileged to be part of the local Sunnybank Branch of the RSL commemoration of Remembrance Day. Our newly appointed 2016 student leaders attended the Commemoration and represented our school exceptionally well.

Demonstrating Learning

As our year 12 students graduate, our remaining senior students and junior secondary students are busy preparing for exams and are working on their final assignments. The upcoming exam blocks require students to be at school at all times. When not in exams, students are in class revising and consolidating their work. Students are required to be at school, with routine attendance until the final day of the school year as follows:

- Years 10 & 11 - 27 November
- Years 7, 8 & 9 - 11 December

Please note that the school does not have capacity to extend school holidays and it is a QCAA requirement that students remain at school up to and including the final day as stated by Education Queensland and QCAA in order to receive credit for their full course of study.

Return of materials to Sunytext is encouraged as soon as the students are finished using the texts for study. If you are in a position to donate your year 12 student's second hand uniform to the school it will be much appreciated. On occasions, it is necessary to provide students with a spare uniform during the usual course of a school day. Clean uniforms can be left at Student Services.

Enrolment Interviews

Enrolment interviews continue this term for 2016. Please contact the main office to arrange an interview as soon as possible if enrolment is relevant to your family. If you know family or friends who are intending to enrol at Sunnybank SHS, please encourage them to contact us for an interview booking time.

Orientation Day



P&C Meeting

Our next P&C Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24 November at 6:00 pm in the Library annex. We welcome all families to attend.

Thank you to all of our staff, students and families for a wonderful year. I look forward to our continued success in 2016. School resumes Wednesday 27 January for all year levels.

Tracey Cook, Principal

Student Resource Scheme

The Sunnybank SHS Resource Scheme ensures all students have the necessary resources for their education and saves parents and caregivers financially and the need to shop for and find books and other resources required. The P & C Committee agreed and endorsed the fee of \$400.00 which includes a technology charge of \$45.00 which will contribute to maintaining our IT resources to a very high standard.

The Resource Scheme Form for 2016 will be emailed with the student report or can be collected from the school office and there will be a 5% discount if there are three or more students in the family or payment is made by 19 February 2016. Please return the completed Agreement form before 29 January 2016 and if you wish to pay by Centrepay, Internet Banking, Bpay/Bpoint, please complete the payment form at the same time.

For financial hardship, special arrangements can be made; please contact the Business Services Manager on 3323 8110, all discussions will be confidential.

Margaret Richter, Business Services Manager

Farewell to our year 12 students

十二年生 さようなら

The year 12 students of Japanese are leaving us! It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to the first cohort of year 12 students to study Japanese at Sunnybank SHS. Japanese has now been offered at Sunnybank SHS for five years.



In the words of the students:

Ngan Pho: *Being able to learn a different language is a lifetime opportunity and I feel fortunate to be able to do that at Sunnybank SHS. Studying Japanese is interesting and fun and I'm glad that I got to know Japan's culture more deeply. I recommend that students select Japanese as a subject so that they will experience new things and know the beauty of Japan.*



Sherly Choi: *It was little bit difficult but fun. I am happy that I learned many Japanese words.*

Abdallah Ali: *Learning Japanese was an enjoyable experience for me. Year 12 Japanese may be difficult but I found reading the manga in Japanese made it easier. I'm glad to have been in the first year 12 Japanese class at Sunnybank SHS. I definitely want to go to Japan one day.*

David Lee: *I chose to study Japanese when I started school in Australia because I really love Japan. Japanese culture is similar to Korean culture and Japanese girls are sooo cute! Learning Japanese was a really enjoyable experience and if I can I really want to travel to Japan.*

Sony Nguyen: *I have learned a lot about Japanese culture. I have met lots of funny classmates as well.*

Rex Yang: *I learnt a lot about Japanese culture. Japan is a wonderful country and Japanese is an amazing language. I want to go there one day.*

Congratulations on graduating! 卒業おめでとう。

Ms Miller, Teacher of Japanese

Sunnybank SHS student selected for STEM summer school



Year 10 student, Wayne Knight, has been selected to attend the Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science (ASSETS) for his outstanding achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Wayne is one of only 105 students from across Australia to be selected to attend one of the three summer schools which will take place in locations all over Australia over the summer holidays.

ASSETS is part of a broader Indigenous STEM education program which is managed by CSIRO in partnership with the BHP Billiton Foundation. www.csiro.au/indigenous-education

Gilroy Hatcher, ATSI/Intervention Teacher

English as an Additional Language / Dialect Program (EALD)

During 2015, the English as an Additional Language/Dialect Unit welcomed approximately seventy-five new students. They come from many different countries including Botswana, Syria, Pakistan, Congo, Philippines, China, Solomon Islands, Iraq, Rwanda, Burundi, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Malaysia and Thailand. One of our new students and also one of our new teachers have agreed to share their reflections about coming to Sunnybank.

Miss Jessica Hall, EALD Teacher



Vibrant. Welcoming. Inspired. These are just a few words I would use to describe my first impressions of Sunnybank State High School. I am a new resident of Brisbane, as well as a new short-term teacher to the school. Not a day goes by where I'm not greeted with a, "Hello, Miss," and many

warm smiles – not just from students, but also the wonderful and helpful staff.

Coming from such a diverse background in the suburbs of Toronto, Canada, I find Sunnybank very similar to schools where I have taught back home. I have always been fascinated by different cultures, languages and traditions and I find students here are always open to share their experiences and stories. My teaching background, which includes many travel opportunities, has allowed me to connect to students from various backgrounds.

I look forward to more days of getting lost in the endless amount of school blocks, hearing students' new ideas, monitoring lunchtime basketball games and teaching subjects that inspired me as a student.

Miss Jessica Hall

Muna Jaber, Year 10 EALD student



My family and I had a great life in the Syrian capital Damascus. Mum had an interesting job and we always had the best, until the revolution started, which affected all of us, because my mom was a political activist. This put us all in danger. After that, when I was 12 years old, we had to leave Syria very

quickly. We had no choice. Either leave or end up dead. It wasn't easy at all for me to leave my homeland, to leave the place that I belonged to.

Going to Jordan was the first step for me to start a new life, but it wasn't as hard as I thought it would be, because I went to a country where they speak the same language as mine, Arabic. That made it way easier for me to continue living as I was supposed to, but it wasn't safe there at all. We left Jordan at the end of 2014, and came here to Australia.

Settling in Australia was one of the hardest steps in my life, coming to a place where they don't speak my language, where everything is different. I have been working very hard to improve my English and I believe I am gradually settling in to my new school. Coming to Sunnybank State High School is one of

the good things that have happened to me since I came to Australia. I have found the education system easier than I thought, I have really good friends now, which makes it easier as well, and I'm happy with my results over all. My hopes for the future are to study law and be able to travel the world in both a professional and private capacity.

Muna Jaber

Learners of Literacy

Practical advice to enhance the literacy skills of our students

The ability to read and write has so much more to offer than just the ability to communicate. Good readers understand the world around them – they can engage more fully in school and the workplace.



Is your child a resistant reader? How about some ideas to get those reluctant readers into reading for pleasure – an activity that all the research suggests is the key to unlocking a child's access to knowledge. This, of course, can lead to the prospect of success at school and afterward.

For this issue of our school newsletter, I have sourced some ideas to try at home with your child – regardless of age. I hope you find them valuable.

Set a Good Example

Parents lead by example. If your child never sees you reading, he's not likely to pick up a book on his own either. Make time in your day to read and talk to your child about something you're reading that you enjoy – the newspaper, a magazine. Just 15 minutes of your daily schedule isn't much of a sacrifice.

Find Material that Excites Him

It sounds obvious, but children (especially boys) are more likely to read when they find stories about things they find fascinating, like *Harry Potter*, or relatable, like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Stories that transport readers to another time and place they could only visit in their imaginations are also great options. For more ideas, try www.Guysread.com - an excellent resource to find books on subjects that have captured the interest of boys.

Explore Different Formats and Genres

With today's technology, there is a wide range of reading material available, both online and in book form, so think outside the box when considering what your child might enjoy. Joke books, seek-and-find books, mystery, science fiction, comics, graphic novels, and nonfiction about typical kid-favourite topics (think: dinosaurs) are all great places to start. Check with your child's English teacher to make sure they are age-appropriate and the right reading level so your child doesn't become frustrated or bored.

Designate a "Reading Nook"

Set up a special place in a quiet area for your child as "her" reading space. Make it cozy with pillows and blankets, and stock it with books on subjects and activities that interest her. Having her own space to go and read will make it seem special and will likely encourage her to do more of it.

Pair Reading with Play

Fun activities that require reading, such as making a new recipe, creating a scavenger hunt, putting on a play, or making your own greeting or holiday cards to send to family and friends, help show your child that reading isn't just about sitting down with a book. Engaging him in non-book activities will help him realize that it relates to a lot of things that he finds enjoyable, and isn't just a chore.

Read Books that Have Been Made Into Movies

Seeing a book come to life on screen is a fun way to motivate your child to read. Start off by reading a kid's book that has been turned into a movie together, and watch the screen adaptation when you're finished. Talk about the plots, characters, and story lines, and ask your child to describe the differences between the book and the movie. Talking about the characters, and how they measured up on screen versus how she imagined them in print, will get her excited to read more. Try some of these.

Be Tech-Friendly

Nothing beats reading a real book, but you can also use technology to your advantage. Use the internet to explore kid-friendly eBooks on topics that interest your child. www.Amazon.com offers a list of current bestselling children's books, and Author Marketing Club monitors Amazon and keeps a daily list of free eBooks currently being offered, broken up by genre. You can also download a few cool reading apps for kids. Whether he wants to write and illustrate his own story, create an interactive experience with sounds and animation, or find recommendations from kids his own age, there's an app that can help.

Get a Subscription

Subscribe to a magazine on a topic that your child is interested in and have it addressed to him. He'll love getting something special in the mail, and knowing it's just for him will likely drive him to read the most current issue.

Have fun and good luck!

Chris Norrie, HOD English & LOTE

Humanities Department

On Friday 6 November, 94 year 10 Humanities students arrived at the Gold Coast to complete some research on coastal processes, the history of the area and have some fun. We spent part of the day sketching, learning about the movement of sand up the beach, observing the damage done to the beach by storms and learning about rips and how to cope if confronted by one whilst swimming. We had a great day.



Mrs Cox, Geography Teacher

Being Parents

Being a parent can be one of the most challenging things in life. We want the best for our kids yet knowing exactly what that is isn't always easy. Every child has different needs and one of the

many questions is how to separate the wants from the needs – and that isn't always clear.

All parents want to be good parents. They want to provide safety, love and stimulation for their child's optimal growth and development. I suppose for me it's about the big Rs – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and REASSURANCE.

Respecting - yourself, elders, including other people's things

Responsibility - taking ownership, home duties, tasks outside of home

Reassurance - positive words to be spoken, encouragement, when things are done wrong correction but in a positive way.

There are so many ways and different views on parenting. There is a word used quite often when it comes to the father's love. It is 'unconditional'. A love that has no conditions – this is so powerful. As parents, we love our children and we want the best for them.

I pray everyone in our school, staff and students, a safe Christmas and prosperous 2016.

If you would like to know about any of our Chaplaincy programs, you can contact me at the school.

Bless you all.

John Filewood (School Chaplain)

Sunnytext

All textbooks must be returned to Sunnytext before students finish school at the end of the year. The books need to be cleaned, ready to be issued in 2016. Any books lost or damaged, need to be paid for at the Finance Office.

Opening hours for the beginning of 2016:

18 January to 5 February – 8.15 am to 2.45 pm
Closed Tuesday 26 January, Australia Day Holiday

Uniform Shop

Closed Friday 11 December 2015 for stocktaking.

Opening hours for the beginning of 2016:

18 to 22 January – 8.00 am to 2.30 pm
25 Jan to 5 Feb – 8.00 am to 1.30 pm
Closed Tuesday 26 January, Australia Day Holiday

Students must be present when purchasing school uniforms. Second-hand uniforms will only be accepted if they are washed, ironed and neatly presented with name and address attached.

New clothing will only be exchanged if clothing is presented in same bags in which it was given and it has not been washed. Goods must be returned in the same state they were issued.

Important Dates

Advance Notice of Important Dates	
November 20	Yr 12 Graduation
November 27	Yr 10 & 11 Final Day Positive Rewards Trips
December 1	Year 6 Orientation Day
December 2	Yr 9 Dama Evening
December 8	Yr 8 Trip
December 11	Yr 7, 8 & 9 Final Day
December 12	School holidays commence
January 25, 2016	Student free day
January 26	Australia Day Public Holiday
January 27	School resumes