Schoolkids Bonus
The first instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus has recently been paid to families to help lighten the load of back-to-school costs such as text and resource hire, uniforms, shoes and stationery. Most eligible families would have received the payment automatically, however some needed to update their child’s education details to ensure they received the payment, e.g. families with children moving from primary into secondary school in 2013. Any families who think they are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus January payment but are yet to receive it should contact Centrelink. Please access details about this scheme at the website www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus or contact the school for a factsheet.

Congratulations to the students who recently represented our school in the Sunnybank Lions’ Youth Speaks competition. Thomas Sili, Sarah Miller and Sarah Channer all took part. Thomas now continues on to the next level of competition. Best wishes Thomas.

Monitoring Academic Achievement Plans
Our first monitoring lesson will be held for all students next Thursday. Each student is part of a small group with others from their year level. Each individual student is assisted to identify specific strategies that they can use to make a difference in their results. Please ask your student about this.

Thank you to all parents for your work in ensuring your student is in our correct uniform. There has been a marked improvement this year and we want to continue in this very positive way. The uniform shop has some great specials at present with stock of the school jumper. If you wish to obtain an additional jumper or uniform for your student in readiness for winter please do so now before the Easter break.

Congratulations to 2012 School Captain, Jessica Wright, who won the 18yrs and under category of the Brisbane 2012 Artforce Awards, for her artwork on a traffic signal box at Sunnybank Hills.

Canteen specials for the next fortnight
Wednesday 6 March - Meatballs and gravy in a roll, Spinach and cheese sausage rolls $3.50
Thursday 7 March - Spaghetti - small $3.00, large $4.50
Wednesday 13 March - Vegetables (broccoli and cauliflower) in white sauce - small $3.00, large $4.50
Thursday 14 March - Pizza Day (chicken, ham and cheese, supreme) - $3.00

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Attending school every day at Sunnybank High counts for four main reasons:
Every day counts…because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.
Every day counts…because going to school means getting a better chance at life.
Every day counts…because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as resilience and teamwork.
Every day counts…because going to school is a legal requirement.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: If any Parents/Caregivers or members of the local community are butchers, bakers or have a fruit shop and would like to donate to our event we would be ecstatic and in return would offer signage for your business which would be prominently displayed around the school during the celebrations on Saturday 23 March. We seek donations of sausages, meat patties, steak, tomatoes, lettuce, bread and bread rolls. Please contact Kelly Niland on 3323 8152.

The P&C annual general meeting will be held on 26 March in the school admin block. All parents are invited to attend and support their association.
SCIENCE NEWS

Sunnybank Super Crystal Growers

Talented Sunnybank High students, Hannarae Kim, Melieika Gesa-Fatafehi and Jennifer Coultis, have taken out first, second and third places in the years 9 to 11 open Crystal Growing competition. Nine schools from across Queensland submitted entries from 142 students. Many other schools entered but didn't produce crystals of sufficient quality to submit. The competition was judged by a team of academics from University of Queensland, Griffith University and teachers. Well done to our Sunnybank stars who through patience and persistence have taken all three top positions. We look forward to more students entering next year and thank you to Mrs Parthasarathy and all other staff who assisted.

Great crystal growers, Melieika Gesa-Fatafehi and Jennifer Coultis, second and third in the state competition

The Wild Stars Camping at Lamington National Park

A fantastic opportunity exists for year 10 and 11 students to go camping at Lamington National Park and participate in fun activities to build leadership, ecological awareness and knowledge. The camp has been made possible by a grant from the NAB and the cost to students for the two night/three day camp is only $15. A teacher will accompany the students but a non-profit company, The Wild Mob, who have had a great deal of experience running Duke of Edinburgh awards and working with other schools, will organize the event. Activities include bush walking, a 160 metre flying fox, visiting a glow worm colony and using IR cameras to track wildlife. The girl’s camp will be 17 to 19 April and the boy’s camp will be 22 to 24 April. Don’t be shy - APPLY NOW. See Mr Christie or Ms Aldridge in block 5.

Science Extension Club is open to years 8 to 10 students and offers the opportunity to attend an extension program after school on Thursdays (3 pm to 4 pm). Students will study real life applications of Science through experiment and develop a presentation for the Science expo. It will be an enjoyable, interesting and challenging experience. Students must be able to commit for a least one full term of afternoons. Collect a letter from Ms Aldridge (A/HOD) in block 5 if interested in attending. The first meeting will be Thursday 7 March.

SCHOOLS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The QTMB (Qld Teachers Mutual Bank) is running a promotion until September 2013 where they are giving away $100,000 each month to Queensland schools. If anyone (teacher, staff member, mum, dad, aunty, uncle, grandma, granddad, family friend or neighbour) takes out or switches a home loan to QTMB, $1,000 can be donated to the chosen school. Register your interest in donating to Sunnybank SHS at http://www.schoolsforimprovement.com.au/. You might be busy at this time of year, or you may currently be locked into a fixed rate loan. No worries. Just tell QTMB the month that you would prefer to be contacted. The Schools for Improvement Bounty is limited to 100 home loans per month ($100,000 for Queensland schools). It will be ‘first in, first served’, but don’t worry if you can’t get in one particular month – just register your interest for the next calendar month.

Narelle Stable, QTMB School Contact

DOES MONEY MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND?

This was one of two impromptu questions that three of our year 12 students faced recently in the local Sunnybank Lions Club competition to decide their Youth of the Year. And it was Sarah Miller’s confident reply to this topic that contributed to her success as best speaker on the night. Sarah Miller (Community Captain), Sarah Channer (Cultural Captain) and Thomas Sili (School Captain) showed their true leadership abilities when they bravely agreed to enter this annual public speaking event which challenges young people to speak their minds. Students representing St Thomas More College and Macgregor State High School also participated. The challenge involves an interview in front of a panel of three judges where school involvement, academic ability, personal skills and knowledge of the world are extensively questioned. It is then followed up by a public speaking evening in front of Lions Club members where the students deliver a five minute speech on a topic of their choice, as well as responses to two unseen questions.

Sarah Miller spoke about the value of books and their new face in technology, while Sarah Channer urged the audience to follow their dreams and not be deterred by life’s challenges. Thomas explained how he had rediscovered his passion for sport and recognised the need for a balanced life.

It was an evening where the parents attending could feel real pride in their children and their accomplishments, and it was extremely exciting when, after the best speaker award went to Sarah, the name of the overall winner of the competition was declared. And the award goes to… Thomas Sili.

It was a very successful night for Sunnybank High which had won both the Lions Club awards and it is now Thomas who progresses to the next round. If you would like to help him, ask him a general knowledge or an impromptu question when you see him around the playground.

Mrs Gibson,
English Department

GIVING ALL STUDENTS A SHOT AT A SAFER FUTURE

The national Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program is being extended to boys this year. The free vaccine is being offered to boys in years 8 and 10, and will continue to be offered to girls in year 8.

The extension of the HPV vaccination program follows the success of the female program, which is credited with significantly reducing HPV-related infections among vaccinated women since it began in 2007.

The vaccine is delivered in three doses over a six month period by qualified immunisation providers. We have scheduled the first dose at school on 19 March 2013. While you may be aware HPV can cause cervical cancer in females, there are benefits for males too. Vaccinating males against HPV will help protect them from a wide range of cancers and disease, including genital warts. Vaccinating males will also help to protect females from cervical cancer and HPV-related disease by reducing the spread of the virus.

It is important that the full course, all three doses, is completed to make sure students have the best protection. The vaccine has been tested to ensure it is safe for males and females. Close to seven million doses of the vaccine have been administered in Australia so far.

HPV is transmitted by sexual contact and affects both females and males. It is believed that four out of every five people will have a HPV infection at some time in their lives. Most infections don’t have symptoms, so people don’t realise they are carrying it. What you should do:

• Complete and return the consent forms for boys in years 8 and 10 and girls in year 8 before 5 March 2013, if not already returned
• Explain the importance of completing the full three-dose course to your child
• Read more about the vaccine and HPV at australia.gov.au/hpv
IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH THE YEAR 8s

Term one is well and truly on its way. The year 8s have settled into the routine of high school after their Orientation week and the parent barbeque.

The school held a parent barbeque for the students and their family members to welcome new and existing families to the school community. The afternoon was full of activities and was a wonderful opportunity for students to introduce their parents and carers to their teachers.

It was a great informal event for families to meet one another and meet new friends, the year level coordinators and our senior student leaders. Our Principal, Mrs Hicks, officially welcomed the parents and shared the school’s successes in recent years. The students and families enjoyed the popcorn, fairy floss, cool drinks and the great BBQ prepared by the student leaders and the year level teachers. A big thank you to Mr Magoffin and Mr Elcock for their cooking skills as well as Mrs Garbutt, Mrs Drury and Mrs Pedler for their expertise with the popcorn machine and fairy floss. It was a great hit with everyone, even a few teachers were seen queuing for some food.

The Year 8 Camp

As part of the year 8 program at Sunnybank State High School, the year 8s will participate in a three day camp. The aim of the camp is to develop group and leadership skills, form lasting friendship groups and for the students to get to know each other in a non-classroom setting. The year 8 camp to Burleigh CYC, on the Gold Coast, will take place in the second week of term three, 2013. This excursion is an important extension to the year 8 curriculum and will assist in the development and knowledge and skills in all Key Learning Areas.

The year 8s will take part in a range of team building activities and individual challenges through activities such as: stand up paddling, tubing, swimming, surfing and canoeing adventures. These activities will help the students create productive group dynamics, challenge students to surpass their personal and physical limits, allow them to practise their problem solving skills and encourage using their interpersonal skills more successfully and positively.

Keep a close eye out for information packs and permission forms being brought home in the near future.

David Becker, Deputy Principal

BOOKS FOR SALE

A commemorative book is being produced for Sunnybank’s 50th Anniversary. It will detail Sunnybank High’s history and will be a valuable resource for anyone with a link to Sunnybank High. The cost is $65. Please contact the school on 3323 8111 to order.

Sunny Stories

An Anthology of Student Work, 2012

View a sample on the website. Purchase your own copy for $10.00 from Financial Services in the Administration block.

UNIFORM SHOP

Long leg shorts have arrived. Due to a price increase, all shorts will cost $30.00. Old style pullovers (XL,2XL,3XL) - $20. Old style polo shirts (16,20,22,3XL,4XL) - $15.

WOOLWORTHS LEARN AND EARN 2012

Thanks to everybody who supported our Earn and Learn fundraiser in 2012. The school collected an attachment that can convert a data projector into a touch screen. We collected a number of calculators to be used across the school and some prizes to recognise student effort.

MT GRAVATT BLUE LIGHT DANCE PARTY

The next Dance Party is Friday 1 March, from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm, at Mt Gravatt PCYC, 90 Klumpp Road, Upper Mt Gravatt, next to the Hibiscus Centre. For more information please contact the Sunnybank School Based Police Officer, Senior Constable Shane Stanley on 3323 8106.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Choc-mint Cone Cakes

Makes 24

Preparation Time 20 minutes
Cooking Time 20 minutes
Oven 180°C

Ingredients

- 340g packet chocolate cake mix
- 24 square bottom ice cream cones
- 24 After Dinner Mints
- 24 Smarties

Method

1. Preheat oven.
2. Line two oven trays with baking paper.
3. Prepare cake mix according to the directions on the packet.
4. Spoon 1⅝ tablespoons of cake mix into each cone. Place cones on prepared trays.
5. Bake for 20 minutes or until the cakes are firm when pressed with the back of a spoon.
6. Remove from oven and cool.
7. When cool place an After Dinner Mint on top of each cake.
8. Place cones in a warm oven for one minute to melt mint slightly.
9. Place a Smartie on mint and serve.

Try this recipe and more in the Sunny Creations Cookbook, available for $15 from the Finance Office.

USQ YOUTH LEADERSHIP DAY

On Friday 15 February the senior student leaders took part in the USQ Youth Leadership day at the Springfield Campus of USQ. This was an all-day event that consisted of a number of different presentations and activities based around the theme of Leadership.

The event was attended by student leaders from a variety of other schools and through the day it was a good experience to work with students from other schools.

Working with the students from other schools and with the other leaders from our school, utilising the information and strategies we had been given on the day in completing the activities, was definitely a boost to the development of our leadership and teamwork skills.

Mei Zhang and Kane Davidson, School Vice Captains

ADVANCE NOTICE OF IMPORTANT DATES

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The Primary Notice of Important Dates.