Welcome to the 2015 school year.

We extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families. We also welcome our new international students.

It is wonderful to join with you as part of our Sunnybank school community and we look forward to starting this new chapter in the learning journey with you.

This year marks a milestone in history, where we witness our year 7 students entering high school for the very first time. As a school, we have invested time, energy, focus and funding to ensure our year 7 students have a “flying start” to their education.

We are pleased to report an increase in enrolments of students this year. Our school anticipated approximately 570 students would start the 2015 school year and we are on track to exceed this considerably. This is a wonderful reflection of our community confidence and the profile of Sunnybank State High School. We thank you.

Our school year has commenced well with students settled into school routines and classes with a strong focus on learning. Our vision of Many ways to excellence means that we encourage and provide opportunities for all students to shine and excel, whether that be through our highly profiled track and field elite program, arts and cultural programs, extension programs or more – as a school, we value achievement, commitment, lifelong learning and accountability.

We are exceptionally proud of our success and student outcomes, with one of our year 12 students receiving the highest achievement, OP1. Many of our graduating students of 2014 received OP1-15. Furthermore, 99% of our students graduated with a QCE (certificate of education), VET or QCIA – this is outstanding.

Our school priorities for the year are:

- Attendance
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Consistency of Pedagogy (a focus on quality teaching and learning)

Our Schoolwide Positive Behaviour program underpins our focus to ensure all members of our school demonstrate appropriate behaviours. As a school, our expectations are:

- Respect: we demonstrate respect when we behave in a considerate and well-mannered way
- Responsibility: we demonstrate responsibility when we are accountable for ourselves, our belongings and our environment
- Readiness: we demonstrate readiness when we are willing and prepared to participate in our schooling.

Heads of Department/Heads of Special Education Units/Heads of Curriculum

Heads of Department are not only part of the support structure for students but are curriculum leaders also. Our HODs are the first port of call regarding their subject areas. The Heads of Department are:

Jandy Winterbotham
English and LOTE

Narelle Stable
Humanities, Business, Computing

Deirdre Aldridge
Science

Robyn Pedler
Home Ec, HPE & Vet

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Outstanding Teacher Ambassador Retires

Hazel Cheung Tsui is a wonderful example of what it means to show commitment and passion to a cause. Last week, we had the opportunity to acknowledge Hazel for her contributions to our school as she embarks upon retirement.

Hazel worked in the public service sector at Hong Kong and relinquished that to pursue her dream of promoting and enhancing the understanding of Chinese culture and language to Australians. To fulfil her dream, Hazel left Hong Kong and trained as a language teacher.

Her service to the school and community over the past fifteen years has been tireless and exceptional. Hazel created many opportunities in school for all staff and students to embrace Chinese culture through Chinese New Year celebrations, calligraphy demonstrations, dragon dances and more. Her influence in the wider community is also noted with museum exhibitions and displays. Hazel’s dedication to her students has been instrumental in creating a learning culture where our students studying Chinese thrive, with students achieving very high accolades for their studies. Furthermore, we’ve witnessed students new to studying Chinese graduate our school and travel to China to live and work.
We thank Hazel for the energy, commitment, passion, enthusiasm and investment in our school community.

I look forward to a rewarding year ahead and welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Tracey Cook, Principal

School Business

Resource Hire Scheme

The Resource Hire Scheme payments for 2015 are now due. Students will be issued with their text books when parents have made their payments for the Resource Hire Scheme. There is a 5% discount if payment is made before 20 February. For student success, it is vital that all students have their text books, and other materials made available to them, when resource scheme payments are received by the school. A number of payment options can be negotiated through meeting with the Business Services Manager, Mrs Richter. Outstanding accounts from previous years must be paid prior to students undertaking any extra-curricular activities.

School times

A reminder that school commences for all students at 8.40 am (Monday, Tuesday) and 8.45 am (Wednesday – Friday) and concludes daily at 2.45 pm (2.35 pm Wednesday).

School Assemblies

School assemblies are held on Mondays and it is expected that students are in full formal uniform on Mondays. These occasions often involve invited guests. Formal uniform must be worn on all days when students do not have physical education classes. Details regarding uniform requirements are in the Student Diary.

Year 7 News

Year 7 students transitioning to High School for a flying start

Education is the key to increasing opportunities for students and this year, year 7 has become the first year of High School for Queensland students. This has brought Queensland in line with most other States and Territories in Australia. These teenagers are ready for the exciting academic, emotional and social challenges of High School. Sunnybank State High School has been planning for this transition by upgrading facilities, conducting staff professional development and providing support programs such as the appointment of Ms Gemma Finney as the year 7 Coordinator. Ms Finney is working closely with the Deputy Principal for the Junior Secondary School, Mr David Becker, and the Principal, Ms Tracey Cook, so that students can enjoy a smooth transition into High School this year. There will be a strong focus on providing pastoral care for our transitioning students and parents are encouraged to continue their keen involvement in their child’s education into their Junior Secondary years.

The year has begun well and the year 7 students have settled into their new school with enthusiasm and excitement. This included a “get to know each other day” on Wednesday which was a lot of fun. Given that this is such a significant year for year 7 students I would ask you to put a couple of dates into your calendar. The first, an Induction Ceremony to be held on Monday 9 February in the school hall at 8.45 am - you are all very welcome to attend. School photos will also be taken on this day. The second is an information session for parents and guardians to be held on Thursday 19 February from 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm and again you are encouraged to attend with your child.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns about your child’s transition, I am available on 3323 8111. Finally, I would like to warmly welcome you to Sunnybank SHS and to thank you for enrolling your child at Sunnybank SHS and for entrusting us with your child’s secondary education.

Regards,
Gemma Finney, Year 7 Coordinator

Sunnybank Crystal Growers

In 2014 many of our keen science students took on the challenge of growing crystals for the Australian National Crystal Growing Competition. Students showed great enthusiasm and perseverance, learning new laboratory skills and giving up their own time to nurture their crystals over the term. The crystals were carefully packaged and posted to the Royal Australian Chemical Institute for judging.

The following students have had outstanding success and should be congratulated:

Alaa Muhmed, 1st place 2014 Australian National Crystal Growing Year 9 Open category
Sidne Thomas, 2nd place 2014 Australian National Crystal Growing Year 9 Open category
Gouthiga Gopalakrishnan, 1st place National Crystal Growing Year 10 Open category
Jesse Hou, 3rd place National Crystal Growing Year 10 Open category
First place winner Alaa Muhmed (right) and second place winner Sidne Thomas.

Crystal growing can be an unpredictable business. All students who had the dedication get a crystal to entry level should be applauded. The following students also entered crystals:

- Soumiga Gopalakrishnan
- Sara Gorfu
- Claudia Kemp
- Yashas Kumar
- Lani Vurewa
- Haseeba Walizada
- Shukri Abdullahi

Well done to these students and we look forward to seeing lots more crystal growers again in Science this year.

Deirdre Aldridge, HOD Science

International Student Program

We in the International Student Program are proud of our students who have done very well with studying in Australia for 2014. These students are in a new environment without their parents, placed in a homestay situation or stay with distant family members. They have to learn a new language and adapt to a different culture with a westernised culinary influence, yet they study hard and proved that they can achieve an OP 1.

Dee Venter, International Student Co-ordinator

Rewards Trips 2014

On Friday 28 November, more than 100 Sunnybank students attended our Rewards Trips to Wet’n’Wild and the movies. The Wet’n’Wild kids, accompanied by Mr Elcock, Mr Magoffin, Mrs Cox, Mrs Chataway and Miss Kalamafoni, boarded the bus and headed down the coast. The weather was not the usual boiling hot summer day, but that didn’t stop our students and teachers. For hours they swam, conquered the rides and slides and hung out with their mates. They only stopped to fill their bellies with sausages. The park was busy (as usual) but luckily the line-ups disappeared as many other schools headed off early to beat the traffic while we stayed and enjoyed the park till 4.30 pm.

Sunnybank Hoyts was the location for our movie students; all excited to see the latest Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1. More than 40 students wandered up to Hoyts accompanied by Mrs Garbutt, Mrs Dury and Ms Finney to raid the candybar before settling into the Hollywood blockbuster. After the movie students enjoyed a pizza party feast to end their reward day.

Congratulations to all students invited to the Positive Rewards Trips for 2014. We look forward to celebrating your excellence in the demonstrating the values of Respect, Readiness and Responsibility in 2015!

Ms Kalamafoni, Year 8 & 9 Coordinator

LOTE Chinese

Students of Chinese 2014 were farewelled by their Chinese teacher, Mrs Cheung, at a Yum Cha gathering on their graduation day.

Homestays Required for Study Tour

Are you looking for the opportunity to share your home, our unique Queensland lifestyle, our variety of food and customs?

Consider becoming a Homestay provider for Sunnybank High School’s International Student Program!

We are looking for friendly and reliable providers who are able to offer a safe and caring family atmosphere, treat the student as a family member, speak English as their first language, encourage English conversation and be located within easy reach of the school.
You will need a spare private bedroom with wardrobe, student desk and lamp and to provide nutritious meals and snacks each day. Also, you will need a Commission for Children and Young People check (Blue Card) and will receive financial reimbursement ($254 per week).

Please contact: **Dee Venter 3323 8119**, International Student Coordinator, Cricos Provider Number: 00608A

### Important Dates

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