Principal’s Report

We’ve had an exceptional start to the 2017 school year

Our school is a dynamic learning community and over the last three weeks, we have witnessed our students thriving and excelling. We maintain high standards and expectations of learning, work ethic, behaviour, attendance and uniform. Students are to be commended on their commitment to their learning and upholding such expectations. We thank our families, parents, caregivers and members of the community for working together with us to support every child’s start to the school year.

Enrolment growth

Sunnybank State High School is a school of choice. As reported in the Courier Mail, it is one of the real estate hotspots with people electing to move to Sunnybank to enrol students in our school. The number of students enrolled in our school has increased by 10% in comparison to the same point in time last year. This is a wonderful reflection of the community confidence in our school and the outstanding success we have achieved.

Sunnybank State High School on Channel 7 News

On Tuesday evening, Channel 7 nightly news ran a segment about the highest growth areas across Queensland, based on Domain data. Sunnybank State High School was listed as the second highest enrolment growth in the State, stating it was one of the ‘fastest growing enrolment catchment areas’ at 14%.

Our Attendance rate exceeds the State

The first step to success is attending school every lesson, every day, ready to learn. We know that attendance is the strong foundation for students to learn and achieve. Our school has high expectations around attendance. It is outstanding to note that our school-wide average attendance rate for the week prior was 95.5%, which surpasses the State average. Our challenge is to maintain such exceptional standards.

The graph below shows the average attendance rate for Years 7-12 for week two of the term.

Sunnybank transforms

Our school continues to thrive and transform both externally and from within. We have had upgrades to our facilities that include the painting of buildings and extensive refurbishments. We look forward to classes resuming in our newly refurbished industry standard kitchen, restaurant and textiles room next week.
School Leader and Year 7 Induction Ceremony

Recently, our school held its school leader and Year 7 induction ceremony. It allowed us to formally welcome our Year 7 students into the school. It was wonderful to see them enter the assembly and receive their Year 7 into Highschool certificate. We also had the honour of inducting our school leaders for 2017 across Years 8 – 12 at our whole school assembly. Our Year 7 students will soon have the opportunity to apply to be a year level leader. Towards the end of the ceremony, our school captains and vice captains read the Senior Pledge on behalf of the Year 12 cohort.

Year 7 Family Barbecue

We look forward to meeting parents, caregivers and families at our Year 7 Family Barbecue next Thursday evening. The afternoon will commence with activities for our students and there will be a presentation to parents. The evening will culminate in a barbecue for families, students and teachers. It’s a wonderful opportunity to connect.

Investment for Success

Our school will receive approximately $650,000 under the Investment for Success initiative funded by the Government to improve student outcomes. Through rigorous review and consultation, our school has committed to our priorities of quality teaching and learning, a collaborative learning culture and knowing our students. Money will be used to engage and employ relevant staff, build capacity and capability, implement whole of school programs and ensure our students have every opportunity to succeed.

Celebrating Laraine Goldman’s legacy and leadership in Education

On Wednesday evening, many staff and community members had the honour of acknowledging Laraine Goldman’s significant contribution to Education at her retirement dinner. Laraine commenced teaching in 1969 as a teacher and has been a significant influencer in the Metropolitan EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) program since the early 1990s. Laraine commenced at Sunnybank State High School in 1992 as an EALD teacher and subsequently held leadership positions including HOSES and acting Deputy Principal at our school. Laraine is a passionate advocate for EALD students and has tirelessly advocated for refugees and asylum seekers. Her legacy in Education and across Queensland is a reflection of her contribution and commitment, as evidenced in her Education career, role in District Office, position as President at QATESOL and a committee member of ACTA. We thank Laraine for her gracious, tireless efforts, commitment, passion and contribution to our school, students and Education over the course of almost 50 years.

Thank you to our Volunteers

This year we have had quite a few parents and members of the community offer their time, expertise and services to our school. It is a privilege to have the support of others, who work with us to make our school a wonderful place to be. Our volunteers are helping out in different ways, including:

- Homework club
- Gardening
- English class support
- Reading programs
- Kitchen and cooking preparation
- Textiles support
- Library helpers

If you are able to volunteer your time, please let us know. We would love to hear from you and would particularly like extra assistance in our school tuckshop.

Parents and Citizens’ Association

Our first P and C meeting for the year will be an opportunity to present our school strategies, goals and targets. We will also discuss budgets, including the grant to refurbish our school tuckshop. We encourage our parents and community members to please attend. Our meeting occurs Tuesday 28 February commencing at 6.00 pm in the school Library. All are welcome.

Tracey Cook, Principal
Attendance Report

Our goal is to have 95% attendance every week. It is with great pleasure to announce that the school average for week two was 95.5%. This is a fantastic way to start the school year off. It is very important to have every student attending every lesson, every day. The percentages for each year level for week two are:

- Year 7 – 96.37%
- Year 8 – 96.14%
- Year 9 – 94.71%
- Year 10 – 98.6%
- Year 11 – 96.03%
- Year 12 – 94.66%

If your child is absent from school please contact us as soon as possible:

- **Absence Line**: 3323 8160
- **Text**: 0427 217 544

If you wish to discuss attendance matters, please contact Mrs Wendy Rogan, Attendance and Engagement Officer, 3323 8111.

Finance News

Thank you to all the families who have made arrangements to pay or have paid the 2017 school fees. Just a reminder that the discount period finishes on 17 February, and if you pay your full fees by this date you receive a $20.00 discount on the fee amount of $400.00.

Students will not receive their textbooks until payment arrangements have been made. Many payment plans are available to pay off the school fees. If you are having difficulty with the fees, please come and see the Finance office, we are here to help.

**Thanks,**  
**Joanne Curti, Finance Officer**

International Student Program

Welcome. We are privileged to welcome to our school new International students from all countries across the globe. New to our school are students from countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Japan. We welcome to our school, Mandy, Mindy, Wen, Sophie, Howard, Jackson, Huy, Barry, Kritzi, Ayaka, Olivia, Chloe, Coco, Felix, and Lyly.

Existing students returning to school this term are students from Vietnam, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Pakistan, Indonesia and Spain.

Such a diverse group of students are sure to broaden our school’s global citizen’s approach in learning new cultures and embracing new experiences.

Homestays Required

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 for 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.

Please contact: Dee Venter, 3323 8111, International Student Coordinator, Cricos Provider Number: 00608A

EALD Unit

Sunnybank SHS’s EALD unit welcomes back staff and students – and we are right down to the business of learning English in order to be a successful learner across the high school curriculum.

Our returning students from last year reconnected with old friends and forged new friendships with the newcomers from Milpera SHS, various State schools in the Sunnybank area, or from schools in other parts of Queensland. We are also welcoming a small number of new students who directly enrolled from overseas, and whose English language skills are of a sufficiently high level to learn English in a Phase Two unit, such as ours.

Year 8 Humanities

EALD staff member Ms Natalie Carrington this year revived Debating at our school; it is wonderful to also see some former EALD students among this select group of dedicated and high-achieving leaders who make up the 2017 Debating Team.

We welcome back Ms Nancy Velthuis this year, who volunteers some of her time with our school, especially in the Homework Club. Currently into her third year in a Bachelor of Nursing Degree at QUT, she works with Youth Without Barriers and in this capacity organised a most enjoyable leadership and networking weekend at the Gold Coast for some of our senior female students last year.
“Hi, this is Nancy Velthuis; I was born in the beautiful country of Kenya in East Africa. I came to Australia when I was 12 years old and have been living here ever since. I reflect a multi-faceted personality, including ambition and the qualities of generosity and thoughtfulness. I am a full-time student, motivated by my love for learning and succeeding as I strive to become an outstanding and successful woman in today’s society. I am currently studying for my Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.

“I am excited to be involved in the Homework Club and having the opportunity to volunteer. It’s an opportunity for me to grow and learn in more ways than one. It’s also fuelled my passion to inspire other young women to reach their full potential, no matter their background. Volunteering promotes self-growth. You can use your skills and learn new skills, you can make a difference. Volunteering makes you feel appreciated and needed. It provides an opportunity to give back what has been given to you!”

Ms Ulrike Jurgensen, Head of EALD Services

English/Humanities Faculty

Welcome to the families returning to Sunnybank SHS in 2017 and to our new families. Thank you for entrusting your child’s education to us, we look forward to developing an active partnership with you and your child. Research has shown that the formal and informal connections between the family and school are just as important for adolescents as they are for younger children. Such partnerships have been shown to improve student engagement and academic outcomes, enhance physical and emotional wellbeing and increase vocational skills, pathways and opportunities (Lonsdale, 2011). With this in mind we look forward to starting 2017 in partnership with you and your child.

The English/Humanities faculty have a big year planned and hope that the holidays provided a time of relaxation and refreshment for all our students and that they return to school ready for hard work and commitment to learning. A significant part of our faculty is our own commitment to practical activities which provide relevance and engagement, for the student, with the curriculum. To that end we concluded 2016 by taking the Year 9 History students to Queensland’s Parliament House and Old Government House. The students enjoyed the day and learned a great deal about our democratic process and after a tour of the building, they engaged in a debate on the floor of parliament.

The English faculty will similarly engage students by delivering presentations relevant to student learning. The first of these performances will be Tim Silverwood’s No Time to Waste, a very timely reminder to us all. Debating will be revived at Sunnybank SHS this year and there will be more information about this important skill in the near future. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to communicating and working with you to educate your child in 2017.

Gemma Finney,
A/HOD English/Humanities

Year 8 Chinese

In order to gain a better understanding of how important Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is to Chinese people, our Year 8 Chinese students have studied the traditions and celebrations of Chinese New Year.

In 2016 we celebrated Chinese New Year in our classroom by putting Chinese good luck sayings on red envelopes. This year the students made paper cuttings which are very distinctive visual Chinese handicrafts. They also tasted traditional Chinese food – dumplings. Two lucky students found gold coins in the dumplings and this is said to be lucky; bringing good fortune and prosperity in the New Year.

Miss Liao, Teacher of Chinese

Youth Support Coordinator

Duke of Edinburgh Camp

Over four days, 20 students accepted the challenge to embark on the WILDEST adventure of their LIVES! They had no idea what to expect…They showed INITIATIVE…They handed in all their forms (there were a few)…They showed RELIABILITY…

Day 1 – Practice journey – 10km hike and camping

“I learnt that walking through water gives you yucky, wrinkly, smelly feet. Next time I’ll bring more water and better shoes. It was good to have a shower after a long tiring day.” (Tristan)

“Made me see what we needed to pack and what we needed to do.” (Jacqueline)

“My favourite part was sleeping in a cabin and tent.” (Maysam)

They showed ADAPTABILITY.

Day 2 – Canoeing, pole climbing, WILD LYF show and a good night sleep in cabins….

“My favourite part is canoeing because I can learn how to control the canoe with my friends.” (Khanh)

“I liked everything but I have sore legs.” (Ryan)
They showed LEADERSHIP.

Day 3 – Qualifying journey – 10km hike and camping

“We hiked 10km in the bush and were taught how to cook with trangias and how to set up a tent.” (Esma)

“We walked 12km and it was easy. Also we saw two snakes and it started raining. I loved it here and I would love to come here again!” (Zahir)

They built TEAM WORK.

Day 4 – 10km hike

“The only thing I did not like was walking in the storm.” (George)

“My favourite part was the walking because it helped me with my body.” (Satta)

They learned SELF ESTEEM and MADE NEW FRIENDS! They ALL finished TOGETHER! They showed COURAGE, the stuff CHAMPIONS are made of!

“We ACCEPTED, WE ADVENTURED and WE CONQUERED. WE ARE SUNNYBANK DUKEs!”

Years 9 and 10

2018 recruitment is officially OPEN. For two weeks only!! Bronze Award Registration usually costs $175. You will receive this free of charge! We have already started working on this year’s camp preparations! Don’t miss out on the fun!

If you’re interested in joining for QCE points and a challenge, please see Renee (YSC) for your application form (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Get Started Vouchers Program

A voucher of up to $150 is available for children and young people who can least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club. Applications for Round 10 open 12 July 2017. Parents can apply for a voucher to help pay for club membership and participation fees. If there are significant issues that prevent a parent/carer/guardian from applying, we may be able to apply on their behalf.


Renee Simpson, Youth Support Coordinator

Be My Valentine

Year 12 Music students will be performing various songs and delivering roses to raise funds for Heartkids on Valentine’s Day, Tuesday 14 February. Be part of the excitement of this great tradition where the students sing and play songs for you and your friends during class time and at lunch time. See Miss Matthews or the Cultural Leaders, Shukri and Abby, to secure your song or rose!!!

Important Dates

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<td>February 20 Yr 7&amp;8 Cyber Safety Presentation</td>
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<td>February 22 Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>February 24 Yr 10 Geog Exc – Gold Coast</td>
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<td>February 28 P&amp;C Meeting 6:00pm Library</td>
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<td>March 23 Sunnybank SHS vs Qld Police Soccer Match</td>
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