

SHPS Community Newsletter



Edition 5 - Week 5 Term 3, 2025

Respect Responsibility
Learning

Literacy Day

A huge Thank-you to all of our students for participating enthusiastically in the Literacy Day activities and dress up parade yesterday. It was brilliant to see such effort put into costumes. The event was attended by over 75 parents, carers and community members, who made the day even more special for our students.

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents / caregivers / guardians think of our school. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage all families to participate. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the survey period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in English and ten other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information. All families are invited to participate in the survey. A link will be sent out via Seesaw next week. The Survey will be open until **Friday 12th September, 2025**.

Year 5/6 Camp

The Year 5/6 students will be heading off to Weekaway Camp on Wednesday 3rd September. Please look out for camp information and remember to return medical forms ASAP.



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, learn and play, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Child Safety at SHPS



Child safety and wellbeing at Sunshine Harvester Primary School: Information for families and the school community.

Sunshine Harvester Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework explains how we support and maintain child safety and wellbeing at Sunshine Harvester Primary School. It includes our:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

[Sunshine Harvester Primary School Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy \(2024\)](#)

- Child Safety Reporting and Responding Obligations Procedures

[Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures](#)

- Child Safety Code of Conduct, which outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for all staff and volunteers at our school.

[Child Safety Code of Conduct 2024](#)

Our students and families are important partners in providing a child safe environment. These regular newsletter reminders are one of the ways we ensure our school community is aware of:

- Our commitment to child safety, and
- How to provide feedback or raise child safety concerns.

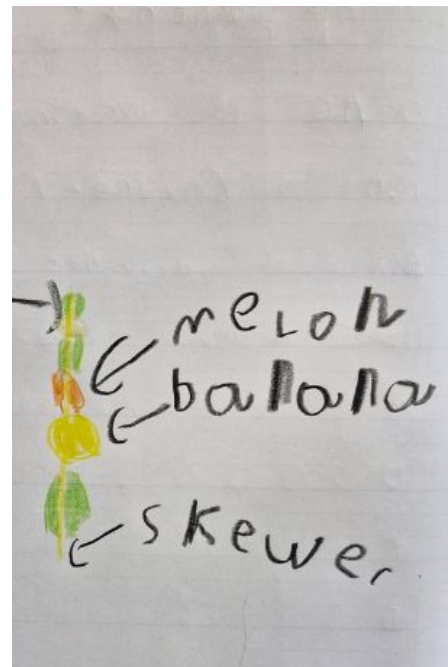
If you have any concerns about child safety at any time, please contact Alison Farr on 9311 1234. Any child safety complaints or concerns are treated seriously. For more information about our school's complaints process, see our Complaints Policy.

<https://www.sunshineharvesterps.vic.edu.au/source/Policies/Complaints%20policy.pdf>

We also welcome your ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Alison Farr on 9311 1234 or at sunshine.harvester.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

In the Foundation Pod

We have been enjoying learning new vocabulary through hands-on experiences. This week, we made fruit skewers! We have also been having a lot of fun collecting data by surveying our classmates about their favourite colour or favourite fruit.



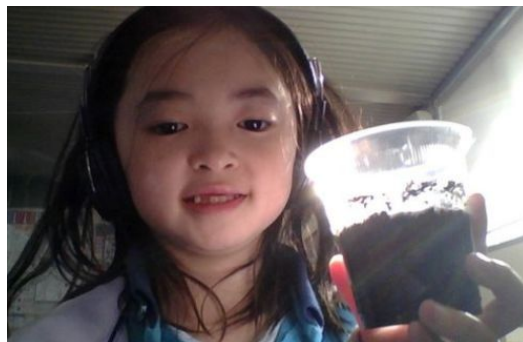
In the Year 1 Pod

As we explore our unit “Life Cycles of a Plant,” we are noticing that some plants are growing faster than others.

We explained to students that, just like people, plants develop at different rates, so it is OK that your seed has not sprouted yet. Students have been exposed to lots of new words through this unit of study. These words include *root*, *soil*, *seed*, *sprout*, *seedling*, *stem*, *petal*, and *flower*.

We have practised writing procedural explanations to describe the way a plant grows using the words *first*, *then*, *next*, and *finally*.

It has been wonderful to read students writing and see all of the new words they are using.



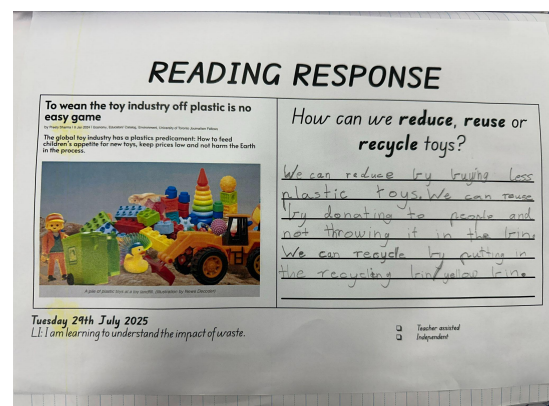
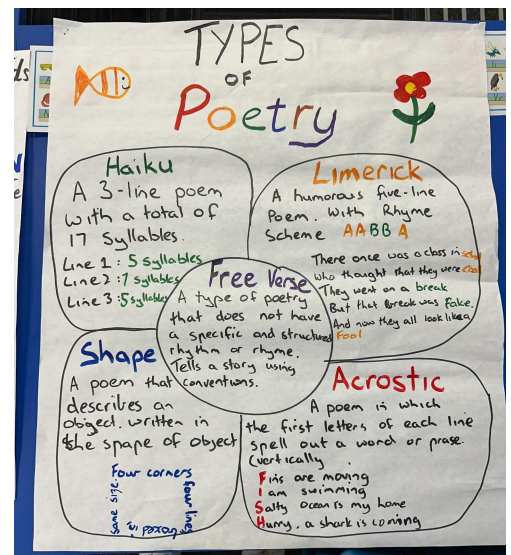
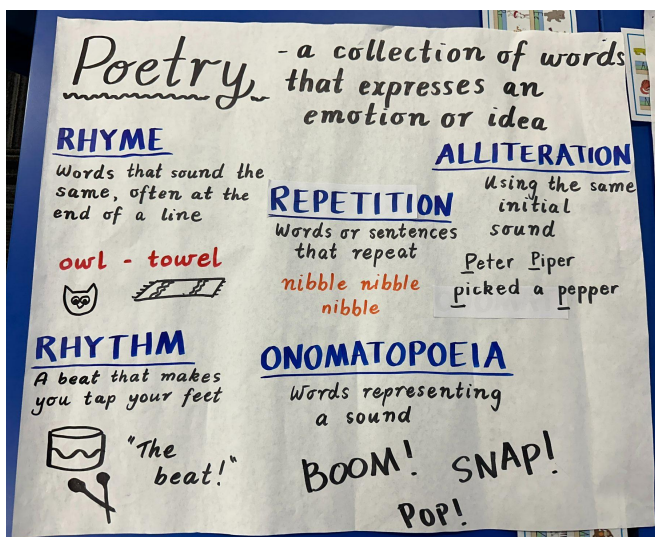
In the Year 2 Pod

In the Year 2 Pod, our Term 3 Inquiry topic is "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". As we explore this unit, students are learning how to reduce waste by donating toys they no longer use and clothes they've outgrown, rather than sending them to landfill.

They've discovered that plastic can take hundreds of years to break down, and even clothing can take anywhere from a few weeks to several centuries to decompose.

Using their growing understanding of sustainability, students have begun crafting persuasive texts aimed at encouraging others to use less plastic.

We're also thrilled to be working with writer, Heather Gallagher, who is guiding students through the writing process of planning, revising, and publishing their very own poetry. By Term 4, our students will be published authors - an exciting milestone we'll celebrate with a special book launch, where we'll invite friends and families of the Year 2 Pod to join us!

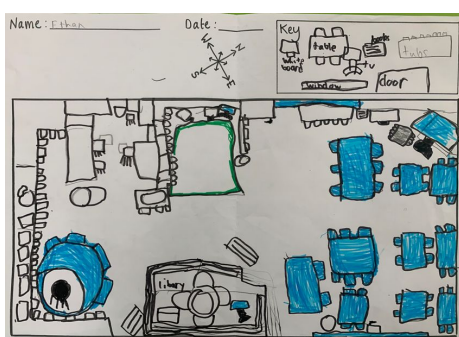
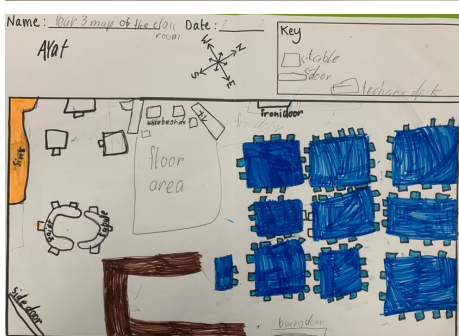
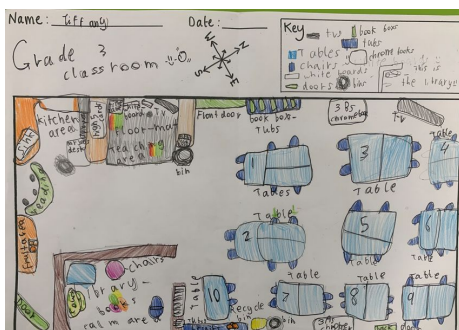


In the Year 3 Pod

Our theme for Term 3 is *Australia and Animal Life*. We have been learning about the vast range of climates and landscapes across Australia and have been researching Australian animals. We have been using a lotus chart to organise our notes.

In Numeracy, our focus has been on multiplicative thinking and strategies we can use to solve multiplication problems. We have also been learning about how to interpret and create maps. We even made our own maps of our Year 3 classroom.

We are looking forward to more learning and fun activities as we progress through the term.



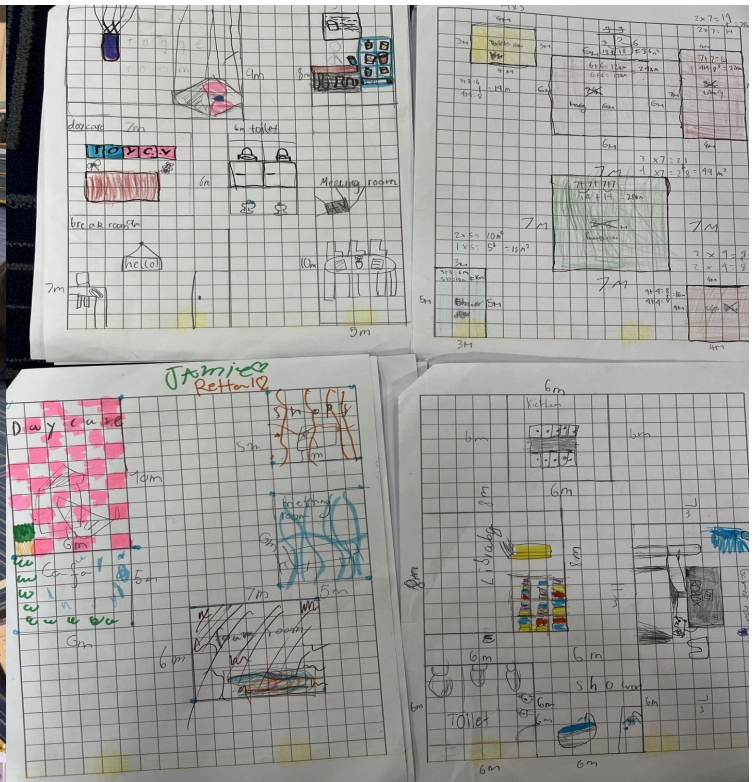
Some examples of our classroom maps and lotus charts

Lotus Diagram		Name: <u>Adh</u>						
1980s to 2000s	characteristics	very rare / very rarely	the hollow	australian	warm areas	grey brown fur	large cats	tiny animal
category	Classification	archimacris	river red gum forests	forest	forest	sig	Appearance	distinctive look
	Pop. body shape	characteristic gait	warm forests	woodcreeks	woodlands	stom	ways that look like spider web	body gags
rodent flies	body fragments	bottles	Classification	claw	Appearance	It's a subterranean animal		
cellular walls	Diet	cockroaches	Diet	collar caterpillar	Behaviour	they move in the shadows and make a loud buzz	Behaviour	
checkers	mostly insects	meats	Reproduction	Adaptations	Threats	they love eating insects		
young 15 born in summer	the egg is fertilized for 2-3 days	it takes them 5-7 months to reproduce	hatching in trees	keep snakes	clawed flying	hatched last	degradation	regeneration
	Reproduction		Adaptations			adults	Threats	carrying on
						whether birds	domestic cats	birds etc.

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In the Year 4 Pod

This term in Numeracy, we have been exploring area and perimeter. We have used different tools to calculate the area and perimeter of items in our classroom and out in the yard. We have also applied our skills to design new office floor plans for our Big Buddies at Clayton Utz!



In The Year 5 Pod

Our integrated unit on *Natural Disasters* has been a huge hit with the Year 5 students! They have been fully immersed in the topic- reading engaging texts, exploring the science behind different disasters and learning to craft clear and detailed explanation texts. The students' curiosity and enthusiasm has been shining through in their discussions and writing.

We are so proud that five of our students were invited back to the State Library of Victoria to film their Big Ideas Pitch about creating a school community library. We are looking forward to making this idea a reality in the future!

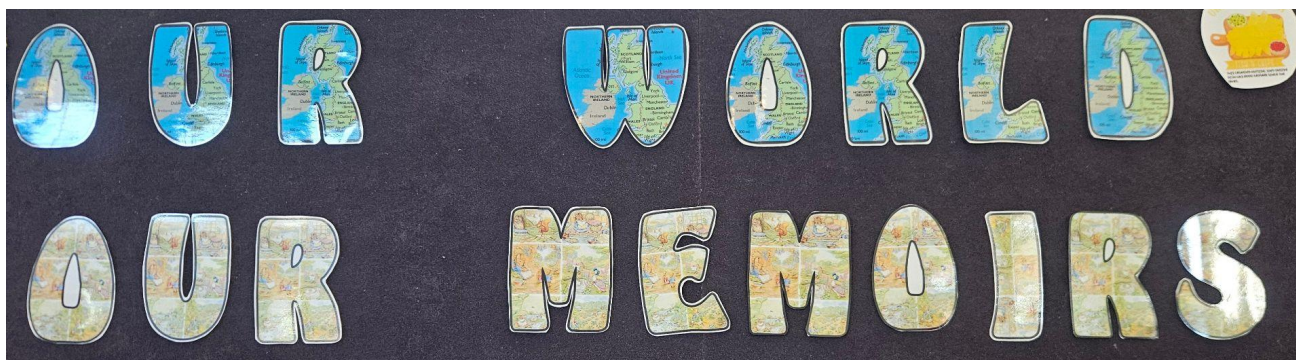
Meanwhile, there's a real buzz in the air about our upcoming Year 5/6 camp in Week 7! The countdown is officially on, and we're all looking forward to the adventures ahead.



In the Year 6 Pod

As we approach the end of the year, the Year 6 students have been working on writing their own memoirs, reflecting on their experiences and time as students in their primary school years. They have found the process enjoyable and engaging as they look back over the years.

We look forward to seeing this work completed, as these will serve as memorable keepsakes for them in the years to come.






STOP MOTION



In Art, Year 5 & 6 students have been thoroughly enjoying Stop Motion Animation - engaging their creativity, storytelling, and problem solving skills with the medium. They are building their understanding of the process through experimentation and collaboration. Students have been exploring award-winning stop-motion animations for inspiration and engaging in rich discussions about the artform.



STEM



The Foundation students have had a great time learning about bees and how bees make honey. We learnt that if we are quiet and calm when bees are around, they will not sting us and it is fun to watch them collecting nectar from the flowers.



We looked at some real honeycomb, and the students sequenced pictures showing the process of making honey. Now they are engaged in making their own model of honeycomb with a bee sitting on it.

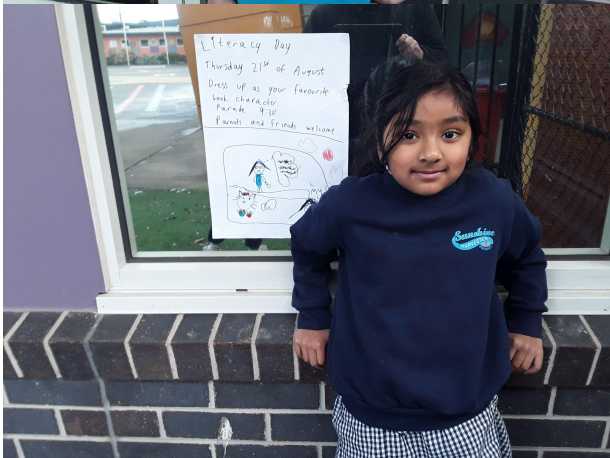
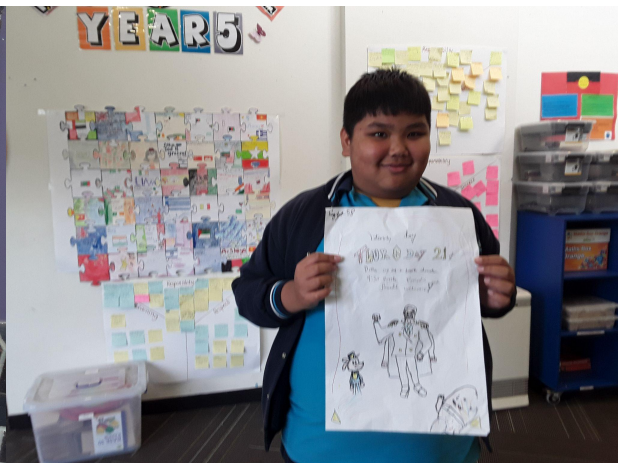
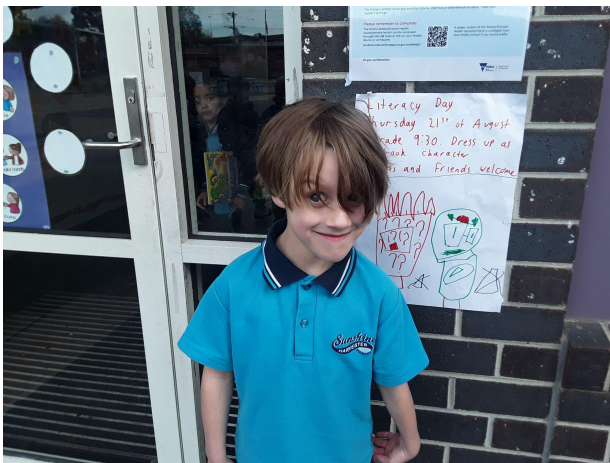
In Term 3, the Year 2 students have been busy investigating mixtures. We have learnt that some things will mix together well, such as cocoa powder and icing sugar; while other things do not mix well, for example, water and cooking oil. We will be also be investigating whether some mixtures can be unmixed! Hopefully we will get the opportunity to mix ingredients that will make some yummy treats.



Junior School Council

It has been a busy term so far for the JSC. We have had many jobs to do with Literacy Day. Firstly, we made posters so everyone in the school would know what was happening. Our other job, was tallying the votes for the best Book Week book as judged by students. There were a lot of votes, but they were fun to count.

Thank you to everyone who donated money on our free dress day towards the Gaga Pit. We've had people come to the school and talk to us about where it will go and what it will cost. Hopefully, it will be built soon and students will be able to enjoy it.



Wellbeing

Our 'brains' have been the focus of our Wellbeing lessons this term. When we learn something new, we build connections in our brains. We all have personal strengths. It may be solving maths problems, creating beautiful artwork or running really fast. Building on our strengths is important, however, we have also been learning about the importance of trying new things. Learning new things involves taking risks and making mistakes, but this is when our biggest learning occurs. This has looked different across the year levels, from making our own playdough and following a recipe to making a unique Lego creature. We have had a lot of fun in the Green Room!



Events

On Friday 25th July, we held our Athletics Day. The cold weather may have put off some teachers, but it didn't put off our students or our parents who came to watch. Before lunch, Years 4 to 6 competed in the traditional athletics sports such as; high jump, sprints, discus and hurdles, aiming to win ribbons and points for their house. The best performers will also represent the school at the regional athletics day.

After lunch, F - 3 students competed in some traditional athletics events, but also did activities such as; the egg and spoon race, sack race and vortex throwing. Thank you to our H&PE teachers, Matthew and Jim for such an enjoyable day.

In Week 2, we celebrated 'World Principal Day'. Each year level made a 'Thank You' page which was then made into a book for each of our four principal class teachers. For some fun, a student from each year level was interviewed about what they thought a principal's job involved, these provided some thoughtful and sometimes hilarious responses. Thank you to Mr Andrew who made these interviews into a movie for each leader.

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week and each grade engaged in a targeted lesson about bullying and its effects.

This week is Book Week, with the 2025 theme of "Book An Adventure". We all had a great time yesterday at the parade. We will give a more detailed report and share photos in the next newsletter.



Events

