



Sunshine Christian School

Living as children of the light - loving God, loving others, loving learning

Registered primary school no. 1850

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Principal Mr Damian Pietsch

Issue 13 Friday 21 August 2026

Devotion: A feisty faith

Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment (Matthew 15:28).

The elements of this story are simple. A woman seeks healing for her daughter from 'The Healer'. However, her encounter with Jesus is quite profound. A Canaanite – historic enemy of Israel – and a woman, possibly without a husband, so an outsider even in her own country. Yet this woman recognises Jesus as 'Lord, Son of David'. She pleads for mercy and, much to the disciples' annoyance, persists.

Jesus' initial reaction and conversation seem harsh. Firstly, he ignores her, which I'm sure is not a technique recommended by modern counsellors dealing with a distressed person. But the silence demonstrates how persistent the woman is and points to the strength of her faith. Jesus then emphasises her 'outsideness'. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' This does not stop her. She ignores what Jesus has said but takes advantage of the fact that he is talking to her. 'Lord, help me.' A simple and humble plea for help.

But Jesus has not finished testing her faith. 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' Imagine the outrage that public statement would cause today! Social media would be white hot.

Again, this does not deter the woman, and her response is amazing. 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' That response would take me a day or two to formulate.

In her response, the woman recognises Jesus' purpose for the lost people of Israel. She trusts that he has mercy enough for those beyond Israel.

This is a story of powerful spirituality. The woman acknowledges her need, refuses to give up, trusts Jesus' mercy and approaches him with humility. Jesus meets us in our individual situations, in the down-and-dirty harshness of life.

I wonder what the disciples learnt from this encounter. The Canaanite woman foreshadows the inclusion of Gentiles into God's kingdom. Yet even after the resurrection, some of the disciples struggled to understand that Jesus died for all people and nations.

Do we persist in prayer like the Canaanite woman?

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the examples of faith you have given us in Scripture. Help us to acknowledge our needs, be humble, trust in your mercy and be persistent in prayer. Thank you for accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross so that all people and nations can have a personal relationship with you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Calendar Dates

2026

Monday 24 August 2026

Whole School Worship @ 9am
Playgroup @ 9.30am

Friday 28 August 2026

Sharing Assembly
Year 2/3 and 5/6

Monday 31 August 2026

Whole School Worship @ 9am
Playgroup @ 9.30am
NUDEL KART – School Buddy activity

Friday 4 September 2026

Year 1 and 2 Sleepover

St Matthew's Lutheran Church

Our supporting church worships at 9.30am each Sunday at 362 Barkly St. Footscray.

Sunshine Christian School acknowledges that our loving Creator God first gave the land on which the school is placed, to the peoples of the First Nation who have walked and cared for this land since before recorded time. We thank God for the land's traditional Custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging as we travel this journey of reconciliation in Australia.



Prayer Points

- We pray for peace and safety for the people in areas where war is being fought.
- We give thanks for our Wellbeing staff and the work they do to ensure our students feel supported, safe and encouraged to grow
- We pray for the Japalaghi, Cing, Modica and More families.

Micah Award

Yoon for showing service and compassion to others



Micah Award

Linn for showing service and compassion to others





From the Principal

Supporting Parents Through SchoolTV

At Sunshine Christian School, we are committed to supporting not only our students' wellbeing but also our families. One of the valuable resources available to parents is SchoolTV, a trusted online wellbeing platform designed to help navigate the challenges of modern parenting and to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.



Each fortnight, our newsletter highlights a topic from one of SchoolTV's six key areas: Cybersafety, Mental Health, School Survival, Healthy Body, Positive Parenting, and Diversity & Inclusion, along with occasional Special Reports addressing emerging issues.

While these featured topics provide a useful starting point, I encourage all parents to explore the full range of resources available through SchoolTV. By visiting our school website and clicking on the SchoolTV logo, you will gain access to expert interviews, practical fact sheets, and recommended books, apps, podcasts, and websites from leading specialists in child and adolescent wellbeing.

Parenting in today's world can be both rewarding and challenging. SchoolTV offers reliable, evidence-informed guidance to help families stay informed, build confidence, and support children as they grow and develop.



I highly recommend that all parents take the time to explore this excellent resource and make use of the wealth of information it provides. Together, we can continue to support the wellbeing of every child in our school community.

Visit SchoolTV through our school website and discover the many resources available to support your family.

Damian Pietsch

Principal

From the Office

PICK UP PROCEDURES

If you need to collect your child during the school day, please come to the Front Office first.

Staff will not send students to the office until a parent or authorised adult has arrived. Students will not wait in the office while parents are travelling to the school.

Thank you for your understanding.

STUDENT PICK UP REMINDERS

Please do not ask to collect your child between **2:45pm and 3:00pm**.

This is a very busy time at school. Students are finishing their learning for the day. Packing up their belongings. Receiving important end of day instructions from teachers and preparing for dismissal and after school arrangements.

If you need to make medical appointments around this time, please arrive before **2:45pm**.

What we are learning

Prep/1

In Prep/ Year 1, we have been learning how to create and write our own narratives, thinking about characters, settings and exciting events. Ask us about our candy land narrative.



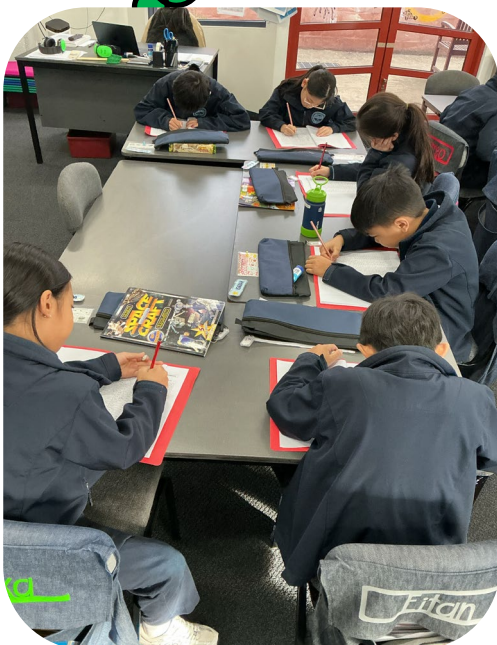
Yr 2/3

In Year 2/3, we have been learning about Book Week and preparing for our dress-up day by planning costumes, sharing ideas with our buddies, and celebrating our love of reading. Ask us what character we dressed up as!



Yr 3/4

In Year 3/4, we have been practising multiplication and division. Ask us about Speed Maths!



Yr 5/6

In Year 5/6, we have been learning about fantasy novels. We have started writing the first chapters of our own fantasy novels. Ask us what quest our heroes will be sent on!





Calendar of Events: Term 3 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 7	August 24 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	August 25	August 26 School Board	August 27	August 28 Sharing Assembly: Year 5/6 and 2/3
Wk 8	August 31 Wellbeing Week NUDEL CART – Buddy Activity	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4 Newsletter (3/4 & P/1) Year 1/2 Sleepover
Wk 9	September 7 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11 Sharing Assembly: Year 3/4 and P/1
Wk 10	September 14 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	September 15 Drama presentations TBC	September 16	September 17 Drama presentations TBC	September 18 Newsletter Last Day of term 12.15pm finish

2028 Enrolments!

Enrolments for Prep 2028 are now open. If you have a child due to commence Prep in 2028, please complete an enrolment form. Without a form your child/children will not be on the waiting list.

Our new online form is available at www.scs.vic.edu.au go to Parent Information, Enrolment form, complete and email back.

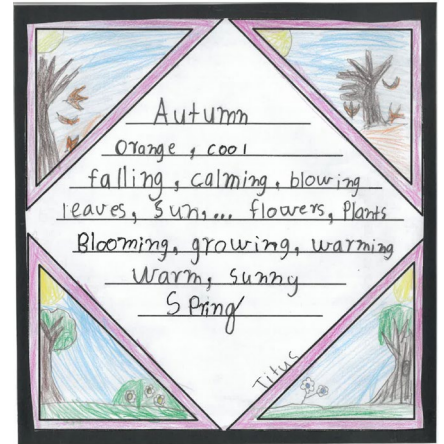
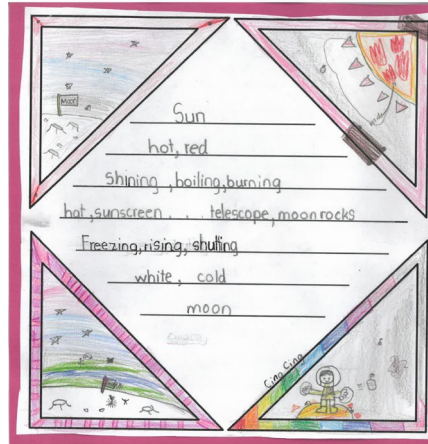
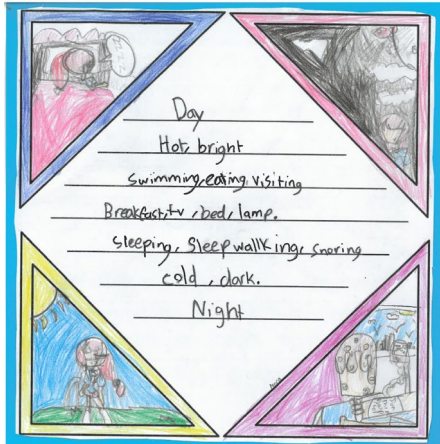
Instagram!

As some of you may be aware, we have recently launched our Instagram page! We invite our families to connect with us online and celebrate the wonderful moments happening in our school.

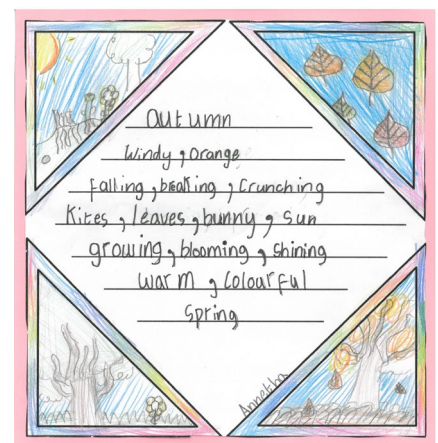
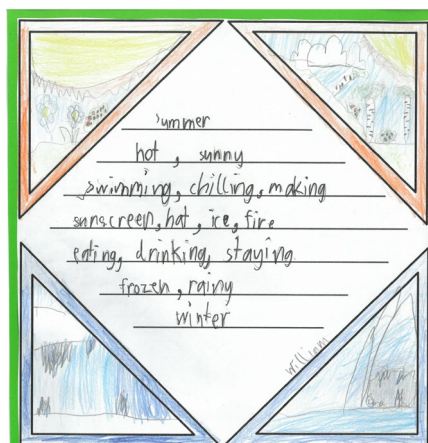
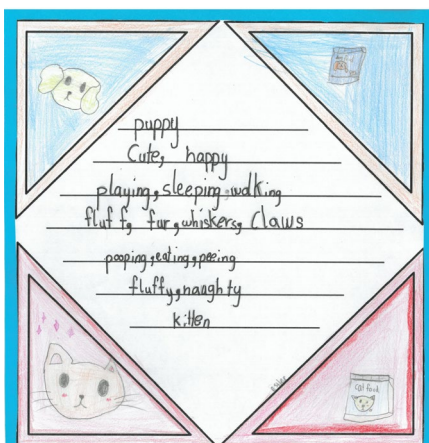
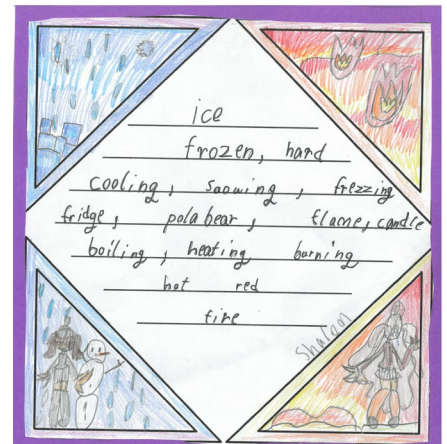
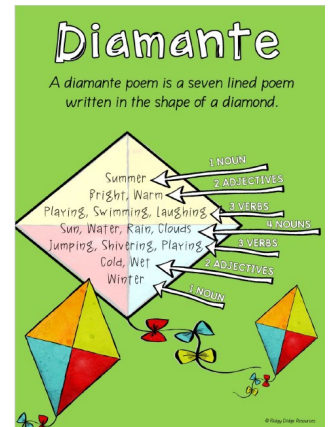
Like, follow and share our [Instagram](#) page to help grow our community! 🌱 ✨



Diamante Poems in Year 2/3



This term, Year 2/3 students have been learning about poetry. We have explored different ways to use words to describe people, places and things. One type of poem we have written is a diamante poem. A diamante poem is a poem shaped like a diamond. We used describing words and action words to write about a topic, and then the opposite topic. We have enjoyed being creative and have included some of our poems to share here. (you can read the others in our class.)



Waste Warriors

Composting Incursion

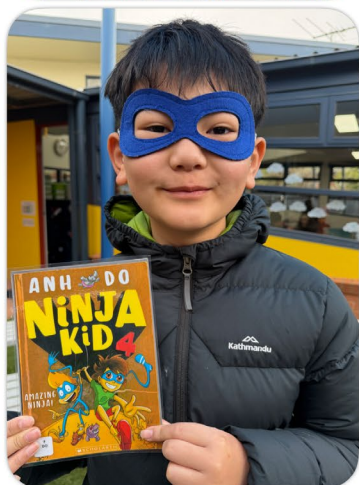
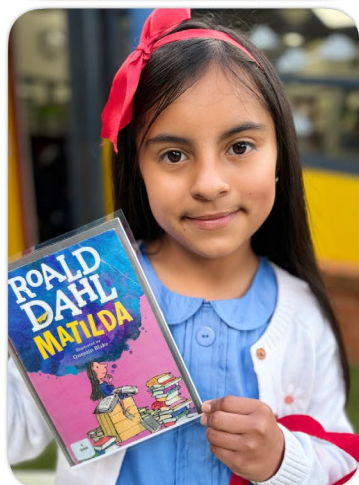
In the Year 5/6 classroom, we have been learning about how our actions can help create a more sustainable future. Last week, Diana from LifeRocks visited us and shared the benefits of composting for the environment. We discovered how tiny soil creatures work hard to break down food scraps and organic waste, turning them into nutrient-rich soil that supports healthy plant growth.



Book Week



Book Week



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CORNER

Supporting families to grow strong minds
and hearts in Christ.

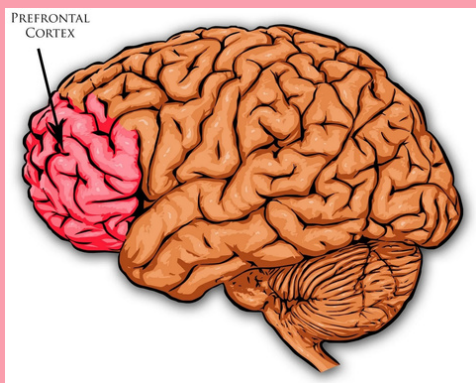
This Week's Tip for Parents

Boundaries & Brain Development

As parents and educators, we often think of boundaries as rules, limits, or expectations. However, neuroscience tells us that healthy boundaries are much more than that.

Boundaries help build the developing brain.

Children's brains are still growing and forming connections **until the age of 25!** The **prefrontal cortex** is the area responsible for decision-making, emotional regulation, impulse control, risk assessment, planning & organisation and problem-solving, but is **one of the last to fully develop.**



When adults provide **consistent and caring boundaries**, children learn that their world is predictable, safe, and supportive. This **sense of safety helps the brain focus** on learning, relationships, and healthy emotional development rather than staying alert for uncertainty or stress. Boundaries are not about control. They are about connection, safety, and teaching.

Every boundary communicates a powerful message:
"I care about you enough to help you learn what is safe, respectful, and helpful."

When boundaries are delivered with warmth, empathy, and consistency, children develop confidence, self-awareness, responsibility, and resilience.

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT MORE ...

Student Voice

This fortnight, ask your child...

"What is one boundary or rule that helps you FEEL SAFE, even if you don't always like it?"

Follow their answer with:

- Why do you think that boundary exists?
- How does it help people?
- Are there boundaries at school that help everyone learn?
- What boundary would you create if you were the teacher or parent for a day?

Listening to your child's thoughts helps them reflect on the purpose of boundaries rather than seeing them as punishments.

Remember, children's perspectives offer valuable insights into how they experience safety, connection, and belonging.



Faith & Wellbeing

Throughout Scripture, we see examples of loving boundaries guiding people towards wisdom, growth, and flourishing.

In **Galatians 5:22-23**, we are reminded that the **Fruits of the Spirit** include self-control, patience, kindness, and gentleness. These qualities **help us develop healthy boundaries** in our relationships with ourselves and others.

Boundaries are not barriers to love. Rather, **they create the conditions where love, respect, and trust can grow.** Just as a gardener places boundaries around a young plant to protect its growth, God provides guidance that helps us flourish into the people we are created to be.

9 Additional Support for Families



1. CREATE FAMILY AGREEMENTS TOGETHER

Invite children to help develop family expectations. Children are more likely to follow boundaries when they have had input into creating them.

2. BE CONSISTENT WITH LIMITS

Children feel safest when boundaries are predictable. Try to follow through calmly and consistently rather than changing expectations based on mood or circumstance.

3. USE CALM & CLEAR LANGUAGE

Short, calm statements support learning: "Walking feet inside please." "Toys stay in the playroom."

4. EXPLAIN THE "WHY"

Children are more likely to cooperate when they understand the purpose behind a boundary: "We hold hands near roads because safety comes first."

5. PRACTISE EMOTIONAL COACHING

Help children name their feelings: "You seem disappointed." "You look excited." Naming emotions helps develop emotional awareness and regulation.

6. ESTABLISH PREDICTABLE ROUTINES

Regular sleep, meal, homework, and bedtime routines reduce stress and support healthy brain development.

7. ENCOURAGE PROBLEM - SOLVING

Instead of solving every challenge for your child, ask:
"What do you think would help?" "What could we try next?"

8. MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES YOURSELF

Children learn from what they see. Let them hear you respectfully communicate your own boundaries: "I need a few minutes of quiet before I can help."

9. CELEBRATE EFFORT AND GROWTH

Recognise progress rather than perfection:
"I noticed you stopped and took a breath when you felt upset. That's great self-control."

**THESE MOMENTS HELP BUILD A GROWTH MINDSET AND REINFORCE DEVELOPING
BRAIN PATHWAYS.**  

enjoy local!



Live Music and Entertainment!

Celebrate local talent and enjoy live music and entertainment with In the Mood!

When: Saturday 29 August, 10am–12pm

Where: 63 Northumberland Rd, Sunshine North

Cost: no charge

29 August

For more info contact City Strategy on **9249 4000**
or <https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/events>

GRAND UNITED CRICKET CLUB

— JR PARSONS RESERVE, SUNSHINE —



NOW RECRUITING JUNIOR BOYS & GIRLS!



FREE
Cricket Blast

FREE FOR SEASON 2026/27

Ages 4 to 8 years old

Saturday 17th October @ 9:30am

**Under
10's**

**Under
11's**

**Under
12's**

**Under
13's**

**Under
15's**

**Under
17's**

FREE MEMBERSHIP
FOR UNDER 10'S & UNDER 11'S!



JUNIOR INFORMATION NIGHT
THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST
5PM TO 6:30PM



**JR PARSONS RESERVE,
SUNSHINE**



JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING TO RESUME 1ST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER & THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER @ 4:30PM



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GRAND UNITED CRICKET CLUB

MAKE FRIENDS • DEVELOP SKILLS • HAVE FUN



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

JR PARSONS RESERVE, SUNSHINE
TUE 22 SEP

MISSION WHITTEN OVAL, FOOTSCRAY
WED 23 SEP & WED 30 SEP



**SIGN UP
NOW**

Suitable for kids aged 4-12.