Hello everyone,

We had our first firedrill for the year yesterday. Naturally, the older children were well versed in what was required, and our Preps were well prepared and managed capably. Our firedrill and lockdown practices are important, especially when you see them being used to protect Queensland students as a result of threats to the children. The news has been full of reports of the bomb threats further south, and at Swayneville there is heightened awareness but no cause for concern.

Routines are settling in across the school. Homework has started this week. Always a controversial topic, the school revisited its homework policy with the P&C last year to find middle ground between those families who want none, and those who wanted double what was being distributed.

Essentially, homework is set for four nights a week, and distributed on Monday, collected on Friday. It will be appropriate to the year level of your child and will support their learning in literacy and numeracy. (You’ll notice a big focus on reading.) Homework is assigned from week one of each term, with the exception of term 1, when it starts in week 2. Week 8 of each term is the last week of homework being assigned for the term. Week 9 of term is catch up week. Teachers track student completion rate. Those with 100% completion for the term are then rewarded. The reward is negotiated on a term by term basis with the children.

Homework is not intended to be a battle ground for families, rather a time when consolidation of learning takes place and parents can interact with their children’s education. Please discuss adjustments with your child’s teacher if needed, and encourage your child to come to their teacher for clarification if they are not sure about how to complete something.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)
Food For Thought

Mistakes and Opportunities:
There would not be a parent starting or returning their child to school who did not feel a little uncertain at times. We think about how things are changing and what will happen next. Life is not perfect but will my child “fit in–achieve–be the best they can be?”

When you start to question yourself and your parenting skills remember: Your child is a gift to you and your role is to equip them for life’s journey. They are separating and becoming independent. Reinforce this by allowing them to try new things, take responsibility for their actions and learn from their mistakes. Read your little ones “Beautiful Oops” by Barney Saltzberg. This book may even help you see that all our mistakes provide new opportunities when looked at through another lens.

Chappy Di.

It’s this time of the year again.
The AGM for the following school bus conveyance committees will be held at the Bus Fox depot, 3 Cyril McKie Crt, Sarina on Monday the 22nd of February at 5.00pm.
Parents and carers of students travelling on the school buses welcome.

S765, S354, P1807, P1555, P1331
Timberlands, Salonika Beach, Louisa Creek, Harris Estate to Alligator Creek State School and Sarina State High School.
P1024, P1954
Armstrong Beach and Freshwater Point to Sarina State School, Sarina State High School, St Anne’s Catholic School.
P1501
Grasstree Beach to Alligator Creek State School.
P1830
Middle Creek to Swayneville State School, Sarina State High School, Sarina State School, St Anne’s Catholic School.

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P&C contact: pandc@swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Principal: Mrs Roslyn Waldron

Email: principal@swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Web Site: swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Banking Details: 064711 00090098 (Com. Bank)
Our apologies for having to cancel parade last week. When rain and inclement weather makes holding parade in the undercover area too noisy and unpleasant, then we cancel – unless there is a paramount reason to squash into the library.

This coming Friday is our special day for the investiture of the school leaders. Member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, will be our invited guest. Given the importance of this event – rain, hail or shine it will be going ahead.

The P&C AGM followed by a general meeting is being held Friday (12/2) at 12:00 noon. The P&C is the best forum for parents regarding the life of the school. One of the items on the agenda will be the change of meeting times. But it is hard to be in on the discussion on what times are better suited, when you cannot attend the meeting about the meetings! So, … please drop me an email regarding your preferred starting times.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Chaplaincy In Schools

Have you had to chance to meet our Chaplain yet? Mrs Dianne Barnett, otherwise known as Chappie Di is a cornerstone to Swayneville’s approach to student wellbeing. Bringing a host of knowledges from her days in the medical profession, as well as all the qualifications required for working with students, Chappie Di works with our student body on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Philosophy Behind Chaplaincy:
Chaplains aim to build positive relationships with students and develop trust with the children in our school. Once this is established the children have a non-authoritative adult to talk to when they are troubled or need help.

What do Chaplains Do?
Chaplains are a positive role model in our schools who provide pastoral care to students, staff and parents. They build positive relationships and work within the school to work in classrooms to support learning and run programs which help our kids develop socially and emotionally.

They care for students struggling with a wide range of issues, including: family problems, confusing relationships, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying and depression. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for children, both in and out of school, and foster a supportive caring school community. This includes support for at-risk students, support for staff and families from the wider school community.

Funding of Chaplaincy?
While Chaplaincy is endorsed by government, it is only minimally funded. Chaplain’s wages need to be fund raised – a significant strain that constantly threatens the Chaplaincy service in our school. Your support would be appreciated. “Bin There” for kids (donating a bin of sugar cane), “Cattle For Kids” (run the cattle for free / donate an animal), or regular donations are 3 of the key initiatives run by the Local Chaplaincy Committee.

For more information on the work of chaplaincy at Swayneville School please visit our school website, and go through the Support and Resources Tab, then the Student Services and Support tab. Alternatively, contact the chair of our local chaplaincy committee: Mr Rod Ballard (0439431509), or Chappie Di (49564530)

Our Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!