Hello everyone,

I must start by congratulating everyone on a focused start to the year. Most students have all their required resources, teachers have set up their rooms beautifully - refreshing ‘looks’ and ‘themes’ from last year to suit their new classes, and a special thank you to families who have paid school fees and returned updated student information. All of us doing our part, helps the day to day operation of the school run smoothly.

The heat has been oppressive this week. Being out of the air-conditioning has been difficult. ☺️ We still encourage the children to be kids and enjoy running and playing at lunch time though we also encourage drinking water and moving to shade. Children are welcome to have a water bottle in the classroom that they can access. Their school broad brimmed black hats are also essential – thanks for providing them. A discussion was made by staff that at 2nd break the students would stay in the classrooms because it is so hot.

CPR training for staff is occurring next Wednesday afternoon at 3:15. The school accesses a qualified provider to ensure our skills are up to date. If you / a friend would like to join in with us, you are most welcome! Cost is $50.00 per person. A full First Aid Certificate course will be held later in the year – usually around September. Please ring Carolyn in the office to register for the CPR.

The P&C AGM followed by a general meeting is being held Friday next week (12/2) at 12:00pm. 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.

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Principal: Mrs Roslyn Waldron

The 1/2 class has had a great start to the learning year. We have all been learning about each other and looking at the expectations that we have for the coming year. There have been some very important things that we have learned already.

Responsibility is the key word for the classroom this year, just like in our 4 BEE rules.

The students have settled into the morning routine of the class with ease. They are beginning to settle quickly to the task at hand after breaks as well. What a wonderful achievement this early in the year. We are all very excited to see what the next few weeks bring to this wonderful room. New learning experiences and we can hardly wait to share them with you!

FYI – Teachers are currently revising firedrill and lockdown procedures. Those drills are coming soon.

Important Dates:

12 February: P&C AGM and General Meeting @ 12 noon.
12 February: Leadership Investiture @ 2:30pm
18/19 February: School Operations Audit
23 February: GRIP leadership Conference in Mackay
25 February: School Performance Tour (Arts Council)

Our Learning Journey Begins….

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

Mackay Library Services have a presence in our school. Every second Thursday the mobile library pulls up in front of the school grounds and opens for business - for everyone in our community. There are quite a few students who really enjoy borrowing from the library van, and where possible a staff member escorts them out so that they can enjoy this service. A library membership form is attached, and more are available in the office if needed.

Sarina Librarian Troy Shannon works with school staff to support our library and school needs too. The following are a couple of recommended resources:

LITERACY PLANET

Literacy Planet is a high-quality play-based literacy resource with more than 10,000 activities online for children of all ages and ability. Children and parents can select from activities focusing on pre-reading skills, phonics, reading, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and comprehension in a fun, exciting and safe online environment.

> Library membership barcode required for access and you will need to register on the first use
> Suitable for ages 3 – adult

ZOO WHIZ

ZooWhiz is an education site that encourages kids to be "whizzes" in math, reading and word development.

> Library membership barcode required for access and you will need to create an account on the first use
> Suitable for ages 5 - 15 years

Welcome Mrs Spark!

Mrs Wendy Spark is a new face around the school. Mrs Spark is volunteering in the prep room 3 days a week. Swayneville really appreciates the time that you are giving the school.

Tuckshop

Parent helpers provide a wonderful service to our school by organizing 'tuckshop' on Friday during first break (only). As we have very limited cooking facilities – actually it is the staff’s kitchnette – a limited menu is offered. Tuckshop will start this coming Friday.

How tuckshop works:

1. On a brown paper bag – one for each child – please write down your order. The price list for 2015 is still current until further notice.
2. Put the money for the order in the paper bag.
3. ‘Post’ the paper bag in the office Tuckshop Mailbox (end of Carolyn’s desk) on THURSDAY morning. This gives time to tally orders and get things underway asap on Friday.
4. On Friday the children come down to the undercover area and then line up to collect their orders.
5. Hot foods and drinks are provided first. Then the children access the sweets, frozen yoghurts and iceblocks.

It is still wise to pack a little something for the second break, so that the children have something to keep them going.

This weekly treat is only possible because Mums and Dads sign up to take their turn in preparing and serving. Our Tuckshop convenor is Kate Cousins. Please email Kate if you are willing to be on the home cooking roster or to take a turn helping out on the Friday.

Kate Cousins: katherencousins2003@yahoo.com.au

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Marimba Madness

Swayneville State School submitted a grant application to Sarina Community Bendigo Bank during 2015 and thanks to their generosity we were sponsored $11 700 to purchase marimbas for our school. Marimbas are not widely known or used in this locality (they are well known in the southern part of the state), so we have been given a very unique opportunity.

Our 8 marimbas – one bass and seven standard marimbas were custom made for the school and were delivered in time for pupil free days this January. The school organised for Donna Miller from Marimbas on the Move to come to the school, where Donna provided professional development sessions – one for staff and one for music instructors around the district.

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Swayneville staff learning the marimbas together.

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