Hello everyone,

Starting off the school year mid week is a little strange, but it’s wonderful to have the Swayneville students back on campus. A special welcome to our new families, and our incoming prep students!

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated towards informing families of the routines and organizational arrangements that are important for the smooth running of the school. It has also several important attachments that need your attention please:

1. Parent contact details and student information: A print out of the information held on record for your family is attached to your newsletter. Please double check that all details are correct, especially phone contacts and medical details. Please tick all correct details, update/correct where necessary, sign and return asap.

We had an incident last year when a child was in desperate need of family. Only a single mobile number was on record and the parent did not respond. There were no alternative contacts.

Any changes that occur throughout the year can be updated by contacting the office.

2. As part of the booklist you would have noticed that there are textbooks that the students need, as well as additional costs to cover School Performance Tours (Arts Council), photocopying, swimming costs, etc. An invoice for these costs is attached. Students will be issued with texts books by their teacher.

In order to provide the text books at a much reduced cost, a Student Resource Scheme form needs to be signed stating that you agree with the school accessing bulk purchasing on your behalf. This form also has a space to record a negotiated payment plan, if that would suit your family better.

3. P&C membership form 2016: Membership into the P&C is highly recommended for all parents of our students, as it provides families with insurance cover when engaging with / volunteering at school & events. It does not commit you to attending P&C meetings – though we would encourage that too! 😊

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

Welcome to 2016 another year of fun and exciting learning!!!

It was wonderful to so many big smiles and excited children on the first day. The 2016 class of Preps eagerly unpacked their new resources with their families. Having settled into school life during transition days, with the very capable assistance of the Year 1’s, everyone quickly set to work this morning. There was a lot of positive feedback about the renovations and decoration that has enhanced our veranda over the holidays.

I would like to thank all of our student’s parents who have worked hard organising and naming all of their children’s belongings. A quick reminder that there is a parent information afternoon from 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday the 4th of February for Prep Parents and one for the Year 1 parents (from the Prep/1 class) on Friday the 5th from 4:00-5:00pm. These afternoons will give you an overview of our daily and weekly routines as well as our homework routines for 2016.

We hope to see all of you there.

Kind regards
Julie and Beth

Important Dates:
29 January: Return date for corrected & signed school records.
29 January: First parade of the year. Undercover area @ 2:40pm.
12 February: P&C AGM and General Meeting @ 12 noon.
12 February: Leadership Investiture @ 2:30pm
23 February: GRIP leadership Conference in Mackay
25 February: School Performance Tour (Arts Council)

Newsletters come out Wednesdays each week and are our key communication tool. Please look for your email or hard copy each week. Also on website.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)
Drop Off and Pick Up

What time can I drop my child off at school?
It may surprise you, but students should not be on school grounds before 8:30 am! (School starts at 8:50am) Swayneville has numerous children who catch the bus however, and the buses arrive just after 8:00am. For their safety, supervision is provided in the undercover area. So naturally, those children who need to be dropped off a little earlier than 8:30 are welcome to wait with them. When classrooms open at 8:30, children are dismissed to go to their classroom. Parents wishing to escort their child/ren into their classrooms may go directly to the room from 8:30am as staff will be there to receive them. Even if staff are in the grounds before 8:00am, students who are left in the school grounds before that time will be contacted by the principa, due to serious legal concerns.

What is the procedure for collecting my child?
Managing the dismissal at 3:00pm is made much easier by parents waiting near the undercover area. The younger classes are walked down to this area, and teachers oversee that they are going home with ‘their adults’ or put into bus lines. It is also where siblings gather and PCYC (After School Care) collect the children staying with them in the afternoon.

If you are using the DROP, STOP (driver staying with the car), and GO zone, a teacher will send your children down to you. If you are collecting them, please come to the gate and escort them to your car or through the car park. Parking on the school side of the road is far safer. It is such a busy road – with an 80km zone – that these ‘nuisance’ requirements have saved lives.

Early collection should be avoided as it interrupts learning for everyone in the classroom. Every moment of the school day is planned. Your convenience is not a suitable excuse.

Change of collection arrangements?
No worries – happens all the time. Just let us know so that we can support the children. Even if they have been told, students can become confused. Delayed? If you are running more than 10min late, a phone call helps keep children calm and lets them know that they are not forgotten.

School Buses

We endeavor to do our absolute best in ensuring the children get on the right bus, at the right time, on the right day. It is a very difficult job to get right, and very concerning when something does not go to plan. It is made all the easier if parents advise us at the beginning of the day if there is going to be a change in routine.

If in doubt, there is very little time to check, so our default decision will be to follow the family’s normal routine. Please send in a bus note (template attached to copy as needed) if there is a change.

Parents who are collecting their kids from the bus lines are asked to let the Bus Duty Teacher know.

Behaviour on the bus is managed by the Bus Driver. The Code of Conduct for Buses will be sent home with each known bus student/family. If an incident occurs on the bus or you have concerns, it is the Bus Company’s role to manage it, so please let them know what is going on.

School Bus runs are managed by private providers, and parents access them directly. Please contact BUS FOX on ph: 1800 809 734.

Parent participation in the Conveyancing Committee is welcomed as this is the correct forum for input into how the school bus runs operate.
Want a little more for your child/ren?

**After School Care:** *Cheap*, convenient, highly flexible and a heck of a lot of fun. Access regularly or incidentally! Finishes at 6pm. High quality care. Holiday care also available. Yes – they help with homework when requested.

**Tennis Coaching:** Alan Harris School of Tennis provides tennis coaching for children of all ages and abilities. Term by term basis. Lefty has been the coach at this school for years. 30 min lessons Thursdays during morning tea break or lunch break.

**Music Lessons:** Fridays. During class time on a revolving timetable to avoid lesson clashes. Instruction available for keyboard, guitar and a variety of other instruments. Provided by Funkey Beat (all instruments) or Music Is Life (keyboard). Small group arrangement. Term by term basis. Some loan instruments available (no charge) for first 12 months.

**Auskick** is coming too – more information expected for next week.

Keep an eye out ….

Teachers will be looking to get in touch with parents and caregivers. Class communications, Keep In Touch (KIT) books for P – 2, or even requests for interview/meetings will start coming home, soon. Our teachers like getting to know you, and welcome interaction with you regarding your child.

*You can initiate contact too! We welcome it!* However, please understand that even when we seem to be doing ‘nothing’ we are probably on supervision duty or on preparation time, and find it difficult to give parents our full focus – and may end up disappointing you. If it is important to you, we will make the time – please let us know that you need to discuss something, and make an appointment. It doesn’t have to be an ‘issue’, it can just be a check-in, or a chat to gather ideas for home.

The 4 ‘B-ee’ Rules

Essential to effective learning is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment that respects the following rights:

- The rights of all students to learn
- The rights of teachers to teach
- The rights of all to be safe

Swayneville State School Responsible Behaviour Plan is based on the work of Doctor Christine Richmond, and the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support processes.

An integral facet of Swayneville State School is the explicit teaching of expected behaviours and praising appropriate behaviours. Our common values have been encapsulated in our school motto ‘As we grow we shall learn’.

At Swayneville State School the Behaviour Expectations (rules) are:

1. Be Safe
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Respectful
4. Be a Learner

The full Responsible Behaviour Plan is available for download from our school website.

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