Hello everyone,

Are you strapped in for term 3? It’s our school community’s extra curricula term where we pack in so many extras that add to the rich tapestry called ‘school life’. While Rockpop Mime will not be going ahead this term, the Marimba team have been invited to perform at the Senior’s Week Luncheon on August 18. Then there is the Optiminds opportunity … letters went home yesterday with interested students. Only one team this year, so first in best dressed. Sarina District Athletics carnival next Wednesday, and FANTASTIC opportunities to attend Witsunday Voices Festival (y3 – 6) this Thursday, and then the visit from Brad Huddleston regarding Cyber safety and managing the impacts of digital life – The Dark Side of Technology. More information further into the newsletter.

This term will also bring a time of reflection and envisioning, as the school undergoes the quadrennial process called “School Review & Quadrennial School Review.” Certainly nothing to be concerned about, but rather is a time to reflect on the work undertaken under the last 4 year School Plan (Strategic Plan), and then with your input, put together the direction for the next four years. You know, a lot has changed in our school in the last four years with many families moving on, and others moving in. A lot has been achieved, and there is a heck of a lot to celebrate … and I really want to be able to say that again in another four years time.

Could we start this journey together please by having your annual input into the school opinion survey? It is all done on line, so a family log on and password will be sent home with the newsletter / emailed. It won’t take long, and your say is worth hearing.

Welcome to our 8 new students!! How awesome that you have joined us!

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

What a start!

The start of term is always big - and for the 1/2 class - the beginning of this term has been huge! We said a sad “goodbye” at the end of last term to 2 of our students, and said “Hello!” to 4 new students! The class is looking forward to making sure that Adam, Blake, Brent and Aurellia feel welcome and settle in well.

We have some great learning experiences coming this term. We are continuing with the many different areas of Mathematics, in depth look at special places and how we connect to them, a retell of a story or adventure, looking into the Olympics and even designing and presenting an Olympic sport. The students are really looking forward to this!

Important Dates:
16 May - 26 August – Premier’s Reading Challenge
14 July – Whitsunday Voices (Year 3 – 6)
14 July – Principal cluster meeting hosted at Swayneville 1:30 – 3:00pm
15 July – Optiminds nominations close.
20 July – Sarina District Athletics Carnival
20 July – P&C meeting @ 5:00pm in the library (postponed from 13 July)
22 July – Visit: Dr Brad Huddleston, “The Dark Side of Technology” Available for parent discussions at 3:00pm.
27 July – School photos (morning sessions)
P&C Update ....

First things first. **Tuckshop is on** as per usual **this coming Friday**. Please have your orders into the office on Thursday morning. Our tuckshop heavily relies on parents making themselves available to lend a hand to heat /prepare the food – and they become the most popular people in the school 😊. The more volunteers, the fewer the times that dads/mums are rostered on. Please find attached this terms’s roster and contact numbers for the tuckshop coordinators.

The recent Federal Election was a chance for the P&C to hold a fundraising stall. Due to the holidays the load fell to a few, so **thank you to the very small group of bakers and volunteers** for contributing to the cake stall on election day. We raised $277.

The raffle of RM Williams canvas bag, donated by Farm HQ, raised $185. It was won by Reed's great grandma 😊.

Our annual major fundraiser is the Blue Mountain Campdraft (August 19, 20, 21). Our catering at this event is **the major** fundraiser for our school, and all families are asked to contribute to the weekend. Whether you can help serve for one of the meals, cook, or even donate products eg. tins of beetroot, cans of softdrink, lettuce from your garden … it all helps, and all funds raised go directly back to the school and our children. Mrs Mel Hamblin is the coordinator for this massive effort and she needs your help. Attached to the newsletter is an information letter with a response form. Please return these forms to the office, asap.

The P&C meet every second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm in the library. As it is State Of Origin night, and the first week of term, this week’s meeting is being postponed to Wednesday next week, the 20 July.

Food For Thought

How to teach kids to solve problems on their own

From a board game to the board room, problem solving is a skill that can get you through many tricky situations in life. So how can you teach your kids to become good problem solvers?

Children need to practice their problem-solving skills. The starting point can be everyday play. Here, they are surrounded with chances to problem solve, whether they’re playing an imaginary game with their toys, building with blocks, or coloring. It’s the perfect time for them to show you what they know and what they can do.

It also gives you the chance to prompt them towards a solution and to praise their efforts.

For example, your child might be working on a puzzle. They ask for your help finding a missing piece. Instead of just handing them the piece, you could prompt them to find the answer themselves. You could say something like, “What size piece are you looking for? What color?” and guide them towards the answer.

This not only teaches them about the steps of problem solving, it sends them the message that problems have solutions. And they will realize that they are able to find those solutions.

Growing up in an environment like this will help kids become confident enough to tackle problems in the future.

-- Chappie Di
DIGITAL COCAINE – MANAGE THE DARK SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY

Did you know:

- 1 in 3 primary school students in Australia have their own mobile phones and kids as young as eight are carrying smartphones;
- It is estimated that over 94% of Australian 16/17 year olds own a mobile phone;
- Whilst some parents tend to think of mobile phones as devices for talking and texting, smartphones are virtually miniature laptops;
- More than 1/6th of the world’s population is on facebook – that’s over 1.3 billion people;
- Over 90% of people under 18 play video games;
- It is estimated that the average Australian teenager spends 7 hours and 6 minutes per day using technology, or almost 50 hours per week or over 100 days per year. By the time a child reaches 18, they will have spent over 4 full years of their life on technology.

The tsunami of technology that is sweeping over us is only going to get larger and larger. Technology is not a bad thing, it is just that what it gives access to that is the problem.

Our children have access to the best education and communication devices the world has ever seen. Along with this access come dangers that we must learn to deal with – things like cyberbullying, the misuse of social networks, video game addiction, brain rewiring, depression and pornography.

The good news is that these critical issues can be managed and brought under control.

International speaker and author, Brad Huddleston from Virginia, USA will be speaking with our students during the second week of term 3. He has a degree in computer science and over 20 years experience in broadcast production. Brad is an industry expert who is well able to equip children, their parents and members of the community with ways to deal with the dark traps technology can catch us in.

The Sarina and District Schools’ Chaplaincy Committee has joined with the Sarina Community Bendigo Bank, the Mackay Community Foundation, the Sarina High P&C Association, the Koumala SS P&C Association and the Queensland Police Service to bring Brad to our school.

Our school is the last to be visited this time. Brad will do two sessions with the children (P – 2 and 3 – 6) and he will be available after parade for informal discussions with parents. There are also parent sessions that are open to anyone in our community. Dates and venues are in the attachment, or watch a podcast of his talk at Northern Beaches, view a taster of the subject matter, or read the blog on the Neighbourhood Watch site. .... Great parenting support.

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

Swayneville State School
952 Sarina Marlborough Road
Sarina Qld 4737
Email: principal@swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Web Site: swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Principal: Mrs Roslyn Waldron

Year 5/6
Lachlan McFadzen & Chris Maylata: excellent construction in technology.

Year 3/4
Maddelyn Eames: Student of the week.
Bailey Perna: super listener award.

Year 1/2
Ella Wright -Cole: 100% participation in class tasks.
Louis Cauchi: contribution to class.

Prep/1
Mayson Lockie & Dusty Beling: great help making the wiki gardens.

100% Attendance certificates.

Queen Bee: 3/4