Hello everyone,

Whitsunday Voices was very well received by our students, and thankyou notes are currently being written. The school would like to thank the Winchester Foundation for the awesome gift in sponsoring Swayneville’s year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students to attend. An excursion for English – real life learning with authors!

During the P&C working bee, the decision was made to remove many old, ill or misplaced plants from the garden beside A block. Thanks to Have-A-Dig Nursery these gardens are being re-established with a new theme. New border plants and grevillias have been planted, and the whole garden mulched. More mulch was also added to the garden near the office / prep building. Thankyou to the Keir family for their efforts and input.

Please note the school photo date of next Tuesday 26 July. (There was publishing error with the date in previous newsletters.) We are expecting the photographers in the first part of the day.

More information is available further in the newsletter regarding the Same Day Notification directive, as well as information regarding Digital Cocaine and the visit by Brad Huddleston regarding cybersafety and responsible use of electronic devices. Parent sessions are available in different venues this week, and Brad will also be available for conversation after parade on Friday. I cannot recommend highly enough the value of these sessions. Our students will have a combine P – 2, then 3 – 6 session with Mr Huddleston and Sgt Nigel Dalton.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

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

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**Same Day Notification of Student Absence – Outline of Requirements**

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for the Department of Education and Training and for the Queensland Government.

*When a child is missing: Remembering Tialeigh – a report into Queensland’s children missing from out-of-home care* was released, the Queensland Government accepted a recommendation from the Queensland Family and Child Commission that the Department will implement same day notifications advising parents/carers when a child has an unexplained absence from school.

Significant initiatives have resulted and policies revised with immediate action undertaken by this school. Before going into some of the changes, it is important to reinforce that “Each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has the [legal obligation](#) to ensure their child is enrolled and attends a school, on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse…. Parents comply with their compulsory schooling or compulsory participation obligation by providing a satisfactory reason for these absences.” The previous and revised policies continue on to state that it is the parents’ responsibility to notify the school and state the reason for absence. Planned absences need to be discussed with the principal.

Schools will implement the Same Day Notification requirement in different ways in order to best fit their community. Swayneville has chosen not to go with an automated system (generated directly from the roll marking) given the size of our school and the responsible nature of our parent body. Swayneville is using a mix of personal phone calls and SMS texts. For every day when a child is absent:

- **Report the absence:**
  - phone the school and talk to admin - OR
  - text the absentee phone line #0466364460 OR
  - record a voice mail on the absentee phone line #0466364460
  - **NB:** notifications are to be given directly to the office – not through teachers or siblings.

- **SMS notification or phone calls** will be made soon after roll marking at 9:00am to parents who have not advised administration of the absence of their child.

As the school has now the capability (thanks to a once off funding grant 😊) to send out SMS texts, group texts will soon be able to be sent out to parents across the school. Notifications also sent through school website and Q-school app.

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**Linking Libraries**

There is nothing more delicious than a good book! Emergent reading behaviours for babies include chewing, sucking, ripping pages and throwing. If your baby is doing any of this, they are on the road to becoming a successful reader! Grab yourself some hardy board books and get munching on a book today! #first5forever

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**Sarina Junior Touch Football Comp.**

If you are interested in playing touch football, we are starting a Junior Comp, if we have the numbers. If you are interested please leave your name and phone number with the ladies at the front office in your school or call Paul Marsh on 49504225 and leave your details with Paul.
DIGITAL COCAINE – A Journey Towards iBalance

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;
- Whist 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 this Friday 22 July. 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.

Koumala SS - Tues. 19 July at 7:00 pm
Alligator Creek SS - Wed. 20 July at 7:00 pm
Sarina HS Library - Thurs. 21 July at 7:00 pm
Dundula School - Fri. 22 July at 7:00 pm