Hello everyone,

This newsletter is an edition packed with information. May I draw your attention to the article regarding Tuckshop Orders, meet Mr Matthews, and a reminder about the ‘no birthday cake to share’ response to the Smart Choices changes. There is also an article regarding the GRIP conference for our student leaders.

The results for the school operation audit are now in. We have had a return of ‘effective controls’ which is the -rare -top result. One thing that was discovered was that there has been a change in the photographic permission form, which now requires updating for a considerable number of students. To that end, please find them attached.

The P&C meeting is next Wednesday, 9th March at 5.30pm. We are meeting in the library and everyone is most welcome. On the agenda is discussion around dates for a food handling safety course that will be offered at the school in the next few weeks for anyone interested. Naturally, this will be open to any interested person in our community. Details will be discussed at the meeting.

The lunch time clubs in that started last week have lots of participants having a go! Mrs Burkett had 16 children enjoying the marimbas last week, and Mrs T had so many willing helpers with the garden club that 2 garden beds were re-mulched! There are heaps of things to be a part of at Swayneville.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

Busy Workers

During the past few weeks there has been plenty of things happening in our classroom. The students have been learning about the lifecycle of plants, animals and human beings. Soon we will be observing what happens when we add a seed to a cotton ball. We all believe that we will be able to grow a plant! Although it is a secret what plant it will be. We are also very close to starting our very own sustainable vegetable garden.

We are working incredibly hard in English, exploring characters in familiar stories. We are identifying the features of certain characters within these stories and then looking at other stories that are similar. We have looked at Cinderella and Prince Cinders, Henny Penny and Blossom Possum and more.

We are also very excited that Mr Matthews will be in our room. We are very lucky that Mr Matthews will be here to help us learn. The next few weeks of this term will be very exciting for us.

Important Dates:
7 March: Commencement of student teacher placement.
9 March: P&C meeting, new day and time – Wed. @ 5:30pm - library
14 March: Cross Country date #1
21 March: Cross Country date #2 – in case of cancellation of date #1
24 March: Rewards Day
25 March: Good Friday | Easter Holidays
Welcome Mr Matthews

Dean Matthews starts here next week as a Pre-service teacher from CQ University Mackay. He is studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary school) and is in his third year of the degree. He has worked in the childcare industry in Sarina since graduating school in 2012 and also currently works at the local Sarina IGA. While here at Swayneville he will be based in the year 1/2 class with Miss Stark. He will be here at Swayneville once a week for the rest of this term then be back next term to continue his weekly visits before starting the block placement of three weeks. Dean looks forward to meeting everyone and getting to know our community. Please come up and say hello. (Oh, by the way – he is no relation to Mrs Matthews the year 1/2 teacher aide.)

Tuckshop Orders Due Thursday
Lots of families ordered from tuckshop last week, which was terrific! Unfortunately, as I am sure your children informed you, the lunches were a little late in being distributed which in turn cut into play time. Our mums worked tremendously hard, but over 20 lunch orders were handed in late on Friday morning, instead of being in the tuckshop mail box on the Thursday morning.

Late orders mean that the food cannot be defrosted overnight, and precious time is lost on the Friday morning tallying orders and heating still frozen items.

Please:
- Write child’s name, CLASS and order on the paper bag.
- Insert money into bag.
- Post in tuckshop mail box in the office Thursday morning

The government has announced changes to the Smart Choices guidelines as a result of consultation with key stakeholders such as Queensland Health and P&C Queensland. The most notable change that will impact this school is having cakes with icing or sweet fillings. We have time up our sleeve to make changes in the tuckshop, but unfortunately the sharing of birthday cakes / sweets with your child’s class will have to stop too. To prevent ‘it’s not fair’ by stopping half way in the year, the ‘no birthday cake to share policy’ will start immediately.

Linking Libraries
I really enjoyed my visit to the school last December, and now Swayneville School and I are working to foster a closer connection between the school and the Mackay Regional Council Library Service. I am hoping through this column to open up to you the benefits of having a Library Membership.

Mackay Regional Council Libraries - Young People’s Services

Baby Bounce - Sarina Library: Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00am

Baby Bounce is aimed at 0 – 18 month olds and their parents and carers and is held weekly during the school term. This half hour program of nursery rhymes, lullabies, finger plays, and songs and the introduction of board books promotes language and literacy development in an interactive, fun-filled environment. The sessions encourage valuable one-on-one time between parent and child and are also a great networking opportunity for parents and carers.

Storytime – Sarina Library: Wednesday 10.00– 11.00am

Storytime is aimed at 2 – 5 year olds and their parents and carers and is held weekly during the school term. This half hour program of stories, nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs enhances language and literacy development in an interactive, fun-filled environment. The session encourages a child’s love of books and promotes the library environment as an exciting place for the whole family.

Troy McShannon: Branch Coordinator Sarina Library

Our Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!
The GRIP Conference was excellent! Foundational and practical application of leadership qualities and values were presented in a noisy and fun way that was just right for the Year 6 students who were able to attend.

One of the highlights was “Traffic Light” Leadership where the students were encouraged to identify “red” meaning negative areas that need to be stopped e.g. bullying, “amber” meaning go slow that are areas or activities that were once red but have been acted on appropriately and now require less focus or perhaps areas that have not been worked on but could be. Finally the “green” areas were the new ideas that the leadership team could go forward with. The Traffic Light framework allowed students to identify and take ownership for planning and actioning activities that they could lead that would leave a lasting memory of their presence at the school.