Hello Everyone,

In passing yesterday, someone (tongue in check) stated that it would be difficult to have a newsletter this week as we haven’t done anything yet! **Our first newsletter for the year, is bumper sized!** Every Wednesday expect to see a newly published newsletter. The newsletter is the school’s premier mode of passing on information, and is available in paper copy, emailed version (see Carolyn in the office), through the QSchools App, and on our website. To that end, we avoid sending home notes during the week, though the early phase rooms (P – 2) have their Keep In Touch (KIT) books for incidental matters.

Attached to this week’s newsletters are:
1. Dental Forms
2. Instrumental Music Expression of Interest
4. Parent contact details – for correction/affirming, please sign and return.
5. Tennis lessons
6. Book club
7. After School Care information

Invoices for the school’s Student Resource Scheme, which covers the cost of the text books etc as outlined on the booklist will be sent home with next week’s newsletter.

Parent/Teacher interviews are **always on offer** at this school. Please make an appointment through the office, so that a mutually convenient time can be made for both yourself and the teacher. To start the year, teachers are holding a parent information session (or sending home a letter) that will provide information on how that classroom will work. The dates for those sessions are in the Important Dates box.

Our current student enrolment is 102! All classes are wonderfully full. However, if we have an enrolment of 103 just the one more .. before the day 8 censuses (Thurs 2 Feb), then everyone benefits by an additional teacher coming on staff. Classes will have to be shuffled, but it the inconvenience means smaller class sizes.

Spread the word!

Thanks for starting the year so well everyone. You are a great community to work with.

--- Mrs Roslyn Waldron | Principal

**Swayneville State School**

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

**Amazing Start**

The 2017 class of Preps enthusiastically explored their new surroundings and have already started making friendships. They have eagerly settled into their new environment with the very capable assistance of the Year 1’s. In particular, the students all enjoyed sharing ideas about how their family celebrate or spend time together on Australia Day.

I would like to thank all of the Prep/1 students’ parents who have done an excellent job of organising all of their children’s learning resources. A quick reminder that there is a parent information afternoon from 3:15-4:15pm on Friday the 3rd of February. This afternoon will give you an overview of our daily, weekly, and homework routines.

**Important Dates:**
26 Jan – Australia Day Holiday
1 Feb – CPR training for staff @ 3:15 (Wider community welcome – please register at office.)
3 Feb – Parent Information Session – Prep 1 @ 3:15 – 4:15
6 Feb – Parent Information Session – Year 1/2 @ 3:15 – 4:15
8 Feb – P&C AGM and General Meeting @ 5:00pm in the Library
9 Feb – Parent Information Session – Year 4/5/6 @ 3:15 – 4:15
13 – 17 Feb – Interviews regarding Individual Learning Plan, or Curriculum Plans
14 Feb – GRIP conference for incoming student school leaders.
17 Feb – School Dental Forms due back at school office.
24 Feb – Investiture of 2017’s School Leaders @ 2:30pm
1 – 3 March – Principal Conference (Brisbane)
22 March – School Performance Tours
23 March – Cross Country (date#1 – alternative date in case of rain 29/3)
The benefits of learning music

Music helps in the development of pathways in the brain allowing children to become creative thinkers as well as developing empathy and social skills. All current research has proven that music and drama participation increased the IQ of every person tested, more than any other activity. The instrumental music program on offer (currently we offer guitar, ukulele, keyboard), is designed to develop skills that are not only of benefit to students in their musical endeavours but also enhances the skill required in other subjects such as maths and language. Our program allows students to participate in instrumental music within a school environment that for one reason or other have missed out in existing school instrumental programs. We do cater for children with learning difficulties as well as gifted students. All lessons contain elements that help to improve, hand eye coordination, music theory, rhythm, ensemble work, discipline, problem solving and multitasking. Students are encouraged to work out for themselves how to play the music scores they have received. Because students develop at different rates, there are no time limitations set to learn the different skills. Student are encouraged to work at their own pace and to seek assistance from their parents.

For further enquiries please contact Funkey Beat Music Tuition on 0498742268 or Email admin@funkeybeat.com or fill in the expression of interest form attached to this newsletter.

Food For Thought

Starting School

How does your child describe coming back or starting new at school? Wonderful, fun, exciting, stressful, frightening, fantastic, can hardly wait, scary, not sure? The truth is; their description depends on how you and your child view this experience. The messages your child tells themselves (I will be ok, I’m scared or I won’t have any friends) and the messages they receive from others all influence their view of the world. There are few things that we can do to help children achieve a confident start and return to school.

- Talk about your and their positive kindy and school experiences.
- Talk about the rules at school and home and how those rules help everyone know what is expected in those environments.
- Ask children how they are feeling and acknowledge those feelings.
- Identify any fears they might have such as not knowing where to go or what to do or not being picked up after school and allow them to problem solve solutions to these situations. Ask questions like “What would you do, if that happened?”
- Relax together and play games, children talk when they are relaxed so give them your full attention and listen without getting distracted.
- Show affection and reinforce to your child you are there for them.
- Come into the school grounds and talk to other parents, children quickly pick up where we fit in our community and model our lifestyle.

2017 has just begun and it will have changes and opportunities for our children. Let’s make it a memorable year for them, for all the right reasons.

-- Chappie Di

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Thankyou to all the mums and dads who have been waiting down at the undercover area for the collection of their child/ren. It is little things like this that really makes a difference in having the school operating smoothly.

Here are a few reminders:

1. Teachers are not available before 8:30. They may be on site, but arriving before this time is for preparation. Please respect this essential organisational time.
2. Classrooms open at 8:30am. Please do not access the room if a staff member is not present.
3. Students gather in the eating area if they arrive before 8:30. Supervision is provided. Only staff are permitted to be on the grounds prior to 8:00pm.
4. Teachers on duty, are required focus on and attend to the students.
5. Children are not allowed on the playground before or after school unless actively supervised by their adult. Keep shoes on please (WH&S)
6. Hats are required to be worn – no hat, no play. Our school hat is a black broad brimmed hat that meets sun safety requirements.
7. The school office is open from 8:00 – 3:00pm. Student access to office is from 8:30am.
8. Daily notification is required for student absences. Please text, leave a message or call the absentee line – 0466364460. (Now mandatory by law.)
9. School hours are 8:50 – 3:00pm. Every minute is planned and accounted for. Everything is essential to the learning scope and sequence. Full attendance maximises students’ successful learning. While there is a school of thought that says “they’ll catch up”, the reality is that the time lost can never be recovered. Every minute counts.
10. Getting cranky with a child not your own, whilst on school grounds? Please speak to a teacher, not the child.
11. Have an issue that you need to deal with? Please discuss the matter with the class teacher in the first instance, or our Chappie! ….and the principal is available too. We care.
12. Appointmentss for parent/teacher interviews are available on request – all year round. We love talking about your kids too!

Tips to Get Back Into The School Routine

Over the Christmas holidays it is great to let go of some of the routines and rigid schedules we need for school. However, like so many things in life, back-to-school time is an exercise in regaining balance. So here are some tips for making the transition a little smoother:

1. Make a conscious effort to re-establish regular mealtimes and talk about their day.
2. Teach your children how to plan and pack a healthy lunch so they (and you) can be more independent.
3. Take them grocery shopping so they can pick out healthy foods for their lunch. The more children are involved and making choices, the fewer power struggles you’ll get into. They will also establish healthier habits and lifestyles, which will follow them into their adult years.
4. Have a positive attitude towards your child’s learning, teacher and school.
5. Have them plan a way to remember their homework, lunch and backpacks each day.
6. Establish routines for when they will do their homework, play, eat, and do other activities. The goal is to complete responsibilities while maintaining balance, using good time management skills.
7. Encourage them to organize their bags each day.
8. Have children choose no more than two after-school activities per season, so they don’t overdo themselves. Maintaining balance requires setting priorities and making choices.

Effective transitions happen gradually and help prepare children for the impending change. By involving them in the planning and giving them choices about how the change occurs, they will manage the transition and change better. They’ll also learn important life skills and be more independent, responsible and confident.

Alexia Wotherspoon
Guidance Officer – newly assigned to Swayneville

New speed zone – IT’S DOWN TO 60!

It’s been a long campaign, but it has finally happened. The new flashing lights are just awesome. 😊

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