Hello Everyone,

This week I had the pleasure to meet a new parent whose children will be with us next year. He was delighted when he discovered that teaching and learning was still in full swing and that significant school events were still to unfold. We hope that we will see you at our Presentation Night.

Booklists for 2014 will be sent home with this newsletter, as some families are wanting to be prepared for the new year prior to leaving on holidays. Reports however, will be sent home the last Thursday of the school year. Those students who are absent on the day will have their reports mailed to them.

Congratulations to Callum Street who acquitted himself well at his recent Queensland Surf Lifesaving competition. Callum placed 4th in Flags, 3rd in Sprints and 1st in Relay. Well done Callum!

To date I have been unsuccessful in securing after school care for our students. However, I have been contacted by a private child care provider / baby sitter who is able to provide before and after school care - Kathy DeMarco on 0428143116. (Please do your own checks.)

-- Mrs Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

Important dates:
5 December – Sarina SHS Orientation Day for enrolled Y7 into Y8
6 December – Current Y5&6 2014 leadership election
6 December – Year 7 Graduation Dinner
9 December – Swimming Carnival
11 December – Surf Safety Session
11 December – Presentation Night (All invited!)
12 December – Rewards Day & reports sent home.
13 December – Clean Up Day. Last school day, 2013
20 January – School Office reopens (limited hours)
22 - 24 January – Staff on pupil free days.

Homework Heroes Earn Tasty Reward!

On Monday, 2 December, Year 3/4/5 students who completed each week of homework this term was treated to some Science/Cooking. Over the course of the term, the class occasionally came across the fact that butter could be made from cream - so to prove it, that is what they did. Patience paid off and they were surprised and excited to see it happen before their eyes!

Now, what to spread it on? Mrs Robinson introduced them to a Scottish biscuit called a Geordie. Once these delicacies were baked, they were smeared with ‘just-made’ butter and devoured.

Well done “Homework Heroes”!!
(Rhyan, Lucy, Jaelee, Courtney, Ellen, Chris T, Cheyenne, Jessie B, Jesse O, Hannah and Chris M)
You’re Invited…

To our annual Presentation Night. Parents, extended family and friends are all welcome.

11 December
Sarina Bowls Club

The event is scheduled to start at 6:30pm, and children are asked to be at the venue by 6:00pm so that teachers can organise for each class’ presentation.

The night will have a formal aspect to it, but the primary focus of the evening is celebrating the academic achievements of students and appreciating the performances that they have planned for us all.

Families are requested to bring a plate of savoury food, to share prior to the event. Trying to cater for a range of young children, means that our start time is at dinner time – so as we are preparing our students, please join with the Swayneville Community for a free cup of coffee/tea (or the bar at the venue will be open) and the sharing of finger food. It will fill in the gap between drop off and start time, and solve the dinner time problem.

There will be about 160 chairs available. Wouldn’t hurt to bring an extra.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Did you know?

Successful achievement at school requires a broad and deep vocabulary.

(= words that we can use to express ourselves.)

- Vocabulary knowledge is a pre-requisite for academic success (Meara 1997)
- Students should add 2000 – 3000 new words to their vocabulary each year (Beck, McKeown & Kucan 2002)
- A high performing year 12 student will know four times as many words as a low performing student (Hart & Risley 1995)
- High performing third graders have vocabularies about equal to the lowest performing twelfth graders (Allen and Bacon 2009)
- ADEQUATE reading comprehension depends on a person knowing between 90% - 95% of the words in a text. (Hirsch 2003)
- Students need multiple exposures to the vocab to become automatic users. (Fleming. 24 exposures +)

Extending your child’s vocabulary is not difficult. When using adult language, include synonyms – words of similar meaning – to help them learn new words.

Eg. Learning new words is not overwhelming – too hard to handle first up.

The really good thing about new vocabulary? YOU DON’T have to spell them! 😊 Just use them.
Swayneville’s Swimming Carnival
This coming Monday is the day set aside for our swimming carnival. Thanks to the P&C buses will be made available to transport our students to and from the carnival at no further cost to parents. If you are planning on taking your child to the carnival yourself, please advise your child’s teacher, so that accurate records can be maintained and no concern is held for the safety of your child.

A BBQ is being organised by the P&C. Thank you to all those who indicated that they would be purchasing. It has really helped to prepare for the event – no pre-ordering is required now. Prices are as follows:

- $5 for steak and salad burger
- $2 for sausage on bread.

Drinks are available from the canteen at the pool.