Hello everyone,
While the state started the school year with an election, the department also started the year with a significant number of adjustments to legislation that impact upon schools and school community.

**Early entry to Prep policy changed**
In addition to current provisions for early entry to Prep, principals can now approve early entry to Prep if the child will be at least 5 years old by 31 July in the proposed year of attendance and the principal is satisfied the child is ready for education in Prep having regard to the child's attributes.

**New school reviews for 2015**
New school reviews have been introduced for 2015, replacing the teaching and learning audits. The newly formed, independent, School Improvement Unit oversees this more refined and even more rigorous process.

**New legislation banning smoking near school grounds.**
The use of cigarettes, other tobacco products or electronic cigarettes is now banned on and within five metres of school land. This applies before, during and after school hours, and on school holidays and weekends. The ban doesn't extend over neighbouring residences or businesses. School resources are available.

**Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) for all Queensland Prep students in 2015**
This year all Queensland Prep teachers will complete the AEDC for each prep student from 4 May to 31 July 2015. The AEDC is a measure of how young children are developing as they enter school. To support schools, AEDC workshops will be delivered across Queensland between February and May 2015. Registrations open from January 2015.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)
Re Sarina art Extravaganza 2015.

A special General Meeting of the Sarina Arts Council was held on 28th Jan 2015. The meeting was convened to discuss the continuance of the Sarina Art Extravaganza which has been held for the past 25 years. The Committee for the annual event indicated to Sarina Arts council that owing to lack of human resources and other mitigating circumstance it would be not be in a position to host the event in 2015.

It was unanimously agreed at the special General Meeting that a public meeting would be convened at 3.30pm on Wednesday 11th February 2015. The Meeting is to be held at the Sarina RSL club, Central Street, Sarina.

We hope to form a new working committee and possibly look at a new format for the event. As it is well into the New Year it may be necessary to change the date also.

I invite all artists and interested public to attend this meeting and help us to keep this iconic event in Sarina.

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Have your say on the draft Education Accord

Public consultation continues on the draft Queensland Education Accord.

You are encouraged to have your say on the 30-year vision for education in Queensland by completing the online survey.

For more information visit the Queensland Education Accord website.
Parents in Partnership

As parents you are your child’s first (and longest serving) teacher, and a stakeholder in their education. At Swayneville, this understanding underlies a lot of the work that we do as teaching teams.

Miss Stark’s parent information session was the first session of the year. Emma and Jody were delighted to get to know so many mums and dads, several of which also meet with Emma later to discuss the individual needs of children.

Parents of the Prep/Year one students had an afternoon with Mrs Arnold and Mrs Richards to discuss classroom routines, expectations and the expected learning that will be taking place this year. Mrs Arnold has followed this information session with time in discussion with each set of parents.

Information sessions for the 3/4 and the 4/5/6 classes are not expected to be held, however teachers of these classrooms will welcome individual discussions with parents regarding how their children are progressing, and how they are situated for a positive NAPLAN outcome. Individual Learning Plans, or Individual Learning Guarantees are also needing review so teachers will be in touch regarding this.