Hello Everyone,

The two week Easter Break has been refreshing, and thankfully everyone has returned safe and sound. Without a doubt, this term will continue to be a productive and busy one with many significant events planned to complement the teaching and learning happening within the school.

This issue of the newsletter has a large section devoted to the work of the P&C. Our P&C continues to be a very active group and is a wonderful forum for parents to be involved in their children’s education. Please take the time to read this information.

The first major event of this term will be the ANZAC day commemorations. Student participation is strongly encouraged on the 25th April, as our school participates in the ANZAC service and march in Sarina. All details of this event will be in the newsletter next week. Our student leaders have been approached to play lead roles in this event.

As a school body, on Wednesday 24th April, a parade will be held at 2:30pm. The program will follow the traditional service outline, and will include items by the choir as well as the traditional prayers. Guest speakers have been approached. This parade is open to anyone who would like to attend.

-- Mrs Roslyn Waldron
(Principal)

School Attendance - a MUST

A key factor for improvement is ensuring high student attendance. Schools are strongly encouraged to analyse attendance rates and patterns, and track student attendance with a view to increasing student engagement with school. Research has made significant links between school attendance and long term achievement in life.

Average attendance rates for a school need to be over 95%, and to our community’s credit, last term the school attendance rate improved to 94.4%. Well done Swayneville!

However, the analysis of individual student attendance rates reveals another story. Did you know that a student who attends less than 85% of available days loses 3 school weeks of learning each semester? Students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning. It then becomes a vicious cycle, as past attendance is the best predictor of future attendance particularly after the student enters secondary schooling, so the early establishment of good attendance behaviour is likely to have lasting benefits for students.

Of course illness and inclement weather that prevent access are all part and parcel of life and are reasonable excuses for non attendance, but across the state and within our own data, Mondays and Fridays and days adjacent to public holidays are more likely to be absent by students. Would you please work with us to help our students understand the value of continuous schooling and to minimise the impact of family events on learning? Attendance at school is critically important for a student’s academic success - and that is what Swayneville is all about - Teaching and Learning.

Here is a scary thought: Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% have been approached. This parade is open to anyone thankfully everyone has returned safe and sound.

Important dates:
24 April - School commemorates ANZAC day
25 April - ANZAC day march in Sarina
early May - Mother’s Day Stall
14 - 16 May - NAPLAN test days
20 - 24 May - Chappie Week
21 May - Under 8’s Day
14 June - Soup and Movie night

Swayneville State School
952 Sarina Marlborough Road
Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 4530
P&C contact: pandc@swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Principal: Mrs Roslyn Waldron

Email: the.principal@swayneviss.eq.edu.au
Web Site: swayneviss.eq.edu.au/wcmss
Swayneville State School P&C Term 2 Report

The P&C Committee Members thought it would be a great idea to keep you up to date with what the fundraising focus areas are and what activities are planned for 2013.

FUNDRAISING

The P&C will be focusing on three primary areas:

1. Operational – ongoing requirements
   This category covers ongoing funding needs such as bus costs, regular purchases and small purchases.
   The primary source of funding for this category is profits from the Tuckshop.

2. Building upgrades
   Conversion of the veranda in front of the P/1 and 1/2 rooms into a weather proofed space.
   Covering and extending the tennis court into a multipurpose covered area.
   As these works require larger sums of money, the aim is to seek funding through government, corporate and community grants and sponsorship submissions.

3. Playground for older children (Years 4-7)
   This is our primary focus for extra fundraising activities for 2013. The aim is to put playground items (climbing structures, outdoor exercise stations similar to what is found in parks and recreational areas) around the school grounds.
   Money raised from fundraising activities in 2013 will be used to fund the purchase of the playground items.

   In addition to the three items above, we are looking into the possibility of having an After-School Care Program on the school site. We welcome your feedback.

Contact us any of the P&C Committee members if you would like to help or would like more information.

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jenine Bailey</td>
<td>4956 4582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Melanie Hamblin</td>
<td>4950 4203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Wendy King</td>
<td>4950 4225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kylie Cauchi</td>
<td>4956 4586</td>
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<td>Uniform Shop</td>
<td>Tammy Wallace</td>
<td>Ph.</td>
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P&C Meetings

Due to feedback about the most suitable time, the P&C Meeting time has been changed to 3:30pm. The meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month.
Next meeting is Monday 3/5/2013 at 3:30pm in the back of the school Library. We hope to see you there.
Kids urged to take the new Triple Zero Challenge
An upgraded version of the online computer game, Triple Zero Kids’ Challenge was launched last week by the Federal Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Management, Mark Dreyfus, and national emergency services personnel. The game is for primary school-aged children, aimed at educating at-risk groups on the correct use of the Triple Zero emergency number. It uses colourful, animated characters to provide lessons to children on the confident and appropriate use of Triple Zero.

Using colourful, animated characters, children learn the appropriate use of Triple Zero through various scenarios involving police, fire and ambulance services. It has now been upgraded to include an extra three scenarios that will educate players on the impact of hoax calls, what to do in major bushfires, and how to only call Triple Zero for life-threatening and emergency situations. Children are also encouraged to play the game on their home computers, providing parents and siblings with the opportunity to deliver life-saving messages to their families.

The original Triple Zero Kids’ Challenge was played 750,000 times and users spent an average 17 minutes online each session. It has also won national and state public safety awards, has been translated into six languages other than English and has closed captions. The game can be accessed at primary schools or at home via the website: www.triplezero.gov.au.