Hello everyone,

With the 4/5/6 class back in the school, things feel back to normal. A full report on their learnings and experience is on page 1 and 3 of the newsletter. “We can honestly tell you that our 4/5/6 Class Camp to North Keppel Island Education Centre was THE most FANTASTIC experience.” (p. 3)

Term 4 always signals the time for forward planning for our student’s transitions. Year 6 have 2 transition days this week to prepare them for some of the change and challenges that year 7 – now in high school – will bring. Later in the year, an orientation day will be held for students heading into year 7 at Sarina High School. Significant interest has also been expressed for prep 2016, and in response we have already commenced advertising our prep transition mornings with pack and letters being posted out. Expressions of interest are always welcome. We’ve had a new enrolment this week, and today is Jesse’s first day. Welcome Jesse!

School opinion survey results have been returned to the school, and feedback indicates that across the board there is a high satisfaction level and an overall agreement that we all have made this school a good place to learn and work.

Check out the picture below. Dress up clothes were put out at lunch time, and have proven very popular. Donations of any unutilized costumes from home, would be much appreciated.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

Thanks for the opportunity Mum and Dad!

Imagine been greeted by a small group of people with welcoming smiles and generously laden boat ready to take you across to a wonderful haven for learning, experiencing and team-building. Once you’ve worked together to stow each other’s gear safely on the Gundoo Spirit, you take a breath-taking trip across the open waters of Rosslyn Bay and begin to comprehend just how big our world really is.

As we disembark and walk through the crystal clear waters with our gear handed to each other to unload the boat, we see nothing but a merging of blue skies and the sea; palm trees swaying in the wind; soft almost white sands and hear the wash of waves and the cries of the rare young Osprey from a precious nest in the nearby catchment area. We walk up the beach and the following welcoming statement greets all visitors at the beach:

‘We the Woppaburra, or Island People, are the traditional custodians of the Keppel Islands, our ancestral homelands, and we are proudly of the Dharumbul Nation’.

Already we are learning the importance of acknowledging cultural heritage and those that came before us. The North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre teaches visitors to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians the Woppaburra of the country in which the Centre is located and how to pay respect to their Elders past and present.

In the crescent moon shaped sculpture of sand (to represent the “1-ya” or fishing hook carved and used by the Woppaburra people) we sign in with our hands pressed into the soft sand. This moment or ceremony is very humbling and grounding for many of us who realised that we were about to undertake a very important, and quite serious, journey of learning.

After settling into our cabins we are taken on a short orientation and begin to see just how cleverly the Island caters to the needs of its visitors with compostable toilets, solar hot water systems, a fabulous catering kitchen, a complete composting system that deals with waste and a communal hall to meet in.

----- continued page 3.

Important Dates:
13 October – Hearing and vision checks available in Sarina.
15 & 16 October – Year 6 Transition days to Sarina High School
16 October – P&C Meeting – 1:00pm in Library
17 & 18 October – OptiFINALS in Brisbane
19 October – Pupil Free Day (Please keep children at home.)
4, 11, 18 November – Prep Transition Mornings @ 8:50 – 10:30
4 December – Swimming carnival; 6 year graduation dinner
9 December – Presentation Evening

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
Banking Details: 064711 00090098 (Com. Bank)
Swayneville students will be taking part in the ‘Learn to Swim’ program this term commencing Friday 16th October. There are no additional costs, as monies paid at the beginning of the year covered this expense.

The swimming program is designed for all swimming abilities, including; students who have had little swimming experience and no water confidence, in addition to, students who have had plenty of swimming experience and are very confident in the water.

The program is developed around the Royal Surf Lifesaving Swim and Survive programs. Each lesson caters for students with little confidence and experience to students who are progressively working up to ‘lifesaving’ skills and proficiency in 2 basic strokes. The criteria for each level are sequential and take into consideration the child’s development. Once the students complete a phase or skill, they will then move to the next level or skill.

The children are required to wear a sunsafe shirt over their togs while in the water. Swimming caps are also used as an added safety measure. (Provided and individually named. They will be sent home at the end of the year.) The caps help significantly in the rapid identification and monitoring of our students. Goggles are welcomed, but there will be times when they may be requested to be removed for instructional purposes. Teaching teams will be accompanying their classes and will support Miss Biddle during the lessons. The children will change at the school and be bussed to/from the pool. Thongs can be worn during this time. If there are any issues / health concerns / etc, please inform the teacher.

Additional sets of hands/eyes are always welcome! Please let your class teacher know if you can assist.

At the end of the term, is the swimming carnival which is designed to allow students to demonstrate their skills they have acquired throughout the term. It is also to allow the students to have a bit of fun and feel more confident in the water. Parents are most welcome to join us on this day (4/12). More information about the carnival will be sent out towards the end of the term.

The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:
- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organizations and governments
Displays of hands on which the students have written their interpretation of what poverty is and how the community can help can be seen at the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre and the Sarina Library. Please call in to either of these Mackay Regional Council venues and have a look at the displays.

Food for Thought

A Healthy Mental Diet

Each day we fill our minds with new things through the movies and TV programs that we watch, the books and magazines that we read and the music that we listen to. Please don’t underestimate the effect that choices in this area of our lives can have. Think of your mind as being a container. You can decide what to fill it with, but remember this, if you fill a container with dirt, then dirt is all that will come out of it. What are you filling the containers of your mind with?

A message from Chappy Di.
Reader’s Theatre

The 1/2 class have been working hard with Mrs Hamblin. Last week on parade, our class had the opportunity to show the rest of the school what we have been learning about in Drama. We have been learning about how we move our bodies when we are trying to portray different characters. We put together a play based on the book “Mr McGee and the Big Bag of Bread” by Pamela Allen. We created costumes and made sure that we were ready for the big day! We all had a great time and are looking forward to the next adventure.

4/5/6 camp report….
We can honestly tell you that our 4/5/6 Class Camp to North Keppel Island Education Centre was THE most FANTASTIC experience and that we have all managed to tick off quite a few things on our lists of things to do and see:

- Travel across to an Island that would be our very own Island for a week,
- Have someone cook a wide variety of delicious meals for us (including snacks, supper and desserts),
- Learn how to identify the creatures on our local ree
- Snorkel and explore the stunning Great Barrier Reef,
- Outrigging (rowing) across from one island area to another to experience and appreciate first-hand how the Woppaburra people travelled and fished,
- Learn how to put on a wet-suit in under 5 minutes 😊
- Swim in crystal clear waters with fish and marine creatures right there in front of us,
- Go plankton trawling and see and touch ‘bioluminescence’,
- Share riddles and funny tales around a campfire with our friends whilst cooking sticks filled with damper,
- Have a yarning circle of fishing stories and listening to tall tales from elders (‘Frank’),
- Understanding sustainability and how things such as marine debris impact our entire planet,
- How a brief moment of conflict can be turned into a bonding opportunity over their shared experiences, new understandings and of course a giggling fit.

Perhaps most importantly, we discovered that care, consideration, manners and a can-do attitude are strengths that we abound in. We have been very clearly told by the Staff of North Keppel Island Environmental Centre that we were one of the best groups of visitors to have ever attended and that we are welcome back at any time. Well done class on your fantastic behaviours, attitudes and efforts. We are very proud of you and all that you achieved! With students like you, we believe we can achieve the objective of NKIEEC: “Enough for All, For Ever”.

Warm regards,
Ms T, and Chappie Di

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