Hello everyone,

The Minister for Education has announced a new government initiative – Advancing Education. The Advancing Education action plan will:

- Deliver more support for vulnerable children in the early years.
- Ensure greater focus on science, technology, engineering and maths – including coding and robotics.
- Expand the study of culture and languages from Prep to Year 12 in state schools, with a focus on Asian languages.
- Employ more teachers and create career pathways to help keep the best people in teaching.
- Deliver a more efficient school maintenance system.
- Provide greater support for student learning including employing specialist coaches to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students’ reading.
- Introduce a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system.

Exactly how this action plan will roll out in schools is currently being explored.

Attached to our newsletter today is information regarding an additional school banking opportunity for students. The Bendigo Bank has successfully negotiated to have access to school banking, and ’Piggy’ visited parade to let the students know about it. The Commonwealth Bank has long operated student banking in our school, and this still continues. Bendigo Bank offers a similar service, though children are able to access their accounts locally. Student banking is handed into the office on Tuesday mornings, and Mrs Hoare processes it. If you are interested in establishing an account, please return the paperwork to the office.

A reminder, that all students arriving at the school before 8:30 are to remain under the covered area, unless accompanied by an adult. There are to be no students in the school grounds before 8:00am.

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

High School? Planning for the change:

Starting at a new place is always daunting, but with a little bit of planning and preparation the move between primary to secondary school can be smoothed. The High School transition program commenced last Thursday and Friday. Escorted by Mrs Micallef (TA), the year 6 students worked at Sarina High worked with secondary school teachers and experienced some of the subjects that they will be studying. Alligator Creek students and a Homebush student were all on campus – yet another strategy for familiarization.
It all went swimmingly ….  

Things at school tend to turn topsy-turvy for the first day of swimming, but while a little hectic, staff have declared it to be successful. The timelines are tight, but there is a huge level of parent support helping with safety at the pool – thank you so much!

The wearing of named swimming caps is a major strategy to ensure safety, as all adults are able to identify Swayneville students and call them by name. The caps are distributed for each lesson, and after the swimming carnival, the children will be allowed to take them home. Another preventive safety measure - Whistle Blows - is in preparation in the event of an emergency. These are taught during the first lesson. They are:

1st Whistle blow: go to the edge of the pool and wait for the teacher’s instruction.
2nd Whistle blow: get out of the pool and sit on the edge.
3rd Whistle blow: get out of the pool and meet at the assembly point.

OptiFINAL

This past weekend (17 & 18 October) the Science and Engineering Optiminds Team flew down to Brisbane to compete against other winning regional teams from around Australia in the Australian/Queensland State and International Final Spirit of Optiminds. Swayneville State School was the only small school represented, and therefore the team that also had the full range of student ages.

Stepping up to the challenge of the lateral thinking demands of Optiminds is no small task. With a long term and spontaneous challenge to prepare for, winning two sections of the Regional Event and stretching to have a go at the OptiFINALS is a seriously awesome, history making event. Congratulations to Tim McFadzen (Y6), Lachlan McFadzen (Y5), Fletcher McFadzen (Y3), Bodhi Rowe-Bailey (Y3), Reed Beveridge (Y2) and Lawson McFadzen (Y2). You have worked tremendously well as a team, and have accomplished much.

The team has continued to meet twice a week to develop their response to the long term challenge. Miss Emma Stark has been the teacher in charge who, along with the tremendous support of the team’s parents, have kept the momentum going. Sponsorship eased the financial burden, and Swayneville State School would like to acknowledge the generous donations from: Wilmar Sugar, Dalrymple Bay, and Canegrowers Mackay.

Food for Thought

Let’s talk about RESPECT.

Imagine a world where there is no house locks, security screens, assaults, racial hatred, domestic violence, drunk or drug driving, speeding, bullying, pollution or murder. Is it possible? Maybe it could happen if everyone respected themselves, others and our world. Respect is something we all want but cannot demand from others. When it is not present we have a choice to be complicit or stand and take action. The best way to teach respect is to live it.

Some of the things you can do to live respectfully include: Be polite - Use "please" and "thank you". Be fair - Listen to your child’s side of the story before reaching a conclusion. Be reliable - Keep promises. Show your child that you mean what you say. Obey laws - Follow rules. Be caring - Show concern for people, animals and the environment. Avoid poor role models - When you see examples of disrespect, discuss them. Be positive - Don't embarrass, insult or make fun of your child. Compliment them. Be trusting - Let your child make choices and take the responsibility.

You will know your child is on track when they respect their mother and father and respect and love others as much as they love themselves. You will see and hear things like please and thank you, uninterrupted conversations, children waiting their turn, no back talk, no stealing, no deliberate hurting of others or cheating. You will see your child recycle and reuse, tidy their room and do their home jobs without being asked. Rejoice and celebrate every occasion because it is the evidence that you are doing a good job.

A message from Chappy Di.
North Keppel Island Camp

Last week the camp report was inserted into the newsletter. This week, it the photo story.

AWARDS

Year 4/5/6

Year 3/4
Lachlan Alway: improving in all areas.
Katie-May Jones: super listener award.

Year 1/2
Evandah Skien: great focus when working in maths rotations.
Frankie Cameron: showing dedication & persistence in maths.

Prep/1
Jesse Lewis: settling into classroom.
Sarah Clarke: attempting all tasks independently.

150 Bee Stamps
Abbey Smyth

P.E.
Aquellah Kissier, Rainia DeMarco & Ty Tomlinson: great improvement in swimming from last year.
Queen Bee: 3/4.

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