Dear Parents and Caregivers

It’s that time of the year when students are able to showcase their athletic skills and/or their performing arts skills. Students have been training and honing their skills for the Faction Sports Day and the School Production evening. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Kalamunda Arts Centre this Wednesday. The weather looks like putting on a spectacular day for the Sports Carnival at the end of the week.

It is incredible to think that we have almost completed another term leaving just one more term of the school year. I am aware that many of you are already thinking about next year wondering about the teacher that your child or children could have in 2015. We have commenced planning for next year but are nowhere close to having answers to such questions. Many of you are aware a new model of funding for schools takes effect from 2015. Rather than schools being funded for global programs, schools will be funded based on the number of children enrolled in the school. In order for me to work from accurate data, parents (K-Yr 5) are requested to let the school know ASAP if you do not intend to be here for the start of the 2015 school year.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the P&C. They are a tireless group of dedicated parents who raise money that goes back into the school. The fantastic faction bay shelters, reading books, new bench seats and outdoor chess sets have all been purchased for use by all students this year. They support the sports days and are always looking for parents or community members to welcome into the fold. If you are able to lend a hand front and centre or behind the scenes then the P&C would love to hear from you.

Finally many of you attended the memorial for Mrs Gard recently. We plan on holding a memorial at school for her and will advise you of those details.

Have a great fortnight

Leanne Sheardown

MISSION STATEMENT

Sawyers Valley Primary School aims to create and foster an environment where students become independent learners, enabling them to take responsible control of their lives and contribute meaningfully to society.
CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Jed Aldrich who was awarded with a high commendation for his entry into the Mundaring Environmental Awards. The Winners have been selected and all student artwork is now on display at the Mundaring Arts Centre for the public to enjoy until 28 September.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Friday 19 September  Academy Photography will be at our school. Envelopes for ordering were sent home with students last week.
If you wish to purchase any of the photo packages on offer your child/ren must bring their envelope to school on the day.
Correct payment must be in the envelope as no change will be given.
If you would like a family photo please come to the office to collect a 'Family Envelope'.
Could you please ensure that children are dressed in school uniform and hair is neat and tidy.
Please return the ordering envelope even if you are not placing an order.
Mr Johnston.

Nature PlaySpace
I am delighted that our students are engaging in the Nature Play Space and playing responsibly and safely in the area. It is now open for all ages of students at recess and lunch. It is encouraging to see children of different ages working together, negotiating, collaborating and creating all the while resolving any issues that arise. I have included some of Maggie Dent’s articles in the newsletter previously and I encourage you to have a read of a recent post she made titled “Are we about to ban childhood altogether?” The Nature Play Space allows children to engage in free play which allows for adventuresome play with an element of safe risk.

3 Year Old Kindy
I have been asked by several parents about the possibility of a 3 year old kindy for 2015. I have copied some information about 3 Year Old Kindy:
Three year old children do not attract funding to public schools under the Student Centred Funding Model, and the School Education Act states that schools are only permitted to offer an educational programme to children in their early education period (i.e., Kindergarten for three year olds) if they have permission from the Minister to do so. At this point, only Remote Community Schools and designated Aboriginal Kindergartens have permission to do so, and only where the three year olds turn four in the second half of the year and where they occupy places that would otherwise remain vacant due to low enrolments.
HOWEVER........keep reading

There is another alternative that may be less burdensome and has the benefit of building the confidence of parents as their children’s first educators. Your school could host a playgroup where a parent/caregiver attends the program WITH their child. You may have a spare classroom next year or another suitable space that you could offer the playgroup. This is an informal and very productive way to engage families with children from birth to school age. Playgroups are usually run by parents with support from other parents in the Playgroup, and if the school has capacity, could also include support from an early childhood.
If you are interested in the possibility of being a part of a playgroup here at Sawyers Valley in 2015, please register your interest by emailing the principal @ Leanne.Sheardown@education.wa.edu.au
Congratulations to Rm 5 for an attendance rate of 96 % for Weeks 5 and 6 of Term 3.

On Thursday 18th September there will be a ‘Sport Colour Day’. It will be a gold coin donation for the cancer council. So, wear your favourite sport team such as football, netball, basketball and hockey.

From the Student Council
On Thursday 21st August the students were engaged in a variety of Literacy activities related to some of the teachers’ favourite stories and books. Some of these classics included: Possum Magic, The King’s Bubbles, The Magic Boomerang, Harry Potter, Celebrations Around the World, Jungle Drums and The Eagles Edge. The sessions incorporated Missing Possum Posters, Bubble Blowing, Movement and Visual Arts activities.
We really appreciate the school supporting optiminds. Our thanks specially to Kimberley in all that she does to extend these fabulous children as well as the whole school in the performances.
Best regards
Jen O’Hehir

GIRLPOWER WORKSHOP
Sawyers Valley Primary School is hosting GirlPower workshops on WEDNESDAY 24th September.
GirlPower is a friendship program that inspires 'Tween' girls (6 to 12 years old) to feel empowered, develop a strong sense of self, and love themselves while learning to manage the most important things to them... their friendships.
Tickets are $30 - $35 per person ($60 - $70 for parent and daughter). We encourage parents to attend this workshop with their daughters. Tickets include the workshop, handouts, a Girlpower pencil and sticker, and a Q&A to answer any specific questions. Afternoon Tea will be provided.
Fuzzies and Friends (Year 1 and 2) 330pm-530pm. Language of Friendship (Years 3-6) 530pm-730pm.
To register, go to: www.trvbooking.com/DALR. We look forward to seeing you and your daughter at one of these valuable workshops.
For more information or queries see Mrs Sharon Humphreys.

P&C NEWS
School Production
Please note that the P&C will NOT be selling refreshments at the production next week

Faction Carnival – Friday 12th September
We will be running a cake stall and would appreciate donations of baked goods to sell along with tea and coffee. Items can be dropped off at the stand on the day. (Please ensure ingredients are attached to any items)
Any people who would be able to help with setting up, cooking/putting together lunches, selling items or packing away on the day would be most appreciated

P&C General Meeting
Tuesday 23rd September at 6.30pm
in the Staffroom

Items for discussion at this meeting:
Interschool Sports Carnival

If you would like to have input please attend the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there!
Parent Hub:
The Sawyers Valley Staff are exploring ways of developing a “Parent Hub” where education for parents can be stored, support activities and information sessions can be facilitated. One possible space for this is the Bristol Building. If you are interested in helping us to make this happen please contact Carey Stewart or Rachelle Zarb. Emails: Carey.Stewart1@education.wa.edu.au, Rachelle.Zarb@education.wa.edu.au.

Parent Thank you Raffle:
As a token of our appreciation for all of the support we receive through parent help staff have been issued with raffle ticket books. Parents who assist with school activities will have their names placed on a ticket and entered into a raffle. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the year. Prizes will include vouchers and a chance to have your voluntary fees paid for one year.

OPTIMINDS
Recently two teams from Sawyers Valley competed in the Regional Optiminds competition. Optiminds is a team-based problem solving competition. Teams are given a problem to solve over a six week period and need to present the solution creatively as a performance. They are also given a Spontaneous Problem on Competition day.
Team One - Jolyon, Jasmine, Naimh, Molly, Annelies and Kayla competed in the Social Sciences section, answering a question on the Voynich Manuscript and Team Two - Kawlija, Bethany, Oliver, Khobi, Toby, Ellen and Laura competed in Science Engineering and devised a solution which required construction of an impressive catapult.
Last night we discovered that Team Two were awarded Honours in the Science Engineering Primary Section.
I am very proud of both teams for their outstanding effort, dedication, ability to overcome challenges and teamwork.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION
Remember that our performances are TOMORROW Wednesday 10 September. Students are asked to arrive at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre half an hour before their scheduled performance.

YOUTHFEST
We are competing At YouthFest on Saturday 20th September.
YouthFest this year is at Hackett Hall, Draper St, Floreat. (There are 3 Hackett Halls in Perth…two of them in the Shire of Nedlands…so be careful with Navigation systems etc)
Performance Times are as follows.
10.45am-Sawyers Valley- Stella the Starfish
11.35am-Sawyers Valley-We are Monsters
Performers are asked to be at Hackett Hall 30 minutes before their performance.
Students travelling on the bus are asked to be at Sawyers Valley Primary at 8.45 to leave at 9am at the latest.
Tickets for YouthFest are available at the door.
Ride for Autism

We welcomed the team riding from Fremantle to Kiama to raise money and awareness for autism. They arrived in our school carpark as recess started. One of the men riding is a principal from a school in NSW. He will be updating his blog http://www.illaroo-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/reach-for-the-sky-bike-ride as the ride progresses so keep an eye of the adventures. Josie’s sister will also send us updates as they make their way across the country. If you want to support this great cause, please visit their fundraising page @ https://give.everydayhero.com/au/the-crossing

WANTED: any previously loved but currently unwanted/unused stationary bikes/exercise bikes and mini trampolines, with handrails preferred. If you can help us out, please let the school office know.

CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2015

The staff has begun to discuss the class structures for 2015. Our classes are very carefully created with due thought given to the placement of EVERY child to ensure positive learning trajectories.

When formulating the classes, we work collaboratively as a staff on the following formula:

- Establishing balanced classes with a mix of children based on academic ability, social development and working independence.
- Social dynamics of particular groups of children
- Student maturity and emotional development
- Individual intellectual requirements.

Class formations once decided will be published in future newsletters. Allocation of teacher(s) to classrooms will be finalised in due course.

If you, as a parent, have a realistic request for a particular class placement, please put your educational reasons (for your request) in writing addressed to ‘The Principal’ by the end of Term 3. Your request will be taken into consideration when we are allocating students to classes.

Our class formations will be agreed upon at a staff meeting by the end of November.

To assist us with our planning, families who are not expecting to be at Sawyers Valley next year are requested to advise the office ASAP.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The school is often asked to include community news or additional information sheets with our newsletter but please be aware that the school does not necessarily endorse or recommend these particular services.

Weight Watchers ...Come and Experience Weight Watchers for FREE during Open Week. If you’ve always wondered what Weight Watchers meetings are like, or want to see what’s new, now is your chance!

Tuesday September 9th 9.30am for a 10am meeting.

Mundaring Uniting Church   120 Stoneville Road, Mundaring.

Come to a Weight Watchers meeting during Open Week to see what all the fuss is about, and if you decide to join you'll receive a $25 discount voucher to use against an unlimited membership or kit. To find out more visit weightwatchers.com.au or call 13 19 97.

Fremantle Ports Maritime Day ... Saturday 8th November at B Shed Victoria Quay. See flyers on red pinup board in the Wet Area for more information.

Education Tax Refunds Not Yet Claimed… over 1000,000 parents have still not claimed this money from 2009, 2010 and 2011. Please see the flyer on the red pinup board in the Wet Area for more information or visit www.jtax.com.au
Meet & Greet
Bushfire Information Sessions

Join us at Shire of Mundaring Civic Reception Room
7000 Great Eastern Highway Mundaring

Wednesday, 17 September
Between 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Presentation on Hazard Reduction 6.15pm-6.30pm

Saturday, 20 September
Between 9.30am and 11.30am
Presentation on Hazard Reduction 10.30am-10.45am
Fun children’s activities and a sausage sizzle at Saturday’s session!

The Meet and Greet sessions are informal and you are welcome to attend any time during the hours listed above. Shire officers from community recovery, fire prevention and mitigation, environment, and planning will attend.

→ Firebreak and Fuel Load Requirements
→ Community Recovery
→ Fuel Load Management Plans
→ Hazard Reduction Burns
→ Building Protection Zones
→ Bush Fire Ready Groups
→ Bushfire Survival Plans

For information contact 9290 6696 or jeninebanks@mundaring.wa.gov.au