Dear Parents and Carers

Wow we have had a really smooth start to the school year that seems to be moving along quickly! Our new K/P/1 structure is so organised and buzzing along. I wish to acknowledge the staff in the two K/P/1 classes for embracing the change so positively. The other classes in the school have settled in and are humming along with lots of learning.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank a small group of parents who have shown huge commitment to getting a playgroup up and running so quickly. We now have two playgroups running (one on Monday mornings and the other on Wednesday mornings). This group of parents have sought donations to the play space and on the weekend they came to school to put up fencing on the verandah to create a safe outdoor space. Ms Murphy has also been sourcing additions (over her holidays) for the Senior Nature Play Space. Having staff and parents that go over and above their role is such a wonderful characteristic of the Sawyers Valley school community.

In Term 4 last year we had a HUGE number of parents/families complete the online Parent Opinion Survey. This survey sought feedback about how we are doing as a school against our business plan targets and some areas for future action. Further in this edition is a summary of the survey. Later this term I will be asking students for their feedback about the school. We have begun putting into action some of the feedback, starting with parent enquiry forms on the website that will send an email with your enquiry to both teachers in your child’s room.

Keep an eye out for information about the following events coming up this term: class meetings (happening this week and next), the swimming carnival for Years 4-6, the Hills Education Community (HEC) Public Speaking Competition (Week 7), parent teacher interviews (Week 8) and a visit to the Life Ed Van (last week of term).

Finally for parents and community members who are interested, we are holding the School Captain speeches for students who have nominated for the position of School Leader. Students who have nominated are required to prepare and present a speech to the school audience about why they would make the best school captain, on Thursday 4th March from 1.45pm. School staff vote for the School Captain positions which will be announced at the school assembly on Friday 5th March.

Have a fantastic 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 everyone the attendance at school for Weeks 1 and 2 of this term has been almost 100%! Keep up the great work.

Survey results
The National School Parent Opinion Survey (sent out via email in Term 4 last year) gave parents a choice of a rating from Strongly agree to Strongly Disagree for a number of questions. Parents were also able to provide written comments to some of the questions. Below are some of the findings:

- Just over 50% of the feedback came from parents with children in either year 1 or year 2.
- 76% of parents agree or strongly agree that teachers provide useful feedback to their children;
- Majority of parents believe their child feels safe at school although some of the comments from parents indicated that some bullying is evident;
- 72% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their child is achieving to the best of their ability;
- 76% of respondents agree or strongly agree that teachers at this school care about how their child is going.
The complete survey results will be discussed at a School Board meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS
A **HUGE** thank you goes out to all families that helped over the summer break to keep our worm farms fed, watered and cared for! We really appreciate your assistance. Soon we will be harvesting our castings and selling them at a very reasonable price at the School Assemblies. Just in case you are not sure the **benefits of worm castings** are as follows…

- Improved plant growth
- Soil softening
- Biological decomposition
- Beneficial nematodes
- Fungus control
- Odour elimination
- Insect repellency

We will also continue to sell our Worm Whizz too! All proceeds are managed by the student green team and are used to fund further sustainability projects. At the end of last year we use some funds to purchase some thornless berries that have been planted in our raised garden beds at the base of the steel frames.

Have you noticed our amazing passionfruit vine up on the early childhood fence? It’s part of the food forest that was planted a few years ago. Our vine is busy producing the most wonderful fruit at the moment. We are patiently waiting for the fruit to change colour so we can eat it. Please remind your child not to pick the green fruit or the lovely flowers!

**STUDENT GREEN TEAM**
Our student green team from the last term of last year will continue on for this term. They are a hard working bunch that attend to our worm farms, the battery and paper recycling programs, the garden beds and engage in our worm whizz sales!

Jo Gray, a valued parent at our school has had a lot to do with the set up and running of many of our programs. As a school we want to pass on a very big thank you!

Can we please appeal *yet again* for past members to return any **GREEN TEAM** badges that they may have at home. The badges are borrowed only during the term of service and must be returned. Of course we are aware that they may go missing, if this has happened please let Danielle Murphy or Lucy Blair know so that we can account for your badge.
**Food for thought…..**

Often poppers or fruit juices are thought of as a healthy option for kids. Many canteens still stock them and you can find them often at sporting carnivals and events. One of these poppers provides a child with DOUBLE the daily recommended amount of sugar for a child (WHO recommendation) and this sugar content is comparable to a small soft drink. We do not need ANY added sugars. Zip. Each time our children exceed the daily recommended amount, we are increasing their risk of a lifestyle disease not to mention potential behavioural issues, increased susceptibility to infection and the list goes on.

![Sugar Content](image)

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**ITEMS TO ADD TO THE TERM PLANNER**

- Thursday 19 February - Room 1 Meeting
- Friday 20 February - Honour Certificate Assembly & Class Captain Voting
- Thursday 26 February - School Captain Voting. 2/3, 5/6 2pm
- Friday 6 March - Honour Certificate Assembly, Presentation for School Captains & Councillors
- Thursday 12 March - Faction Swimming Carnival
- Friday 20 March - Honour Certificate Assembly
The Sawyers Valley Playgroup operates on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9-11am. New families always welcome!

SAWYERS PLAYGROUP
Our playgroup is up and running with a number of happy families attending on a Wednesday morning. The playgroup is now also open for business on a Monday morning too! Come and join us to find out more. If you don't have little ones but know someone who does, please spread the word!

We would like to say a very big thank you to the Mead family, Steve Nimmo & co and Danielle for giving up a Saturday morning to install the fence around the verandah to keep the little ones contained and safe. Thank you also to Mel Barden for sourcing the materials locally and to Fiona Kent for her tireless support.

MAKIT Hardware in Mundaring donated the pine palings and a box of screws to get the job underway! We really appreciate the support of our local businesses! THANK YOU!

If anyone has a small vacuum cleaner/dustbuster or a cd player that they want to donate to playgroup, please drop it in to the front office. Thanks!
FRIENDLY ADULT ENGLISH CLASS
Are you a visitor or immigrant to Australia?
If you would like to improve your English, we would
love to welcome you to our class on Monday
mornings.
Every Monday from February 9 to March 30. (Then
again from April 20)
Only $5 per lesson.
10.30am to 12 noon at Eastgate Church,
10 Chidlow Street, Mount Helena.
We would love to meet you.
**Pam and Krystyna**
Teachers.
Enquiries: 0407 081 450
pamr27@bigpond.com

CHIDLOW NETBALL CLUB
REGISTRATIONS

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
1PM
CHIDLOW PARK OPPOSITE THE PUB

Direct debit will be available
Fees still to be set by E H N A (may be a slight increase to
last year)
Please be aware that if you do not register on the day we
may not be able to guarantee a place in a team.
Further information or can’t make registration
Please contact
Barbara (Secretary) – 0448 023 582
Teresa (Treasurer) - 0417 093 396
Danielle (Committee) – 0427 081 279
CHICKENPOX IS BACK
There has been a case of Chickenpox in Room 3.
Anyone who hasn’t had chickenpox or received the chickenpox vaccine can get the disease.
Chickenpox most commonly causes an illness that lasts about 5-10 days.

The classic symptom of chickenpox is a rash that turns into itchy, fluid-filled blisters that eventually turn into scabs. The rash may first show up on the face, chest, and back then spread to the rest of the body, including inside the mouth, eyelids, or genital area. It usually takes about one week for all the blisters to become scabs.

Other typical symptoms that may begin to appear 1-2 days before rash include:

- high fever
- tiredness
- loss of appetite
- headache

Children usually miss 5 to 6 days of school or childcare due to their chickenpox.

Vaccinated Persons

Some people who have been vaccinated against chickenpox can still get the disease. However, the symptoms are usually milder with fewer blisters and mild or no fever. About 25% to 30% of vaccinated people who get chickenpox will develop illness as serious as chickenpox in unvaccinated persons.

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.

The Mount Helena Junior Football Club (MHJFC)... is taking registrations for players, girls and boys, for the 2015 season. Our home oval is Elsie Austin Oval and we are having a Registration Day on Sunday 22nd February from 10am to 1pm. You can also register and pay online. The following age groups can sign up for the Lions and all players are very welcome: Auskick: PP to Year 2, Junior Football: Year 3 to Year 6. Want more information? Visit the website: http://www.mounthelenajfc.org/ Our Facebook page ‘Mount Helena Junior Football Club’ Email the Club President Amy Lyon president@mounthelenajfc.org

First Class Free!!...Taekwon-Do Self Defence Classes. Monday/Wednesday Parkerville Hall. Contact number Mobile 0407 191 167.

Garden Releaf Weekend...March 7 & 8 at Zanthorrea Nursery, 155 Watsonia Rd, Maida Vale.. We will have fun with events and a great range of plants to celebrate Autumn as well as raising funds for Beyondblue. See our notice board or go to www.gardenreleaf.com.au for full information and times.

SEE YOU AT SOCCER

Perth Hills United welcomes junior boys & girls (5-18yrs), men & women for its 2015 season.

Register online now at www.phufc.com.au or come to
Harry Riseborough Oval, Hartung St, Mundaring on Sat 21st Feb from 9.00-12.30 for more info or email tonywittcomb@bigpond.com

It's a great club for the whole family

Perth Hills Utd is a Kidsport Club.