



Sawyers Valley Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As the first term draws to a close, it is worthwhile reflecting back on the things that we have started to do differently this year. One of the big changes was moving the senior students from Room 8. My reasoning for this is that the leadership group of students would be much larger this year with the year 6 and year 7 students heading to high school at the end of this year. I wanted to ensure that all students in those year levels were exposed to the same leadership opportunities. Initially the Year 5/6 and Year 6/7s were going to be in adjoining rooms with the concertina doors open. However this initial concept evolved very quickly into having a more collaborative setting for students and staff. The level of planning and sharing between staff is outstanding as is the differentiation of learning tasks for students. Across the school, literacy and numeracy blocks have been running in all classes. Literacy happens before recess and has a focus on guided reading. Between recess and lunch, numeracy occurs in all classes. All staff have created challenging learning environments during these blocks. We have also invested considerably in engaging guided reading materials. To support the learning of all students we have lengthened the block between recess and lunch with a shorter block after lunch. Another change that has been made to value the literacy and numeracy learning of students has been negotiated with our specialist teachers to take their classes after lunch. This hasn't been possible for all classes but the effort to avoid disruption of literacy and numeracy blocks has been a major factor in the seamless implementation.

Parent teacher interviews are almost upon us (**Thursday 10th April**). These brief meetings are an opportunity to touch base with your child's teachers to get a sense of how they have settled into the new school year. It is a chance for you to ask questions and relay concerns and hopes for your child and is a way for your child's teachers to give you an update about how they are planning for the needs of your child. This year, for the first time, we are closing the school for half a day to schedule meetings up until approximately 5pm. This year parents are able to book meetings online at times that suit your schedule. I understand that this may not suit all parents/carers and if this is the case, I encourage you to arrange an alternative time that suits. Parents and carers, who are unable to collect their child/children @ 11am on Thursday 10th April as per the information note that went home, have been requested to inform the

ISSUE 5

Tuesday 1 April

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TUESDAY 1 APRIL

Uniform Shop 3.00-3.30pm

THURSDAY 2 APRIL

Early Close 2.30pm

FRIDAY 3 APRIL

School Banking 8.30-8.45am
Assembly

TUESDAY 29 APRIL

Term 2 Begins

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.

school so that we can ensure that we have adequate supervision in place. Please book your appointment @ <http://www.ptcfast.com/parentlogin.php> before Wednesday 9th April.

Next term students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will be participating in NAPLAN tests. These tests are an annual national regime of assessments in literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or 'domains') of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)

Numeracy.

NAPLAN is not a test of content. Instead, it tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. Excessive test preparation using previous tests is not useful. NAPLAN tests identify whether all students have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for their learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community. Students are assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN tests broadly reflect aspects of literacy and numeracy common to the curriculum in each state or territory. The types of test formats and questions are chosen so that they are familiar to teachers and students across Australia.

To get a sense of the 'look and feel' of the tests and to understand what types of questions are asked, a full set of sample questions are available for you to view @ <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests/the-tests.html>

NAPLAN assessments occur in Week 3 of term 2: between Tues 13th May and Friday 16th May

I would also like this opportunity to thank Mrs Di Brown who has been in the Pre-primary room this term whilst Mrs Carey Stewart has been on Long Service Leave and who returns at the start of term 2. Fear not though – Mrs Brown will still be around at Sawyers valley, working in the front office each week as well as doing relief!

School Board Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a new School Board parent member to commence in Term 2 2014 with a tenure of three (3) years.

In collaboration with their school community, Independent Public Schools set their own strategic directions, have authority for day-to-day decision making and are in an ideal position to make decisions that best cater for their students. Parents and community members have an important and enhanced role in this initiative.

A School Board is a legally formed body that, in partnership with the principal, is given powers to set and monitor the key directions of a school. It is the major governing body of the school and oversees the school's performance and has advanced and more complex responsibilities than a Council.

Parent members bring their experience of parents within the school and the views and context of the wider community to School Board meetings.

Nominations open Tuesday 1st April 2014 and should be with the Principal by Friday 11th April @ 3.30pm and include a short bio suitable for publication if an election within the school community is required. Nomination forms are available at the front office

More information can be gained by contacting Leanne or by perusing the information on the web at <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/independentpublicschools/detcms/navigation/information-for-parents-and-communities/school-boards/?oid=Category-id-10826695>

I wish all families a safe and happy school holidays.

Leanne Sheardown
Principal

Merit Certificates

ROOM 2

Thomas Brearley
Alyssa Barden

ROOM 3

Asha Winsor
Claire Ramic

ROOM 4

Regan Witcombe
Sacha Kirby
Ryan Kertesz

ROOM 5

Alec Anderson
Toby Mees

ROOM 6

Reagan Cusack
Claire Ewen

ROOM 7

Peyton Coleston
Rachel Colyer

ROOM 8

Tiffany Ramsey
Nash Hoffman
Kynan Warden

School Fees

As it is nearly the end of Term 1 we ask that you please pay your contributions of \$50.00 per student.

We also ask parents with children in Kindy and Pre Primary pay the art/craft levy of \$20.00.

Payment is taken at the school office but unfortunately we do not have EFTPOS facilities.

We are more than happy for fees to be paid in installments if that helps families.

We sincerely thank the families who have already paid their contributions.

VICTORIAN CLASSROOM - OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

Do you have some spare time on your hands and would like to help out occasionally at our Victorian Classroom in the Old School House? We need volunteers to help run some of the experiences. If this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the principal, Leanne Sheardown at the school office.

Kids Matter **Tips to build confidence**

Kids develop confidence and a sense of independence when they see how others react to their abilities. Babies and toddlers are driven by natural curiosity, and learn to see themselves as capable from the way adults respond to them – for example, hugs and claps when they take their first steps. Primary school-aged children, on the other hand, gain confidence from the way they compare to their peers, like getting top of the class in a test.

Because no one can be the very best all of the time, kids need to learn ways to deal with disappointment positively, and to feel good about their efforts - win or lose. This is especially true for children who are naturally shy or hesitant to try new things.

Here are some ways parents and carers can help build children's confidence.

Encourage them to have a go

Participation is less about winning and losing, and more about valuing individual effort, persistence and improvement. It's also about celebrating the experience for the enjoyment it creates. Make sure goals are within your child's ability, and cheer them on.

Situation: Your child wants to try out for the soccer team but isn't sure whether she is good enough.

You could say: "It's great you want to try out for the team just because you love soccer. Why don't you give it a go anyway and try your best? We can always practise together beforehand."

Support their self-esteem

Confidence and self-esteem go hand in hand. Help children feel positive about and accept themselves the way they are, and see that they don't have to be as good as everyone else. Be optimistic and celebrate small successes and improvements.

Situation: Your child is upset because he is not as good at drawing as his best friend.

You could say: "You know everyone has special talents. You're really good at reading and writing stories. Wouldn't it be boring if we were all good at everything?"

Help them deal positively with disappointment

Coping with failure is a fact of life. When children are disappointed, it's easy for them to get into an "I can't" or "I'm no good" mindset, which can chip away at confidence. Help them see the situation from a different viewpoint and make suggestions for next time.

Situation: Your child wasn't invited to join in a game with her friend at morning break.

You could say: "Maybe Bella was just really excited to start playing and didn't remember to ask you in time. Why don't you invite her over to play after school tomorrow?"

Sustainability News

Earth Hour

The Sawyers students took part in the Earth Hour event last Friday. Lights were turned off in order to highlight energy use and the part it plays in contributing to climate change. This year, Earth Hour was all about raising awareness around the impact that climate change is having on our very own Great Barrier Reef.

Earth Hour officially happened around the world on Saturday night 29th March, 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Did your family take part?

Thanks to those families that have offered **horse manure** for our compost. If you have time to drop some off at the school over the holidays, please see Fiona to arrange a suitable drop off site.

We really appreciate your help.



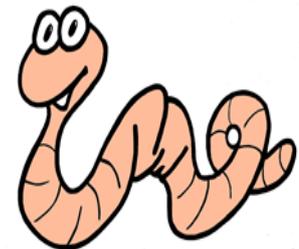
THANK YOU FOR THE HORSE MANURE

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Worm Farm holiday roster

The holidays are on their way! We would appreciate some help to attend to the worm farms over the 2-week break. Lucy will post a roster on her door, please head to room 5 to put your name down if you can help out. You will need to provide some fruit/veg scraps and of course you can take the worm wiz home with you. Thanks!



MILK BOTTLES NEEDED for worm wiz. Please send along CLEAN 2 litre milk bottles for the ultimate in recycling/reusing! Thanks, Danielle

Review of the Parkerville Fire

The WA State Emergency Management Committee* is conducting a review of the bushfire at Parkerville which occurred on 12 January 2014. This is being done to ensure that all of the organisations which have a role to play in preparing for bushfire, responding to a fire and helping communities recover, learn from the event and change policies and practices where needed.

It is important that the Review Team hears from community members directly. The following two questions have been prepared as a guide for those wishing to express their thoughts.

Those wishing to participate may do so in one or more of the following ways:

1. Email the Review Team at parkervillefire@semc.wa.gov.au
2. Send written comments to Parkerville Fire Review Team, 20 Southport St, West Leederville, 6007. WA
3. Text to 0417 561 175
4. Ring the Review Team on 9482 1737 between 9.00 and 4.00 Monday to Friday

You are asked to provide your name but all information supplied to the Review will be treated in the strictest confidence and no comments will be identified.

Please note: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) will also be conducting research with the community affected by the Parkerville Fire. This research will involve one-on-one interviews with researchers from UWA and La Trobe University. For more information please contact Jennifer Pidgeon or Lauren McDonnell on 9395 9816.

* For more information on SEMC visit www.semc.wa.gov.au

Authorised by
Noelene Jennings
Executive Director
State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat

P&C NEWS

P&C General Meeting
Wednesday 2nd April at 6.30pm
in the Staffroom

We invite all parents – new and existing – to attend and become a member. Financial membership costs \$1 per year; you are then entitled to vote on any decisions being made.

No previous experience is required all you need is a desire to supplement your child's educational journey.

Understanding Stepfamily Relationships. Saturday 29th March at 22 Southport Street, West Leederville 9.30-1pm. **Stepfamilies and blended families operate in a different way to intact biological families. The dynamics of a stepfamily are more complex and there is a need for special understanding and management from both biological and stepparents working together for a healthy stepfamily growth to happen. For further information please phone 9489 6322.**

Dads Raising Teenage Girls. Thursday 3rd April at 22 Southport Street, West Leederville 6.30-9pm. **The father-daughter relationship is particularly important during the teenage years to help girls navigate this difficult time. Find out how you can build a more rewarding relationship with your teenage daughter. For further information please phone 9489 6322**

Dads Raising Teenage Boys. Wednesday 9th April at 22 Southport Street, West Leederville 6.30-9pm. **Raising teenage boys can be challenging but there can also be exceptional times of fun and closeness. The Dads Raising Teenage Boys workshop is designed to assist fathers and father figures navigate their way through the teen years so as to help build positive relationships and strong positive young men for the future. For further information please phone 9489 6322.**

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 First Basketball Super Camp... is on for 2014. It is shortened because of public holidays and will be a 3 day camp on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th April from 9 to 3pm at Ray Owen Sports Centre, Lesmurdie. Ages are from 5 to 15 years and cost is \$90 for the 3 days or \$30 per day. Suns SBL and WSBK players will teach basketball skills and direct fun competitions and games to new and more experienced players. Ring 9291 7600 or 0407 470 178 for more information.

The Mundaring Arts Centre is offering two fun art workshops on the school holidays...Looking for something creative to do on the school holidays? Why not book into a Mundaring Arts Centre workshop. **CRAZY CRAFTY CREATURES** -Join Heather Davis and create your own 3D cuddly felted creature. Wednesday 23 April 10.30am – 1.30pm. For 9 – 15yrs / under 10yrs require parent. Cost per session \$50 (MAC Members \$45).

SCREEN PRINT YOUR OWN T-SHIRT... Join Danielle Fusco and create your own original design, learn screen printing & take home your new shirt. Thursday 24 April 10.30am – 1.30pm. For participants aged 10 – 18yrs. Cost per session \$50 (MAC Members \$45). All materials provided, bring your own lunch Workshops held at Swan View Youth Centre.

TERM 2 PLANNER 2014

| T2 | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 28/4 SDD | 29/4 Students Return Term 2 | 30/4 | 1/5 Early Close 2.30pm | 2/5 |
| 2 | 5/5 | 6/5 | 7/5 | 8/5 Early Close 2.30pm School Board | 9/5 Assembly |
| 3 | 12/5 | 13/5 NAPLAN | 14/5 NAPLAN | 15/5 NAPLAN Early Close 2.30pm | 16/5 |
| 4 | 19/5 | 20/5 | 21/5 | 22/6 Early Close 2.30pm | 23/6 Merit Certificate Assembly |
| 5 | 26/5 | 27/5 | 28/5 | 29/5 Early Close 2.30pm | 30/5 |
| 6 | 2/6 Western Australia Day | 3/6 | 4/6 | 5/6 Early Close 2.30pm | 6/6 Assembly |
| 7 | 9/6 | 10/6 | 11/6 | 12/6 Early Close 2.30pm | 13/6 |
| 8 | 16/6 | 17/6 | 18/6 | 19/6 Early Close 2.30pm School Board | 20/6 Merit Certificate Assembly |
| 9 | 23/6 Whole School Excursion- Hills Forrest | 24/6 | 25/6 | 26/6 | 27/6 |
| 10 | 30/6 | 1/7 | 2/7 NEXUS Science Show incursion | 3/7 | 4/7 Assembly |