Dear Parent and Caregivers

The first two weeks of the term have been very smooth with everyone picking up where they left off at the end of term one.

NAPLAN has started this week with students completing Language Conventions and Writing tests today. The testing continues until Thursday 15th.

Clubs is off and running for the term. Clubs is held from 9.30-10.30 Friday mornings of Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. It was fantastic once again to see the range of activities offered by our enthusiastic staff including sewing (with machines!), old fashioned games, a Science Talent Quest, croquet and rocketry.

Thank you to parents for the parent teacher interviews feedback. It was a new format as well as an online booking system that we were trialling.

20 parents provided feedback on a range of questions. 95% of parents found the booking system easy to navigate. 65% thought that 10 minutes was not long enough but 85% thought that holding the interviews late in term 1 allowed teachers to get to know the children to provide feedback to parents. Most respondents gave suggestions for improvements in the future and these suggestions combined with the staff suggestions will help us to provide a better service for all parents. I will clarify

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.
that parents and caregivers were provided with the option of children remaining at school if parents/carers were not able to collect them when school was dismissed at 11am. I acknowledge the confusion around whether children would be signed out and where this would occur – we were not clear as to how many children would be remaining as not everyone returned notes to indicate whether they would be collecting their children or whether they would be remaining at school until the end of the day.

Following the success of Gunma Kokusai Academy’s visit to Perth last year, they have booked to return again! We’d very much like the opportunity to collaborate with the Academy again on hosting the student group and hope that we once again have families who are interested in hosting students during their stay.

The student details:

- Arrival Monday 20th October, departure Tuesday 4th November 2013
- Japanese students will be boys and girls aged 12, and can be placed with a family with a student at the school in grades 5, 6 or 7.
- Japanese students buddy up with their host student and join in on the same classes and activities. A maximum of 3 Japanese students can be placed in the same class.
- Working With Children checks, holding an information evening for host families, matching students, payment to host families, provide 24 hour bi-lingual support as well as keeping in touch during the program.
- Duty of care of Japanese students is ultimately the responsibility of Gold Intercultural Learning. Gold Intercultural Learning are the first point of contact ensuring that school staff will not be called upon to resolve any after-hours issues.

- Host Families Role:
  - Involve the student into their routine.
  - Arrange for the student to travel to and from school with their host student.
  - Provide 3 meals a day and a bed (students can share the bedroom with a member of the host family).

If you are interested in being a host family, please register your interest with the school office, indicating whether your preference is a boy or a girl student.

Preparations for the Year 4 PEAC testing program are now underway. PEAC testing across all of the North Metro Education Region will commence in week 4 of term 2, 2014 and conclude by early term 3, 2014.

Student assessment and identification for selection to PEAC involves blanket testing of Year 4 students using two instruments:

The **Standard Progressive Matrices** (SPM) – a test of non-verbal reasoning ability. It is pattern-based, measuring skills in analysis, interpretation, prediction and sequence identification. This test requires students to see relationships and solve problems of increasing complexity with speed and accuracy.

The **Test of Learning Ability 4** (TOLA 4) – this test is designed to assess language and reasoning abilities, which measure acquired learning.

TOLA 4 has three components:

- **T1** - Verbal comprehension, knowledge and understanding using vocabulary, comprised of 31 items;
- **T2** - Problem solving items of a mathematical kind, comprised of 22 items; and
- **T3** - Verbal reasoning by analogy comprised of 18 items.

The PEAC Program is intended for the most academically able students.

Parents of students in Year 4 will receive a letter with further details about when the testing occurs at Sawyers Valley PS.
I had my first group of students for the year join me for Morning Tea. The students nominated for morning tea this week were Oliver Cliff from Rm 5, Ryan Kertesz from Rm 4, Daniella Hardy from Rm 6 and Edwin Lyons from Rm7. They were an eager group of students, excited to be sharing their work!

Despite telling me that writing was his pet hate, Oliver delivered a very well put together case for having more fitness at school! He informed me that he had been working on his case for more fitness for a number of weeks! He read his reasons to the group with carefully paced expression that emphasised each of his points. His choice of persuasive words certainly helped build his case and he had the support of the other children at morning tea! Oliver also shared a narrative draft that he had worked on in class. It started with a great opening paragraph that drew me (the reader) in. Way to go Oliver!

Ryan from Rm 4 brought along a piece of persuasive writing that he had drafted in class about keeping animals in cages. He explained that the class had looked at a piece of poorly written persuasive text and each student was asked to keep the argument presented in the text but improve the quality of the text. Wow, a challenging task. Ryan included a number of concepts in his writing that he told me he had learned from doing research. He identified that his was a better piece of writing because he presented the reasons for only one side of the argument, he used paragraphs and he included a rebuttal. I found out that Ryan doesn’t really enjoy writing and prefers phys ed and sport. He also told us all that he wants to work in the same business as his dad.

Daniella from Rm 6 also brought along a narrative that she has been working on. Daniella shared that she loves Science, especially when experiments are involved. She aims on being a gene scientist when she finishes school. Her narrative was a whopping 5 pages long. Daniella told me that she doesn’t enjoy writing but that she was really proud of what she had written. She had used very descriptive language in her story such as mysterious and frantically.

Edwin from Rm 7 was very excited about sharing his maths work about rounding numbers. When I asked if Maths was his favourite subject at school he told us that it wasn’t UNTIL he understood how to do rounding! He talked about ‘bad guy’ and ‘good guy’ numbers that his teacher had explained to him and HEY PRESTO Edwin said rounding numbers was now easy! He talked about how he would like to be a mechanical engineer.

Congratulations to Jolyon Joyce who has been awarded the Arts Scholarship @ Swan Christian College for Year 7-Year 10. This is an exciting opportunity for Jolyon to continue his love of learning.

Have a great fortnight.

Leanne Sheardown
PRINCIPAL

Humphreys Dance Academy will be conducting dancing lessons with our students again this year. Students from years 4-7 will have 6 lessons over three weeks commencing June 3rd, and PP-yr 2 students will have one lesson each. Dancing lessons have been held at Sawyers for many years now, and it is an integral part of the Health and Phys-Ed curriculum. Students are taught a wide range of dances from the jive through to modern dances such as Hip-Hop, which they can then use at the joint School and P&C Social Dance later this term. All students are encouraged to attend!
Helping your child to cope

How do you feel when you start a new job? Perhaps you’re nervous about getting there on time or worried that you won’t make any friends. Or maybe you’re concerned about the dress code or whether you’ll get along with the boss.

It’s much the same for children. Starting school is a big change for your child and it’s normal for them to have strong feelings as they start to think about going to a new place each day, making friends, wearing a uniform and developing a relationship with their new teacher. Some common feelings children have during transition to school can include excitement, sadness, anger, anticipation, fear and anxiety.

The good news is there’s lots that parents and carers can do to help children adjust to change in the months before school starts. Here are our top tips to help children cope:

**Listen** and talk to your child. Give your child your full attention and listen carefully to what is being said through words and body language. Gently describe what you think your child is feeling and why, which will allow you to check if you have understood what your child is feeling.

**Comfort** your child. Sometimes a cuddle is all your child needs.

**Reassure** your child when they’re feeling worried or unsure. You might say, “It’s a big playground but there is an area for just the little kids to play.”

**Prepare** your child for changes. Talk positively about starting school and do activities that relate to starting school with your child, such as reading stories about change or talking with older siblings about their experiences starting school.

**Problem solve** challenging situations using this method: identify the problem, find solutions and try them out, and check in with your child after they’ve tried the solution.

**CLASSROOM WITH BEST ATTENDANCE - TERM 1**

Congratulations to Rm 5 for the best attendance for the last 2 weeks of term 1.
SCHOOL FEES
A voluntary contribution of $50 per student is requested.

These funds help with ever raising costs of items such as: art supplies, sporting equipment, exercise books, writing paper, cooking ingredients, cleaning products etc.

We say a big thank you to the families who have made this payment. We really hope other families can do the same.

We are more than happy for fees to be paid in installments.

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

We have 49 families left to pay their contributions.

THANK YOU
We would like to say thank you to those who have given their support, kindness and generosity, to our family after the loss of our home in the January fire.
We truly appreciate your care and extend our warmest wishes to you all.
Nicki, Campbell, Callum, Alec and Hamish Anderson
Have you seen our school website or Facebook page lately?

P&C NEWS

P&C General Meeting
Thursday 15th May at 9am
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.

www.sawyersvalleyps.wa.edu.au

Have you seen our school website or Facebook page lately?
Boys to Men
What are teenage boys thinking and what happens when they make the wrong choices? How can parents and significant people in their lives guide them through adolescence into manhood?

Hear from researcher and social commentator Celia Lashlie, author of “He’ll be OK: Growing Gorgeous Boys Into Good Men” and “The Power of Mothers: releasing our children.” Ms Lashlie demystifies the at times, confusing world of teenage boys and offers some challenging suggestions for parents. Ms Lashlie provides thought provoking ideas for mothers to help their boys grow into the good men they all have the potential to become.

Ms Lashlie completed the now famous “Good Man” project in 2004, which homeroomed discussion from young men in 25 schools throughout New Zealand. The project offered significant insight into the minds of teenage boys and how they see the world.

Her background is in corrective services and she was the first woman to work as a prison officer in male prison in New Zealand. She now works on a number of projects empowering families to find solutions to the challenges they face.

Celia is a sought after international speaker and the Department of Local Government and Communities is pleased to present this free Parenting Matters Seminar in conjunction with Families Week 2014.
Absent, a powerful and moving film about the impact of fathers on children and society.

The documentary is an emotional journey that reveals the universal impacts of fatherlessness while providing hope for a better future for men and women alike. The film draws on the heartfelt stories of Metallica frontman James Hetfield, the late world champion boxer Johnny Tapia, Wild at Heart author John Eldredge, renowned author Richard Rohr, fitness model Robin Decker, prostitutes, vulnerable youth and many more.

“The film shows that fatherlessness and the father wound is a universal problem across our planet however through stories from people such as James Hetfield and others, we begin to create understanding of the issue - and with understanding, you can begin to create change,”

Director/ Producer - Justin Hunt.

Where: Alexander Library Building Theatrette, Francis Street Northbridge
When: Fri 16th May 6.30pm – 10.00pm
Entry: $30.00 (no credit card bookings) – (Your name will appear on the door list for entry)

Book today for this big event before its sold out!
For all bookings Email: Darrell Brown - wildvision1@gmail.com
Or Ph: 9447 2572.

(Inc: 15min break - Tea, Coffee and Biscuits provided)
For more details about this and all our events go to - Awakening Events.net.au