Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are heading towards the end of Term 2 and with that comes the first formal reporting period of the year. The report for Semester One (Terms 1 and 2) will provide information about your child’s progress and achievement to date. Please make a time to speak with your child’s teachers if you are concerned about your child’s progress. Reports will be handed out in the last week of this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and community members who are vigilant in the school carparks at drop off and pick up times. I know that these school times are busy and that the carpark does not allow all parents/carers to find a parking spot exactly where and when they want one. We have been monitoring the carpark more closely after receiving a number of complaints and concerns. I would like to remind ALL users of the carparks that under no circumstances are children to be left in parked cars. If you have a little person who you are not able to get out of the car (for whatever reason) please call our front office and we will see what we can do to assist. Children are NOT allowed to walk through or across the carparks without an adult. My concern is for every child in the school and I will continue to ensure everyone is as safe as possible.

From 2015, all government and non-government schools in Australia will be required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. The first data collection took place in selected schools in October 2013. During 2014 all WA government schools will participate in data collection before full national implementation in 2015.

There is currently no national data set around students with disability. The implementation of a Nationally Consistent

**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.
Collection of Data on School Students with Disability means that for the first time, information about students with disability across Australia will be identified in a consistent, reliable and systematic way. It will strengthen approaches to supporting students with disability.

The Australian Government and all state and territory governments have agreed to a new approach to collecting data annually about students with disability as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA). This new approach is based on the professional judgement of teachers about their students and the level of educational adjustments that students are being provided with to access and participate in education, consistent with the obligations of all schools under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards).

Data will be used to gain a clearer picture of the needs of students with disability, and give more support to schools so that they can better understand and implement their core responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Involvement in the national data collection in 2014 will assist schools to:
- gain a greater understanding of their student population and how students can be best supported
- formally and consistently recognise the support and adjustments provided to students with disability in the school
- develop the professional judgement of school teams in making adjustments for students with disability rather than relying on medical/clinical diagnosis alone
- include all eligible students in the annual data collection from 2015.

The new data collection will record the number of students who have been identified by our school as meeting the definition of disability under the DDA and the adjustments provided for them. Under the data collection model, teachers use their professional, informed judgment to determine:
- which students are being provided with a reasonable adjustment because of disability, as defined in the DDA
- the level of adjustment that students with disability are provided with in the classroom and whole of school context
- the broad category of disability that the student best fits within.
- Students that meet the definition of disability in the DDA but are not provided with an adjustment at this time are also included in the data collection.
- The information above is based on evidence held by schools about adjustments provided for students including:
  - consultation with parents and carers
  - the school team’s observations and professional judgments
  - other relevant information, such as medical diagnosis.

In addition, a number of resources have been developed to help parents and carers with understanding the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child – these include fact sheets, frequently asked questions and a privacy notice.

We will be making contact with parents/carers of students for whom we make learning adjustments for before the end of this term. Data is collected for census day, 1st August 2014 (end of Week 2, Term 3). Please note that this data collection has nothing to do with Schools Plus funding.

*Have a great fortnight*

*Leanne Sheardown*

---

I would like to congratulate Room 2 for 99% attendance in Weeks 3 and 4 of this term.
Morning tea with the Principal

Three delightfully happy people joined me for morning tea on Friday 30th May. Juliah from Rm 8 shared the self portrait of Elsa from the movie Frozen. We found out that Elsa loves to eat chocolate and wants to stop winter. Juliah said the film is so good that her brother wants to watch it every night! She also brought along the questions that she had come up with a class partner about transport as part of the History Hike that happened in her class yesterday. She explained that it was part of learning about history and that the questions were ones that they would be researching soon. Juliah also had some extra pieces of work that she shared with me from the learning area of Technology & Enterprise. She loves reading and writing and wants to be a vet! A vet is also what Hayley from Rm 3 wants to be a vet and she loves reading and writing as well. Hayley shared the writing that she did about her birthday yesterday. We found out that she had butterfly cupcakes (made by her clever mum) with her friends. One of the presents that Hayley received was a headband with princess written on it – I tried it on for size and they all laughed at me! Hayley said that she loves learning. Young Wyatt from Rm 2 came into the room declaring he was a ‘shape champion’! Wyatt was so proud of the work he had completed in class about 2D and 3D shapes. We did a shape hunt in my office and he found lots of rectangles, circles and squares. He talked about the shape monster that he had made in class and when I asked him what his favourite thing to do at school is he told me “I like to play”.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As we are heading towards the end of Semester One we are again asking families to make contribution payments.

A voluntary contribution of $50 per student is requested.

To make it easier for families you are welcome to pay via bank transfer into our Bendigo Bank account in Mundaring.

Account Name: Sawyers Valley Primary School
BSB: 633-000
Account Number: 150617231

Please ensure you put your family name in the reference / description area when making your payment so we know who has made a payment.

Dress as someone famous fundraising day

The Student Council held a dress up day on Monday 9th June to raise funds for the sister school in Cambodia. We had an assortment of famous people visiting our school: we had many different faces (and hair colours) of Katy Perry, Willy Wonka was here as well. Several sporting stars representing basketball, netball, BMX, AFL and soccer. Karate Kid popped in as well. Book characters, fairies and princesses, Red Foo, Michael Jackson as well as superheroes (Spiderman, Batman, Robin, Ironman and Power Rangers swung by. Everyone went to great efforts and in doing so raised $185 for our Cambodian sister school.

Well done!
It's our vision to create a beautiful, functional and diverse natureplay environment in the school's 'pines' area. Work began last year to clear an area ready for play.

Why a natureplay area? Research has provided us with some undeniable benefits that just cannot be ignored. Check this out… (courtesy of the Natureplay WA website).

* Children who play regularly in natural settings are sick less often. Mud, sand, water, leaves, sticks, pine cones and gum nuts can help to stimulate children's immune system as well as their imagination
* Children who spend more time outside tend to be more physically active and less likely to be overweight.
* Children who play in natural settings are more resistant to stress; have lower incidence of behavioural disorders, anxiety and depression; and have a higher measure of self-worth.
* Children who play in natural settings play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways and show improved language and collaboration skills.
* Children who play in nature have more positive feelings about each other.
* Bullying behaviour is greatly reduced where children have access to diverse nature-based play environments.
* Symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder are reduced after contact with nature.

The school is keen get a group of staff and parents together to set the direction for this environmental project. Do you want to have a say? Do you want to get involved? Do you have some ideas? Do you have some skills to share? Do you have some time to give at a busy bee or two? All for the benefit of your children…

Danielle Murphy (PP teacher) and Lynda Thornhill (Mum from room 8) will be attending a Natureplay ‘hands on’ Workshop on Friday the 20th of June. We WILL come back with some great ideas and we WILL be brimming with enthusiasm and energy for the job!

A team meeting will be held on the last Thursday of term – the 3rd of June at 9am (after drop-off) in the staffroom. Come and join us and be a part of this new chapter for Sawyers Primary School!

Come and join the **Grounds and Environmental Management** (GEM) group! We cannot do it without some representatives from our parent group…

**CLEMENTI SCHOOL VISIT**

ON Friday 30th May Sawyers Valley PS once again hosted a visiting class from Clementi PS in Singapore. Mrs Addison and students from Rm 7 partnered up with the students and involved them in clubs and then a cultural exchange where they shared information about the two very different settings. Thank you to our school hosts for being a part of this valuable cultural exchange.
Uniform Shop
The uniform shop day will be changing - as of 23rd June 2014 it will be open on MONDAY afternoons at the same time from 3 – 3.30pm.

Donation of Fridge
We require a fridge/freezer to use for events - If any family have a working one that they would be happy to donate to us please contact a P&C member. Thankyou

Barlow Street
Just a reminder to all parents/caregivers to please slow down when driving in Barlow Street for everyone’s safety and also please do not park on the footpath as this leads to people (adults and students) having to walk on the road.

P&C General Meeting
Tuesday 10th June at 6.30pm
in the Staffroom

Items for discussion at this meeting:
School Dance
Free Lunch for Term 2
Fire Preparedness in the school

If you would like to have input please attend the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there!

The Magical World of Crazy Science
On Wednesday 2nd July
(A whole school incursion - notes coming home soon)
A totally unique show that will have children spellbound that combines science, illusion and the arts. The Magical World of Crazy Science is a delightful mixture of magical visual science demonstrations that teaches a wide array of science concepts.

Take a wild ride with your host Richard Scholes through the Magical World of Crazy Science. Witness giant columns of elephant toothpaste, a genie’s appearance from a lamp, the world’s weirdest bird or Sir Isaac Newton ‘live’, massive smoke rings zooming and toilet paper flying, levitations gigantic bubbles, mountains of slime and billowing concoctions. Have you ever seen your skin crawling in front of your very eyes? Add to this the hilarious mix of interactive magic and you have one very engaging science show.

The Performer:
Richard Scholes is a multi-award winning entertainer, scientist and teacher. Richard’s life has been a unique blend of academic life and performing arts. Richard has a Bachelor of Education and has also won Australian Stage Magician of the Year and twice won Queensland Entertainer of the Year. He has studied mime, mask and commedia in London and Europe. With his unique blend of mask, mime, magic and hand shadows He has worked with the Queensland Theatre Company. He has graced the stages as guest artist for legendary performers as diverse as Shirley MacLaine, B.B. King, and Lou Rawls to a 3-month tour of Australia with Billy Connolly and performed in three Royal Command Performances, two for the King and Queen of Sweden and one for the Princess of Brunei

Here is a preview of what you can expect The Magical world of Crazy Science
ACMA (Australian Consumer and Media Authority) will be presenting 3 sessions (one for students, one for teachers and one for parents) about being Cybersmart on Thursday 31st July. Each presentation is approximately 60 minutes excluding question time. These presentations cover a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks faced by students online such as cyberbullying, identity theft, unwanted contact and exposure to offensive content
- tips and strategies to help students stay safe online.

The presentations are delivered by a team of Outreach trainers, each of whom is an education specialist. Outreach services schools from all sectors nationally.

Staff will participate in an after school session as part of their professional learning.

I am happy to announce that a FREE parent/community session is booked for Thursday 31st July, starting @ 5.30pm. This is a not to be missed information session for parents and carers of young people online. (Your children are welcome to come with you but you are responsible for their supervision at all times)

For more information, please visit [http://cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx](http://cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx)

To assist us with ensuring we have enough seating put out, please complete the attached slip on the back page with the number of people attending from your family.
Building the SVPS Chook House

Hi everyone. We have been successful in obtaining a grant for school chickens! In addition to being cool school pets, the chickens will help with our aim to reduce and eventually eliminate the amount of food scraps that go into the bins.

We are currently working on the plans for the school chook house, which will be located below the Old School House. To minimise future problems we need to build a very secure house and run for them. However at the same time, we are trying to make the build easy, so it can be completed by a Busy Bee.

The rough design has been completed and we now need some practical people, who will hopefully help us build it, to look over it and see what we can do to make it easier (and possible) to build. Then the design can be finished, materials purchased and building can commence. Hooray!

If you can help, please email Joanne Gray @ joannegray@westnet.com.au.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Donation Requests - Items Needed

Does anyone have some leftover, outdoor suitable, clear varnish that they are willing to donate? The Green Team recently completed two fantastic recycled pallet planters, as part of a competition for the Small Farms Field Day.

To protect these works of art and to make the pallets suitable to go outside, they really need to be finished with a coat of varnish.

The school is continuing our sustainable initiative the ‘Chook Register’. If anyone has any spare, used plastic shopping bags, can they please send them to class with their children. The bags are needed to take home food scraps for peoples chickens.

If you HAVE chooks and DO NOT want scraps to be sent home with your child, please advise your child’s teacher as soon as possible. We hope you can support the school continue this waste reduction initiative!

Thanks from the Green Team.

Green Team Product Review: Worm Wizz

Available every assembly from the Green Team (or by special request).

Worm Wizz is actually the liquid that has leached through the bedding of Castings in our worm farms, it is not really Worm wee.

Worm Wizz contains a huge number of micro-organisms which aid in fungal control and soil friendly bacteria which helps stimulate micro activity in the soil. Worm Wizz is a fantastic product for your plants and can be used as a fertiliser, foliar spray and even as a ‘pick-me-up’ when they need an extra boost. As it should have a neutral pH it can be used on indoor plants, potted plants, seedlings, ferns, vegetables, fruit trees, lawns, etc.

The liquid does NOT smell bad like lots of other plant fertilisers, in fact it doesn’t really smell at all. The liquid can be used neat or diluted 10:1. There are no restrictions, use as much as you like, as often as you like. Please Note that if you are going to store your Worm Wizz, place it in a dark cool place, as it contains living organisms and microbes.
How to build your child’s resilience

Children are much more likely to bounce back from a negative experience if they already have the building blocks in place to help them cope. Research shows children are more likely to develop coping skills if they: trust that the world is safe and caring people will help them; believe in their ability to do things for themselves; feel valued for who they are; feel optimistic; and can manage their feelings, thoughts and behaviours. Try these strategies to help bolster your child’s ability to deal with emotionally-trying situations:

Arrange a fun child-friendly activity each week like a trip to the park, play date with a friend or watching a favourite movie. Regular ‘ups’ provide a bank of positive emotions to buffer against life’s ‘downs’ that may involve disappointment or conflict.

Help your kids to think positively. If your child is frustrated by a difficult puzzle, say, "I know that puzzle was hard today, but yesterday I saw you get a hard puzzle out. You kept trying until you found the right place to put the pieces."

If you have a disagreement with your child, the most important thing to do is to reconnect and repair the relationship. Let your little one cool down then offer a hug or words of support. This has benefits for your child’s mental health as well as their ability to deal with relationship problems as they get older.

cyber(smart::)

Thursday 31st July at 5.30pm.
Family Name: ___________________
Number Attending: ___________________

Please return to your child’s classroom teacher