Dear Parents and Friends

Mr Leckie to Retire
After nearly 40 years of teaching and an incredible 38 of these years at Spencer Park, Mr Leckie will retire at the end of this term. His contribution to our school over such a long period is inestimable. His presence around here will be greatly missed. Those of you who have been associated with the school for a long period will, I am sure, regard him as a key part of the fabric of our school. Over my time at Spencer Park he has been a very popular teacher with many students rating him highly as their all time favourite. Year in, year out his classroom is characterised as calm and organised, with students quietly engaged in learning. He has certainly been a steady and stable influence for students entering their final years at our school. He should leave the teaching profession well satisfied with the positive impact he has made on the lives of many people within our community.

Some may be surprised by this announcement but given his age and length of service, his decision to retire was going to happen sooner rather than later. We wish him well in his remaining weeks. A special assembly and function to acknowledge and celebrate his contribution to teaching and our school will be held next term.

An announcement in relation to his replacement will be made towards the end of term.

Schoolkids Bonus
I am sure that there will be parents in our community who would have already received this payment from the Federal Government. Most eligible families would have received the payment automatically; however some needed to update their children’s education details to ensure they received payment, e.g. families with children starting primary for the first time in 2013 and children moving from primary to secondary school in 2013. The Schoolkids Bonus provides $410 per year for primary aged children and $820 per year for secondary aged children. The payments are made direct to families and do not require the collection of receipts or any proof of expenditure.

Brochures containing information about eligibility are available in our front office. If you feel that you may be eligible but have not yet received payment you can contact or visit our local Centrelink office.

Mathletics Available again this year
Our school has again signed up for the Mathletics program this year. For those that may not be aware of this program it is software available on the web that children in years 1 to 7 can use at home and at school to practice and develop their maths skills. Your child should have been given a password to access the program – a link on our website will take them directly to the site.

This does provide a valuable homework option that your child can be involved in – please use this as fully as possible.

Easter Hat Parade
We have come quickly upon that time of the year again when we celebrate Easter by putting on our Easter hats. Our Easter hat parade has been a long lasting tradition at our school and will occur next Thursday prior to our break for the Easter holiday, I hope that you can encourage your child to be involved. They do not have to be elaborate but the more children involved the better the event. You may wonder where this originated from – I have added some Wikipedia information elsewhere in today’s newsletter for your information.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Key Dates
Next Assembly Fri 22 Mar
Interschool Cricket vs Albany PS Fri 22 Mar
P&C Meeting Mon 25 Mar
7.00am Swimming Training Tues 26 Mar
Easter Hat Assembly Thur 28 Mar
Good Friday Holiday Fri 29 Mar
Easter Monday Holiday Mon 1 Apr
Easter Tuesday Holiday Tues 2 Apr

PLEASE NOTE: As part of the Easter Break school will be closed on Tuesday 2nd April.
Spencer Park Primary School
Code of Behaviour

- Respect other people, their rights and their property.
- Be courteous.
- Let others learn.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.

The Origin of Easter Hats (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

An Easter Bonnet represents the tail-end of a tradition of wearing new clothes at Easter, in harmony with the renewal of the year and the promise of spiritual renewal and redemption.

The "Easter Bonnet" was fixed in popular culture by composer Irving Berlin, whose frame of reference was the Easter parade in New York City, a festive walkabout that made its way down Fifth Avenue from St. Patrick's Cathedral:

"In your Easter bonnet,
With all the thrill upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade."

At the depths of the Great Depression a new hat at Easter, or a refurbished old one, was a simple luxury. The broader English tradition of new clothes at Easter has been noticed in late 16th century references by Peter Opie, who noted Mercutio's taunting of Benvolio in Romeo and Juliet: "Did'st thou not fall out with a Tailor for wearing his new Doublet before Easter?" At just the same time Thomas Lodge's moralising pamphlet Wits Miserie (London, 1596) recorded "The farmer that was contented in times past with his Russet Frocke & Mockado sleeves, now sels a Cow against Easter to buy him silken geere for his Credit". In Samuel Pepys' diary, 30 March (Easter Day) 1662, he notes "Having my old black suit new furbished, I was pretty neat in clothes to-day, and my boy, his old suit new trimmed, very handsome."

Poor Robin, an 18th-century English almanac maker, offered the doggerel

"At Easter let your clothes be new
Or else be sure you will it rue."

and the notion that ill-luck would dog the one who had not something new at Easter expanded in the 19th century.

Today the Easter bonnet is a type of hat that women and girls wear to Easter services, and in the Easter parade following it. Ladies purchased new and elaborate designs for particular church services, and in the case of Easter, taking the opportunity of the end of Lent to buy luxury items. Now, in a more casual society, Easter Bonnets are becoming harder to find, as fewer and fewer women bother with the tradition.

Spencer Park wins Second Interschool Cricket Game

Spencer Park recorded its second win of the competition last Friday against Mt Lockyer. Batting first Spencer Park made 90 off of its 20 overs. Top scorers were Josh Rm 9 with 15 not out and Tyson Rm 11 with 8 not out. Only 1 wicket was taken in our innings. Batting second Mt Lockyer could only manage 28 bowled out in the 12th over. Wicket takers were Josh Rm 11 3 for 4 and Tyler Carroll 2 for 3. Our next game is against Albany PS tomorrow.

LUCKY TICKET DRAW

Recognising effort, excellence and good citizenship. Congratulations to these students who won ice cream tickets at the assembly last Friday.

Cameron Rm 19   Nicole Rm 3
Lheal Rm 3       Rhannon Rm 4
Sylvie Rm 3      Makayla Rm 4
Jasmyne Rm 4     Phoenix Rm 4
Blessamae Rm 9

HONOUR CERTIFICATES

We congratulate the following students who received certificates at the last assembly.

Rebecca Rm 3   Lars Rm 3
Charlie Rm 8    Xavier Rm 8
Samuel Rm 7     Jarrah Rm 17
James Rm 17     Taylor Rm 5
Ben Rm 11       Erin Rm 11
Blessa Mae Rm 9 Brian Rm 2
Bella Rm 1      Caitlyn Rm 7
Jordan Rm 7     Beau Rm 10
Dana Rm 10      Aaron Rm 19
Kyle Rm 19      Kanisha Rm 5
Mikaela Rm 11   Skye Rm 11
Jordan Rm 11

P&C Volunteers

Please fill out the following form and return to the school office if you can help the P&C this year. Tick the activities that you can assist with:

- I can attend meetings regularly
- I can help out at disco’s

Name ___________________________
Contact Number ___________________
SPENCER PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Next week our students and staff will be off to Camp Quaranup for our annual camp. Shelley Redmond organises the camp in Term 1. We find the children get to know each other in a fun environment. Also more friendships are formed that continue throughout the year.

The camp is a great chance for the children to interact with each other and the staff in a more relaxed environment. Everyone is heading out on Tuesday morning about 9:30 for a fantastic camp experience. Swimming, fishing, camp food, sharing a dorm room, walking on the beach and on the walking trails is just a few of the things they will be doing on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The team will be back about 2:30 on Thursday. Both the students and staff will have the Easter break to rest up after another opportunity to develop more enthusiasm for life.

MegaSkill Number 4: Responsibility

Teaching your child responsibility helps build character and makes them a more independent, self-reliant person. As they grow, remember to let their responsibilities evolve. Finally, don't forget to give them plenty of praise for a job well done!

1. ASSIGN some accountability

Age-appropriate chores are a simple way to teach your child responsibility. Add in a little financial incentive and your darling will begin learning how to manage finances, too.

2. Let them make decisions

Letting your child make some of their own choices will teach them accountability and help them to gain independence. Younger children should be offered limited options, but give them the chance to choose from them.

3. Foster independence

The only way to master any skill is through practice. By letting them tackle age-appropriate tasks, like getting themselves dressed, they will also become more self-reliant.

4. Set a good example

Taking your own responsibilities seriously sets a good example for your child's watchful eyes. "Whether we promote it or not, children always learn by example", says Thomas S. Greenspon, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Keeping your promises or being on time are ways you can lead by example.

5. Pick up a book

Stories pack a lot of punch, so when it comes to reading time, select books that illustrate responsibility. Interesting characters and situations they can identify with will hold their attention. Even better, they won't tune you out because they aren't being lectured!

6. Talk THEM through difficult situations

Although your first instinct is to direct and protect your adolescent, instead of automatically telling them what they should do, guide them through the process of coming to a conclusion on their own. Ask questions and encourage them to think it through with your support.

7. Show them the bigger picture

The ultimate goal is for your sweetheart to act responsibly because she wants to, not just because she's told to. Explaining to your child how doing them part is helping the family as a whole can sometimes help young children understand how their actions affect others.

The above information on responsibility was taken from [http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/817968/7-tips-for-teaching-your-child-responsibility](http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/817968/7-tips-for-teaching-your-child-responsibility)

What can you do to help your child become more responsible and independent?

Please feel free to discuss any of your concerns with me. It is best to make an appointment by calling 9841 1537 to be sure I will be available.

Diane E Edwards, Principal

IN TERM SWIMMING LESSONS

This program will commence for Spencer Park students in Week 3 and 4 of Term 2. The cost for these lessons has increased slightly from last year and will be $6.00 per day per student.

If your child has ALAC membership the cost will be $3.00 to cover the cost of transport. Please supply your classroom teacher with your ALAC membership number.

Don’t be caught short! You may like to commence making payments for this program now to alleviate the cost coming all at once.

More information and a timetable of lessons will be published in future newsletters.

SPENCER PARK SOCCER CLUB

Registrations 2013 Season
When: Friday 8th, 15th and 22nd March.
Where: Uniform Shop Rm 6
Cost: PP-Yr 5 $85.00
Yr 6 and 7 $100.00

Also Saturday 16th March 9am-1pm at the North Road Soccer Grounds.

Kidsport Vouchers will be accepted once stamped and validated and can be handed in with a $5 club fee at registration.

Registrations after the 22nd March will only be accepted if there is available places. For further information contact Kristel on 0407 421 675 or visit [albanyoccer.com.au](http://albanyoccer.com.au)