Dear Parents and Friends

Faction Cross Country
The weather managed to hold off quite well for the Year 4 to 7 Faction Cross Country held last week and as always, it was pleasing to see how well all those that participated did in giving their best on the day. Whilst some were keen to gain a place, others were looking to better their times in the lead up or placement from the previous years. I saw lots of determination to finish strongly and this seemed to happen no matter where a child was finishing. Congratulations to all of those involved. Running such a distance on a track that presents some challenges isn’t easy and does require stamina and resilience to push through the pain barrier. If this has sparked an interest in running for your child make the most of this by encouraging them to continue to run and maintain a high level of fitness. Congratulations also go to the medallion winners – there were some outstanding performances on the day.

Many thanks to those parents who helped out on the day by being track supervisors and ensuring no-one got lost or were left injured and unattended. Once again many thanks to Mrs Binning who, as always, did a great job in preparing the students for this event and ensuring the morning races ran smoothly.

I am hoping that with the preparation provided for last week’s event and with some additional before school training there will be a positive result in today’s Interschool Cross Country event to be held Yakamia Primary School.

Great Day for the Lapathon
The weather gods also smiled on us for the Lapathon, giving us 45 minutes of fine weather for our Pre-primary to Year 3 students to complete as many laps of the oval that they could. It was fantastic to see the commitment of the children involved, there were runners, joggers and walkers but everyone was determined to keep moving over the time specified. Even the Principal puffed his way around, but couldn’t convince those present that he had done more laps than anyone!

Ms Burges to Take Leave
At the end of next week we farewell Ms Burges from Room 8 who will be taking leave for the remainder of the year. We wish her well and hope that this is a relaxing and rejuvenating break. We welcome Mrs Harvey-Gimm who will be replacing Ms Burges whilst she is away.

NAIDOC Week
Next week is NAIDOC Week and it was fantastic that last Friday, as a lead up event, we had the Wadumbah Dance group here at school to perform. They not only entertained us with their dancing and didgeridoo playing but also reminded everyone present of some of the important aspect of Aboriginal culture. They even got a large group of students and staff (including a very uncoordinated Principal!) involved in some very energetic dancing. I am hoping that this was the kind of event that warm people up well for our annual commemoration and celebration of the important place indigenous culture has in our community.

A timetable for next week’s events is elsewhere in today’s newsletter. As always the week begins with an opening assembly next Monday 1 July, this begins at 10.00am, I hope you can be there.

Gonski Funding
I am sure that many of you may have been following this issue in the news. You may be interested in what a change to the new funding formula could mean for our school. These are projected figures only and may depend on how the additional federal government funding is administered by the state government.
2014 total school funding: $5,566,998
2019 total school funding: $6,768,188
2013 -2019 growth: $1,484,185
2013 – 2014 growth per student: 20.8%

As you can see, if this is the way things pan out then our school and its students would be substantially better off in terms of what could be provided. I would be hoping that as Principal I will have more scope and depth to be able to differentiate the support I provide for our students. It would certainly help us to intervene as early as possible with those young students who show signs of difficulty when it comes to learning.

The other important part of this change is that it is an attempt to address what has become a flawed model of allocating Federal funds for schools, a model that over time is becoming less and less targeted when it comes to ensuring the money is placed where it is most needed.

Education is such an important key in terms of determining life outcomes, I think any additional investment in this area must increase the numbers of our young people who complete their schooling with the skills and knowledge needed to make a success of their lives.

We will see what happens with this reform.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

FATHERS DAY STALL – HELP NEEDED.

It is proposed to have a Father’s Day Stall on Friday 30th August. To help this occasion run smoothly we need to be well planned and organised. If any of the parents or community can give a helping hand please phone Trish on 9842 8625.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly commences in the school hall at 8.55am on Friday. On Monday 1 July our assembly will be at 10.00am for NAIDOC Week. All welcome.

SAFETY IN CARPARKS.

- Parking - please be considerate of others and obey all parking regulations. The staff car park is out of bounds.
- Please make sure that your child treats the carpark like a road and looks both ways for vehicles.

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property bin will be cleared Friday 28th June. Please find the time to go through it to reclaim your children’s items. Any items left unclaimed will be sorted, uniform articles put into the second hand uniform store and other articles will be donated to local charities.

HEAD OF THE CLASS:-

THE LOWDOWN ON LICE

MYTHS

If you have head lice you’re dirty. You have to boil the sheets and clean the house.

Head lice carry disease.

Head lice jump, fly and swim.

You can catch head lice from wearing someone’s hat or sleeping on their pillow.

FACTS

You don’t have to wash sheets, vacuum or scrub the house to get rid of head lice.

They don’t live long once they are no longer on the scalp.

Head lice cannot jump, fly or swim, they run 30cm a minute and can trapeze from one hair to another.

Head lice cannot live inside a hat or on a pillow case.

They quickly dehydrate.
Over the past few years I have persistently applied for an interactive whiteboard grant of $5,000. I am pleased to announce that yesterday I was informed that we have received the grant.

Last Friday for was our Union Day all day excursion. The WA Disability Sports Association was running a camp at Camp Quaranup so we went there for the day.

The students and staff participated in a variety of activities. These included a Spoon and Egg obstacle race, Archery, Photography, Hide and Seek with red and blue balls with words on them as well as Frisbee Golf, etc.

According to Emily she would definitely like to go again. Archery was her favourite though she said, “I hit everything but the target”. She told me “Juniper hit the target in the centre twice. Crystal was good at archery and Hamish had a go. He liked it. He was laughing.”

Mrs Wills also told me that Chad took some very good photographs.

All in all the weather was great, the WADSA people were very helpful and they have now met our students. The next time they are down we will probably participate in the activities they organise and they now have a better idea of our students’ abilities and skills and can tailor the activities more for our students.

Crystal and Mrs Roberts with the archery coach

Mrs Walsh helping one of the students take a photo of a flower.

Our End of Term Assembly on Monday was a great success. More about that next week.

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

Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Saver Plus provides free financial education, budgeting and saving tips to assist you in making your money go further! Saver Plus will even match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500 towards education costs. There’s no catch.

To be eligible, you need to have:
- a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school, starting next year or study yourself
- some regular household income, e.g. you or a partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work.

Contact Maureen Adams at Anglicare WA on 9845 6617 or maureen.adams@anglicarewa.org.au
NAIDOC WEEK 2013

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<td>10-10.40 Assembly Welcome to Country – Averil Dean. Choir. Pursuit of Excellence Certificates. Multi media Presentation Performance Item. NAIDOC Morning Tea to follow assembly.</td>
<td>2.00-2.30 Kirby Bentley story for Years 4/5. 2.30-3.00 Kirby Bentley story for Year 6/7. 3.20-3.40 Eagles Cup warm-up with Kirby Bentley 4.00-5.00 “Dreamtime at the Park” Eagles Cup &amp; Netball vs Mount Lockyer at Spencer Park. Afternoon tea and presentations to follow sports game.</td>
<td>Larry Blight rostered to work with Year groups PP-6. He will tell stories, bring in Aboriginal artefacts and be working in the Library.</td>
<td>Roster set up for Tommy Dimer to work with classes on activities including demonstrating spear making and throwing spears and boomerangs.</td>
<td>Leonie, Lisa Thomas and Brianna Williams damper making.</td>
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VISITING PRESENTERS:

**Kirby Bentley** – A former Mt Barker student. Champion netballer until needing a knee reconstruction. Now widely acclaimed as the best female footballer in Australia. Works for the David Wirrapunda Foundation.

**Larry Blight** – Ex Spencer Park student and Education Assistant. Has worked for the museum and Clontarf Football Academy. Currently employed by TAFE. Great supporter of Spencer Park and always keen to share his understanding of Aboriginal culture.

**Tommy Dimer** – Parent from Flinders Park Primary School. Knowledgeable and skilled in the art of spear making and throwing spears and boomerangs.