Dear Parents and Friends

Year 7’s Movement to High School 2015
As you may be aware this year’s current year 5 group will be the first group of students to complete their primary school years at the end of year 6. As such, at the end of next year (2014) two year groups of students will move onto high school. At this current time there are 80 students involved, 36 who will be in year 6 next year and 44 who will be in year 7.

This has a number of ramifications. Last week our School Board met and agreed to support a number of key decisions in relation to this issue.

- For 2014 our Student Councillor group will be expanded to 13 and be made up of 8 year 7 students and 5 year 6 students. Elections for these positions will be conducted in term 4 of this year.
- For 2014 the number of faction leaders will be expanded to 3 per faction, two positions will be reserved for year 7 students and 1 for year 6 students.
- Two separate graduation ceremonies one for the year 6 students and one for year 7’s will be held on consecutive nights at the end of 2014.
- The annual year 7 camp program will expand to include year 6’s. The destination is still to be determined. The bigger numbers and cost may see this held closer to home.
- The high school transition program will involve both groups of students. The high schools in town are yet to release details about this, but I would expect that for 2014 this program will have a more elevated intensity than previous years.

Year 7 students moving to high school is a major change to the way schools operate in this state. In 2015 we lose two year groups together will be a unique year. As such it is important that we think ahead and are well prepared for the changes that will occur. Hopefully the information given above will help you to understand how some of the issues that result from this change are to be addressed.

Cybersmart Parent Workshops
I am sure that most parents will understand that there are risks involved when children are engaged in online internet activity. This is an ever changing and evolving environment. Parents need to be up to date with the latest trends so that responses to issues at home can be timely, appropriate and effective.

There is no doubt that with Facebook, You Tube and other social networking systems our current generation of young people are well entrenched online and as such can be exposed to issues like cyberbullying and cyberstalking. Given that online activity can only get more intense in the years ahead, burying our heads in the sand and thinking that it will all go away or thinking that our children are immune from the difficulties that may be presented is certainly not realistic. It is not realistic either to create some kind of online barrier in your homes and somehow quarantine children from this world – at some time they will become involved and without some kind of training and guidance this could also be a recipe for disaster. Mobile technology now allows social networking connection at any time anywhere.

Cybersmart is national cybersafety and cybersecurity education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). This is part of the Australian Governments commitment to keeping children and families safe online. We are fortunate to secure a visit by one of the teams that travel the country delivering this education program.

I strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to attend the Cybersmart parent workshop on Wednesday 14 August at 6.30pm in our staffroom. This presentation is based on the very latest research and trends when it comes to online activity and will I am sure be highly beneficial, particularly if you have children approaching their teenage years. I hope to see you there. There is a link on our website that takes you to the Cybersmart website – this will give you some idea about this program.

WAMSE Testing Yr 5 and 7
Next week our year 5 and year 7 students will be participating in the annual WA Monitoring Standards in Education Testing. This program assesses a students understanding of the Science and Society and Environment learning areas and is administered by State Government as opposed to the NAPLAN testing which is administered by the Federal Government. The testing takes about 3 hours to complete and will be conducted throughout the course of the week.
A report for each student in relation to this
assessment will be provided later in the year.

HOT!HOT!HOT! Tickets on Sale
Tickets for this performance are now on sale at the Albany Entertainment Centre, (a little earlier than I thought they would be). Ticket prices are $10 for children and $19 for adults. We are hoping that all students from year 3 to 7 will be involved. It promises to be a really great night of entertainment – please get in early to secure your ticket.

Annual Parent Survey
Our annual parent survey is to be distributed next week. This will need to be returned by 13 September. This feedback is extremely valuable. Even if you are completely happy with the school please take a few minutes to complete the survey. It will be greatly appreciated. I hope you can spend some time to do this.

Jeans for Genes.
You may have already heard from your child that we will be participating in this charity fundraiser tomorrow. Wearing a pair of jeans and bringing a $2.00 donation will raise money for research into those genetic disorders that affect young children. This research is involved with a range of disorders including epilepsy and a number of aggressive cancers that occur in young children. This is a very worthwhile cause where every dollar raised will make a difference.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Forthcoming Events
First Assembly Term 3 (Room 5) Fri 2 Aug
P&C Meeting 7.15pm Mon 5 Aug
WAMSE Testing Yr 5 and 7 5 –9 Aug
Eagles Cup vs APS (Home) Tues 6 Aug
Netball Carnival Katanning Fri 9 Aug
Cybersmart Parent Workshop 6.30pm Wed 14 Aug
Bookweek 19 -23 Aug
Parent Survey Return 13 Sept

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL

There is no Active After School in Term 3. It will resume again in Term 4.

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.

Jeans for Genes Day is THIS FRIDAY.
Bring along $2.00 and wear your ‘fave” pair of jeans to school (with your regular school top).
We are raising money for research into childhood disease and disorders and it’s happening, ALL OVER AUSTRALIA.

EVERY Dollar raised, will help scientists discover new treatments and cures to give every child the opportunity to live a long and healthy life.
One in 20 Aussie kids will be helped. Come on, teachers and admin, be in it too. Just $2.00.

Ms Jeannie Ralph,
Health Teacher

Would $500 assist you with education costs?
You could receive up to $500 to help pay for educational costs including:
- school uniforms
- text books
- excursions
- laptops
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire
- TAFE, traineeship and apprenticeship costs!

Anglicare WA delivers Saver Plus in your local area and is looking for new participants.

To be eligible you must:
- have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- are at least 18 years old
- have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and
- have a child at school, or study yourself.

Contact Maureen Adams at Anglicare WA 9845 6617 or maureen.adams@anglicarewa.org.au
Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
Books for the Disabled Children’s Foundation Raffle are due back to the Centre on the 5th to be posted to Perth. The draw takes place on the 12th of August. Tickets can be purchased from both Administration offices. First prize is $20.00. ALL the money from the sale of the tickets comes back to the school for the school camp in 2014.

Better Start funding for children with disability Initiative has increased the conditions they are funding. Representatives will be in Albany on the 13th and 14th of August to raise awareness of the new funding.

Children under the age of 6 with a diagnosis below, are eligible for an extra $12,000 to be used towards early intervention services and $4,200 of that can be used on resources, e.g., iPads, climbing frames, trampolines etc.

- Cerebral palsy
- Deafblindness
- Down syndrome, including mosaic Down syndrome
- Fragile X syndrome
- Hearing impairment
- Sight impairment
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Cri du Chat syndrome
- Angelman syndrome
- Williams syndrome
- Smith-Magenis syndrome
- Cornelia de Lange syndrome
- Microcephaly (this can be in relation to Foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS))

I will have more information after my meeting with them on the 13th of August.

We have had a break from MegaSkills so here is the next instalment.

MegaSkill Number 9: Common Sense is plain ordinary good judgment; sound practical sense.

While most people develop basic common sense, others do not! For those that don’t develop this naturally teach them problem solving.

Sometimes it’s just easier to tell our kids what to do to avoid some problems, but even though it’s easier, it takes away the skill building of how to solve a problem.

You may want to work on building confidence and asking their opinion. The more that you do things like that, the more they may become used to thinking and coming up with ideas.

Just knowing that you care about their opinion is a great self-esteem booster! When you think about it, they are probably more used to being corrected due to the frustration that occurs from their lack of common sense. Encourage them!

When you begin to work on building common sense you may ask them to ask themselves these questions:

- Is this a good idea to do?
- Will it hurt me or anyone else?

These questions teach your child to think of options before they jump in head first!

When they make a mistake, ask them to go back and go through the questions with you. They’ll build skills with practice!

Some people always need to think this way because it’s just not a natural thing to see what most of us feel is obvious. If your child is one of those people it will help them more to teach and encourage them.

There is a quote that says, “Teach your child how to think, not what to think.” You can do that when you encourage them to discover their own solutions.

When they come to you with a question ask them what they think the answer might be. Then ask them questions to get them to start thinking in the right direction. Use a tone that is fun and inquisitive!

When you teach your child to think, they’ll learn how to solve more problems on their own. That gives them confidence and pride!

Modified from: [http://www.helpmealison.com/common-sense.html](http://www.helpmealison.com/common-sense.html)

We have an older model TV we no longer require. It would need a set top box. FREE to a good home.

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

ASSEMBLY FRIDAY

Assembly commences at 8.55am in the school hall on Friday. This week will feature Rm 5. All welcome.

**SmartRider**

Advice received from Loves Buses has stated that if a student loses their SmartRider card they will have to pay $1.10 per trip (NOT $0.50) until a new card is issued.

**On The Noticeboard**

Outside Room 6

Dandaragan Primary School 60th Anniversary.

Engraved Bricks Order Form – Dandaragan Primary School.
All parents are invited to Cyber Safety Informative sessions provided by: CyberSmart

**When:** Wednesday, 14th August  
**Where:** Spencer Park Primary School (Staff room)  
**Session Time:** 6:30PM—7:40 PM  
(All parents are encouraged to attend)

Free entry  
Supported by the PaCE program at Spencer Park Primary School  
Further information please phone Briony 0429012104

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**REMINDEERS**

- The co-operation of all parents is sought in ensuring students arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.50am. Late students disrupt classes and we are unable to guarantee supervision prior to 8.30am. Students who arrive late receive a late slip from their teacher. End of school siren is at 3.10pm. Please ensure students are collected promptly.
- All absences must be in writing. Please send a written explanation to your child’s teacher as soon as possible after the absence.
- If children are to be collected during school time they must be signed out at the office prior to collecting them.
- Parking - please be considerate of others and obey all parking regulations. The staff car park is out of bounds.
- All teachers are available to discuss your child’s progress at any time. It is recommended that an appointment is made to arrange a mutually convenient time so that you can receive dedicated attention. Informal messages can of course be delivered without an appointment, but please consider the disruption this may cause to classes.

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**LEGLESS IS EGGLESS**

Now that we have returned to school please be vigilant for signs of head lice in your child’s hair. To prevent an infestation ensure that long hair is tied back and that regular brushing occurs. As we have come to know vigorous and regular brushing renders lice legless and therefore eggless!

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**SPESC School Camp 2013 - Disabled Children’s Foundation Raffle**

- Buy your ticket from SPPS or SPESC Offices to go in the draw to win $20 000.

The full cost of the $3.00 tickets comes back to the Education Support Centre.

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**BOOK WEEK 2013 is coming!**

**Read Across the Universe**

19 to 23 August 2013  
In the library there will be displays of books. A must - see experience for every class! Parents are most welcome.  
On Friday 23rd August, dress up as your Favourite book character.