Dear Parents and Friends

School Disco
It was great to see a good turn out of students at our School Disco last week – even better was to see a healthy number of parents also on hand to help the P&C out with the running of this event. Many thanks to all of those people who volunteered their services, without your help running a disco would be very difficult. This is not just about providing a fun activity for our students (that also reinforces the idea of retaining a good standing at school) but it is also a key fundraising strategy for the P&C.

Albany Primary Schools Spelling Championship
This event is to be held at Denmark PS later in the term and as has been the case in the past will involve a number of other schools from Albany and beyond. Recently we ran our own mini spelling bee to help us select students to represent our school. My congratulations go to the following students who have been successful in being selected to represent our school at this event:

Year 6/7 Bryce Taylor, Gabriel Bandelaria, Darcie Oreo, Matthew Stevens, Joshua Noakes, Gericho Bandelaria, Kayla Thomas (Reserve)

Year 5/5 James Mannes, Rueben Choong, Zoe Taylor, Alexis Rolph, Morgan Fiannder, Mitchell Foscolos, Ebony Tabb (Reserve)

These students receive a list of words that they can use to prepare and, to compete, will not only need to be able to spell accurately but also know the meanings of the words involved. I wish them well in the lead up preparation phase.

Primary Schools Music Festival
We maintain our ongoing commitment to this annual event to be held in the Albany Entertainment Centre next Tuesday 10 September. We are one of 10 primary schools to be involved in what is always a wonderful showcase of musical talent from Albany and beyond. A contingent of over 30 students from our school will be involved. They will be presenting a selection of instrumental marimba pieces. If you are looking for a good night out – do yourself a favour, purchase a ticket and come along. Many thanks to Mrs Wilson who works hard to ensure that our students get an opportunity to be involved in such an event. It is also pleasing that over the years we have been able to showcase a range of different performance items, from voice through to dance and instrumental.

With our commitment to our own performing arts night HOT! HOT! HOT!, we will certainly finish the term with a real emphasis on this important part of the school curriculum.

PATHS – Emotional Understanding
Another key dimension of the PATHS program is about building a child’s emotional understanding. This involves explicitly teaching an understanding the range of emotions that we can experience and also being able to interpret and understand the emotions of others. These are crucial understandings when it comes to being able to establish and maintain positive relationships with those around you. Being able to recognise the feelings of another does enable a person to respond and empathise appropriately. Being able to recognise and understand our own feelings can prevent behaviour that can result in hurtful consequences.

Feelings are part of an important paradigm – it is the interaction between thinking, feeling and acting. Being able to change the way we think and understand the way we feel will result in better ways to act.

Eagle Cup Semi Final Victory
In very difficult wet conditions our Eagles Cup team secured a berth in the Grand Final next week by winning quite comfortably against Flinders Park. A wonderful effort by all involved with passages of excellent team play throughout the game. We now all look forward to the Grand Final against Great Southern Grammar to be played at Centennial Oval next Tuesday 10 September. I wish everyone involved a great game.

Alan Dowsett - Principal

Commemorative Paving Bricks
A reminder that we are currently taking orders for the purchase of a commemorative paving brick, order forms were sent out with a previous newsletter, but can also be obtained at our school’s front office. The cost per brick is $30. Any money raised from this sale will go to the school’s P&C.
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.

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

Jasmyne Rm 4
Imogen Rm 1
Nia Rm 3
Ari Rm 1
Kirly Rm 8

Zeppelin Rm 8
Bella Rm 2
Dylan Rm 4
Dale Rm 8

Forthcoming Events
HOT! HOT! HOT! Tickets on sale
Next Assembly Rm 2 Fri 6 Sept
Eagles Cup Grand Final Tues 10 Sept
Albany Primary Schools Music Festival Tues 10 Sept
Deadline for Return of Annual Parent Survey Fri 13 Sept
Albany Primary Schools Spelling Challenge Tues 17 Sept
School Board Meeting Wed 18 Sept
HOT! HOT! HOT! Performing Arts Night at AEC Wed 25 Sept
Deadline for Commemorative Paving Brick Order Fri 27 Sept

P&C News

Reductions to Education Funding
You may have read or heard recently from the WA government announcements about changes to the way schools are funded. This is due to occur over the next 2 years, 2014 and 2015.

Whilst not all of the detail has been released, particularly for changes to occur in 2015, what has already been announced does amount to about a nearly $50,000 cut to the amount of funding our school receives.

This is a considerable amount of money and will impact on the range of services and level of resources the school can provide. In particular it will impact on the way the school is able to support the differentiated needs of our students. Specialised programs that support the talented and gifted and those with learning difficulties will need to be looked at carefully.

The P&C is keen to harness the collective voice of our community and ensure that those that have made decisions in relation to these changes get a sense of how people feel about what is to occur. If there is very little feedback then the reductions that are about to be made will go ahead.

Please contact P&C President and School Board Chair’ Carrie Beeck, on 0427646869 with your feedback and to find out how you can help make our voice known. These e-mail addresses may also be of use:
Minister.Collier@dpc.wa.gov.au
wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

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

Will Rm 3 Chad Rm 3
Ty Rm 2 Zachary Rm 2
Oliver Rm 18 Tahlia Rm 18
Cohen Rm 1 Sarah-Jane Rm 4
Joshua Rm 9 Toa Rm 9
Ben Rm 7 Megan Rm 17
Kimberly Rm 17 Nikita Rm 19
Sam Rm 19 Steven Rm 11
Gab Rm 11 Katty Rm 10
Ila Rm 8 Callum Rm 8
Charlie Rm 8

LATENESS

At the moment and for the rest of the term we are having a focus on children arriving late (after 9:05 am).

All children who come after this time will be sent to the front office. Once they have been spoken to a member of the School Leadership team they will be returned to class. The early morning program from the start of the day is a crucial period. Over the last few weeks it has been quite noticeable that many children are tardy getting here, some, as late as 9:30. I hope that this focuses a child on being up and about earlier in the morning so they can be here ready to start the school day.
Sorry for missing out on newsletter articles for the past two weeks. Things have been very busy up our end of the campus.

Week 4 the students went to Parklands School on Friday to check out their Nature Play Playground. We have received the funding for our playground and are now waiting on the design.

Week 5 I attended the SW Education Support Principals’ Network Meeting in Bunbury with Karen Dale. We met all day Tuesday with many ideas shared and an in depth discussion of the new Student–Centred Funding Model. Questions were compiled to be discussed with Sharyn O’Neill, the Director General of Education when she met with a the President of the WA Education Support Principals and Administrators president as well as leaders of other organisations that support principals/teachers and Education Assistants.

As the weather was so atrocious on Friday 23 August the students went to Tumble Jam for community access. They had a great time as usual. How to play with others is an important skill to develop. Turn taking and waiting your turn are a couple of things they worked on.

Last Friday was the second time our Year 7 students have attended Albany Secondary Education Support Centre for transition. They will continue to attend on a fortnightly basis with the time they spend there during the day increasing.

The weather held off last Friday and the students had a lovely walk on the boardwalk looking for whales. Unfortunately none were sighted but the students and staff enjoyed the walk.

Parents of our Year 5 and 6 students have received an invitation to attend a couple of meetings about transition for their children in 2015. Remember 2015 is the year that Year 7 public school students move to secondary school.

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 of Albany Secondary Education Support Centre

Come and celebrate National Child Protection Week and White Balloon Day

With fun FREE activities at
Alison Hartman Gardens (York Street)
Friday 6th September 10:30 – 2:30

All Welcome.
YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

**Individual Paver**

Your donation of $30 or more entitles YOU to have your name engraved in to paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The paver will be permanently installed in the area in front of the school hall.

Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (34 Max)

A unique and lasting record of your support.

Simply fill out this form and return with full payment by cheque or money order to:

Spencer Park Primary School P&C
26 Hardie Road
ALBANY WA 6330

Contact Name: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
Address: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Phone: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Offer closes on 27 September 2013

Please photocopy and pass on to business associates and friends.

Spencer Park Primary School P & C needs your support!