Dear Parents and Friends

New Early Childhood Building

Some of you may be wondering what is happening with this project. Whilst we haven’t seen any action onsite yet, I can assure you that the project hasn’t been shelved or cut as a result of reductions to government funding. I had a meeting with the architect late last term, planning documents are about to go to tender and I would expect that provided the tenders received fit the project budget, work should begin towards the end of this term or in the first week of the school holidays.

There are still some related issues to resolve, particularly placement of playground equipment. Both the junior and senior playground equipment will need to be relocated. I have asked the architect to come up with some options to consider, hopefully we will have this sorted out before the project begins.

NAPLAN Results

By now I hope that you have received your child’s NAPLAN results – I am hoping that these did not present any surprises. Where this is the case, please see your child’s classroom teacher – in many instances this could have simply been just an anomaly in performance on the day. It may also signal a dip in performance that may need corrective action – being on the ball as a parent in these circumstances may be enough for this to be nipped in the bud quickly.

Our staff did some work on our first day back to review our overall NAPLAN performance. On the whole, for our school the results are solid. For every year level and every area tested our results are at expected performance, one area was above expected performance. In particular our current year 5 group improved considerably from when they were tested as year 3’s, in some instances going from below expected performance to above. This is a great result.

We identified some areas that we need to work on –

staff will address these areas in their planning over the next couple of terms.

Our school review conducted on the School Development Day made possible by the Albany Show will also allow our staff and members of our School Board to analyse other data we have collected as well as further aspects of NAPLAN leading to a set of strategic plans for 2014.

Parent Survey

We didn’t have a huge return of parent surveys this year (32 in total), but as always this feedback is extremely valuable. In terms of the itemised part of the survey, the average response (3.41) was very positive and compares very favourably with previous surveys. On a 4 point scale, anything above 3.0 is a positive response to an item.

In relation to comments about aspects of the school that people liked, the following was noted with high frequency by respondents:

- Approachability and friendliness and quality of staff
- Individualised care, concern and support for students
- Inclusive and welcoming environment

In terms of aspects of the school that people would like to see improved, parking was the issue highlighted with the most frequency. Some of this was about the way people use our parking area, some of this was about the amount of parking available. Two things that are about to occur may help with this. It is hoped that some additional parking will come with the new building. These additional bays will be alongside the Education Support Centre carpark. This should take some pressure off the Reidy Drive carpark. We will also lose the year 7 students at the beginning of 2015 – the reduced numbers overall at the school will also be a help when it comes to parking.

In the meantime it is crucial that everyone who uses our public carpark area does so in a way that respects all of the other users. People need to also pay attention to the issues highlighted from time to time in the newsletter in relation to parking and ensure that these are addressed.

It was also pleasing to see very positive responses to being selected as an Independent Public School and to the introduction of explicit teaching approaches at our school, with many indicating that this approach has led to improvements in student performance.
Further analysis of the data from this survey will be taken into account by our School Board and at our School review on Friday 8 November.

Many thanks to all of those people who took some time to complete the survey – this is greatly appreciated.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Are you moving schools or locations in 2014?

It is crucial that you inform the school of any intention to move from Spencer Park in 2014. Our funding and the way we organise classes is dependent on an accurate approximation of student numbers in each year level across the school. From here on in, and for the remainder of the year, notifying us if your child will not be here in 2014 will assist greatly when it comes to planning for the new school year.

Class Requests 2014

Parent requests in relation to class placement in 2014 can now be made. These need to be in writing and addressed to Mr Dowsett. The deadline for these is Monday 11 November. Please be reminded that whilst all requests will be given due consideration there may be a range of factors that may not allow all requests to be granted. Parents also need to be aware that once classes have been set it can be difficult to make changes to the placements that have been made.

VacSwim December/January school holiday programs

Enrolments are now open. Swimming pools and beaches are part of our Western Australian lifestyle. It is important for every child to learn to swim and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim’s December/January school holiday swimming programs are conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water.

For information and to enrol, visit det.wa.edu.au/swimming. For further information, telephone VacSwim on 9345 4007 or email vacswim@education.wa.edu.au.

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.

Forthcoming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Mon 21 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly (Room 7)</td>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>Wed 30 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
<td>4 - 7 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany Show Day Holiday</td>
<td>Fri 8 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faction Athletics Carnival (Jumps)</td>
<td>Tues 12 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faction Athletics Carnival (Track)</td>
<td>Thurs 14 Nov</td>
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ASSEMBLY commences at 8.55am in the school hall on Friday 25th October featuring Room 7. All welcome.

ACTIVE STARTED THIS WEEK

Active started on Monday 21st October and runs from 3.15 – 4.15, for ALL YEARS.

23rd October at 3.15 – 4.15 for years 1, 2 and 3.

Everyone is welcome, even if you haven’t been this year.

NITBUSTERS

Head lice are back! We have had a volunteer offer to lead the Nitbusters team and we are asking for parents who would be available to work with the team to check heads several times per year. We would like to get this going as soon as possible. If you can spare a few hours to help please contact the school office on 9841 2488.
SPENCER PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Parent Satisfaction Survey:
Each year as part of our accountability cycle we like to survey our community about their views of the Centre.

The survey results are used to assist us in reviewing our practices, improving our service delivery and ensuring that parents/carers play a vital part in shaping the future direction of the Centre. General survey findings are also reported on in our Annual Report.

This year we are trying something new to reduce the work load required to analyse the survey and to take advantage of modern technology. The survey can be done either:

ONLINE: The Parent Satisfaction Survey is ready for use commencing Wednesday, 23 October 2013. The survey is due to end on Thursday 31 October 2013. It can be accessed by going to http://apps.det.wa.edu.au/dest/84653

HARD COPY: If you prefer a hard copy of the survey please see Sharon Hall in the SPESC office for a copy and envelope to return the survey.

The staff will also have the opportunity to complete the Staff Satisfaction Survey online or as a hard copy.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey please call me on 9841 1537.

Transiton to High School at Albany Secondary Education Support Centre (ASESC)
In 2015, Year 7 public school students will move to secondary school. All of current Year 5 and 6 students will therefore be moving to high school in 2015. All schools are working hard to prepare for this transition.

If you are a parent of a student who may be attending ASEC in 2015 you may wish to attend the following parent meeting to find out more information regarding Albany Secondary and the preparation that is being planned to ensure a smooth transition for your child to the high school in 2015. Information will also be provided on how you can support your child in preparing for the transition to high school in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 25th October 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm to 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Support Centre</td>
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<td>65 Anson Road Albany</td>
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<td>Telephone: 98414900 for more information</td>
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Reminder: This Friday Jenna Ryan, the dietician from Amity Health will be talking to the students about healthy eating. Parents are invited but it is important that you RSVP to Mrs. Eyles on 9841 1537.

Last Friday as part of your Community Visits program we had the local police come talk to the students. They are part of the group of people who are there to help us. Students found it very interesting; especially looking at the police vehicle.

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

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL
As is the tradition here at Spencer Park Primary School, each Christmas, we give generously to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. Captain Nial was pleased to fill his vehicle with the large amount of gifts that were received last year. All these gifts go to families in our region who are going through hard times. We would like to make another collection for the Salvation Army this Christmas. Boxes will be available in classes for Christmas goods and will be presented to Captain Nial at the Christmas assembly on the 3rd of December.

Please give:
Non perishable food items; eg. fruit cakes, Christmas puddings, fruit salads, tin ham
Christmas materials
Thank you for your generosity.

Fabian Hardey
Chaplain

2013 Albany Spring Garden Festival –
Sunday 10th to Sunday 17th November/Gardens open 10am-4pm/Fundraising for Albany Community Hospice Contact Sheryl 9844 8007 or Helen 0428 464 035. Flyers at your local garden centre. $5 entry per garden.

Bruce Aitken in Clinic/Showcase
Venue: North Albany Senior High School/Thursday 24th October/Time: 7.00-8.00pm.
Aussie Hoops Basketball

The Albany Basketball Association are running Aussie Hoops Programme for our most junior enthusiasts at the start of the basketball season.

The first programme of Aussie Hoops will commence on Saturday 26 October and runs for 6 weeks each Saturday at the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre. Time: 9am-10am.

This is open to all boys and girls from Years 1 to Year 3. (and competent Pre-Schoolers upon request)

Registration Cost is $40 and an optional extra $20 includes a pack (ball, bag and singlet in it). Total $60.

Registration forms are available on the Albany Basketball Website www.albany.basketball.net.au

Medallion Donations

If you would like to donate a pair of medallions for our Faction Sports Carnival please return the slip below to the school office with your donation. Medallions are $16.00 per pair and will have the name of the donor engraved on them.

Help

Parent help is also requested for the faction sports carnival on 12 and 14 November. If you are available to assist with either the jumps and throws on Tuesday or the track events on Thursday please return the slip below.

I would like to sponsor a pair of medallions and enclose $16.00.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Sponsor name to be put on medallion.

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Yes I ___________________________ am available to assist with the Sports Carnival on Tuesday ☐ Thursday ☐

This year Spencer Park Primary School is hosting the Interschool Carnival. We would greatly appreciate any volunteer help that is available, please fill in the form below if you are available to help.

Help for interschool carnival

Parent help is also requested for the interschool sports carnival on 26 and 29 November. If you are available to assist with either the jumps and throws on Tuesday or the track events on Thursday please return the slip below.

Yes I ___________________________ am available to assist with the Interschool Sports Carnival on
Tuesday ☐ Friday ☐

Would $500 assist with your child’s school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for education costs including uniforms, textbooks, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition.

You may be eligible if you:
• have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
• are 18 or over and
• have some paid income from work (you or your partner).

Contact Maureen Adams, your local Saver Plus Worker:
08 9845 6617
or maureen.adams@anglicarewa.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Albany by Anglicare WA.
Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.