Dear Parents and Friends

Nominations for School Board
As was indicated in our first newsletter this term all of the 4 community positions on our School Board have been made vacant and available for those interested in taking on these positions. If you are a parent who is committed to supporting our school in producing the best education for ALL students then you may want to consider nominating.

More detailed information in relation to what is required if you commit to this role and the process of nominating is attached to today’s newsletter. The closing date for nominations to be provided is Thursday 14 November.

Many thanks go to Linda Taylor, Sharryl Healy, Carrie Beeck (our current Chairperson) and Gerry Macaulay, our current School Board members for their wonderful and in many instances long service to our school in this capacity, in particular overseeing our transition in becoming an Independent Public School. They may choose to renominate and extend their wonderful commitment to our school, if not their important contribution is acknowledged and hugely appreciated.

Dogs on the School Site
A reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to the school site that dogs are not to be brought within the school grounds. This has been the case for many years but in recent times it would appear that there is less understanding from people about this regulation. Currently signage in relation to this is inadequate, but over the course of this term I will be working to improve this situation so that people entering the school are left in no doubt about the school’s position in relation to this matter. Whilst I am not completely certain about how other schools approach this situation I would think there would be very few schools that don’t have a similar policy.

The reasons for schools setting such a policy are, as one would expect, related mostly to the risks associated with a child or any person being injured by a dog. There are some children, who because of previous experience, become very anxious around any dog and as such this also gives reason to bring about this kind of position.

Please be aware that this policy covers all sizes and ages of dog and whether they are on a leash or not.

I would hope that everyone understands the regulation in relation to this matter and from now on adheres to this policy.

Competition Win
Our school was recently the recipient of a $150 voucher from Paperbark Merchants. This was the result of our involvement in promoting a special program provided by the ANZ bank. This is their Saver Plus program. This is a matched savings program that helps people on low incomes;

- Reach a saving goal
- Become a regular saver
- Build money management skills

Saver Plus provides an opportunity to have every dollar saved up to $500 matched with an additional dollar for your own or family’s education related expenses. Local service organisation Anglicare also promotes this program.

For more information we do have brochures in our front office.

The $150 dollar voucher will be put to good use buying book prizes to reward good school participation.

Year 7 Camp
I am sure that our Year 7 students will already be pretty excited by their impending camp. They are due to leave for Bridgetown Camp School on Monday. Every year the feedback from returning campers is always positive and for many it is the highlight of their primary years. I am sure that this will be the same this year.

For staff, camps are a huge commitment – it is not just about the significant level of organisation required, it is also about the 24 hour a day duty of care needed whilst the students are away. We are fortunate to have staff willing to both take on the responsibility for organising this opportunity but also commit to the time away from their families to supervise and run the camp program. Many thanks to Mrs Ruffell for her role in organising the program and to Ms Moreton, Mr Hardy, Mr Hockey,
Mr Brogmus and Ms Paull (Both from Education Support Centre) for agreeing to be part of the team who will attend and help to run the camp.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

School Board Vacancies
Nominations

Now that we have become an Independent Public School and our current School Board has assisted in managing this transition, it is now time to call for nominations of people interested in continuing this work. All of the positions allocated to the community are to be spilled and these are to be filled via nominations from the school. Four positions are set aside for community people. Two staff members plus the School Principal make up the remaining members of the Board. If there are more nominations than positions then an election will be held to determine successful candidates. If you are interested in taking on this role the following information may be of help in understanding the work of the School Board.

What will the School Board do?
The School Board’s overall role is to provide strategic guidance and monitoring of Spencer Park Primary School’s performance and to increase the flexibility and autonomy of the school to enhance the quality of student outcomes and learning environment.

The School Board will assist the principal in:

• Monitoring the implementation of the school’s 2013 – 2015 Business Plan and approving adjustments where needed over this period.
• Ensuring that the School’s yearly plan and budget addresses identified needs, supports the implementation of the 2013 – 2015 Business Plan and closely aligns with the schools priorities.
• Developing processes to review the satisfaction levels of parents, staff and students.
• Creating the school’s Annual Report.
• Reviewing and adjusting school policies.
• Promoting the school in the community.
• Annually setting voluntary contributions and charges.

What do suitable nominees need?
Any parent/person who is committed to supporting our school to achieve the best education for ALL students should consider nominating. Skills/qualities in the following areas would be helpful;

• Leadership
• Strategic and/or critical, analytic thinking
• Interpersonal and communication

What commitment is required?
In making a commitment to be on the School Board members should be prepared to;

• Commit to the school’s vision, ethos and goal.
• Commit to the development of Spencer Park PS as an independent public school.
• Contribute to the work of the Board.
• Be sensitive to differing views and have the ability to work in a spirit of cooperation.
• Be willing to donate time, expertise and influence.

• Attend at least 2 hour long meetings per term, usually held directly following the conclusion of the school day.
• Serve for a period of up to 3 years.

How to nominate
Nominees need only give their name and a brief statement explaining why they would like to be considered for a position on the School Board. Hard copies can be left at the front office or e-mailed to Julie.Fordham@education.wa.edu.au. Closing date for nominations is Thursday 14 November

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.

Forthcoming Events

Next Assembly Fri 1 Nov
Year 7 Camp 4 - 7 Nov
Albany Show Day
Holiday Fri 8 Nov
Faction Athletics Carnival (Jumps)
  (Track) Thurs 14 Nov
School Disco Thurs 21 Nov
Parent Request Class Placement Ends Mon 11 Nov

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.
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.

LUCKY TICKET DRAW

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

Leah Rm 7    Layla Rm 8
Chantelle Rm 4  Jordan Rm 3
Jaycer Rm 18  Cody Rm 18
Shane Rm 3  Keeta Rm 1
Joshua Rm 1  Caleb Rm 19

HONOUR CERTIFICATES

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

Aleesha Rm 17  Aaliyah Rm 19
Tadj Rm 19  Destiny Rm 4
Owen Rm 4  Nicole Rm 3
Taylor Rm 3  Lucas Rm 7
Leah Rm 7  Jonathan Rm 5
Rhianne Rm 10  Carson Rm 10
Peter Rm 18  Sierra Rm 1
Lahni Rm 8  Annabelle Rm 8
Brody Rm 11  Skye Rm 11
Ebony Rm 18  Jordan Rm 18

ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 1st November

ASSEMBLY commences at 8.55am in the school hall on Friday 1st November featuring Room 1. All welcome.

SPENCER PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Reminder that the Parent Satisfaction Survey is due to be completed on Thursday!

Please return it to school by Friday the 1st of November or do online by midnight Thursday the 31st.

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 NOTE: the last five numbers are the Survey Identity numbers.

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

Students are practicing for the Clarence Estate Christmas performance. The songs they are learning/reviseing are Rainbow Connection, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer. The student will be performing these at the end of term assembly as well.

Friday’s visit by Jenna Ryan, the dietician from Amity Health, was a great success. Slinky Apples and Slimy Goop were made and consumed. A fruit platter was shared and healthy lunches were discussed; one piece of fruit in the lunch box is essential. One parent took advantage of the invitation.

The old playground equipment has been removed. This was completed on Friday by Mr. Berg and his work mate. Mrs. Redmond was there with the camera.

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
Family Mental Health Support Service – Spencer Park P.S.

“4 FAMILIES” is a new free service run by Relationships Australia located at 118 Serpentine Rd., Albany. The focus is on prevention and early intervention of mental health issues by providing support to children 18 yrs and under and their families and carers through the tough times. If you know of a young person experiencing behavioural, emotional, social issues or isolation “4 Families” may be able to help. Families living in the Albany, Mt Barker and Denmark areas with children from 0-18 yrs and who are not in the care of DCP are able to use the service. Community organisations, both government and non-government can refer or individuals and families can self refer. For more information or to make an appointment contact Michelle on 9845 7700 Monday – Thursday 9.00 – 5.00.

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Variety Scholarships.

Do you know a talented young Western Australian who is sick, disadvantaged or has special needs?

Every year, the Variety Scholarships are awarded to WA children in need with a gift for the arts, sport and education. By funding specialist tuition and related expenses, the scholarships help young people to overcome adversity and achieve their potential.

Scholarships can support a wide range of items and endeavours, including:
- Private tuition / coaching
- Specialist programs
- Competition fees
- Uniforms / costumes
- Musical equipment
- Materials and other miscellaneous items

We would welcome your assistance in promoting the Scholarships within your school or organisation and helping us to identify deserving young candidates. An application form is attached; a promotional flyer and more information can be found online: http://www.variety.org.au/WA/How-we-help/Variety-future-kids/Scholarships. We can also provide promotional photographs and a media release for inclusion in your newsletter or website.

Please note, applicants must be under the age of 18 years as at 1 January 2014. Applications close on 13 December 2013.

For more information, please do not hesitate to call Phil Croot or Lisa Ticehurst on 9355 3655 or email phil.croot@varietywa.org.au or lisa.ticehurst@varietywa.org.au. There is an application form in the front office.

ALBANY SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

6-17 January 2014
Conducted in St. Joseph’s College Martin Rd Albany.

There are courses run especially for children. See the front office for information or go online www.Albany.SummerSchool.com.au

FAMILY DAY CARER WANTED

I have a child starting kindergarten in 2014 and require a family day carer who can do before/after school care and drop off and pick up from Spencer Park Primary. Please contact Di 0402 355 385.

ANIMATION WORKSHOP

Sense-place-stories. Hear about Aboriginal Dreamtime for this country. Storyboard ideas, collaborate, animate. 12-3pm Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November 2013. For ages 9-13. cost $20.00