Dear Parents and Friends,

**West Coast Eagles Visit**

It was great to start the year with a visit from a number of players and officials from the West Coast Eagles. The players in attendance included Dean Cox, Murray Newman and Jamie Bennell. They spoke at a whole school assembly and gave some really positive and powerful messages to the students about what is required to live healthily and how important this is when it comes to achieving life success. The students had the opportunity to ask the players questions. It was pleasing to hear that those asking the questions had put some real thought into what they would ask and that this enhanced the quality of this whole interaction.

I would hope that a visit like this will just add that little extra inspiration to all student’s in attendance to go the extra distance when it comes to pursuing their own dreams and aspirations.

I was fortunate later in the day to attend a special evening at the PCYC that included panel discussions with a number of the players and key officials from the visiting club. Part of this function involved acknowledging the contribution of people in our community who are working hard to promote AFL in our community. My congratulations goes to Mr Hockey who received an award for his role as a Football Ambassador, in particular for his work as the main organiser when it comes to settling up the Eagles Cup competition each year. A well deserved acknowledgement.

As a diehard Eagles supporter I am pleased with what I have heard from the players and coaches and hope for a better finish than 13th on the ladder this year!!

The involvement with the Eagles continued last Friday with 43 of our interested Yr 5 to 7 students also given the opportunity to be involved in a football clinic run by prominent Eagles players at Centennial Oval. I am sure that this would have been both an educative and memorable experience. Being able to interact at close quarters to elite players from the AFL is certainly something that doesn’t happen to often.

**Successful Former Students**

One of the benefits of being in a school for a long period is that you get a chance to follow the pathways of former students. It is always terrific to hear of the successes of these people. You may be interested to know about the following success stories:

- **Michael Taylor** who is currently in Year 10 at ASHS has been selected to be part of the Premiers ANZAC Study Tour and will, with a number of other students from around the state, represent Western Australia as a youth ambassador on a history study tour of Malaysia in April 2014. The selected students will travel to Sabah and Labuan, Malaysia, undertaking a history study tour of the region to learn more about Australian experience of war and peace–keeping operations. Being selected for this fully funded tour was a rigorous and highly competitive process involving the provision of a well researched essay and at the final stage being interviewed by a selection panel. His selection for this opportunity is certainly a huge achievement.

- **James Riley** has been selected as a Prefect in 2014 at ASHS – this continues a recent trend of ongoing representation of former Spencer Park PS students as leaders of this kind at ASHS.

- **Hayley Dean** won the Vocational Education Dux award at NASHS in 2013 and **Yasmine Skinner** won a number of Yr 12 graduation awards at the same ceremony including Citizenship, Maths 3A/3B and Geography.

- **Jamie Black** and **Jack Macaulay** won Yr 12 graduation awards at ASHS in 2013 in the areas of Maths and PE Studies respectively.

I am sure that there are others in recent times that have achieved success following their time at our school that I am unaware of but it is great that the above mentioned former students have built on the foundation of achievement at our school and have been able to go on and reach high levels of endeavour.

**On Entry Assessment**

This assessment program for students in PP – Yr 2 that has been implemented for the last few years early in the school year will be carried out again this year. The main purpose of the program is to provide teachers with an opportunity, early in the year, to
gather further information on the current literacy (PP – 2) and numeracy (PP only) skills and understandings of children in their class. While some assessment tasks can be included in the daily program, some will be carried out one to one, away from the classroom.

Swimming Program
As was mentioned in last week’s newsletter, there is a focus on swimming in first term for students in Years 4 to 7. The first part of this is the swimming trails to be held next Monday 17 February. These trails help us select students for events at our own Faction Swimming Carnival to be held in Week 5. It is expected that all students attend both the swimming trials and the carnival. A note in relation to the trials went home last week, please ensure that this is returned with the money required so that your child can be involved. This is part of the PE Curriculum and is all about helping your child to develop good swimming skills. If money is an issue please contact the school office to work out ways to ensure lack of money isn’t an obstacle to your child’s participation in this activity.

Farewell
Unfortunately Mrs Sharpe who has been working part time in our front office has had to relinquish her position to spend some more time with her family. Her contribution to our school over the last few years working in this position is valued and appreciated, we wish her well for the future.

Mrs Dee Franey has been appointed as her replacement. Mrs Franey is an experienced school officer – please make her feel welcome in our front office.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Voluntary Contributions / P&C Contribution and Scripture Books
Firstly, thank you to all the parents and guardians who have already paid contributions for 2014. Contributions can be made either by cash, card or cheque through the office or you may prefer to phone your card details through. If you would prefer to do a direct credit to the school you can contact the office for banking details. Please ensure if paying by direct credit that you include child’s surname and first name as a description.

A note from the Community Health Nurse
Welcome to the new school year. My name is Lesley Glorie and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school. Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.

If you have a concern about your child’s health or development, please contact me on 98427565.

Immunisation - is your child attending kindergarten for the first time?
Australia’s peak medical organisation - the National Health and Medical Research Council - recommends that children who have turned 4 years of age should have the following booster immunisations;

- DTPa-IPV vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio;
- MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella, and;
- All other WA schedule vaccinations recommended.

Your child can have these immunisations from 3 ½ years of age.
If you child has missed out on vaccinations, a doctor or immunisation nurse can provide ‘catch-up’ vaccinations.

Make an appointment with a GP or visit the local (free) immunisation clinic run at Albany Health Campus. Contact Ann Taylor on 98427511 or 98928234 for more information.

Did you know that as parents you can ring the National registry or go to the web site to check out your child’s immunisation status? All you need is your Medicare number. Phone 1800 653 809 or access the web site: www.humanservices.gov.au or email acir@humanservices.gov.au

Forthcoming Events
First Assembly 2014 Fri 14 Feb
P&C Meeting 7.15pm Staffroom Mon 17 Feb
Swim Trials Yr 4 to 7 Mon 17 Feb
On Entry Assessment ( PP – Yr 2 ) Mon 17 Feb to Fri 7 Mar
Early Morning Swimming Training Thurs 20 Feb (7 – 8am)
Interschool Cricket Game vs Mt Lockyer (Home) Fri 21 Feb

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.
Well the first day of horse riding for 2014 was cancelled due to rain, great for the farmers not so great for our students going horse riding. So the students attended Disability Out at ALAC on Wednesday.

Just a reminder to those parents who have not returned the excursion forms these are a requirement of the Department. If we do not have the necessary paperwork completed the students are not allowed to attend the activity. If you need assistance to complete the forms please contact the school on 9841 1537.

The schools timetable is being finalized in the next few days and we are planning on integration beginning next week. Swimming for a selected group of students will begin on Monday. Base line assessment is almost finished. Some class meetings are beginning to happen and IEP meetings are starting next week for some of the students.

The Centre is in full swing and gearing up for another exciting year.

Another reminded that we have a SPESC Colouring in Competition running that will be judged the end of the term with a $20 gift voucher for Target as the prize. Come to the SPESC office to pick up the colouring in sheet.

School Rules: A final reminder we have class/school rules across the Centre. The students are being explicitly taught the rules and the consequences. The rules are simple:
1. Walk in the classroom.
2. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
3. Be quiet and follow instruction.
4. Try your hardest and do your best work.
Please discuss these with your child and reinforce at home. I’ll talk about consequences 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

Recycling Club
This year Room 18, Year 4/5 will be helping the earth with recycling paper and batteries. This term the captain is Nakyta Bylund and the vice-captain is Mia Nagle.

If you have batteries find me on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and I’ll add them to the bucket. Catherine Burges. Health Teacher.

Friends of the Leukaemia Foundation
Riverview Country Club Charity Golf Day. Sunday 9 March 2014. 3 Person Ambrose $60 per team. Proudly sponsored by Peter and Kim Bassett Albany Engineering. Prizes galore. 9am sausage sizzle, 10am shotgun start. Entries close 3 March 2014. Email entries to bassett@albanyis.com.au. Call Sue 0428 425 238 or Gayle 0408 094 817. Come along and have a fun day of golf and support the Leukaemia Foundation.

THE LITTLE BIG TIME
NAB AFL Auskick makes learning to play AFL fun and easy for boys and girls. Through weekly coaching sessions they will learn the skills of the game just like their AFL heroes.

Registration: Norman Pavilion 10-12pm Saturday 22 Feb, 8 March and 22 March.
Or online at AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU

2014 Female Football
Join the Claremont Women’s Football Club. Sunday 23 February at Albany Senior High School oval, Suffolk Street, Albany. Bring a water bottle, football boots, hat and sunscreen. Primary school ages 5 – 12, 10am to 11am Clinic. High school year 8 – 12, 11am to 1pm Clinics & Scratch Match.
For more information contact Tom Moir 0428 428 440.
www.facebook.com/GSYouthGirls

TIPS FOR PREVENTING HEAD LICE
Check your child’s hair regularly for head lice and eggs (‘nits’). Use a metal fine tooth ‘nit’ comb and apply plenty of hair conditioner to the dry hair, to make the task easier and more effective. To help children sit still for this, offer distracting activities, e.g. play a favourite video, provide games, encourage reading, offer a head massage

Tie long hair back. Braid long hair and/or put it up if possible.

Consider applying hair gel or mousse. These do not prevent or repel lice but may help to keep stray hair strands from contact with other heads.

Avoid sharing combs or brushes.

Remind your child to avoid head-to-head contact with other children, e.g. when working at the computer with others, or when playing, or hugging. If your child has head lice please notify their teacher. For more information:
1. The Head lice Fact Sheet available from the school or
www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/261/2/head_lice_fact_sheet.pm