Dear Parents and Friends

Smooth Start to the Year

As we get close to completing our third week of the year, I am pleased to report that it has been a relatively quiet and smooth start to the year. Numbers are a little down from this time last year, but we will continue to run the class structure we currently have. For your information this is the comparison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>K – 7</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>405</td>
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A smaller that usual pre-primary group this year does explain to some extent this reduction.

As far as the year is concerned there will be a number of key directions:

- Maintaining our focus on explicit teaching.
- Continuing our work in implementing the Australian Curriculum in the Phase 1 learning areas (English, Maths, Science and History).
- Managing the loss of year 7’s to high school.
- Managing the building program for the new early childhood block of classrooms.
- Managing the budget cuts announced last year.

From the student’s point of view my message early in the year and one that I will be reinforcing throughout the year is that the focus is on learning – every student’s behaviour and attitude should be aimed at this focus. If all students understand and adhere to this, then the teachers can utilize all of their energies in ensuring that learning occurs.

Booklist Supplies

Many thanks to all of those parents who once again took advantage of the opportunity to purchase their booklist supplies through the school. As was indicated late last year your involvement in this process generates a commission from the supplier Storms Stationery that raises substantial funds for the P&C. In times where school funding would appear to be under the microscope this kind of income stream is valuable.

Also thanks go to those members of the P&C who were here again this year before school started to ensure the booklist supplies were distributed efficiently. Given that many parents work, getting time to do this isn’t easy and as such the contribution of these people is highly valued.

School Board Meeting

Our first School Board meeting for the year was also the first meeting of our newly constituted group. This group includes myself, parents Jem Ruggera, Gerry Macaulay, Carrie Beeck, Linda Taylor and staff Paul Hockey and Gail Barker. Our first meeting for the year covered:

- Directions for 2014
- A review of the 2014 National Partnerships Plan
- The Schools Financial position
- A review of the School Business Plan

Interschool Cricket

This year we have maintained our involvement in the Interschool Cricket competition. Whilst there are only 3 schools involved this year, the enthusiasm of those children interested this year will make this a very worthwhile activity. Our recent success as a state in the Big Bash League and as a country against England, seems to have reignited children’s interest in cricket. Striking while the iron is hot will hopefully spark a lifelong interest in the game by those involved this year. Our first game is against Mt Lockyer here tomorrow. The game starts just after lunch.

Building Program set to begin

In what has been a flurry of activity, our school building program is set to begin next Tuesday 25 February. A fence enclosing the building will be erected as the first step. This fence will pretty much cover the area to the north boundary of the school. Smiths Construction have been awarded the tender. It is expected to take 40 weeks to complete the project.
Last week I mentioned the School Rules as far as the classroom is concerned. Thank you to those parents and carers who took the time to discuss these with your child. If the children know we are all on the same page it will make all our lives easier.

**Consequences:**
1. Verbal warning, name on the board
2. Cross next to name
3. Timeout 2 minutes (2XX’s)
4. No play at recess/lunch (5 Minutes) (3XXX’s)
5. See Mrs. Edwards or Class teacher (4 XXXX’s)

Also if a child has a major issue then the class teacher goes directly to Number 5. This may involve a phone call home.

The important thing about consequences is that they are consistent. Those students who come to see me are told the rules are here to stay. They will not go away. They may be changed slightly but they will not go away.

Some people are concerned that we talk about time out. That will vary depending on the child and their age. For some of our students it is actually time in as they are with a staff member working through what has happened. For other children it may be quiet time in a bean bag. Their time begins when they are peaceful and calm.

The amount of time out has also been discussed. It is not so much the amount of time that the child is given it is the fact they are being regulated. Also if they have had a significant behaviour issue then more time may be given to them after discussion of the event.

The school is still continuing with the Positive Behaviour Support program. The schools expectations are still Be Safe, Be Friendly and Be Your Best.

I have been watching the ABC program *Kids on Speed* about ADHD. Last week they discussed Descriptive Praise. This is actually describing to them what they are doing right. For example replacing “Good, Boy” with “You said please; that is very thoughtful”. Parents can show affection as a form of praise. Spending time with the child and positive praise are important for ALL children.

Remember catch them being good and give descriptive praise. If you make the praise unpredictable it works the best.

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**

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**EARN AND LEARN TREASURE**

Thank you to all the parents and families who collected their Woolworths docket last year. As you can see all of the resources we were able to purchase have arrived and are being put to good use. Many thanks to Mrs Kowald who coordinated the order we placed.

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**Key Dates**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>21 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Entry Assessment (PP – Yr 2)</td>
<td>17 Feb to 7 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interschool Cricket Game vs Mt Lockyer (Home)</td>
<td>21 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Assembly</td>
<td>21 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Morning Swim Training</td>
<td>27 Feb (7 – 8am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interschool Cricket Game vs Albany PS (Home)</td>
<td>28 Feb</td>
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<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>3 Mar</td>
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**NO HAT, NO PLAY**

Please be reminded that the school does have a **No hat, No play** policy throughout Term 1 and as such your child will need to have a hat at school each day to access the playground areas. Please ensure that your child’s hat is clearly marked with their name.
ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
We have had a few enquires from parents regarding the Active After School Communities Program. Our Coordinator is currently working to find a facilitator to run the program and further information will be in future newsletters.

SCRIPTURE PROGRAM
The Scripture Program for 2014 will commence next Tuesday 25 February in the afternoon. A brochure will be sent home today with this Newsletter.

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

Dakota    Room 1
Ethan W.   Room 2
Amelia     Room 2
Tanzi      Room 3
Joshua     Room 3
Kaliyah    Room 4
Bella      Room 4
William    Room 5
Bryell     Room 5
Students   Room 7
Mitchell F. Room 9
Cerys      Room 9
Jaycer     Room 9
James      Room 10
Brooke     Room 10
Ethan H.   Room 10
Blaise     Room 11
Levi       Room 11
Callum     Room 17
Deacon     Room 17
B.J.       Room 19
Lucas P.   Room 19

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

Danika     Room 2
Chevy      Room 2
Lyndsey    Room 4
Will       Room 4
Brian      Room 5
Damian C.  Room 5
Taylor     Room 5
Tobey      Room 10
Kiara      Room 18

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

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.
Just a reminder that when parents or carers are collecting their children from school during the school day they must present themselves to the school office where they will be required to fill out a green slip and then be directed to where their child is located. This procedure is designed to ensure that the appropriate person is calling to collect your child.

Community News
Please note notices appearing below are not necessarily endorsed by the school. We provide this space for community groups to advertise to the school community. It is up to parents to scrutinise the activity and organisers for their child.

Spencer Park Soccer Registration 2014
Registration dates for 2014 are
   Friday 21 and 28 February
   Friday 7 March
Where: Uniform Shop at Spencer Park Primary School. From 8.30 – 9.00am.
Looking forward to the new season.
For more information contact Melissa 0498 601 061 or Claire 0487 987 528.

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.
Positive Partnerships Parent/Carer Workshop

Registrations for a two day workshop in Albany at the Albany Entertainment Centre on **Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 March** are now open. This workshop is FREE for families of school aged students who are on the Autism Spectrum.

Please be aware that:
- Families do not need to have a formal diagnosis of ASD in their family to attend this workshop (e.g. they may be going through diagnosis process)
- Dad’s, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles are also encouraged to come along to this workshop
- Workshop times are from 9am – 4.30pm on day 1 and 9 – 3.30pm on day 2, though we are totally flexible with participants coming and going (e.g. around school pick up and drop off times etc). Participants are encouraged to attend only one day if possible.

Parents/carers who attend will gain:
- a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships

Specific strategies on how to:
Advocate for your child, support your child’s participation at school, develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs, information about your local school system’s processes, opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD and their families.

**To register for this workshop**
Online registrations are preferred can be made by going to [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au) or contact the Local Area Coordinator (LAC) through the Disability Services Commission (DSC) – (08) 9845 5708 or one of the local contacts at Autism Support Network of Albany, asnalbany@gmail.com

SAVERPLUS
Is your child at school or starting next year? Would you like $500 to help pay for uniforms, books, excursions or a laptop? To be eligible you need to:
- Have a Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card.
- Have a child at school now or starting next year.
- Have some form of household income, for example, your partner or yourself may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment. Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500.

Anglicare WA is now offering the Saver Plus program in your area. To find out more, phone 1300 610 355 or 9845 6666, or call into Anglicare 44 Collie Street, Albany or email saverplus@bsl.org.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](http://www.facebook.com/GSYouthGirls).

**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 or Call Sue 0428 425 238 or Gayle 0408 094 817.
Come along and have a fun day of golf and support the Leukaemia Foundation.

**Terrapin Puppet Theatre** invites you and your students to step inside this intricately crafted model railway and its accompanying town, choose a miniature resident as your alter ego and explore ideas of identity and community in **I Think I Can**, a unique and FREE event at the Albany Entertainment Centre. School groups are welcome. Please contact [schools@perthfestival.com](mailto:schools@perthfestival.com) for details. **Sat 22 Feb–Sat 1 Mar**, 12–6pm Closed Monday 24 Feb

**Community Garden Visioning Event**
1st March 2014, 12noon for lunch
Guided discussion from 1pm. Please bring: Some pizza toppings to share (bases provided) and your ideas for the community garden - now and into the future.
**RSVP:** Julie on 98418254 or [admin@rcnc.org.au](mailto:admin@rcnc.org.au)