Dear Parents and Friends

New Sporting Season Upon Us
As we come to the end of summer we see the start of registrations for the winter sporting season. Please keep an eye out for these. Whilst our newsletter publishes details of registration dates when we have this information, most junior sports have websites that contain all of the information you need to ensure your child doesn’t miss out on playing their chosen winter sport.

Spencer Park does have its own junior soccer club. For young children this is a great place to start, particularly as it gives a child an opportunity to play a sport with their mates from school.

Getting a child into a sport can become a lifelong interest and something that will have a range of long term health benefits, physical, social and psychological. I think you are definitely doing your child a favour if you can initiate, encourage and facilitate their involvement in sporting endeavour.

In recent years the WA government has made it easier for struggling families through the Kidsport program. Kidsport provides $200 per year for eligible families this can cover the cost of fees to join a nominated sport or recreation club (this may also include other or related costs as identified by the club).

We do have Kidsport application forms here at school or they are also available through the City of Albany and the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre. This is a very simple process that all parents should be able to access quite easily.

Playpod Operational
One of the programs we initiated last year was to establish a playpod. This is essentially a sea container that is filled with all kinds of junk materials. These materials can then be used by the students at lunch time for creative free play. The aim of this is to encourage children to rely less on electronic gadgets and toys to entertain themselves and be able, through everyday materials, find other ways to engage in play. The aim is also to encourage play that is collaborative, hence building better social skills.

From the school’s point of view it also gives our students just another option when it comes to finding something to do at a lunch break.

It is great to see the playpod open last week and children engaging happily in what this has to offer. Many thanks to Ms Moreton and the students from Room 17, who have taken on the task of managing the playpod this year.

Elsewhere in today’s newsletter I have included a list of the kinds of materials we have in the playpod – we are always looking for new stocks and interesting materials. If you feel you have something that may fit with what is currently available in the playpod, please make contact. I am sure that we make good use of what you have.

Importance of Sleep and Nutrition for Learning
Six hours of school 5 days per week takes a high level of focus and energy for the learning that takes place to be effective. Getting a good nights sleep is a simple but important strategy in ensuring that your child’s focus and attention is as good as it can be. Any primary aged student who is going to sleep later than 9.30pm is, in my view, is in danger of being affected by fatigue the next day. Children going to bed later than this will find it difficult to concentrate as the days wears on. For some children this does result in irritability and poor behaviour. This not only affects their learning but can also bring about negative attitudes to school.

Nutrition is also important. Children who come without breakfast or food during the day are noticeably less focussed and attentive. Whilst it can sometimes be difficult to get children organised with breakfast in the morning, perseverance with this will pay off. Getting a routine established in the early years will produce a habit that will continue on in a child’s schooling, trying to develop this in an older student is much more difficult. Obviously having a lunch is also important, providing a vital refuelling stop to get through the second half of the day.

For those struggling financially, the school, courtesy of Foodbank, does have emergency rations it can use if this is needed. Whilst this cannot feed large numbers of students each day, it can be a safety net when there is nothing else available.

We value an approach that seeks to understand and care for each individual student in a way that enables them to achieve to their full potential.
Our Breakfast Club program, now running for 2 mornings a week, is also sponsored by Foodbank and does ensure that those in attendance start the day with a good supply of food and energy to see them through the first part of the day.

Whilst there are many complexities and difficulties in parents supporting their child with their education, I would hope that ensuring that they get adequate sleep and food may be a couple of the easier aspects of our work as parents.

PS: Hope to see you at our Faction Swimming Carnival tomorrow.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Interschool Cricket game vs Albany PS
Spencer Park and Albany Primary played an exciting game of cricket on the Spencer Park pitch on Friday, February 28. Both sides fielded and bowled with a high skill level evident. Albany Primary batted first and posted a creditable 59. Spencer Park were restricted early and a sound innings by captain Cooper and Dakotah kept Spencer Park in the game. However, it was the powerful hitting of Narelle and Nardia that really turned the game in Spencer Park’s favour. Narelle clouted two massive sixes, one of which landed on the undercover roof. Spencer Park eventually compiled 100 runs after a slow start.

Spencer Park’s next game will be at Mt Lockyer against Mt Lockyer on March 7.

Key Dates
Faction Swimming Carnival Fri 7 Mar
On Entry Assessment (PP – Yr 2) Mon 17 Feb to Fri 7 Mar
Early Morning Swimming Training (7/8am) Thurs 13 Mar
Interschool Cricket Game vs Mt Lockyer (Away) Fri 14 Mar
Next Assembly Fri 14 Mar
P&C Meeting Mon 17 Mar
School Board Meeting Wed 19 Mar
School Disco Thurs 20 Mar

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.

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

Eric Room 3
Brielle Room 4
Destiny Room 8
Kasey G. Room 9
Cameron Room 17
Zayne Room 17
Kiara Room 18
Nakyta Room 18
Cheyenne Room 18

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

Byron Room 1
Owen Room 1
Emily Room 2
Kyse Room 4
Phoenix Room 4
Ari Room 5
Rania Room 7
Kaizen Room 8
Zarelle Room 9
Jaycer Room 9
Chelsea Room 10
Megan Room 10
Kade Room 11
Rhianna Room 11
Cooper Room 17
Ashton Room 17
Alexis Room 17
Talissa Room 18
Caitlin Room 18
Mia Room 18
Kirly Room 19
Silas Room 19

The Wonderful class in Room 4

Playpod Materials
The following items or something similar are materials we are always looking for in the playpod:

Plastic pipes Wooden planks
Rubber hosing Balls (all sizes)
Telephones Cardboard boxes
Computer keyboards Steering wheels
Carpets/Rugs PVC pipes
Building off cuts Netting
Plastic chairs Tarpaulins
Plastic pots Foam pieces
Cardboard tubes Milk crates
Wooden cable rolls Old Prams
Plastic containers Buckets
Tyres/Wheels
Dress up clothes, bags, shoes etc
SPENCER PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Last Friday the students went to the Great Southern Festival's 'I Think I Can' to see the intricately crafted model railway and its accompanying town. The town has many "residents" and many weird and wonderful storylines.

After the outing the student discussed what they liked the most. Xavier liked the cars. Lani liked the people swimming. Jacob liked the big digger. Mrs. Kaighen liked the whole thing. The people on the roof were Mrs. Redmond’s favorite. Jake loved the trains. Mrs. Roberts liked the grim reaper dueling with the clown on the roof! Mrs. Kellett laughed at Santa coming out of a toilet!

Mrs. Redmond commented on how well behaved the students were on the outing. This is all part of them Being Their Best!!!

This week is camp week for our students and staff at Camp Quaranup. The students sleep over on Wednesday and Thursday nights and return to school in time to be picked up or catch the ESC bus on Friday.

Wednesday will be a walk on the beach and a sand castle competition. They may even be going fishing off the jetty in the afternoon. Parents have been invited for dinner that evening. Thursday is Whale World. Friday is more beach time with an Easter egg hunt back at the camp site.

The camp is a great chance for the students to get to know each other outside the school environment. It is also an opportunity for the students and staff to see a different side of each other.

We had a Positive Behaviour Support meeting last Thursday. Soon you will be seeing new Virtue Vouchers that your child has earned.

And keep an eye out for our new Bee Hive in the Reception Area.

Diane E Edwards, Principal

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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.

**ANZAC Tour – Quiz Night**
Albany District High Schools' ANZAC Tour, help send 26 Great Southern students to the Western Front for an experience of a lifetime.
Quiz Night Saturday 29 March at ASHS Gym. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. MC Peter Watson MLA. Tables of 8.
$15 per head call Louisa on 0432 326 464 to book a table. Prizes galore, lots of fun – bring Gold Coins. Tea, coffee and supper provided.

**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.

**Learn to Juggle**
Southern Edge Arts Studio – Learn to Juggle.
77 Sanford Road Albany. Enrolments and further information 9841 6002 or check out the web site www.southerndedge.org.au

**Fishing & 4WD Adventure Male Family Carers**
Do you care for a family member or friend with a disability, mental or chronic illness, or who is frail? If yes, Then Carers WA would like to invite male carers to take a break from their caring role and join other male carers for a day of beach fishing and four wheel driving!
**When:** Thursday 27 March 2014
**Cost:** FREE!
**Time:** 9am - 5pm
**Where:** Meeting point is the gravel car park between the Tourist Bureau and York St IGA
Limited places!! Fishing equipment and bait provided. Only 6 places available! Lunch and drinks included. Expressions of interest close Wednesday 19 March. Successful applicants will be notified on Thursday 20 March.

**Australian Red Cross, Albany**
Invites everyone in Albany & surrounding districts involved with Red Cross services past and present to join us for a history meets history. Centenary Afternoon Tea, at the WA Museum Residency Road Albany. Sunday March 16 2.30pm-4.00pm
Enjoy an afternoon of story swapping and memories. Please wear something red if possible.
RSVP by 10 March 9841 3588.

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**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.
No two people are the same.

Accepting Difference

They may look different, sound different, dress differently. They may have different customs, cultural backgrounds, beliefs or religious practices. They may have different abilities. They may live in different houses or in different families.

Children need to learn that being different is OK.

Children will often ask about differences they observe between themselves and others.

“Why is that person in a wheelchair?”
“Why does that person have different skin to me?”
“Why does that person wear those funny clothes?”

Young children tend to accept difference in others without question. They make friends with children from a range of different backgrounds or abilities or from a range of different types of families.

As children get older they learn to value difference from their parents. Your attitudes towards cultural and other differences will have a big impact on the way your growing children treat others who are different to them.

Reflect on your own acceptance of difference. How tolerant are you of the points of view of other people? How patient and flexible are you in accommodating different customs, beliefs and cultural traditions? How much do you respect and value individuality? How do you talk about and describe others who are different to you?

Accepting difference means understanding how we are alike, how we are different and treating everyone with respect and understanding regardless of the differences.

Promoting Acceptance

Help your child understand your own family history and background.

Talk with your child about the ways in which people within your own family are different from each other—they each have their own likes and dislikes, interests and things they are good at.

Encourage your child to talk to you about their observations, questions or concerns.

Help your children to see that differences are to be appreciated and celebrated. You can do this by exposing them to other cultures and people through watching television programs or reading books about other people and places and participating in local community cultural events and festivals.