Dear Parents and Friends

Faction Swimming Carnival
Last Friday, on what was one of the hottest days so far this year, we were able to complete our Faction Swimming Carnival. The overall participation rate this year was very good. Many thanks to those parents who supported and encouraged involvement. Over the years I have got the feeling that this is one event that if you didn’t promote involvement the numbers participating would fall. Your support is crucial in keeping such an event viable and beneficial. Whilst it is to some extent about giving able swimmers an opportunity to test their skills it is more about just another opportunity to encourage the development of good swimming skill.

I was very pleased with the overall levels of enthusiasm and determination by students to do their best. I hope your child enjoyed a day away from the classroom working on their skills in a different way.

Many thanks go to
- Mrs Binning for her enthusiastic support of the school’s swimming program and preparedness to maximise all opportunities to improve the swimming skills of our students.
- Those parents who volunteered to help out in some way on the day.
- All of those parents who came along to cheer on and support their child – this adds hugely to motivation levels.
- Our staff who worked hard on the day to make it a success for all involved.

Gold, in a close tussle with Green throughout the day, were eventually the winning faction – congratulations to all members of this faction. Congratulations also go to all of the medallion winners – these are significant achievements.

Our before school swimming program, in place since the beginning of the year, will now support those selected for the school team to prepare and be ready for the Interschool Carnival to be held later in the term.

Fantastic Services Available at the Albany Library
It would appear that libraries have moved on beyond just being lenders of books. Membership now gives you and your children access to a range of fabulous online resources. It is worth going to the Albany Library website http://library.albany.wa.gov.au/ to see what is on offer, the following is just a selection:

- **Your Tutor** – This is online contact with a tutor who can instantly help with a wide range of homework and study ideas. This includes help when students are stuck with homework, assistance outlining and structuring assignments, exam preparation and research, essay/assignment review and feedback. This service is available Mon – Fri from 4pm to 8pm for students in years 4 -12.
- **Literacy Planet** – Literacy Planet encourages the learning of essential English literacy skills through a motivational learning platform that is fun, compelling and addictive for students of all ages and ability. This provides interactive graded grammar/spelling/English resources K -12
- **E-Books/E-Magazines** – This enables members to access e-books and e-magazines online rather than in traditional hard copy format.
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** – This provides access to the complete encyclopaedia including the students and elementary encyclopaedias – plus links to over 200,000 internet sites reviewed by Britannica editors and over 150 full text journals and magazines.

This is a great service and resource for families that is free, something that could be a valuable addition to the resources available for school students.

School Attendance in the Early Years Crucial
For year 1 to 7, overall, our average attendance is slightly better than schools of our kind and very close to that of all schools, this is not so much the case for our youngest children attending Kindergarten and Pre-primary. This may be because of an out of date notion that these years are mostly exploratory in nature and possibly don’t count as much when it comes to the learning of core literacy and numeracy skills. This certainly isn’t the case now, these years are crucial. We are aiming for all students to be reading by age 6 and this process starts when they enter kindergarten. Missing significant amounts of time at Kindergarten and Pre-primary is going to result in a child being left behind their peers.

This is reinforced by the change made by the government last year to make Pre-primary attendance compulsory. Students who miss school...
frequently at this year level can now attract legal attention and fines for non attendance.

Whilst shifting compulsory attendance onto younger children is an external pressure on parents to get their children to school in the early years, a far greater pressure should be the need to ensure your child gets the best start to their education possible.

A good and early start to developing literacy and numeracy skills that will open up a great many more options when it comes to school success later on.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Forthcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Morning</td>
<td>Thurs 13 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Training</td>
<td>(7–8am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interschool Cricket Game vs Mt Lockyer (Away)</td>
<td>Fri Mar 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Assembly</td>
<td>Fri Mar 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.15pm</td>
<td>Mon 17 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>Wed 19 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Disco</td>
<td>Thurs 20 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interschool Cricket Game vs Albany PS</td>
<td>Fri 21 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swimming Carnival

Last Friday 7 March the school held the annual Faction Swimming Carnival. Thank you to all students who participated so willingly and effectively in all of the swimming events. It was great to see an increased number of children participating in the games and I hope next year there will be an increase in the number of children entering the swimming races.

Many thanks to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Hanna, Mrs Sodano, Ms Gaunt and Mrs Downes whose help was greatly appreciated on the day.

The Interschool team has been selected, so the children now must train hard for the Carnival in Week 9, Thursday 3 April.

Well done to our Winning Faction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faction</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Champion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Champion</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Becky</td>
<td>Lahnki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Callum M</td>
<td>BJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoe</td>
<td>Lilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Callum J</td>
<td>Shae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Davinka</td>
<td>Aleesha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Narelle</td>
<td>Nardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Runner Up

Student Update Forms

Thank you to all the parents that have already completed and returned to the class teacher Student Update, Annual Excursion and Internet & Email Use forms.

We require all these forms returned to us as soon as possible so we can update our information.

SPENCER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Disco

Our next school disco will be held on Thursday 20 March. Times are as follows:

- Kindy to Year 3: 5.00pm to 6.30pm
- Years 4 to 7: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Entry fee is $3.50 per child.

Please note that students who have been in time out this term will not be eligible to attend the disco.

Also be reminded that a responsible adult must deliver and collect all students from the hall. Children will not be released from the hall until this occurs.

CHOIR

The first performance of the Spencer Park Primary School Choir will be at the Assembly on Friday 21 March.

The Choir will be performing Wings and Chasing Cars.

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
- Foam pieces
- Plastic pots
- Carpet tubes
- Milk crates
- Tyres/Wheels
- Wooden cable
- rolls Old Prams
- Plastic containers
- Buckets
- Dress up clothes, bags shoes etc
SPENCER PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Last week the children had a fantastic time at Camp Quaranup. They got to do the outdoors things that are becoming rare in our modern society.

The important concept of writing for purpose is a skill we are always developing in our students. Mrs Redmond’s class wrote about the things they did on camp.

Krystyna commented, “Timothy dropped his hat in the water. I was trying to catch it.”
Hayley-jane said “On Thursday we went to Whale World and saw Megan. We watched a 3D movie. It was fun. Next year I would like to do everything. I love camp” (Megan is a former Student).
Jake said, “I liked playing on the boat” (At Whale World)
William C’s very neat handwriting told us the best thing was “Finlay”. Next year he would like to “Barbecue”

Mrs. Redmond told me they went to the beach twice. The children loved swimming in the ocean. When everyone went to Whale World on Thursday they loved seeing the Australian animals and the movies. Mr. Riemer and Mr. Barrington took everyone fishing. Unfortunately they didn’t catch anything. Mrs. Redmond would like to thank all the staff for working so hard and the students for being so well behaved.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Redmond for her diligence and orderliness in planning and overseeing the camp.

Thank you also goes to Rod Fry, carer, and Steve Hurley, EA from Albany Secondary Education Support Centre for over nighting Thursday night at the camp. If they had not offered to attend the camp would have been cut back to one night.

James McLean from Sculptural Timber Creations has completed our jetty and boat. On Tuesday he delivered four wooden fish and two special fishing poles. This will encourage the children to share and take turns. The children love the boat.

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

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.

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.

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.

Cricket Specialist Program
A Specialist Cricket Program Trial Day is being held Monday 7 April 2014 at the WACA. Endorsed by the Department of Education and The WACA. Applications accepted from Year 5, 6 and 7 Students. If you are interested in choosing Cricket as a full time subject at secondary school please contact the school of your choice for an Application Form.

BELRIDGE Senior High School T: 9408 8000
DARLING RANGE Sports College T: 9453 0100
JOHN FORREST Secondary College T: 9473 4035
KENT STREET Senior High School T: 9262 0500.

Albany Soapbox Club
The Albany Soapbox Club began back in 1962 and has continued to run strong in Albany for 52 years. It is a family orientated sport and is also a very economical way for families to have their children participate in a club sport on a budget. Children begin racing from 6 years of age through to 17 years old, encouraging our future road users to learn vehicle skills, whilst having fun. Please contact our Club President, Trevor Hannig on 0437 025 776 or email albanysoapboxclub@gmail.com for further information.
Ladies Short Break Retreat
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 female carers living in the Great Southern Region to take a break from their caring role and join other female carers for a 3 day break!

When: Thursday 3 April to Saturday 5 April
Where: Two nights shared accommodation at Rooster Retreat Elleker
Cost: FREE!

Limited places!! Expressions of interest close Friday 21 March
Inclusions: River Cruise and other activities, Accommodation, Lunch and Dinner for both days.

What to bring: BYO breakfast for Friday and Saturday mornings, walking shoes, sunscreen and hat, and any other personal items. Carers are to provide own transport to/from/between events.

Express your interest to attend by contacting Patricia at Carers WA on 1300 227 377 or email events@carerswa.asn.au

Coastal Park Enhancement Plan.
The City of Albany would like to invite members of the community to come along to a morning tea and information session to help the City identify the vision and key design drivers for our Coastal Park Enhancement Plan.

Saturday 15 March, 10-12pm – Drop in session, Emu Point Sporting Club, Birss St, Emu Point.

WHAT? Are the elements that are suitable for Coastal Parks?
WHERE? Do you think the key elements should be located?

Come along and have your say about Eyre Park, Emu Point, Middleton Beach and Ellen Cove enhancements. The drop in session is open to all residents and interested community groups. The focus is to enhance the existing parks and address ongoing maintenance issues; this is to be staged over the next 10 years commencing in 2014 until 2024. The City will also be speaking with young people in our community at a schools picnic morning tea in Eyre Park this week and also conducting one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders. The information gathered will inform a draft plan for Council expected to be considered in July this year. For further information about the Coastal Parks Enhancement Plan please contact, Coordinator of Developed Reserves, Jacqui Purvis on 9841 9402. To RSVP your attendance, please email julieann@albany.wa.gov.au

Net Set Go Junior Netball
Albany Netball Association runs clinic sessions for 5 to 7 year olds on Fridays from 4pm to 5pm at ALAC in Terms 2 and 3 Birth years 2007-2009 Registration Day is Friday, March 28 from 3.30pm to 5pm at the ALAC meeting room.

For more information, visit www.albanynetballassociation.wa.netball.com.au or phone Donna or Andrea on 9844 0300.

Play with Puppets
Learn to manipulate, create and stage puppets with Southern Edge Arts inc. Wednesdays at Vancouver Arts Centre.
Enrolments: 9841 6002 or check out our website www.southernedge.org.au

Heritage Apple Festival
2 to 4pm Saturday 15 March 2014 at the RCNC Community Garden, 14 Sanford Road Albany. Heritage apple tastings, Apple trees for sale, Apples for sale. Tea, Coffee and Apple cakes. Have a mystery apple tree? Bring along a fruit and leaves and we may be able to identify it!

Safe bike travel around Albany is a step closer!
With all the input from you (thanks!) and the broader community, the DRAFT City of Albany Bike Plan has now been released for comment and input.

Public Comment period closes 28 March.
A copy of the draft is now live on the City of Albany website, along with submission forms at http://albany.wa.gov.au/your-council/public-comment/ scroll down to ‘draft bike plan’. The report is extremely large (9KB), but there are a number of venues at which you can view the document listed below. A hard copy of the Draft Bike Plan with A3 maps, Executive Summary and submission forms is also available for viewing from front desk, North Road, City of Albany. A display will be set up at the Albany Public Library from 7 to 19 March with a hard copy of the report, large laminated maps of the proposed routes, Executive Summary, Community Update Info sheets and Submission forms.

As part of Bike Week this display will then be moved to the Pop Up Gallery at Bay Merchants from March 20 – 22 and finally to Oranje Tractor for the Velo Vineyard event on Sunday 23 March.

The City will be providing free coffee vouchers for the first 25 each day, during Bike Week. Please share this link through your networks to let the community know the various methods they can view the report and provide feedback.