Dear Parents and Friends

NAIDOC Week
As with most years NAIDOC Week, the last week of last term, ended the term on a high note. There were many highlights throughout the week that enabled our students to be focussed on the many facets of indigenous culture, past, present, and with a visit by the Follow the Dream Aboriginal students from NASHS and ASHS, into the future. A special forum involving a large number of key Aboriginal people working in our community and attended by Year 5, 6 and 7 students was particularly informative. Each visitor spoke about their life journey and what it has taken to become successful people in their chosen vocation. Many thanks to Michelle Forrest, our Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer, for initiating and organising this unique opportunity for our students.

A favourite event during NAIDOC Week for me, is our now traditional Eagles Cup and Netball games versus Mt Lockyer Primary School. These sporting contests always draw a big crowd of supporters and this year was no different. Both games, the netball and the football, are played for perpetual trophies. Our Netball team had a relatively easy win and have now recorded two wins in a row, something of a change to our fortunes against a school that has had very strong netball teams in the past. Congratulations go to all of those students who played so well to win the game and many thanks to Miss Perry for her enthusiastic coaching of this group. Best player awards were presented to, Thailia and Nardia.

The Eagles Cup game was a tight and exciting contest. With very low scoring after the first quarter and the ball going from backline to backline, everyone spectating knew that the game would not be decided by any great margin. Spencer Park went into the last quarter 10 points ahead, but a wonderful fight back by Mt Lockyer and with the last kick of the game, this year they were the victors by a solitary 2 points. A wonderful event, played in terrific spirit with players from both teams giving their best for their school. A memorable occasion for all involved. Mt Lockyer get to hang the impressive perpetual trophy, a framed Claremont football jumper in their front office, until we meet again next year during NAIDOC Week. Many thanks once again to Mr Hockey for the important work he does in encouraging students in this endeavour. Best player awards were presented to Carryl, Mitchell B, Cooper and Vincent.

Early Childhood Building Car Park to go Ahead
Some may be aware that in the initial stages of getting our new early childhood building underway we were told that there wasn’t enough funding in the project to cover the cost of the associated car park. In what is great news and after some successful lobbying by our School Board, the Education Department have agreed to provide the additional funds required for this much needed facility. This will mean that parents dropping off and picking up their children at the new building will have purpose designed parking in close proximity to this area. As a further consequence this should also take the pressure off the Reidy Drive public car park, something that has been seen as an issue in recent times. Whilst the construction timeline for the car park is tight I am hoping that this will be completed by the time the new building is in operation at the beginning of 2015 school year.

SMS Attendance
By the beginning of week 3 I am hoping that we will have introduced the capacity to generate and send automated text messages to parents whenever a child is absent from the school. Many other schools around the state have this capability. Should a child be absent from school following the completion of the class roll at around 10.30 each day a text will be sent to your mobile phone with this information.
Like any system of this kind errors will occur, if you believe your child to be at school, simply send a return text with this response and it will be followed up by our staff.

The main purpose of this system is as an additional safety mechanism for students. Currently we don’t have a particularly functional way of being able to check that students who actually set out for school do arrive. This system will help us all to identify quite quickly those students who aren’t at school when they should be. This is particularly relevant for those travelling by bus and have to change buses in transit or those walking or riding to school.

If you don’t currently have an up to date mobile number registered at school and believe that this system is important for you then now would be the time to provide the school with your new number.

Child and Parent Centre at Mt Lockyer PS
You may have seen in a newsletter towards the end of last term information about the new Child and Parent Centre based at Mt Lockyer PS. This centre is one of a number that have been funded by the State Government and placed at various locations around the state. This centre is specifically aimed at servicing a limited number of schools in Albany including Spencer Park and will run programs to support families with children from birth to 8 years of age. This will include a range of supports including parenting programs, programs aimed at early childhood development or advice in relation to where to find help for children experiencing difficulty. You will see ads for the programs and services being run from the centre in our newsletter and on the P&C Facebook page in the next few weeks and regularly throughout the year.

The Centre is setting up a Local Advisory Committee to ensure that the support it provides is in line with local needs. Ideally this should involve parents – if you are interested in being part of this group, your involvement is welcome and can be registered by making contact with our school office.

If you wish to know what this may involve you can also contact the Child and Parent Centre Manager Sarah Pegden on 0408 806 405 or by e-mail spegden@wanslea.asn.au.

Welcome
We welcome Ms Barbra Keeler who has been appointed in a relieving capacity to replace Mrs Sharman in the Library. She will remain in this position until the end of the year.

We also welcome Ms Annette Child, a trainee teacher who will be here in pre-primary 2 this term undertaking the final practice component of her teaching degree. Please make her feel welcome in our school.

Busy Term
With swimming lessons dominating the first 4 weeks of the term as always it will be another busy term. Please keep up to date with school events via the term planner, the newsletter, the P&C Facebook page or our website so that your child and family can take advantage of the events planned throughout the term.

In particular keep aside our annual Open Night planned for Wednesday 3 September from 6.00pm to 7.30pm – always a great opportunity to see first hand the kind of learning that your child has been involved in throughout the year.

Alan Dowssett – Principal

Future Dates
Cross Country/Lapathon Sponsorship forms returned Fri 25 July
In Term Swimming Rooms, PP1, PP2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, 19 Eagles Cup vs Yakamia (Away) Tues 22 to Fri 1 Aug
First Assembly Fri 1 Aug
SMS Attendance to begin Mon 4 Aug
P&C Meeting Mon 4 Aug
In Term Swimming Rooms 5,10 Fri 15 Aug

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.

Cross Country/Lapathon Sponsorship Forms (Extension of Deadline)
The P&C have extended the deadline for the return of sponsorship monies collected as a result of participation in the Cross Country and the Lapathon to Friday 25 July. Prizes for participation will be drawn out at assembly on Friday 1 August. All of the names of students who have collected sponsorship will go into this draw.

Nearly $3000 has been collected from this fundraising activity so far – many thanks to all of those families who supported their child’s involvement.
Welcome back to another interesting term!

Parents of the Early Intervention Centre will now have a chance to sit and chat before they pick up their children. Katrina Roads and Gary Oreo approached Koster’s Steel where Gary works to ask for a donation of a bench for the parents to sit on outside the classroom. Gary and his dad installed the bench over the holidays. Many thanks go to Katrina, Gary and Koster’s Steel.

This term the students begin Circus Skills with Southern Edge Arts. They will be going to PCYC for the program. It will be run every other Wednesday. Thank you Ben Reimer and Leanne Grey for organizing. Also, thank you Peter Watson for supporting this program for our students by giving us a cash donation of $500.

Last term I applied for a More Support for Students with Disabilities Development Grant. We have been successful with our application receiving $5,500. This is to be used to explore alternative communication strategies to best cater for our individual students. This would result in improved communication skills for students so they can better express their wants and needs as well as their ideas/answers in relationship to the individualized curriculum set for them.

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

2015 Applications for Kindergarten and Pre-primary
Applications for your child to be enrolled in kindergarten (4 year olds) and pre-primary (5 year olds) are now being taken at our school office. If your child is entering our school for the first time their birth certificate and immunisation details will be required.

The closing date for applications this year was Friday 4 July but we will be taking applications throughout the remainder of the year.

If your child is currently enrolled in our 4 year old program you will still need to make contact with the school office to ensure that your child is on our pre-primary list for 2015.

Today I saw the walls being built. The walls are made of bricks.

I saw a digger. It was digging.

The buildings haven’t changed much over the holidays. They look the same.

Jacob North
Recycling Club
Room 18 has a new recycling captain for Term 3. It is Taylah. Thank you Tom for working well in Term 2.

Nitbusters
Head lice are back! We have had a volunteer offer to lead the Nitbusters team and we are asking for parents who would be available to work with the team to check heads several times per year. We would like to get this going as soon as possible.

If you can spare a few hours to help please contact the school office on 9841 2488 and leave your details.

WA Education Awards
The WA Education Awards provide many opportunities for reflection, acknowledgement and celebration.

2014 is an exciting year for the WA Education Awards. Having merged with the WA Aboriginal Education Awards, there are now more award categories and greater opportunities to celebrate the inspiring work taking place in public schools. With 11 categories, the awards will now recognise even more people contributing to providing every child in Western Australia with a high quality education – whatever their ability, wherever they live, whatever their background. Nominations can only be written by Department of Education staff, School Board/Councils and
Parent and Citizen’s Associations. Individual students and parents are not eligible to submit a nomination. Nominations can be made in the following categories:

- WA Premier’s Primary Teacher of the Year
- WA Premier’s Secondary Teacher of the Year
- WA Premier’s Excellence in Aboriginal Education Award
- WA Primary School Leader of the Year
- WA Secondary School Leader of the Year
- WA Beginning Teacher of the Year
- WA Education Assistant of the Year
- WA Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer of the Year
- WA School Services Staff Member of the Year
- WA Primary School of the Year
- WA Secondary School of the Year.


**Merit Certificate**

The WA Education Awards are also your opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding commitment and contribution made to your child’s education by a favourite teacher, principal or member of school support staff. Get involved in the nomination process this year by giving your favourite teacher, principal or school support staff member a certificate of merit. Certificates are available at the front office, fill it in and hand it back to your school office Friday 22 August.

**Parents of 4 year olds - Immunisations**

Children who have turned 4 years of age are scheduled to received 2 injections, MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and DTP – IPV (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, and Polio) vaccines. These are booster doses to ensure good levels of coverage against these life threatening diseases. These immunisations can now be given as early as 3.5 years of age. From 1 July 2012, families will need to have their children fully immunized or have an approved exemption to receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A end-of-year supplement. The supplement, worth $726 per child, will now only be paid once a child is fully immunised at one, two and five years of age, or has an approved exemption.

This means that over the three immunisation check points, families will have an incentive of more than $2,100. If your child still requires his/her immunisations please see your usual immunisation provider or alternatively you are welcome to make an appointment for our Tuesday / Thursday Population Health Immunisation Clinic, in Albany. This is a free service, and appointments can be made by phoning 9842 7500.

If you have any questions relating to immunisation please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number below or by email.

Anne Taylor, Public Health Nurse – Immunisations/Disease Control
WA Country Health Service Phone 9842 7511
Email anne.taylor@health.wa.gov.au

**School Start and Finish Times**

The cooperation of all parents is sought in ensuring students arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.50am (except for those students attending Breakfast Club).

Late students disrupt classes and we are unable to guarantee supervision prior to 8.30am.

Students who arrive late require a late slip from the office. End of school siren is at 3.10pm. Please ensure students are collected promptly.

**Collecting students during the school day**

Just a reminder that when parents or caregivers 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.

**Is bullying increasing?**

The fact that we are hearing a lot about bullying these days may well be a positive sign that we are taking it seriously and exploring ways to reduce it.

Australian researchers have suggested we are more aware of the potential impact of ignoring bullying, and willing to take the necessary positive action, rather than the bullying problem actually increasing.

Taken from Bullying, No Way! (2013) Fast Facts: Bullying in Schools