Dear Parents and Friends

Centenary of ANZAC – Departure of Convoy from Albany 1914

As I am sure most will be aware the last week of October in Albany will be a special time. This time will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the departure of the convoy carrying the troops to the Middle East in the lead up to Australia’s involvement in World War 1. To fully acknowledge this most significant historical event, the Minister for Education, Hon Peter Collier MLC, has agreed to close Albany schools on Friday 31 October 2014. Please ensure that you have this date in your diary in advance. More reminders will be given as we get closer to the date.

Many exciting activities are already planned for the Albany community with more being discussed. During the Centenary period, our students will be learning more about the history behind ANZAC and the important role played by Albany and the convoys that departed from here. Our biannually held Art Exhibition, due to be held this year and at the same time as the Albany commemoration, will have the theme “Our Sunburnt Country” and as such will be reflective of this period of our nation’s history.

We hope you and your family will take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to commemorate the occasion and take part in the many activities available.

For further information, including a detailed program covering local events, please visit the website www.anzacalbany.com.au

Student Centred Funding Model

Last week our Registrar Julie Fordham and myself attended the first of 2, day long, training workshops related to the governments recently announced Student Centred Funding Model. This development will see all schools allocated funds on as close to a per student basis as possible, and according to the individual needs of the students enrolled. Several factors that impact on the learning of students (eg, family background, geographical location, disability etc.) have been identified and used to supplement the funds per student that the school receives. The Government has also attempted to redirect more of the Education Department’s budget towards primary schools and as a result many High Schools around the state have had their budgets reduced to accommodate this.

The other feature of this model is that all schools will operate with what is known as a one line budget, whereby a total overall dollar figure is allocated that is meant to cover all aspects of a schools expenditure including salaries. As an independent public school we have been operating like this for the last 2 years, but for other schools not yet independent this will be the first time that they have encountered this model. An update to the administrative software used to manage our overall budget will be an important focus of the training for our school.

From my point of view the idea of having a funding mechanism that is based on information related to the actual needs of students in our school is a positive development. This wasn’t the case in the previous funding model. Endeavouring to give more funds to primary is also a positive but I don’t think that this should have been at the expense of secondary schools and at this stage there is still a substantial differential in per capita funding given to secondary and primary schools.

In terms of are we better off? It is still a little early to determine. Over the next couple of months as we look at enrolments for 2015 and how this impacts on the number of staff we need to operate the school effectively I will start to get a clearer picture of whether we are better or worse off. My early calculations probably point towards a maintenance of the status quo when it comes to the funds we are receiving.

Book Week

Book Week is next week. As usual this does give our teachers, and you as parents the opportunity to promote reading and a love of books. As usual there will be some activities at

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER
school held as part of Book Week and our very popular dress up as your favourite book character assembly next Friday 22 August. I hope that you can support your child’s involvement in this activity – the more involved the better the atmosphere on the day.

Artist in Residence “Our Sunburnt Country”

As part of the lead up to our Art Exhibition this year a number of prominent artists from our community will be in residence next Wednesday morning. The people involved are Joan Campbell, Indra Geidens, Mychelle Mahar, Scott Mahar, Tony Jones and Jason Miniter. They will set up on our verandah and be actually working on a piece of artwork in a way that enables all students to see how an artist goes about producing a piece of art. I am sure that this will be a wonderful motivational opportunity for our students when it comes to taking an interest in this area of the school curriculum and this program. Many thanks to Mrs Fletcher and Ms Joyce for the work they have done in organising these people to come to our school and work in this way. My understanding is that there will also be pieces of artwork produced by the artists involved that are to be donated to the school and become part of our silent auction at the exhibition opening in October.

Kindy Readers

I was really pleased earlier in the week to listen to several students from our kindergarten program reading. I know that there are many others who are also well on their way to understanding the fundamentals of the reading process and are using this to read the simple decodable books that are the first in the series they encounter. This is impressive given that these students still have considerable time in the year to go.

If you are a parent of a kindergarten student making these first successful steps to becoming an effective reader – please ensure that every encouragement is given and make the most of this early enthusiasm for reading.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Future Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>SMS Attendance began</td>
<td>Mon 4 Aug</td>
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<td>In Term Swimming</td>
<td>Mon 4 Aug to Fri 15</td>
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<td>Rooms 5,10</td>
<td>Aug</td>
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<td>Next Assembly</td>
<td>Fri 15 Aug</td>
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<td>NASHS Transition</td>
<td>Fri 15 Aug Time</td>
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<td>8.50am to 11.00am</td>
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<td>Eagles Cup vs St Jo’s (Away)</td>
<td>Tues 19 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Week</td>
<td>Mon 18 to Fri 22 Aug</td>
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<td>Book Week Dress Up Assembly</td>
<td>Fri 22 Aug</td>
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<td>Parent Survey Due</td>
<td>Fri 22 Aug</td>
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<td>Eagles Cup Semi Finals</td>
<td>Tues 26 Aug</td>
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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.

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.

Nominations close on 22 August 2014 Award. For more information visit www.education.wa.edu.au/home/detcms/navigation/about-us/programs-and-initiatives/

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 by Friday 22 August.
I found the following information for the Australian Dental Association interesting. I thought I would share it with you.

“Typically foods that can contribute to dental decay include those high in sugar such as concentrated fruit snack bars, sweets, muesli bars and sugary beverages and juices. This is because the sugar feeds the destructive bacteria in children’s mouths, which in turn puts acid on your child’s teeth. Refined foods such as savoury, starchy crackers and chips can also have high carbohydrate (sugar) content; therefore it is important to check the food information panel on packaged foods to assist with determining foods with high carbohydrate or sugar content.

These types of foods are high risk for decay especially if eaten often and over long periods. While it is unrealistic to completely cut these foods out, the ADA has some tips to help minimise dental decay related to their consumption. These include:

- Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods, especially those rich in calcium and low in acids and sugars
- Enjoy healthy snacks, with cheese and fruit being ideal choices. Some foods assist with protecting teeth – milk and some cheeses are recognised as having protective qualities to help prevent dental decay.
- Offer a diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables, wholegrain cereals, lean meats and dairy products
- Limit sugary snacks such as lollies, fruit bars, muesli bars, biscuits, dried fruit, cordials, juices and soft drinks
- Many healthy foods (such as fruit) contain high amounts of sugar. Starchy foods (such as bread, pasta and crackers) and milk products (including breast milk) consumed frequently can cause the growth of dental plaque, which is why you need to make sure your child’s teeth are cleaned morning and night

Importantly, a healthy diet must be complemented by good oral hygiene - brushing and flossing teeth and regular dental check-ups. Daily flossing and brushing greatly reduce the risk of tooth decay.”

Taken from: http://www.ada.org.au/app_cmslib/media/lib/0711/m102959_v1_healthyeating_factsheet.pdf

What I can See from My Playground by Jacob North

Today I saw the forklift all the way around the back. The bricks are finished. The man put the tin on.

The roof’s nearly finished. I heard the drill, drilling holes inside the classrooms.
Are you Raising Kind Kids?
This is the second of a series of 5 points made by Harvard psychologist Richard Weissbourd that will be included in the Newsletter in coming weeks.

Provide opportunities for children to practice caring and gratitude
Why?
It’s never too late to become a good person, but it won’t happen on its own. Children need to practice caring for others and expressing gratitude for those who care for them and contribute to others’ lives. Studies show that people who are in the habit of expressing gratitude are more likely to be helpful, generous, compassionate and forgiving – and they’re also more likely to be happy and healthy.

How?
Learning to be caring is like learning to play sport or an instrument. Daily repetition, whether it’s helping a friend with homework, pitching in around the house or having a classroom job, make caring second nature and develop and hone youth’s caregiving capacities. Learning gratitude similarly involves regularly practising it.

Try this.
• Don’t reward your child for every act of helpfulness, such as clearing the dinner table. We should expect our kids to help around the house, with siblings and with neighbours and only reward uncommon acts of kindness.
• Talk to your child about caring and uncaring acts they see on television and about acts of justice and injustice they might witness or hear about in the news.
• Make gratitude a daily ritual at dinnertime, bedtime, in the car or on the subway. Express thanks for those who contribute to us and others in large and small ways.

Isn’t bullying just a normal part of growing up?
Bullying is not a normal stage that all children and young people pass through, and it is not just something to put up with as ‘part of life’. Behaviour that is intended to harm can impede healthy development. Ignoring bullying or thinking that it is just something that children and young people do or that it will be ‘character building’ can give silent approval for bullying to continue and further traumatising those who are bullied.

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

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.

Do you need a TUTOR?
Group tutoring lessons for primary school aged children in ENGLISH and MATHS
Date: starting 25 August
Times: 3:30-4:30, 4:30- 5:30 Mon- Fri
Venue: 92 South Coast Highway
Cost: $35 p/c
Contact: Joanne Lock (BA, Grad Dip Ed)
0437 553 412 bookings essential

Supporting Young Carers
Young Carers Laserscape Adventure. Young carers aged 10 – 18 years old are invited to join us for and exciting, real life, combat exercise! Meet new friends and participate in a fun, team building experience. Friday 10 October 2014 at 9.15am – 12.30pm.
Laserscape Battlefield, 1 Elleker Road, Albany.
Free! Lunch will be provided. BYO water/drinks bottle.
Long pants, enclosed shoes and hat. (no one will be allowed onto the battlefield wearing incorrect clothing).

RSVP’s are essential! For more information please contact Jen Dodson, Carers WA Regional Care Coordinator 0400 840 611 or email jen.dodson@carerswa.asn.au
To register call Patricia on 1300 227 377

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