Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome Back
As we welcome everyone back to the start of the last term of 2014 another year will, I am sure, rapidly head towards a conclusion. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a restful and recuperative break. There will be plenty to keep us busy in the coming weeks, your term planner, weekly newsletter or regular visits to our website will be important to ensure you are in touch with school events.

Our Year 6/7 students will be particularly well occupied as they begin their last term of primary school, the Year 6’s will make history as they become the first group of Year 7 students to enter a secondary school program. A number of days are set aside during the term for both of these year groups to spend time in a high school environment for the students involved to become familiar with what this change will mean.

Students in Year 6/7 are also not far away from their camp, something that will I am sure be a memorable way to bring to an end their years at our school.

Our Art Exhibition “Our Sunburnt Country” is also almost upon us. I hope that you have pencilled in Wednesday October 29 6.30pm to be with us for the opening at the Residency Museum as this will undoubtedly be a highlight of the year’s calendar. Scheduling the event at the same time as Albany’s ANZAC Centenary celebrations, and having it recognised as an official event, should mean a massive amount of exposure for our school. I look forward to being part of this occasion. Many thanks to all of our staff for their work in inspiring the art works generated by the children and also to Mrs Ruffell and a hard working staff committee who coordinate the huge amount of work required to bring this event to fruition.

Vandal Damage
As some of you may be aware, there has been some vandalism around the school over the holiday period. Most concerning is a fire that was deliberately lit in a sea container being used on the building site by one of the contractors as a storage and office facility. Fortunately no other damage was sustained to the new building or to the school. The police are following up and investigating this matter.

We have also had a number of windows broken in 3 separate incidents. This is also concerning particularly given the low number of times over the years that we have had this happen. This damage will also be followed up to see if we can determine who may be involved.

In the meantime I would ask those of you who live close to the school to be vigilant and report to the police people loitering around the school suspiciously. This can be enough to prevent damage or secure a conviction in relation to those involved.

Albany Primary Schools Spelling Championship
This event was staged at our school in the last week of last term and whilst we didn’t secure either of the major prizes, the students who represented our school prepared well and did their best on the day. The Year 4/5 competition was a close contest and even after a tie break the 2 best teams Denmark PS and Flinders Park PS could not be split and as such shared the winning prize. Our teams did very well in this competition only finishing 2 incorrect answers behind the winning teams. Denmark completed a great day by also winning the Year 6/7 competition and as such will host the event in 2015.

Many thanks to Mrs Taylor who helped our Year 4/5 teams prepare in the lead up and Ms Cheetham who helped the Year 6/7 teams prepare.

Playground Equipment
With the building program that has been occurring this year our senior students in particular have not had access to any playground equipment for the year. This will come to an end at the beginning of next year. The school and the P&C have combined to fund brand new equipment that will be placed in the area where the current Kindy building is located. Mid last term I presented a number of different playground options to our Year 4/5 students and as a result of some discussion and refinement a design has been chosen by these students that I am sure will get plenty of use once it is in place.

This playground equipment will be installed as part of the current early childhood building program.

Some of the existing playground equipment in the junior primary playground will be relocated into the...
play area of the new building. Some new equipment will also be added and be funded by the building project.

The new building and all of its associated aspects will change considerably the overall layout and outlook once everything is completed.

ANZAC Centenary – Shopfront Displays
Albany’s ANZAC Centenary Commemoration scheduled for the last week in October is shaping up as one of the biggest events in the City’s history. Huge numbers of visitors are anticipated. Over this ANZAC commemorative period, an innovative partnership initiative will see schools in the Great Southern matched with businesses in the Albany CBD that will result in the installation of ANZAC-themed shopfront displays. These displays will involve student work related to the centenary of ANZAC and should be a vibrant addition to the shopfronts lining the streets in this area. Look out for these from Monday 27 October to Thursday 6 November 2014!

Given that our school is involved in our own major art exhibition at the same time, we are not one of the schools involved with this program.

Condolences
Our condolences go out to the Elms family on the loss of Bob who passed away during the holidays. Mr Elms was a long serving, highly respected and valued Deputy Principal at our school. Those of you who knew him will also know that he was also a wonderful music teacher who inspired many music events and programs at our school in his time on our staff in the late 1970’s and 1980’s.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Moving Schools or Locations in 2015?
It is crucial that you inform the school of any intention to move from Spencer Park in 2015. Our funding and the way we organise classes is dependent on an accurate understanding of student numbers in each year level across the school. From here on in, and for the remainder of the year, notifying us if your child will not be here in 2015 will assist greatly when it comes to planning for the new school year.

Class Requests 2015
Parent requests in relation to class placement in 2015 can now be made. These need to be in writing and addressed to Mr Dowsett. The deadline for these is Monday 10 November. Please be reminded that whilst all requests will be given due consideration there may be a range of factors that may not allow all requests to be granted. Parents also need to be aware that once classes have been set it can be difficult to make changes to the placements that have been made.

Future Dates
P&C Meeting Mon 20 Oct
First Assembly Term 4 Fri 24 Oct
Art Exhibition Opening Wed 29 Oct 6.30pm
Art Exhibition Wed 29 Oct to Thurs 6 Nov
School Closed for ANZAC Centenary Fri 31 Oct
Year 6/7 Camp Mon 3 Nov to Thurs 6 Nov
Deadline for Class Requests Mon 10 Nov

Tags Dance
Rooms 9, 10 and 11 TAGS Dances will be performed on Wednesday 22 October, in the Hall. The performance will be straight after the lunch break – 1.10pm.
All students need to have their dance costume at school by Friday 17 October.

Costumes
Room 9 – PJ’s
Room 10 – Bright top (Red, Orange, Yellow) Black long pants.
Room 11 – Khaki, Brown, Jungle colours.

Library News
Welcome back to Term 4. During the holidays the outside of the library was painted and it looks great.
We have a display of new books ready for you to borrow. Look forward to seeing you soon.
Mrs Keeler

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE
We congratulate the following students who received Pursuit of Excellence Awards for Term 1 at the Assembly held on the 26 September 2014.

Rm 1  Aliciah Mae  Rm 9  Mason
Rm 2  Lily  Rm 10  Peter
Rm 3  Eric  Rm 11  Rhianna
Rm 4  Lars  Rm 17  Morgan
Rm 5  Lily  Rm 18  Kanisha
Rm 7  John  Rm 19  Lahni
Rm 8  Caspar
Music  Blessa Mae Rm 11
Physical Education  Hannah Rm 11
Health  Leah Rm 18
Science  Owen Rm 7

Help Needed
We are looking for help from our school community to set up for the Art Exhibition to be held at WA Museum Albany on 28 and 29 October 2014.

Help is also required for the pack up of the Exhibition on 12 November.
Any volunteers please contact the school office on 9841 2488.

Request for Food Donations
We are requesting food donations for the Opening Night of the Art Exhibition – Wednesday 29 October.
 eg: Juice (apple, orange), Cracker biscuits, Cheese, Gerkins, Dips etc. contact the office if able to assist.
Our busy term is off to a flying start. Our in-house assembly took place Tuesday morning.

I told the students about all the things that will be happening this term.

- Horse Riding starts on Wednesday 22 October.
- Transition of the Year 6/7 Students to high school continues.
- Transition of the Kindergarten and PP students is beginning to happen.
- Sailability was going to happen this Thursday but due to the weather it has been put off until week 5.
- Next Thursday, Fishers with Disabilities are in town. The students and staff will be out for the morning with a free sausage sizzle for lunch. Be sure to get the permission slip back to us ASAP.
- Saturday, 25 October we are having a busy bee to remove the old swing, etc., set as the New Nature Play swing set will be installed week 3.
- Mark SPPS Art Exhibition opening night on your calendar. It is the 29 October at the Albany Museum. Come see your child’s artistic creations.
- Year 6/7 student camp is on week 4.
- We have In Term Swimming during the afternoons of weeks 6 and 7.
- Circus Performance towards the end of November.
- We are planning on a 21st Birthday Party/ Open House on 3 December which is the International Disability of People with Disabilities. More information as the plans move forward.
- End of Term Assembly on 15 December.

I also reminded the students and the staff they need to remember the school expectations to Be Safe, Be Friendly and Be Your Best. Remember Term 4 means No Hat, No Play. Please be sure your child has a broad brimmed hat or they will not be allowed to play in the sun.

CENTREPAY: Sharon Hall, our lovely registrar, has organized Centrepay for those parents who wish to have regular deductions from their Centrelink payments to cover extra cost school programs, e.g., Horse riding.

I am required to put the following the newsletter:

**Use Centrepay to arrange regular deductions from your Centrelink payment. Centrepay is a voluntary payment option available to Centrelink customers. Go to humanservices.gov.au/Centrepay for more information and to arrange your Centrepay deductions.**

You can go the website to make the necessary arrangements or you can have a chat with Sharon, fill out the forms at school and we will fax them to Centrelink for you. 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
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.

What can parents do if their child tells them they are being bullied?

There are five key steps for parents if their child tells them they have been bullied:
1. **listen** carefully to what your child wants to say
2. **reassure** your child that they are not to blame and ask open and empathetic questions to find out more details
3. **ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do
4. **discuss** with your child some sensible strategies to handle the bullying – starting a fight is not sensible
5. **contact** the school.

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