Dear Parents and Friends

Happy 21st Birthday Spencer Park Education Support Centre
My best wishes go to Mrs Edwards and the team at the Spencer Park Education Support Centre who, this year, are celebrating 21 years of operating as a specialised program catering for students with special needs. This program has offered special needs students of primary school age an essential alternative to mainstream schooling. Over the time that they have been offering this service in Albany they have assisted many students to establish a foundation set of skills that, I am sure, have served them very well as they have got older when it comes to becoming positive and valued members of our community.

From a whole of school campus point of view the team at the Education Support Centre over the years have provided the staff at the primary school with valuable advice and support when it comes to catering for students who may not be identified as special needs but have difficulties with their learning. From time to time over the year’s students from the primary school have also joined in, for defined amounts of time, with some of the programs offered at the Education Support Centre to assist them with their learning.

Over time including students with special needs in mainstream classes has consistently been seen as a positive by parents. Inclusion does give our more able students the opportunity to understand, appreciate and be more tolerant when it comes to their approach to people with disabilities – this is an important life skill that cannot really be learnt in isolation from these kinds of interactions.

My congratulations go to all of those involved with the Centre – I hope that this facility can continue for many more years into the future.

Secondary School Scholarships for 2015
The Department of Education coordinates scholarships that provide financial support to eligible children in secondary schools to help with their studies.

Applications for a number of these scholarships are now open for next year (2015) and close on Wednesday 31 December 2014.

Further details and application forms are at www.education.wa.edu.au if you do not have access to the internet, please let the front office know and we can send you the information or you can pick them up.

Congratulations
Last week I attended the ASHS Year 12 Graduation, it was pleasing to see 9 of our past students complete their full 5 years at high school and graduate. It was also pleasing to see that 2 of our students won prizes for their studies in Year 12:

- Christie Ransley-Keen won the ASHS School Council Award
- Kendal Halsall was the top student in the Certificate II Sport and Recreation Program.

My congratulations go to these two people and to all of those who successfully graduated after 5 years of secondary schooling.

I am always interested in the pathways of our students beyond the end of primary school and it is always great to see and hear of the successes being achieved by these people.

Christmas Service
I hope that you have our Christmas Service next Tuesday 2 December on your calendar. It is usually our first real taste of Christmas with carols from the choir, an understanding of the Christmas story and as always Christmas wishes.

As we have done in the past we are also putting together a hamper of non-perishables and gifts that will be donated to the Salvation Army – I hope that you can provide something for this.

Booklists – Prizes on Offer
In last week’s newsletter I outlined the many great reasons why parents should take advantage of the school’s booklist service – another terrific reason is that our suppliers, Storms Stationery, are offering effectively 2 free booklists as prizes for those who participate. All who purchase booklist supplies in this way will go into a draw and two booklist purchases will be reimbursed for those lucky enough to have their names drawn out.
Student Councillor Speeches

It is that time of the year again when we initiate the process of selecting our Student Councillors for the new school year. The loss of year 7’s in primary school means that these selections will come from our current group of Year 5 students. As we have done in previous years those nominating deliver a speech to their peers as well as the school staff, not an easy thing to do for anyone. It is always pleasing however, as Principal, to see and hear those students nominating, confidently address these groups, express pride in their school and give a sincere commitment to be the kind of role model that any school would want from their student leaders.

Whilst every speech given this year had great merit, I thought people may be interested in the one delivered by one of our students Cerys – it was in verse:

My name is Cerys and you should vote for me
I’m approachable and responsible, happy and carefree
Never been in time out or had a warning slip
I love to sing, I love to dance and I love to flip
A caring peer mediator helping those in need
Always do my homework, love to learn and read
A regular in choir, and assembly I have led
I am confident and trustworthy and have a level head
I love Spencer Park, I am even in our netball team
And I will be the greatest councillor you have ever seen

Alan Dowsett – Principal

HONOUR CERTIFICATES

We congratulate the following students who received certificates at the last assembly, 21 November 2014:

- Abigail Room 1
- Lily Room 2
- Jacinta Room 3
- Jasmine Room 4
- Sheldon Room 5
- Jake Room 8
- Seth Room 8
- Desirae Room 11
- Johnathan Room 17
- Taylah Room 18
- Luke Room 19
- Keinan Music
- Room 8 Health Honour Certificate
- Room 3 Catherine Burges

Donations Required

Donations of Bubble Wrap and Egg Cartons are required for the T&E Shed supplies. Please deliver to Room 18.

Library News

Hi everyone.
Suddenly this is the last week for borrowing. Next week you will need to return all of your books.
Now is the time to look for all those late and missing books. Bring them back so we can count them and put them to bed for a nice rest so they will be ready to borrow next year.
You are still welcome to come into the Library, browse through the new books, read and enjoy the Library as usual. Look forward to seeing you soon.
Mrs Keeler

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL

With Christmas approaching, I would like to invite you to be a part of our annual collection of gifts for the Salvation Army.

As has happened in previous years, we would gratefully welcome any donation, whatever the size, of non-perishable food items that might assist a needy person or family at Christmas.
eg: Fruit cakes, Christmas puddings, Fruit salad, Tinned ham.

On December 2 we are having a special Christmas Assembly, where the gifts will be presented to Captain Niall Gibson from our local Salvation Army.

I thank you for the way you have supported this project in the past, and hope you may be able to be involved this year.

Kind regards,
Jennifer Hunt
School Chaplain

Future Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Next Assembly Room 2</td>
<td>Fri 28 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spencer Park Christmas Service</td>
<td>Tues 2 Dec 9.40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Orientation Day ASHS/NASHS</td>
<td>Fri 5 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Orientation Day ASHS/NASHS</td>
<td>Mon 8 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
<td>Tues 16 Dec 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Graduation</td>
<td>Wed 17 Dec 7.00pm</td>
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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.
In Term swimming is going well! The pool is a bit on the cool side but the students are looking forward to the last day when they have fun activities. The staff have been fantastic! Either being in the pool or helping with the changing.

**CHRISTMAS CARD FUND RAISER:** Remember that we are selling Christmas cards to raise funds for the Camp next year. There are packs of 4 for $6.00. Each card has a special paper that can be planted to grow Australian native Swan River Daises. You can either buy a few packs or get a bag of 10 to sell to your friends and family. With ~50% coming back to us it is a timely way for us to fundraise. At $1.50 per card it is pretty good value.

**SPESC CAMP 2015:** Mrs. Redmond has booked Camp Kennedy for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the first week back in Term 2. This will give you time to yourself after the school holidays. Also there is a long weekend after camp for the students and staff to catch up on their sleep if required.

What’s on for the rest of the term:

- **Disability Awareness Week** 1 to 8 of December to coincide with **International Day of People with Disability** 3 December. The week aims to recognise individuals and groups in the community that have made a contribution to the **Count Me In** vision: ‘All people live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone.’

- **Community Access:**
  - December 5 to Eyres Park
  - December 12 the Albany Entertainment Centre

- **Circus Performance at PCYC on 4 December.** There will be two tickets for each family. Please talk to Sharon in the office if you require more tickets.

- **21st Birthday Party/ Open House Tuesday 2 December.** This is a Disability Awareness Week activity. Sausage sizzle starts at 12:30. 1:30 Opening Ceremony with Peter Watson, MLA, launching the event and cutting the birthday cake. There will be a bouncy castle, balloons, birthday cake and other fun activities. The activities will run until 3:00. We will continue with an open house until 5:00.

- **End of Term Assembly/Graduation on Monday 15 December.** 9:00 for Diane’s Chat and 9:30 for the assembly.

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

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**What I can See from My Playground by Jacob North**

Today the classrooms look like they are nearly finished. I saw a painter, painting the door. The door didn’t have a handle or the vent. I think they will put them on after the painting.

There are still tools in the yard. There is no grass ready yet. It looks good. It is getting exciting.

Jacob North

**LUCKY TICKET DRAW**

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

- Kiara Room 1
- Abigail Room 1
- Will (Goldie) Room 3
- Khyran Room 9
- Jarrah Room 9
- Aleesha Room 9
- Chloe Room 10

**NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF YEAR 7 & 8 BUS STUDENTS ENTERING ALBANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN 2015.**

Bus students require a Student SmartRider card to be eligible for the cheaper fare (60c for cardholders, $1.20 for non card holders).

All new ASHS’s students will be issued with a photographic Student SmartRider which is used both as an ASHS library card as well as a bus pass. These cards are issued through the school. The first card from ASHS is free of charge, replacement cards are $5. These cards will be issued to new students sometime during Term 1 2015.

To be eligible for the cheaper bus fare from the beginning of 2015 we recommend that you apply for a Student SmartRider card while still at primary school. There is no cost for the **first issue** of a Smartrider for primary school students if you order using the application form, $5 for online ordering. If your child has previously been issued with a card in primary school the cost of a replacement is $5. Cards can be obtained by going to http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/smartrider/types-of-smartreader/student-smartreader
Keep Albany Beautiful recently held a school's art competition. The criterion was very difficult. Room 4 students worked diligently to ensure they included every aspect. We were very, very proud to hear that in the Year 3 division, Brielle was awarded first place, Lyndsey, second place, and Jasmine third place. Congratulations girls!

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 they are told or suspect that their child is bullying others?

The Bullying, No Way! website provides information about things to do. If a parent suspects their child has been bullying others, they can talk to their child about:
- what is the reason they have been behaving this way
- taking responsibility for their behaviour

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.