Dear Parents and Friends

NAPLAN Testing Year 3 and 5 Next Week
As you will have seen on the term planner our Year 3 and 5 students will be involved in the NAPLAN testing next week. This runs for 3 days, Tues 10 May to Thurs 12 May with Fri 13 May as a catch up day for those students who may have been absent for a part of the testing on the previous 3 days. In total the amount of time taken up by the testing over the 3 days varies from 170 minutes for Year 3 to 180 minutes for Year 5.

It is important that your child’s testing is as closely reflective of their day to day performance as possible. For this reason please be mindful of the additional focus needed at this time and ensure that your child maintains good sleep and nutrition patterns during this test period. Students in these year levels have already had exposure to the style of testing being conducted so they should be well prepared for their involvement in this program.

If any issues occur during this time that may suggest that your child will struggle to cope or may not produce a test performance reflective of their ability – please do not hesitate to contact your classroom teacher.

Whilst there are well publicised issues surrounding the testing, particularly in using the results to compare schools, from our point of view as a school, it does help in a range of ways including measuring our performance as a school, determining strengths and weaknesses in our school program and to check levels of individual performance.

Reasons for Absences Needed
For all students in Pre-primary to year 6, school is compulsory. As such any absence does need to be accompanied by an explanation from parents as to the reasons for this non-attendance. This can be done in a variety of ways:
- By a written note to school
- By a return SMS as a response to the automated text sent to inform you of your child’s absence.
- By phoning the school

A child who is absent regularly without explanation will quickly attract the attention of those in our Department who follow up poor attendance as well as other agencies with responsibility for the welfare of children in our community.

The average attendance for children at our school is over 90% – last term a large number of children received certificates for not missing a single day. An attendance rate of less than 80% is cause for concern – if you have a child in this situation, then you should seek help from the school to address this situation. Missing school for more than a day per week will significantly impact on a child’s educational outcomes.

Mother’s Day Stall
I am hoping that you have seen that this event advertised in the newsletter and elsewhere. The stall is planned for tomorrow Friday 6 May. Whilst this raises money for a good cause, Albany Animal Rescue Team, it is also an opportunity for your child to purchase an affordable gift for that most important person in their lives, their Mum! Many thanks go to Trish Hambley and her band of helpers for being able to put together this event for our students.

Eagles Cup Football
Next week will be our first game of the new Eagles Cup season. Over the years this has been an activity enjoyed by many of our students. It is a great opportunity for our older students who may play something different on the weekend or who for some reason aren’t able to engage in any winter sport out of school, to play this sport. Over the years I have seen many students through this program switch on to football and pursue this as a winter sport.

It is also an opportunity for students to get involved in genuinely representing the school in an interschool team competition. It can be a great way to connect the children to the school and to each other. I have enjoyed many moments over the years watching students from our school give their best in this competition.

If you have a Year 5 or 6 child please encourage them to be involved even if they haven’t had a lot of experience with this sport – it is a relatively safe and well controlled entry into football.

Alan Dowsett – Principal
The camp week has arrived and we are all excited and ready to go. We all have our fingers crossed that the weather will be kind and the sun will shine. I am sure camp will be a wonderful learning and growing experience for everyone.

Below is some information about our Early Intervention Centre for Children with Autism. Albany is fortunate to have one of 9, state funded, Intensive Early Interventions Programs. These programs are part of the Department of Education Services to children diagnosed with Autism.

The centre also caters for children with a diagnosis of Global Developmental Delay, although this diagnosis must be made before the child enters their Kindergarten year.

The centre is located on our campus and is part of the Spencer Park Education Support Centre. Children enrolled in the Early Intervention Program do not have an Intellectual Disability. The focus of the program is to prepare children for mainstream education. Children enrol in the program for both their Kindergarten and Pre-Primary year.

The Kindergarten year provides children with 2 full days and 1 half day of therapies and structured work sessions. Children attending in their Pre-Primary year attend their mainstream school 3 days a week and the Early Intervention class for 2 days.

Individual Education Plans are established for each child. Collaboration between families, other agencies and schools working with each child ensure children are provided with the best possible start to their school journey.

Programs for each child are developed using evidence collected from baseline tests, information from parents and caregivers and reports from other agencies. Teaching is driven by data collected throughout the teaching sessions. This ensures children have a good understanding and generalized knowledge of outcomes taught. Children are actively engaged in the learning process 100% of the time. The centre’s motto is “not a minute wasted”. This intense learning environment is made possible by staffing ratios that allow for many 1 /1 teaching moments and small group teaching.

A variety of teaching methods are incorporated into the day’s program. Discrete Trials form the basis of most programs. This is supported by Natural Environment Training, Errorless Learning, Pivotal Response, Structured and Unstructured Play.

Learning at the centre is intense but it is fun and acknowledges the need for children to move frequently. Children are ‘taught’ how to play and accept the rules and routines of a school environment.

Staff in the Early Intervention Centre work closely with schools to ensure transitions between Kindergarten to Pre-Primary and Pre-Primary to year 1 is made smoothly.

For further information please contact the school on 9841 1537

Lara Eyles, Acting Principal

Future Dates
Mother’s Day Stall Fri 6 May
First Assembly Term 2 Fri 6 May
P&C Meeting Mon 9 May
Eagles Cup vs Little Grove PS (Home) Tues 10 May
NAPLAN Testing Year 3 and 5 10 to 13 May
School Board Meeting Wed 11 May

Swimming Enrolment Forms

These forms came home yesterday. Please ensure you have completed them and returned them to the school before the due date.

This program is coming up in week 5. It is a requirement of the Department of Education that all students participate in this Physical Education program. The lessons will commence on Monday 23 May to Friday 3 June. The students will have 10 lessons with the cost of lessons this year being $62.00. This money is payable in one payment either to the class teacher or at the office where EFTPOS is available. If you wish you may pay daily to the class teacher at the rate of $6.20. Centrepay is also an option if you receive Centrelink payments. Forms for this are available at the school office.

If your child is at risk of participating due to financial difficulties please contact the school. Support is available.

Students who have ALAC membership must record their membership number with their class teacher prior to the lessons. These students will then only pay for the bus at a cost of $30.00 or $3.00 daily.
Spencer Park Primary School
Code of Behaviour

- Respect other people, their rights and their property.
- Be safe.
- 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.

MOTHERS DAY STALL
The stall is to be held on tomorrow, Friday 6 May at lunchtime in the undercover area.
My Trip To England  
By Jensen Year 3 Room 3

Last year, I went to England with my family to visit my Nanny and Uncle. We went there for a holiday.

We packed first. It took a long time. Then we put everything in the car. We started driving to Perth. It took six hours! We went to the airport and caught a plane. Then we landed in Singapore. After that we landed in England.

Nanny gave me a huge hug. Then we went to her house. After that I found a teddy on the bed for me. It was nearly night so we had to go to bed. A couple of days later, we went to Lego Land.

There were so many cool things. We went on a fake sub ride with real water and sharks. We went on small boat rides. I kept on crashing. I'm bad at driving! When we got back to Nanny's house we were really tired.

About five days later we went to London. We saw the Queen at her palace. Then we went over London Bridge and went on the London Eye. Then we went in the London Dungeon. It was so scary!

After a couple of days in London we went to Nanny's. After two days we went on a one hundred year old (working) steam train, called “The Green Knight”. After three days we had to go home to Albany. I was so sad. We packed up and flew home.

I loved England. I thought it was cool. I hope I can go there again.