Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome
Welcome everyone to the new 2016 school year, particularly those who are new to the school including those of you who have kindergarten children entering the school system for the first time. I hope that you have a long and fruitful association with our school in the time ahead. Our aim, wherever possible, is to retain as many of our students from kindergarten right through to the end of primary school. This kind of stability is not just good for the students and their social and academic development it is good for the whole school community.

Staffing Changes Term 1
To start the school year there are minimal changes, except that we do welcome back Mrs Kowald who was away for the entire 2015 school year on deferred salary leave.

We also welcome back Mrs Ruffell who was away on leave in Term 4 last year.

A significant change early this year in relation to staffing is that at the end of term 1, after 10 years of valuable service at our school Mrs Hoskin will retire. Further written acknowledgement of her wonderful contribution to our school will be provided in a newsletter later in the term. An assembly scheduled towards the end of the term will also be an opportunity for us as a school to farewell and thank her for her influential work in our community. We wish her well in her final term at our school.

Her replacement will be determined later in the term.

Please also be aware that Mr Luscombe will only be working 4 days per week Monday to Thursday. This will allow him to clear a significant portion of his long service leave.

School Board Nominations
The four community members of our current School Board have come to the end of their 3 year tenure in these positions. As such these roles have been made vacant and we are now calling for nominations of people interested in taking on this responsibility. Whilst existing Board members can renominate and serve for a further period of 3 years I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our outgoing board members, Carrie Beeck, Gerry Macaulay, Jem Ruggera, and Linda Taylor for the wonderful service they have provided throughout their tenure. As members of our first School Board as an independent public school, they have been a steadying influence when it comes to establishing the processes and documentation required to fulfil our responsibilities given to schools with this status. A very positive IPS Review report is evidence of this group’s effectiveness in these roles.

Elsewhere in today's newsletter is information about the role of School Board member, the process of nominating and the deadline for submitting nominations.

Please contact me if you require further information about the role or clarification about what is required when it comes to taking on this responsibility.

Class Structure and Placement
At the beginning of each year our class structure and therefore class placement are dependent upon the accuracy of projected numbers. With students coming and going over the school holidays our numbers can vary enough to impact on the funding allocated and subsequently the structure of classes may need to be altered. This may involve the slight shuffling of classes to ensure class sizes remain at recommended levels or a major change involving an increase or decrease in the number of classes, depending on the funding we receive. Please be aware of this.

My Last Year at Spencer Park
After completing a wonderful 18 years as Principal of Spencer Park Primary School, I intend to retire at the end of this year. I expect my position to be advertised early in Term 2 and an appointment made by the start of term 3. Whilst I don’t expect this to be the end of my working life, it will be the end of my time as Principal at this great school.

Despite this imminent change there is much to do this year. I intend to ensure that it is just as positive and productive a year as any other that I have been involved in during my time here at Spencer Park.

I can also assure you that the School Board and I will be doing everything we can to recruit not only the best possible person as my replacement, we will also be looking for someone who can continue the highly effective explicit teaching direction that we have successfully undertaken as a school in recent years.

Alan Dowsett, Principal
School Board Vacancies
After completing their 3 year tenure as members of our School Board, all positions have now been declared vacant and will need to be filled via nominations from people within our school community. Existing Board members can renominate. Four positions are set aside for community people. Two staff members plus the School Principal make up the remaining members of the Board.

If there are more nominations than positions then an election will be held to determine successful candidate.

If you are interested in taking on this role, the following information may be of help in understanding the work of the School Board.

What will the School Board do?
The School Board’s overall role is to provide strategic guidance, monitor school performance and to increase the flexibility and autonomy of the school to enhance the quality of students outcomes and learning environment.

The School Board will assist the Principal in:
- Monitoring the implementation of the schools existing 3 year Business Plan and approving adjustments where needed over this period.
- Ensuring that the school's yearly plan and budget address identified needs and supports the implementation of the current 3 year Business Plan.
- Developing processes to review the satisfaction levels of parents, staff and students.
- Creating the school's Annual Report.
- Reviewing and adjusting school polices.
- Promoting the school in the community.
- Annually setting voluntary contributions and charges.

What do suitable nominees need?
Any person/parent who is committed to supporting our school to achieve the best education for all students should consider nominating. Skills/qualities in the following areas would be helpful;
- Leadership
- Strategic and/or critical, analytical thinking
- Interpersonal and communication

What commitment is required?
In making a commitment to be on the School Board members should be prepared to:
- Commit to the school's vision, ethos and goals.
- Commit to the development of Spencer Park PS as an independent public school.
- Contribute to the work of the Board.
- Be sensitive to differing views and have the ability to work in a spirit of cooperation.
- Be willing to donate time, expertise and influence.
- Attend at least 2, hour long meetings per term, usually held at the conclusion of the school day.
- Serve for a period up to 3 years.

How to nominate?
Nominees need only give their name and brief statement explaining why they would like to be considered for a position on the School Board. Hard copies can be left at the front office or e-mailed to Julie.Fordham@education.wa.edu.au.

Closing date for nominations is 4.00pm Friday 19 February.

Future Dates
First Assembly 2016 Fri 12 Feb
Swimming Trials Yrs 4-6 Mon 8 Feb
P&C Meeting Mon 15 Feb
Early Morning Swimming Thurs 18 Feb
Training 7 – 8am Thurs 18 Feb
School Board Nominations Fri 19 Feb
Close 4.00pm

Term Dates 2016
Term 1
Students Start Monday, 1 February
End All Friday, 8 April
Easter Break Fri 25 —Tues 29 April

Term 2
Students Start Wednesday, 27 April
End All Friday, 1 July

Term 3
Students Start Monday, 18 July
Student Free Day Friday, 19 August
End All Friday, 23 September

Term 4
Students Start Tuesday, 11 October
Student Free Day Friday, 11 Nov (Show Day)
End Students Thursday, 15 December

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.
Welcome back and a big welcome to our new students and their families. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you and your child to help them to become the best they can be.

As they say “One thing you can be sure of is change”.

Firstly, we want to welcome Mrs Naomi Swann to the staff. Naomi will be sharing our Year 4 class with Mrs Lara Eyles. Lara will be in charge on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Swann will be in charge the rest of the week.

There have been changes in the playground. Over the holidays we had two new shade structures installed; one over the bush fort and another over the swings. Thank you to Turp's Steel Fabrication. In the near future there will be two shade sales installed to cover the sandpit and log jumble. Shade has been needed in the playground since our beautiful big tree had to be removed. We're glad we were finally able to purchase these structures.

Another change is the old transportable toilet block has been removed. You would have noticed a fenced construction area to the right of the path as you come in. The new boy's toilet block is now being built. There will be a universal access toilet room as well as a regular toilet. The building of this structure should be completed by the end of the term.

The administration area has a new look as well. To improve the functioning of the admin team we have revamped the area so that Sharon and the office staff can work more effectively together and to serve you better.

**Dental Health**

“Dental treatment is one area of health which people with disability can find very hard or impossible to participate in for many reasons.”

We need to better understand the range and complexity of the challenges our members face, so that we can best represent the unmet needs and advocate for reform. We are inviting members and others to share with us their experiences, ideas or challenges faced in accessing dental care, dealing with dental crisis or finding either urgent or routine dental treatment for your family member with a disability.” (Copied from first page of Dental Survey) [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDWA_Dental_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDWA_Dental_Survey)

I also have found the Developmental Disability WA website a great resource that may be of interest to look at. [http://ddc.org.au/](http://ddc.org.au/)

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Diane E Edwards, Principal

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We congratulate the following students who have been selected as Student Councillors for 2016:

- Kirly
- Lucas
- Devon
- Nikita
- Kanisha

Gweneth
- Lahni
- Jake
- Hope
- Leah

**PARENT HANDBOOKS**

Parent handbooks will have come home with this newsletter. Please check your child’s school bag for this booklet to take note of some changes that are noted here.

**COLLECTION OF CHILDREN during the school day.**

Just a reminder that when parents or carers 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 leave pass 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.
STUDENT UPDATE FORMS
These forms were sent home on Wednesday. Please check all the details held for your child on the school computer system. Make any corrections needed and return the form to the school office immediately.

NO HAT, NO PLAY
Please be reminded that the school does have a No hat, No play policy throughout Term 1 and as such your child will need to have a broad brimmed or equivalent hat at school each day to access the playground areas. Please ensure that your child’s hat is clearly marked with their name.

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.

2016 Dance at Twilight Dreams Dance School
14 Argyll st, Gledhow
Contact Mob 0428 129 672
www.twilightdreams.com.au

Monday
3:45-4:30 P 11-13 y/olds Jazz-Ballet/Contemporary
7-8 PM 14y/o to Adult Ballet/Contemporary

Tuesday
3:30-4 Pm 4-6y/o Ballet
4-4:45 Pm 7-10 y/o Jazz-Ballet/ Contemporary
4:45-5:15 Pm 5-8y/o Hip Hop
5:30-6:15 Pm 9-1 /yo Hip Hop

Thursday
9:15-10 Am Adult Ballet
3:30-4 Pm 4-6y/o Jazz-Ballet
4-4:45 Pm 7-10y/o Ballet

Friday
4-4:30 Pm 7-12y/o Konga (Dance/Boxing)

Saturday
9-9:30 Am 3y/ o Tiny Toes Dance

All classes are offered FREE for the first week Feb1st-6th for try outs.
When signing up for 2 terms receive 30% discount.
Per term: Half hour class $110, 45 mins class $130, full hr class $165