Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome
Welcome back to all of our families, I hope you and your children are suitably rested and ready to restart their 2015 learning journey. Term 4 has the usual range of events to be planned and coordinated, but the main focus as the term progresses is about getting organised for the new school year. As always keeping up to date with what is happening at school is important, your newsletter, term planner and the school’s website are key ways to stay informed.

Simply the Best – A Great Success
Last term ended on a high note with a highly successful showcase of our performing arts talent at the Albany Entertainment Centre. I am sure those of you who were fortunate to have attended will agree that Simply the Best was an apt way to describe this event. I couldn't be more pleased or impressed with the standard of student performances and the glitch free way the program flowed from beginning to end. With nearly 180 students involved, some in multiple items, the behind the scenes organisation required was complex.

It would have been great to have sold more tickets. Given the high standard of performance it would have been wonderful to have filled the venue to capacity. I am wondering whether we can do more to maximise ticket sales. I would be interested in your thoughts on how we could do this. Your feedback in relation to this or any aspect of this event will help us plan for our next showcase in 2017.

As always events like this don’t just happen, they take months of planning and preparation. My thanks go to:

- Mrs Wilson who works tirelessly to provide this opportunity for our students. To perform at a world class venue like the AEC should be a hugely memorable event for those involved.
- Mr Luscombe, Ms Ralph and Mrs Hoskin who at various stages assisted with the planning and organisation.
- The many staff who helped out during the rehearsals and on the night to ensure that the program ran without incident.
- The staff at the AEC who do such a wonderful job when it comes to ensuring that the event is staged professionally and in a way that maximises the impact of the student’s performance.
- To everyone who attended, many who brought extended family and friends – this support is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you goes to one of our talented parents Bec Lolley who was this year’s Master of Ceremonies. She did a terrific job in not only keeping us informed throughout the evening but also keeping us entertained, adding considerably to the overall impact of the night’s proceedings.

I look forward to our next performing arts showcase in 2017.

Parent Survey
Over the many years that we have been conducting a parent survey, this year has been the lowest return of surveys by a considerable margin. I can only assume from this that overall our parent community is generally content with the direction of the school and as such didn’t see any great necessity to complete and return a survey that indicates satisfaction with the school’s performance.

The surveys that were returned will be collated and presented to our School Board as part of our normal review process. Whilst the number of surveys returned will not allow any valid statistical analysis, that can be particularly helpful from a planning point of view, comments made on individual surveys will be taken on board and action taken if this is seen by the School Board as a widely supported point of view.

Moving Schools/ Locations in 2016
As we move towards the end of the year it is important that we have an accurate picture of school numbers for the new school year. It is crucial that you inform the school of any intention to move from Spencer Park in 2016. Our funding and the way we organise classes is dependent on a clear 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 2016 will assist greatly when it comes to planning for the new school year.

Alan Dowsett – Principal
As usual we are off to a flying start. Next week we have Amy Litton spending four days with us. She is a speech pathologist with specialist knowledge of AAC from the Independent Living Centre (ILC). During this time our focus will be on AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

The proposed support services will help us to build our current local supports and resources within our school community.

Proposed support includes:
- Follow up support for the rest of the term
- Consultation to determine our current AAC knowledge and resources
- Recommendations for integrating AAC into the curriculum and classroom activities
- Identify gaps in our knowledge and resources for further support and training
- Work alongside classroom teachers and EAs, to embed communication opportunities and promote communication outcomes throughout the school day
- Provide additional resources, professional development and training to support using AAC within the classroom
- Provide a written report on outcomes of consultation
- Referral of students requiring high-tech AAC to local therapist and ILC Tech information and advice service. This will be discussed with parents after the visit.

The following outcomes are proposed:
- Increase the embedded use of AAC devices throughout the school day
- Create more communication opportunities to support student participation and learning in all activities
- Create more communication resources (low-tech and existing resources within the school) to support students participation and learning in all activities
- An increase range of how students are using language e.g. functions of language – commenting, directing others, social language, etc.
- Staff developing skills in supporting students language development including modelling, prompting strategies and increasing expectations of student skills and AAC use
- Increasing staff confidence, motivation and enthusiasm in using AAC
- Staff will have increased knowledge and skill in supporting their students using AAC
- Staff will have increased knowledge and resources to achieve communication outcomes within individual IEP's and overall school plan

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

**Forthcoming Events**

- **P&C Meeting**: Mon 19 October
- **First Assembly (PP1)**: Fri 23 October
- **Year 6 Camp**: Mon 2 – Fri 6 Nov

**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.

**DENTAL SCREENING**

Staff from Spencer Park Dental Therapy Centre visited the school on Thursday 23 September to conduct dental screening on Pre-primary, Year 3 and Year 6 students. The purpose of the screening is for the Dental Office to determine which children are ready to be referred to a specialist (Orthodontist). It does not take the place of a routine dental examination. Appointments will be posted home to parents for children who require a consult with the Dental Officer. Children who are too young for a referral at this stage are placed in review and will be monitored.

Parents are reminded to contact the Dental Therapy Centre if they change address as the school is unable to forward these details. Many appointments are coming back as the address is incorrect.

If your child has not seen by the Dental Therapy Centre in the last 18 months give us a call on 9841 3967 to make an appointment.

Thank you, Susanne, Kayleen and Tracey.

**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.
VacSwim December/January school holiday swimming programs

It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim’s December/January school holiday swimming programs are conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water.

This year there has been a small price increase from $10.00 per enrolment to $12.50 per enrolment (family enrolment for three or more children living at the same address is now $34.50).

For program locations and to enrol visit education.wa.edu.au/swimming.

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.

Camp Quaranup Community Event – Save the date – 31 October, 2015
The Department of Sport and Recreation invites you to Camp Quaranup’s Community Open Day on the 31 October, 2015.

This event acknowledges the achievements of the site in its 140th year of service to Western Australia. We also invite you to have fun trying a variety of recreation activities as part of celebrating getting outdoors for Outdoors October.

**Date:** 31 October, 2015  
**Location:** Camp Quaranup, Albany  
**Details:** Our camp staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide guided tours around the site, sharing history of the Quarantine Station and its current usage.

Rooms will be open for the day so you can see the facilities that make Camp Q so popular for school camps, group short-stays, weddings, conferences and holidays. You’ll have a chance to try the camp’s recreation activities including canoeing, archery, rogaining and geocaching. To complete your experience, our chef and his team will be providing a variety of yummy food options.

Invites will be sent out shortly, however please take this moment to save the date.

We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to Camp Quaranup in October.

**WEETBIX SurfGroms**

Weetbix SurfGroms the exciting kids surfing program starts again in Term 4. This term we are offering MINIGroms 5 – 8yo and SUPERGroms 9 – 12 yo.

This national surfing development program encourages kids to get involved in surfing all around Australia, and its available exclusively through licensed Surfing Australia Surf Schools. Lessons that are dynamic and fun, teaching water safety, building confidence and making new friends.

Tuesday’s 3.30 – 5pm is available on line now at www.surfgroms.com

Taking expressions of interest for Wednesday’s after school.

For extra lesson options and further information, call Roz 0427 413 627  
Little Seeds Surf Coaching  
www.littleseedssurf.com
Albany YouthCARE Council Presents

2015 Fundraising Concert

Featuring:
Albany City Wind Ensemble & About FACE Youth Choir

Come Along in Support of Albany's School Chaplains

For more information contact: Belle Grant 0429 411 558
All proceeds to the Albany YouthCARE Chaplains

Adults $15
Students & Pensioners $10
Families $35
Children Under 12 Free

Light supper provided

SATURDAY, 24TH October 2015
Time: 7.30 - 9.30pm
Albany Baptist Church
Bethel Way off North Road

---

2015 Christmas Festival & Pageant

DECEMBER 5
YORK ST ALBANY
FESTIVAL 3PM - 8PM
PAGEANT 6PM

PAGEANT & STALLHOLDER REGISTRATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE
Visit www.albany.wa.gov.au or facebook.com/CityofAlbanyEvents
Or email events@albany.wa.gov.au

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
Albany Advertiser westalder Hoy RadioWest