Dear Parents and Friends

Cyberwiser Incursion
This incursion is scheduled for Mon 22 Feb with the cost of $3 per student. The following information gives you some idea about this activity:

With a cast of over ten different characters (some human, some puppet), ten costume changes, music from a dynamic sound system, a multitude of exquisitely made props and set, amazing illusions and a little juggling thrown in for good measure - Cyber Wiser thoroughly entertains while getting students thinking and questioning their activities both online and in the playground.

Three friendships are put to the test when one of the group unthinkingly posts photos on their Facebook page of their friend. The photos are soon seen by everyone in the school. Seen online, out of context and without any explanation, false conclusions are made and online the bullying commences immediately and continues the following day in the playground. With their long time friendship threatened the three friends take control and get the true story of the photos heard in order to bring the bullying under control.

With its baffling illusions, beautifully hand painted images that are not what they first appear to be and the mind boggling hexaflexagon, Cyber Wiser is designed to get students questioning both what they see and hear before they jump to conclusions.

Given the pervasive nature of the internet for young people, this is a very worthwhile activity. Any opportunity to reinforce messages about how to both stay safe online and also not impact negatively on others should be taken up. I hope to see all of our students involved in this activity.

Faction Swimming Carnival
Our annual Faction Swimming Carnival has come around quickly again and is scheduled for next Friday 26 February. The departure of the year 7’s last year has resulted in a much smaller group of students that are involved and as such a reduced amount of time is required to complete the competitive events. This has allowed the addition of more novelty type events enabling greater overall participation.

As such we do expect that all students Year 4 to 6 are involved. Every activity earns points for a child's faction and as such should motivate everyone to take part and do their best for their team.

Whilst the smaller numbers of children involved at this event does lessen its impact overall, your presence as parents is still welcomed and valued in helping to build atmosphere and enthusiasm levels with the children. I hope that you can be there to encourage and support your child’s involvement.

Early Morning Swimming Training
To support students who have an interest in swimming and want to improve their skills and fitness, we are continuing our successful early morning swimming training program over the course of this term. In particular this helps lift the level of competitiveness for these students when it comes to participating in our own Faction Swimming Carnival and our overall competitiveness at the Interschool Carnival held later in the term.

Given the early start to the school day and the energy levels required every child who commits to these sessions does need to be congratulated for being prepared to work hard and improve an aspect of their personal skill set.

National Red Balloon Day Supporting Volunteer Firefighters
National Red Balloon Day is a new charity founded in January 2014. The catch phrase for this charity is "Thank a Firey". The idea is that on the 28th of February (the last day of summer), people tie a red balloon to their letterbox and donate money to show our thanks and support for firefighters across Australia. All proceeds from National Red Balloon fundraising in a particular area goes directly to the local Volunteer bushfire brigades.

Supporting this very worthwhile cause is not just about raising funds but it is also about helping our young people understand and appreciate the important work of those who volunteer to keep our community safe from fire. You may recall that we supported National Red Balloon Day for the first time last year and will be again this year.
It is unfortunate that this year that the national day for schools is Friday 26 February which coincides with our Year 4 to 6 Faction Swimming Carnival. However, we are asking that our Pre-primary to Year 3 children, show their support, by wearing something red and bringing a gold coin donation on this day. A fire truck will be here to carry out a demonstration, some local brigade members will speak to the students and the Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Association mascot “Bushy Bear” will also be here to entertain the students involved. We hope to also have lots of red balloons around the school to signify our support of this event.

Many thanks go to one of our recently past parents Michelle Bransby who is coordinating and encouraging our involvement.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

Correction to Term Dates 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Students Start</th>
<th>Student Free Day</th>
<th>End All</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday, 1 February</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Friday, 8 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wednesday, 27 April</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Friday, 1 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday, 18 July</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Friday, 23 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 October</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Friday, 15 December</td>
</tr>
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NEWSLETTER ON LINE
Our school newsletter is uploaded onto the school website each week.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>Devon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel</td>
<td>Alyssa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziggy</td>
<td>Makayla</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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.

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.

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.
At our staff meeting Monday I asked the staff to tell me good things that have happened in the first two weeks of school.

- Mrs Redmond has a lovely class.
- Ben’s class are into the class routine.
- Quin, one of our K students is beginning to use a PODD communication device.
- The children love sharing their work with each other.
- The Writers’ Chairs that Mrs Kellett made are awesome and working well.
- 4 Blocks literacy program is awesome.
- K Kids are pointing left to right
- Independent reading is working well
- Everyone is having a go at writing.

FAMILY MEALS: My two stepsons and our son have long left home, but I fully agree with experts who say that the No. 1 strategy to build a strong family is to have regular shared **mealtimes**. The following is from a Parenting/ideas Blog I subscribe to. I thought it was well worth sharing. We all want our children to be healthy in mind as well as body.

Make mealtimes non-negotiable

Mealtimes provide the opportunity for family members to connect with each other in a meaningful way. They give parents a chance to influence children’s thinking as well as teach them how to be social and sociable. More importantly, they form bonds between people within families and build a sense of belonging, which is a fundamental human need.

Rituals and celebrations in families are generally negotiable the older children become. However a daily shared meal is the one ritual that shouldn’t be up for negotiation. Expect kids of all ages to turn up for each meal.

Involve everyone in Mealtimes

A feature of successful mealtimes across multiple cultures is that as many people in the family are involved in preparation as possible. This is done in two ways. Either many people assist in the preparation of most meals (that is, someone cooks, someone lays the table, someone clears the table and the like) or the preparation is rostered so that people take it in turns to prepare the meal. Both strategies give family members a sense of ownership.

Be flexible with mealtimes

If you can’t get everyone in your family to sit at the meal table at night consider making breakfast the main meal. Be flexible with your organisation and make mealtimes work for you.

From a mental health perspective, young people who have more than five shared meals each week with their parents have better mental health than those who don’t have regular family meals. Experts aren’t sure why but the assumptions are that shared meals give parents a chance to monitor their young people as well as giving young people the chance to talk, which is therapeutic when life doesn’t go their way. Whatever way you look at it shared meals should be high on every parent’s MUST DO list this year.”

Our family found that sharing breakfast each morning got us all off to a great start for the day. It was also a time to make sure everyone knew what was happening that day.


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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**Forthcoming Events**

Next Assembly Fri 19 Feb
School Board Nominations Close 4.00pm Fri 19 Feb
Cyberwise Incursion Mon 22 Feb
Early Morning Swimming Training 7 – 8am Thurs 25 Feb
Faction Swimming Carnival Fri 26 Feb
National Red Balloon Day PP-Y3 Fri 26 Feb
School Board Meeting Tues 1 Mar
Labour Day Public Holiday Mon 7 Mar

**HONOUR CERTIFICATES**

We congratulate the following students who received certificates at the last assembly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Room 1</th>
<th>Room 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth</td>
<td>Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaizen</td>
<td>Jazmyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylah</td>
<td>Khiarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah</td>
<td>Tarryn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etty</td>
<td>Zakariah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>Room 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarvis</td>
<td>Room 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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.*

**DISCOVER SCOUTS**

JOEY SCOUTS (6-8 YRS)
CUB SCOUTS (8-11 YRS)
SCOUTS (11-15 YRS)

CALL JENNY 0428 447988
www.joinscouts.com.au
NATIONAL RED BALLOON DAY
“THANK A FIREY”
SAUSAGE SIZZLE

28TH FEBRUARY 2016
ALBANY INDOOR MARKETS
(OLD AUCTION BUILDING)
10AM – 2PM

ALSO;
FACE PAINTING
NATIONAL RED BALLOON DAY MERCHANDISE
FIRETRUCK AND VOLUNTEER BUSH FIREFIGHTERS
“BUSHY BEAR”