Dear Parents and Friends

Condolence Book – Jeannie Ralph
Many thanks to all of those people who have passed on their condolences in relation to the sad loss of Jeannie last week. We have started a condolence book in our front office. This will be available for some time to those who would like to pay tribute to her contribution to our school or document a favoured memory. In due course this will be passed on to her family. This is open to anyone, current as well as past students or parents. Please pass this on to others who may not be aware of this opportunity.

National Red Balloon Day
Many thanks to all of those parents and students in our early years who supported this campaign last Friday. I saw the vast majority of the students in these year levels wearing something red to signify their support. As a result of the gold coin donation our school raised $202. Firefighting volunteers from the Kalgan Volunteer brigade were here to speak to the students about their work and give a demonstration of their firefighting equipment. The funds raised will go directly to this local unit.

A very worthwhile activity in ensuring that children understand and appreciate the important work of these people at a time when we seem to be seeing more intense and long lasting fire events.

Faction Swimming Carnival
Our annual Faction Swimming Carnival has been completed for another year. Whilst unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend this year, I did hear that the day went very well, with plenty of events to ensure that all students could participate enthusiastically in some way during the course of the day. This event comes up very quickly on the yearly agenda. Many thanks to Mrs Binning who has to move quickly at the start of the year to ensure this is organised efficiently and produces the best outcomes possible for the broad range of swimming abilities of the students involved.

Also my thanks go to the parents who helped out on the day and those who took some time to get to the event to encourage and support their child/children.

Congratulations go to Gold, the winning faction, and to all of those swimmers who won medallions, who have obviously worked hard enough on their swimming abilities to be able to be the best or near best in their age group.

New Sporting Season
As we move rapidly towards a change in the seasons you will start to see information appearing in this newsletter and in the wider media about registration processes for sports played over the winter period. Whilst there is still some time before the sports actually get underway, registrations happen sometime before this, so please don’t be complacent and think you have plenty of time to get this organised.

Getting your child into an organised sport, particularly in their early years, will result in benefits that will, hopefully, extend for a long period in their lives. It is a valuable gift that you can give as a parent if you can arrange for your child to enjoy playing an organised sport regularly throughout the year.

The main team sports in winter are netball, football, soccer and hockey. All of these sports are well organised and have programs catering for children from pre-primary/year 1 onwards.

We are fortunate to have our own soccer club that allows our students to play under the school name with children from their age group. This is a well organised group, keen to register as many children as possible and maximise the number of teams and therefore opportunities for students of all age levels to play for Spencer Park. Please keep an eye out for information about who to contact in relation to this and how to get your child involved.

Booklist Raffle Draw
As an incentive for people to use the booklist supplies service provided by the school P&C, Storm Office National, the suppliers, offered to reimburse the booklist costs for 2 students as part of a raffle draw of all who got involved in this service this year. This draw was conducted at a recent assembly and 2 lucky students Finn (Room 25) and Jessica (Room 19) will have their booklist costs for this year reimbursed, I am sure that this added bonus would have been well received.
Growth Mindset/Fixed Mindset

One of the things that people are finding out about the way people learn is that it can depend greatly on how they view, and think about themselves as learners. Those people who think that their talents and abilities will grow through effort, practice and persistence, will do better than those who think that their talents and abilities are fixed and won’t change. If you think that your talents and abilities can grow and develop through effort, practice and persistence – you are said to have a growth mindset. If you think your talents and abilities are as they are and won’t ever change – you are said to have a fixed mindset.

The old story of the hare and the tortoise is a great example of this idea. The hare with his great natural ability thought that in the race against the tortoise he would easily win, he could afford to be complacent and even have a rest during the race. The tortoise wasn’t beaten by the challenge and thought that with perseverance and relentless hard work he could prevail.

To succeed in learning everyone needs a growth mindset. The following things will help to develop this way of thinking:

- Believing that you can learn anything you want to, and not believing that you are either good at it or not.
- Persevere through frustration; resist the temptation to give up at these times.
- Enjoy and look forward to a challenge, don’t avoid these times.
- Learn from failure – don’t think that when you fail you are no good.
- Rather than look for compliments about you being smart – look for compliments about an ability to work hard.
- When a peer or classmate succeeds, feel inspired, not threatened because you think they are smarter or better than you.
- Understand that it is one’s effort and attitude that determine everything not abilities.

For parents I do hope that with this information you now have a different kind of framework that will help you better encourage and support your child in their learning journey. You should never miss an opportunity to praise things like effort, practice and persistence and resist any feedback that reinforces the view in their minds that life success is dependent on how smart they think they are.

For instance if you ever hear your child saying they can’t do something – ensure that you have a growth mindset and always add - not yet!

If you Google growth mindset you will find an enormous amount of material that may be of use when it comes to understanding this idea and promoting it with your child.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

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**Forthcoming Events**

- Next Assembly Room 3: Fri 4 Mar
- Labour Day Public Holiday: Mon 7 Mar
- School Board Meeting: Tues 8 Mar
- Early Morning Swimming Training 7 – 8am: Thurs 10 Mar
- P&C Meeting 6.00pm Liberte: Mon 14 Mar
- Sean Choolburra Incursion (No Cost): Wed 16 Mar
- In Term Swimming Year 5/6 at Emu Point: 14 to 24 Mar

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Well done to everyone who participated in the Swimming Carnival last Friday.

Many thanks to Ms Hanna, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Tomlinson, Mr Batchelor, Mrs Batchelor, Mrs Sodano and Mr Proudfoot for assisting in the judging. Your help is greatly valued.

Thank you to the medallion sponsors:
- Mrs Hodgson
- AVeg Fruit and Veg, Albany
- Albany Garden Service
- Kerr-Tastic
- Davis Family
- Owen Family.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

**Congratulations to our medallion winners:**

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<th>Champion</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4 Girl</td>
<td>Kleo</td>
<td>Lily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Cleve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 Girl</td>
<td>Imogen</td>
<td>Sylvie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Owen</td>
<td>Kaizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Girl</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>Leah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Callum</td>
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Congratulations also to **GOLD** Faction who were the winning faction of the day.

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**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.
In case you haven’t been up our end of the campus our new boys’ toilet block is coming along nicely. The brickies are working diligently to get the outer walls ups. They have to work in a very tight space. They were even laying some bricks for the roof next to the new building.

The roof is now beginning to go on and the holes have been dug for the foundations for the pillars that will be holding up the veranda.

Last Thursday the school went to Fishers with Disabilities on Thursday. Everyone had a great time. From the photos many fish were caught including a few blowies.

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA: I recently touched base with the Albany Branch of Relationship Australia. They have sent through information on a number of seminars and workshops that are being offered locally.

Among those available are a number of short courses on parenting. They include:

- Mums Raising Boys - Up to the age of 12 years
- Mums Raising Teenage Girls
- Dads Raising Teenage Girls
- Kids and Technology

They also run 4families - Family Mental Health Support Services. If you would like more information check out their website www.relationshipswa.org.wa or call 6164 0530.

Early close last week focused on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Kristin Ellery facilitated the session with people bringing examples of what is working well. People also shared barriers they have found to using AAC.

Thank you to those of you who responsibly picked up your child so we can continue to improve our ability to help you children to be the best they can be. Your support with this is valuable in allowing our staff to continue to improve their knowledge and skills.

In case you have been trying to catch me I have been at Leading School Improvement: the unrelenting focus on learning Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday I attended the SW Ed Support Principals’ Network meeting in Manjimup. It is all good networking and sharing of wisdom and solutions to common issues.

If you wish to have a chat about concerns or compliments it is best to call to make an appointment to be sure I am here. The number is 9841 1537.

Diane E Edwards, Principal

RED BALLOON DAY

The Pre-primary’s to Year 3 enjoyed a visit from the Volunteer Fire Brigade on Friday. Everyone dressed in red and thanked the Fireys for all they do to keep our community safe.
EARN AND LEARN

Look at what our school community were able to order with the Earn and Learn points last year.

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.

Car Boot Sale

Saturday March 12, 10am – 2pm
Scouts Carpark (Cnr North / Sandford Roads)
Market stall holders welcome
$10 per stall
Enquiries 0428 447 988