Dear Parents and Friends

Staffing Changes Term 2
We congratulate Mrs Ruffell who has been appointed to replace Mrs Hoskin as Deputy Principal for the next 12 month period. A current freeze on public sector appointments has meant that this position will be for a fixed term period initially and then at a subsequent time be advertised and filled permanently.

We welcome Mrs Jane Stein who will be replacing Mrs Ruffell in Room 5 for the remainder of the year. Mrs Stein has already spent some time in this class to ensure that this transition goes ahead as smoothly as possible.

IT Funding made Available
Earlier in the term the WA Government through the Department of Education made a significant amount of funding available for schools to upgrade and enhance their IT resources. This funding was allocated on a dollar for dollar basis. Our school allocated $25,000 and this was matched with a $25,000 amount from this program, resulting in $50,000 being spent in this area. Our school used this funding to purchase 40 i-pads and 18 laptops continuing our move towards more portable technology. To support this move we also purchased a further 2 charging trolleys, important pieces of equipment when it comes to ensuring these devices are ready to be used portably when needed.

Every class K – Year 6 now has quite good access to devices that allow them to access valuable computer software and the resources available via the internet. Over the years this access will continue to grow. Whilst I am sure that overall the Government does understand the integral place occupied by technology in the learning program, some of the thinking behind this increase in resourcing is to ensure that schools are ready to participate in NAPLAN testing that will be carried out online in 2018.

Another important use of the funding that we have recently received is to employ a technician one day per week. This will be crucial factor in the future in ensuring that teachers and students can use IT devices effectively and efficiently within the learning program.

ANZAC Service
After last year’s successful Great Southern Schools Centenary Service held in the Albany Peace Park our commemoration of ANZAC as a school returns to normal with a service being conducted here at school next Friday 8 April starting at 10.00am. This is always carried out in a way that is a fitting commemoration of this important national event. I hope you can be here to be part of this school activity.

We will also be participating in the City of Albany ANZAC Street March and Service on ANZAC Day. Notes have gone out to students in Years 3-6 informing them of this opportunity. Please encourage your child to be involved. It would be great to see a good sized contingent of Spencer Park students involved. As with previous years all students who attend will receive a commemorative badge recognising their involvement.

Interschool Swimming Carnival
Our competitive swimming program held each year in Term 1 comes to a culmination with our involvement in the Interschool Swimming Carnival next Wednesday 6 April at ALAC. As you may be aware many of our students have been training every Thursday to build their skills and fitness to ensure they can be as competitive as possible for this event. Whilst the bigger schools always seem to dominate this carnival I would hope that our students will give a good account of themselves and that our best individual swimmers make the most of an opportunity to race against the best swimmers from opposing schools.

If you have a child participating please encourage their endeavours fully in the lead up and on the day by attending and cheering them on.

Alan Dowsett – Principal

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.
Future Dates
Mrs Hoskin
- Retirement Assembly: Fri 1 April
- WA Ballet Visit: Mon 4 April
- Interschool Swimming Carnival: Wed 6 April
- T20 Blast Cricket Carnival Year 5/6: Thurs 7 April
- ANZAC Assembly: Fri 8 April
- Interim Reports Distributed: Fri 8 April
- End of Term: Fri 8 April
- START OF TERM 2: WED APRIL

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 slip 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.

REMINDERS
- The co-operation of all parents is sought in ensuring that students arrive at school no earlier than 8.20am. Late students disrupt classes. Students who arrive late receive a late slip from the school office. End of school siren is at 3.10pm. Please ensure students are collected promptly.
- Nits/headlice are a constant problem in schools but are primarily a parent responsibility. Regular checks are urged and you are thanked for your cooperation.
- Parking - please be considerate of others and obey all parking regulations. The staff car park is out of bounds.

IN TERM SWIMMING PP-YEAR4
This program is coming up very soon. 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.

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.

Swimming lesson enrolment forms will come home early in term 2 and will need to be returned to school immediately.

Dental Therapy Centre
Open hours during school holidays
Spencer Park Dental Therapy Centre will be closed on Friday 15th April until Tuesday 26th April.

If you child develops an urgent dental problem during this time please contact Yakamia Dental Therapy Centre on 9841 3498 between 8:15am – 4:30pm or Mount Barker Dental Van on 0437486143 between 8am-4pm.

For non-urgent enquiries please contact Spencer Park Dental Therapy Centre when we re-open on Tuesday 26th April or email us at: spencerparkdtc@dental.health.wa.gov.au

For after-hours dental emergencies please contact your own private dentist or Albany regional hospital on 9892 2222.

The staff at Spencer Park Dental Therapy Centre would like to wish all children an enjoyable break and REMEMBER – YOU MIGHT BE ON HOLIDAYS, BUT YOUR TOOTH BRUSH NEVER IS!!!
Next Monday is our end of term assembly. Mrs Wilson has again generously allowed us to use the music room. It will be starting at 9:00 to 9:30 with me talking to parents. I will be giving you an overview of the term plus what will be happening next term. Please come join me; that would be fantastic.

The assembly will start at 9:30 with a variety of entertainment by the students as well as awards being handed out. After the assembly there will be a parent morning tea. You are invited to join us. If you would like bring up a plate of food to share it would be greatly appreciated.

Next term there will be a few changes around the Centre. I will be on long service leave for the first five weeks of the term. I plan to be back at school on Monday, 30 May. While I am away Lara Eyles will be Principal in my absence.

In Room 13 Ann Robertson will be filling in for Lara on the Mondays and Tuesdays. Ann is an experienced Education Support teacher who was employed in the Centre a few years back.

Another development for next term is Ben Riemer has been seconded to oversee the Home School Program in the Albany area. Heather Joyce will be covering Room 14 on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be covered by Jane Emery. Jane has been working in Room 14 on Fridays for Ben. We are expecting Ben back in the school Term 3. His skills and sense of humour will be missed.

AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK 2016
Saturday 2nd April to Friday 8th April
What is Autism Awareness Week?
Each year the Autism Association of Western Australia, together with other organizations nationally and internationally, hold an Autism Awareness Week to raise community recognition of the needs and accomplishments of children and adults with Autism.

ALBANYCONNECT is a directory promoting community services in Albany, Western Australia. There would be information concerning services for individuals with disabilities. It can be accessed via http://albanyconnect.com.au/
If you would like to discuss anything in this newsletter please call 98411537 or make a time to meet with me.

Diane E Edwards, Principal
On Sunday there was a bushfire near my house. I do not know why.

In my house it was warm. I thought it was my cooking but then I looked at my cooking and I saw a fire fighter. I looked outside and saw the fire.

The fire fighter said “How did that happen?”

I said “I do not know. Can you spray it?”

“Okay.” He said.