



## Parent Communication

Week 4 May 19th 2017

### Swimming Lessons Pre Primary to Year 6

The weather hasn't been super but it is warm at the Kwinana Pool and the children have been enjoying their opportunity to learn to swim. Thank you once again for allowing your children to attend. They are learning to swim, and also learning how to take responsibility for their own belongings and dress themselves. This is quite challenging for some of our students. It is important for children to be gradually given increased responsibilities and opportunities to be independent. However, children and young people must feel supported in their attempts to be independent and be taught the required skills. This takes time and much patience and we encourage you as parents to give your children the time they need to learn to be independent. Talk to your class teacher if you are unsure what you should expect of your child at their stage of development.

### Walk to School Day

Most of our school families walk or ride to school every day so last Friday was a great way to celebrate the fact you all live so close to the school and can walk to school every day. Thanks for coming to breakfast and may we encourage you to reinforce road safety rules when walking with your children. The media promotions for Walk to School Day highlighted the need for children up to the age of ten to hold a parent's hand when crossing the road due to their inability to judge distances accurately. **If your children walk, scooter or ride to school on their own please reinforce road safety and insist on your children wearing helmets.** I have had people reporting some close misses as children have darted out into traffic from behind cars. Please remember not everyone using the roads around our school is 'child aware'.

## School Half Day Closure

This is approaching very quickly as we get closer and closer to the end of term. During Week 8 of term my staff will be offering parent interviews to discuss your child's progress prior to the distribution of the Semester One reports. These meetings are being held during Week 8 and you will be able to book your interview times on line through our website. Details will be sent to you very soon. There will be both early morning before school interview times, and after school times, including early evening time slots, to accommodate working parents. **We will also have interview time slots from 12 pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June** as the Regional Director has approved a **half day closure from 12 pm** on this day. Your child will be dismissed at 12 pm on this day and the regular school program will not operate. However, if you cannot make other arrangements for your children then we will be able to provide supervision on the school site. YMCA will also be offering an extended session on that day.

## Reporting

End of semester reports will go home via Connect on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will receive a written report. Teachers will report on your child's progress as prescribed by the West Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline. The West Australian Curriculum has been released gradually over recent years and for some learning areas your child will receive a grade for the first time based on the new West Australian Curriculum rather than the West Australian Curriculum Framework. The key message for parents to remember is a 'C' grade is at expected level for that year level. There will be more information available to help you understand your child's report over the next few weeks.

## End of Year Dates

We don't want to wish the year away, but we do want to make sure parents are aware of some important end of year dates. **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.00 am will be our Year 6 Graduation and Class Awards Assembly and on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December we have booked an area of the Rockingham foreshore for a whole school 'Picnic in the Park'**. Parents are invited and encouraged to join us as we celebrate the end of our foundation year with some fun and games and a picnic lunch. This will be an event for the whole family so please mark the date in your diary. This is the last day of the school year.

## Lunches

We are noticing that some children are not being given enough food for morning tea and lunch over the swimming lesson period. Children do get extra hungry when swimming. So could you please ask your child if they are getting hungry and if so,

add an extra sandwich or other healthy snack. We really appreciate the effort being made to send healthy food with no waste to school. When children see both the school and home giving the same message about the importance of healthy eating they are far more likely to value the message and embrace a healthy approach to eating as they get older.

## Board Meeting

Our School Board met last Tuesday with Judith Hill our community member filling the role of Chairperson. I look forward to introducing Judith and the other Board members at our Music Assembly on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The School Board plays a very important role in an Independent Public School and the Board is currently finalising some important documentation including our School Business Plan. The Board looks forward to sharing that documentation with you shortly.

## Money Course

I am well aware that many of our parents are enduring some financial stress at the moment and this causes much anxiety. Please see me if you wish to put payment plans in place for any of your children's excursion costs or if you would like to speak to our chaplain Deb Cunningham. I have included information about a Money Course running in our local area aimed at supporting families who are experiencing financial stress and want to do something practical to address this situation.

## A Message from the P and C President

The P&C are planning an exciting fundraiser to be held in the coming weeks, and are looking for donations of **empty formula tins with the lids**. We will need approximately 15 tins by Week 5. If you have any spare, we would gladly appreciate it. They can be dropped into the school office, or to a P&C member directly.

**Next P&C Meeting will be held in the Conference Room on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 from 7-8pm. Kids are welcomed to attend.**

Thank you.

Kiya  
President

I will be at a special two day Board training seminar this Monday and Tuesday with Judith Hill our Board Chair, and Mrs Stewart, who is one of our staff representatives on the Board. Please see Mr Batt if you have any queries or concerns over these two days. I will look forward to being back in the school on Wednesday.

**Jayne**



**Mrs Jayne Ebsworthy**

*Principal - Balddivis Gardens Primary School*

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