From the Principal
With that sense of “Spring” out there, some nice weather and holidays coming up there is a real positive tone in the school.

The official opening of our new capital works upgrade was a great affair with the minister and those who attended impressed not just with the brilliant facilities but also with the presentation of our students. Our Student Representative Councillors who managed things around the opening ceremony led by Kyarna Trigwell and Josh Menegola did a tremendous job. Our student leaders continue to be great ambassadors for our school and community.

Next week is really busy with the Faction Athletics Primary Years 1-5 Jumps on Monday and the track and team games at VC Mitchell Park. On Tuesday our Year 5’s “Transition Meeting for Parents” in Room 1 at Bentley Street with two options, either 1.45 - 2.45pm or 7.00 - 8.00pm. Details have been sent home to Year 5 Parents. The Year 5’s themselves will have their second full transition day this Friday.

At this time the business side of schooling is starting to plan our profile of staff needs for 2013. We will shortly be in recruiting mode for staff for part time and full time positions across the school. I will advise more as the situation evolves.

I hope everybody enjoys the last bit of term and enjoys the October break. I will be taking an extra week of Long Service Leave to realize a long held ambition, to attend a Bledisloe Cup match. The horse may have bolted for the Wallabies this year but I am optimistic!!

PS It is true Martin Spykers won the P&C Footy Tipping for the second time!! How does he do it? Thanks to the P&C for their organization of this well subscribed competition and in particular thanks to Bruce Wallace and Janine Morgan who organised it.

Regards Peter Fitzgerald contactable on Peter.Fitzgerald@education.wa.edu.au

Our playground at Bentley St is really providing for our kids recreational needs. The Year 6’s and 7’s use it all the time and do exercise care on the equipment. Our school yard before school, at recess and lunch is a really vibrant place. The only cautionary we have with the playground reflects to “out of hours” use, and while not discouraging use by students, we simply are not in a position to provide supervision. I urge parents interest and involvement with their children in after hours use. Consistent with the notion of “community ownership” of our school, I urge those adults into fitness regimes to have a go at our fitness circuit located on the basketball court area. There are 21 separate pieces of apparatus with both strength and aerobic challenges!

Naplan student reports will go home to parents of students in Year 3, 5 7 & 9 next week. The school is in the process of analysing performance data from all the tests and this data will inform decision making over the next months. We will publish full details of school performance and report to the School Board next term.

Over the past two weeks we have lost two valuable staff members, Mrs Tanya Marshall, Home Economics teacher left us to have her second child and Mr Casey Dale, School Gardener has returned to truck driving. Both really value added to our school through their work and we wish them well with their future challenges.

Mrs Leanne Robertson returns to work to take the extra Home Economics time and Karen Lawrence is relieving Gardener at Mead Street as we move to recruit a permanent replacement.

School Board Vacancy
I give notice to the community of a forthcoming vacancy for a school community representative on our School Board. This Vacancy occurs due to the expiration of the “incumbent’s” term.

I will be publishing in the first newsletter next term full details about our process. Meanwhile I ask community members to consider standing for our School Board, which is a real model of good governance.
**Nature Play**
The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is partnering with Nature Play WA to promote the benefits of outdoor play for children and families. We are very pleased to be supporting this worthwhile project and encourage all children to get outside and play!
Nature Play is climbing a tree, building a cubby, walking in the bush and looking for shells on the beach. It is splashing and running, digging and exploring, making and imagining. It’s all about the unstructured play that lets children imagine, create and be active.
This week all of your children have been given a passport to Nature Play, provided by the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup. In the passport are ten missions and a list of 15 things every child should do before they are twelve... oh, and it’s not too late to catch up if you are older or do them again if you’ve already done them! The missions can be accessed online by registering at the Nature Play WA website. All the information is in the passport. Go on, be a free-range kid!

**Nature Play Passports**
This week your child will be bringing home a Nature Play WA “Passport to an amazing childhood”. This passport links to a series of ten easy ‘missions’ kids can do over the school holidays, or whenever they have a bit of free time. The missions are free, age-appropriate outdoor activities like, ‘climb a tree’, ‘build a cubby’ or ‘ride your bike’ – the kind of stuff most of you did as kids.
While the passport missions are designed to be fun, they are also an important tool for boosting your child’s development. A bit like hiding the veggies, they are a sneaky way to help get them to increase their dose of free-range, imaginative play - the bedrock of a healthy childhood.
By helping to bring unstructured outdoor play back into your children’s lives, you’ll be building their cognitive, emotional and physical development and boosting their resilience.

So the next time the kids start the “Mum, I’m bored” routine, why not log on to the Nature Play WA website (www.natureplaywa.org.au/passport) and help them register their passport? Each time your child completes a mission, you can place a sticker on the appropriate mission page. In fact, the idea is to collect as many stickers or stamps per page so use them at special events, as class projects or for any time they go outside to play.

For other great ideas for getting outdoors, visit Nature Play WA’s website and sign up for the newsletters and Facebook page.

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**Canteen News—PRICE INCREASE FOR TERM 4**
After much analyzing and discussion, we have taken the decision of amending the menus and some of the prices. These changes will help us to cover all our costs and keep up the hard work done so far in providing the good healthy foods to our students.
We will be commencing “term based menus”, which will have any changes necessary made to cater for environmental changes and costs of producing this fine food. These menus will be easy to determine – each term will have a different coloured menu. We will still run “specials” and “meal deals” and look forward to any suggestions parents can give moving forward.
So remember to look out for the new menus taking effect on the first day of term 4. Also, can we remind parents not to staple the lunch bags/order envelopes. It not only takes the lovely volunteers and staff time to “unpick” these, but there is a safety issues should one find its way into a lunch.

**Volunteers** are again in short supply – so even if you can only lend a hand for an hour each month or term – you might not think it is much, but all we need is a few more willing helpers and the canteen will run smoother and we can keep the prices down.

On a personnel note, Kerrylee is no longer working in the canteen. We thank her for her time and input and wish her our best. Sonya Poyner has joined the staff and we welcome her to our busy canteen.

The Canteen Committee has seen the resignation of two of its hardest working ladies, Michelle and Janine. Their hard work and hours of input, have given us a canteen that can move forward with a sound structure and a healthy menu. We would all like to thank these hard working ladies for their time, effort, and no doubt sweat and tears.

Now we have some shoes to fill – so if you think you can lend a hand by joining the committee, please contact Aleks at the Canteen or ring Bev on 0417 966 944. If we can get some more committee members, then the work load is reduced on each and we can continue to provide this valuable school community service.

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**Kindergarten Enrolments 2013**
Does your child turn 4 before 30 June 2013? If so, enrolments for Kindergarten are open.
Please contact Mead Street or Bentley Street front office for an enrolment form.
We look forward to hearing from you.
**Art News**

**Visions Art Exhibition Bunbury**
The Regional Visions Art Exhibition will be opening in October at the Bunbury Regional Art galleries. This show cases the best student artwork and photography in all schools south of Mandurah. We had two students work selected this year: Darcy Baines (Yr 10) Self portrait and Em Forward’s (Yr 9) sculpture of Chuck the Chimp. Both students and their families will receive invitations to the opening night on Saturday October 27. The exhibition will be open to the public for one month.

**Transition**
The Transition Program for our Year 5’s coming to Bentley Street for 2012 commenced on August 22. The Year 5’s arrived in the morning and were presented with a showbag decorated by their Year 6 buddy. The bag was filled with goodies including numerous stationery items donated by the Donnybrook Newsagency, a Transition booklet and fruit donated by Jan and Colin Atherton.

They then completed a tour of the school with Miss McLoughlin and chatted with Mrs Hutchison about any concerns they had about the move. After teaming up with their year 6 buddy and spending their first recess at Bentley Street they then rotated through the following activities: dance, looking at the Science room, playing on the new playground equipment and co-operation games.

The majority of students felt more comfortable about the move to the Senior Campus and were looking forward to the Tabloid Sports Day on Friday, September 21.

A reminder to parents that the Parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 September one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. A note has been sent home with your child with all the information.

**Transition Comments 2012 after Day One**

“it was awesome and I’m not scared anymore”. Cate

“The Transition was great. I’m not so nervous about going down the hill”. Kage

“I was very scared at first but I am not scared now. It is going to get confusing with all the periods, but I think I will get it”. Jade

“Really good loved it from the start, do it anytime. Best day ever!” Georgie

“At first I was a little scared, but now I feel better”. Hazel

“The Transition was really fun”. Zane

“I feel a bit better now because you told us about the school”. Ebony

“Time flew, can’t wait until another Transition day, best day in history”. Tim

“I enjoyed it all”. Belle

“It was epic”. Isaac

“It was bom digity. I feel much better going down now”. Dakota

“It was fun, thank-you very much. I had a great day”. Tia

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**School Website**

Please be aware that all our newsletters appear on our school website. Alongside the newsletter appears articles of interest to parents and this weeks article by Michael Grose from “Parenting Ideas” is entitled “Bully-proofing kids”. I urge parents to have a good read.

I also give notice that next week we will publish on the website our draft policy statement on “Bullying” and some explanatory documents showing how we deal with it. I welcome feedback on the policy. Peter Fitzgerald
IMPORTANT DATES:
Monday September 24 - SW Primary Band Workshop
Tuesday September 24 - Faction Athletics Yr 1-5—Jumps
Tuesday September 25 - Yr 5 Transition - Parents Meeting - 1.45 - 2.45pm & 7.00 - 8.00pm
Wednesday September 26 - Mead St Assembly - Yr 1’s (Date changed from Calendar)
Thursday September 27 - Faction Athletics Yr 1-5 - Running & Throws
Friday September 28 - Last day Term 3
Tuesday October 16 - Term 4 begins for students
Every Wednesday Early Closure: Mead Street - 2.35 - Bentley Street 2.45

Donnybrook Tennis Club
Children’s Coaching Clinics
Holiday Program – see Donnybrook Recreation Centre Flyer
Term 4 Group Sessions – Starting Saturday 27 October. 8 week course for ages 6-15.
To enrol or find out about cost, group & times please call David or Pat on 9751 5007 or 0419 474 605.

Roller Disco
Footy Fever come dressed in your favourite footy colours
When: September 28
Where: Donnybrook Recreation Centre
Time: 6.00—7.30pm
Cost: $4.00 each $11.00 Family

Circus - Unfortunately we’ve had to postpone the second planned circus workshop with Jo Bolton which was going to be on Thursday September 20. We are currently working on finding another date in term four when Jo will be able to visit again.

Year 6/7 Mini-Paralympics Day
On Thursday, September 13, the Year 6 & 7 students had a wonderful time competing at a Mini-Paralympics.
See the next newsletter for the news article written by Year 9B students in English.

Young Writers’ Day
On September 11, 2012 Saya, Haley and I went to the Youth Literacy Day and the author was Michael Gerald Bauer. He published novels like the Running Man, Just a Dog and the Ishmael Trilogy. He is a funny and kind hearted man and we were glad to have the privilege of listening to him speak.

He showed us many writing techniques. One technique was brainstorming ideas. You start off with a colour and lead of into 4 or 5 things the colour reminds you of. Then you build on more and more of what the words remind you of or what they make you think of. We chose 4 words from the brainstorm and wrote an opening to a story with the words.

All in all, the day was great. We learnt a lot and he was a lot of fun. I really like Michael, as he had really good ideas. I can’t wait for the next youth Literacy Day.

By Saya Newman, Haley Cook & Elisha Gray

Samaritan Christmas Boxes
The year 6 students in Mrs Hutchison and Miss McLoughlin’s classes have recently viewed videos on the Samaritans Operation Christmas Child appeal. This project involves students buying gifts to place in a shoe box (supplied by Samaritans) to send off to children in countries that are affected by war, natural disasters or victims of extreme poverty.

Students are able to choose a girl or boy to buy their gifts for ages ranging from two to fourteen year olds. The shoebox gift maybe the only gift these children will ever receive.

A number of students were very keen to take part in this project and have returned their commitment letters and have taken home a Christmas Box to fill. These boxes need to be returned to school by Wednesday, October 17.

If anyone is interested in taking part in the project please contact Jeanette Hutchison at the school on 97311060 or by email at jeanette.hutchison@education.wa.edu.au