From the Principal
Hi Everybody and a ‘warm’ welcome back to our autumn term.

I would remind everybody that this is a short term of 9 weeks and it is also reporting term! What this means is that, particularly on our senior campus, students have been reminded of the need to focus on their learning. Parents of years 8-10 students need to be aware that next week I will be writing to the parents of those students who are NOT performing at or near their potential. I urge parents to engage through the diary with your child’s work requirements. In saying this be aware that MOST students are on track but we have a requirement to advise where this is not the case!

During this term, our Year 10’s will engage in activities that bring their future into close focus. There will be conversations about connecting to Year 11 and 12 courses in other schools. There will be exams and the purpose is in the first instance to test but its also to prepare them for the experience of Year 11. Additionally all Year 10’s will be engaged in a work placement for the last week of Term.

Beyond the focus on academic achievement, across both campuses our staff are additionally focussing upon all our programs and practice associated with developing our students as social, emotional and mentally healthy young people. We are reviewing everything in this area and will publish the outcomes later.

I look forward to a great term for the school and a very productive one. I and my wife Lee will be taking 3 weeks leave effective 31 May, to travel to Manila, to visit our son and his family, but will be back for the last few weeks.

Out of Hours Care
It is with regret I advise that the “Out of Hours Care” project that the school and Shire were promoting and sponsoring will not proceed.

The issue was it’s viability and clearly given there was a financial guarantee required, there simply was not enough registrations to make the project viable. While this attempt failed, for those of you wanting this sort of service, the school will still offer facilities or support in the event another venture is successful in the future.

$100 IGA Voucher
The prize draw for the $100 IGA voucher will be done at the Mead Street assembly, Friday 24 May.

Thank you to all those who responded to supplying current contact details.

Peter Fitzgerald
Principal

Walk Safely to School Day
We are encouraging all families to get involved in “Walk to School Day” on the 24 May. Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 24 May, 2013
Go to http://www.walk.com.au to find out more! There is even an app to download for apple or android.

REWARD OFFERED
Have you seen D-PaC the Great Idea Eating Alien?
He belongs to the Donnybrook District High School P & C and we have lost him. He feeds on great ideas, so if you see him and have a great idea that you think the P&C could work with, whether it be a fundraising idea, or about information evenings we could arrange for parents or things that our school could use, feed them to D-PaC and when he is nice and fat he will slow down to enable us to catch him.

We will put the children who can name the most places they have seen him around the school and town in a draw for a reward, so please keep a note of every location you have seen him.

National Families Week celebrated nationally
May 15-21, 2013
Teenage parties, dieting and improving optimism are some of the key topics in a suite of free parenting guides released today by Community Services Minister Tony Simpson to mark the start of National Families Week 2013. The Minister was opening Western Australia’s inaugural parenting conference, entitled Talking Up Our Strengths, on behalf of Linkwest, CLAN WA Inc and the Department of Communities.

Mr Simpson said the new sets of teen and families Parenting WA guides were a valuable resource for parents, carers and the organisations that supported them. The guides include topics such as teenage parties; teenage eating and dieting; talking sex with teenagers; family violence; and parenting in single parent families.

The Parenting WA FAMILY guides are available at http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/parents/ParentingWAGuides/family/Pages/default.aspx
IMPORTANT DATES:
Every Wednesday Early Closure: Mead Street 2.35 - Bentley Street 2.45
SWHS I/S Athletics Yr 8-10 - Wednesday May 22
Mead St Assembly - Friday May 24 - $100 VOUCHER DRAWN
Bentley St Assembly - Monday June 3
Foundation Day - school closed - Tuesday May 28
Year 7 Camp - Tuesday - Friday June 4 - 7
Primary Faction Cross Country - Thursday June 13

Mead Street News
Magnificent Magnifiers
Last term Jon Lawrance of Mill Point Rotary Club presented the school with a whole class set of hand held microscopes. They were gratefully received and we commend the Rotary Organisation for promoting science education in this way and a big THANK YOU to them from us! Year 4ST wasted no time and had the microscopes out of their boxes in an instant, using the Magnificent Magnifiers to observe the appearance of rocks during Science.

Reading Eggs
Reading Eggs is a fantastic online resource that we have used for some time to assist in the teaching of English. The scope of Reading Eggs has increased somewhat over the last year but, unfortunately, so did the cost of subscription. Mr Roberts (who organises a lot of our on-line resources) approached our P&C who agreed to fund Reading Eggs to the sum of $2000. This has been a huge bonus to the school and we give a big THANK YOU of appreciation to our P&C. Ask your children how they can access reading eggs at home using their school subscription.

Mead Street Fortnightly Focus: MANNERS
In terms 2 and 3, every two to three weeks, we will be focusing on a particular value or virtue which we believe needs more intensive discussion in our classrooms. You will be advised in the newsletter and via your child, of each new focus.
We encourage you to continue the discussion at home with your child so the importance of each particular focus is reinforced.
Our first focus this term is "manners" which aligns with one of our important values, respect.
Please also note, that an information sheet from "Kids Matter", one of the many programs available for schools and one that we access to develop our mental health program at Mead St, will be sent with each future newsletter.

South West Netball Cup
Division A Team—Year 9/10
On Monday we travelled to Hay Park to compete in the SW Netball Carnival, we had a good day. We only won one game but we had fun and learnt a lot. We worked together to try our best. Special thanks to Emily Fernley and Katelyn Barker for umpiring. By Elisha Gray

Division B Team—Year 7/8
On Monday May 13 Donnybrook years 7 & 8 competed as a team in the South West Netball Cup. The team went really well by winning almost every game over all and winning their division. Unfortunately the team almost came second but closely lost to Margaret River by 2 points. The day went really well and would like to say thanks for all the parents that came to support us. By Courtney Babich, Rachel Fernley and Ella Atherton