As I have advised across the last two newsletters our school like all government schools will have less resources in 2014.

This has necessitated some serious rethinking about how the school is set up for 2014. Rather than simply approach planning for 2014 as a cost cutting exercise, we looked at the following issues as criteria to help determine the best service model for 2014 and beyond:-

- What model works best for ALL students, here we considered - class sizes, the number of split classes, availability of space and continuing valued programs.
- Resources - We do have less so where do we impose cuts?
- Directions from our recent School Review - We gained some general insights from reviewers in their exit interview that helped give us some direction for improvement AND what valued practice needed to be retained.
- Sustainability - Planning here is not just about 2014 but about setting up for a changed future particularly around system change for Year 7 in 2015.

Taking into account all of these criteria, the best option was to move the Year 6’s from Bentley Street to Mead Street effective February 2014.

What we get with this model:-

- The best fit across K - 6 in terms of class size, least number of split classes and good classroom accommodation.
- It is the most cost effective model enabling our resources to go further.
- The site configuration K - 6 at Mead Street and 7 - 10 at Bentley Street positions us well to “look like” what will be the norm in 2015.
- We also will retain the valued transition program, giving Year 6’s at our school the advantage of access to specialist programs (Art, Home Economics and Design and Technology) in specialist facilities with Secondary specialist teachers at Bentley Street. This will happen across the year and our planning this is around afternoons with bussing at no cost to parents.
- We will also be deploying specialist teachers into Mead Street to balance workloads and this to will advantage all Mead Street.
- We also see this change as a real opportunity to “refresh” our approach to the notion of “whole of school”.

We consider this change as significant but realistic and achievable for the benefit of all our students.

The community needs to be aware that this newsletter is an advisory only and will be supported with the full detail by mid-December as we resolve the operational planning issues and refine the model.

Be advised that in communication terms we have already spoken with staff, the School Board with the Year 5 students and I have also written a letter to each of the Year 5 parents.

I look forward to all the challenges and welcome, either to me or the deputies, any questions you may have.

Peter Fitzgerald
Principal
IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday 26 November  School Choir, Band & Bells performing Tuia Lodge
Tuesday 3 December  Bentley Street Assembly
Thursday 5 December  Interschool Chess
Thursday 12 December  Year 8 Excursion
Friday 13 December  Year 9 Excursion/ Year 10 Excursion
Monday 16 December  Year 6 Fun Day/Year 7 Excursion
Tuesday 17 December  Year 10 Graduation 5:00pm
Wednesday 18 December  Year 7 Celebrations
Thursday 19 December  Year 6 - 9 Final Assembly 2:00pm
Thursday 19 December  Students last day of school

FUTURING OUR SERVICE

In line with our school priority:
Futuring Our Service, we are moving into a more electronic mode of communications.
Newsletters, Parent Notes, etc will be in the form of an email and SMS messaging to mobile phones will be implemented for absentees, updates and reminders.

To assist us in this process we encourage ALL parents to provide the information needed.

This can be done by either filling in and returning the slip below or by emailing your information to Donnybrook.dhs@education.wa.edu.au.

______________________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Name:

______________________________________________________________
Student Name(s):

______________________________________________________________
Best Mobile Contact:

______________________________________________________________
Email Address: