From the Principal

Well I guess all journeys have a destination and so it is with my career as a principal. Friday 8 August is my final day of work, But I remain on the Department of Education payroll, on, accrued Long Service Leave until November.

My ‘journey’ as a Principal has been a great experience. I have liked my work, I have enjoyed the challenges and one of the reasons or drivers about my work is the service notion of doing the best I can for the “now and future students of our community”.

My learning about my role over the years has been about coming to understand and act in accord with a clear picture of what I was here to do. As an employee of the Department of Education, while I am required to be a corporate player, the reality plays out in striving to get best service for this school and its students.

I have gone about my work, I think best expressed by empowering staff. This empowerment started in the early 90’s with the devolving of resources to the teacher workforce and typically our staff responded well. They owned the dollars. They could and did make, and continue to make better decisions about resourcing, because they had budgets they controlled. My job then became building the accountability framework around the model. Fundamentally my leadership approach has been to invest in our people and support their activity in teaching and learning.

I believe, with the very experienced and committed staff that this approach has worked, and has been acknowledged in our School Review completed late last year.

There are many individuals I need to thank and this includes over the years, our changing P&C executive group and those community members who have offered themselves to support our School Board. To the current P&C led by Gwendoline Nidd and to our Board Chair, Pip Murdock, my sincere thanks on your commitment and support of the school. The P&C is in the process of “re-imaging” with the imminent departure of a generation, and faces real challenges as it repositions to be most relevant to its parent constituency. The board has also evolved and has really taken on “good governance” as a mission. Its challenges will be in representing our school in the face of major changes coming to education.

I acknowledge and value all current staff and their predecessors in their various roles. I have focussed this year in particular, on getting them more “cosmic” and seeing themselves as successful and resilient beings. In the work of schooling, one of the traps, is that you get bogged down with the day to day things. Clearly our 2013 Review affirmed for our staff that they were doing a great job.

I will miss the students across both campuses because I think we are really lucky with the way our kids present. Fundamentally, our students are open, engaged, willing and come to school to both learn and also because its an important social place for them. I have always enjoyed engaging at various levels with our students and while I do acknowledge that a very few have more to learn than most, I will miss the relationship.

In concluding this farewell, I must acknowledge my wife Lee, who besides being my life partner has been, able by her role and commitment, to keep me centred!

In moving into retirement, while this farewell has focussed on what I am leaving, the obverse of the coin is that new set of life challenges that await me. I have not planned it out, because work has kept me very busy, but I can say that I will golf, fish, read among other things and when Lee joins me later this year, we will get into serious travel.

The Department of Education has advertised the position of the Principal, and this will be determined over the next couple of months. Until the person selected is able to take up the position our acting leadership team effective 11 August is:

- Acting Principal: Jeff Brown
- Mead Street Associate Principal: Garry Davis
- Bentley Street Deputies: Tamara Feltham and Denise Duncan
- And Business Manager: Lee Fitzgerald rounds out the team

I take this opportunity to wish everybody well as they take on what the future holds for the school. I have real confidence that best service will continue in Donnybrook. Regards Peter Fitzgerald—Principal
Deputy News—Bentley Street

Welcome to Term 3: back to a new Term. The term has got off to a great start with all students on track and engaged in their learning.

Parent Interviews: The Deputies office has been quiet bar many parents coming in to see us re the progress their children are making. Many of these parents were coming in for the first time as teachers had ticked the parent interview box. Their fears that something was wrong were soon stilled: as, in all cases the students interviewed were in fact doing very well. This was a great opportunity to give very positive feedback to parents of students who are resilient, solid workers, and who are great role models to all the other students. All parents were happy with their progress.

Man Up Sustainability Project with Mr Paul McKenzie: For the rest of the year we have instigated a new programme led by Mr Paul McKenzie. He is a teacher as well as a Landscape gardener by trade. His passion is to create sustainability projects that inspire students to design, create and make projects that re-cycle materials which value add the school. As well, incorporated in all this is an injection of Science, Maths, English, problem solving, as well as developing co-operation skills for all the 10 students who chose the option. Already they are in the process of designing and building a safe shade structure for the playground. Future projects include working with the sustainable gardening project at Mead Street with Mr Little, leading the challenge.

Mr Fitzgerald Retires: Donnybrook District High School has been very privileged to have a man of this stature who created one of the best District High Schools in the state. He has labored long and hard in tune with the community to get us the very high standard facilities that we have: they are the best in the state. As examples, the Art facilities, as well as the Design and Technology building are here because of his persistence in gaining high quality premises for the Donnybrook Community.

Added to this, Mr Fitzgerald, like Darrel Cockram has become the true carrier of the Donnybrook ethos. His passion for the best educational outcomes for all Donnybrook students whether TAFE or work related fields, as well as the passion for the TEE students has meant that many many students have aspired to and become the best professionals they can be whether they are Doctors, Parliamentarians, or the best Tradesmen that are around. They can all be traced to his educational passions. The most important treasure he also leaves is his relentless support for all staff and students no matter what the circumstance: he stood by us all. His professionalism, as well as his incredible problem solving skills, and business acumen will most certainly be missed: a fond farewell from the whole Donnybrook Community. A very special welcome to Mr Jeff Brown who is acting Principal as of Monday 11 August.

Welcome to Mrs Duncan Acting Deputy Bentley Street: a special welcome to Mrs Duncan who is taking over from me as Deputy while I relieve at Mead Street as Associate Principal . Mrs Duncan has very strong experience in this role. She brings energy and vitality to this key roll. Her skills with values, positive behaviours and her energy behind the new Good Standing Policy will help Bentley Street progress well in Semester 2.

I will miss Bentley Street, but am looking forward to re-engaging at Mead Street where I enjoyed a great 12 weeks in Term 1 and 2. I will return, however, as I love Bentley Street as much as I do working at Mead Street.

Community Thank you Mr Peter Fitzgerald

The Donnybrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue as well as Saint John Ambulance Donnybrook Sub-Centre Volunteers would all like to acknowledge the extremely valuable support Mr Peter Fitzgerald has given to the Emergency Services of Donnybrook. It is this selfless support for community spirit which we respect and admire. We ALL wish you well for a wonderful, adventure filled retirement.

Garry Davis
Deputy Principal

Sustainability Shade Structure Design

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Every Wednesday Early Closure: Mead Street 2:35 - Bentley Street 2:45
‘Orange’ School Bus Services
Is your child starting or changing schools in 2015 and are you seeking Transport Assistance on an ‘Orange’ school bus?
In 2015 all Year 7 students, will be attending high school as secondary students. This will have a substantial impact on the ‘Orange’ school bus network and will require significant planning. It is very important that Public Transport Authority establishes the number of eligible students requiring Transport Assistance.
The Public Transport Authority is requesting parents that have children starting or changing schools in 2015 and requiring bus travel to complete an online application for Transport Assistance at www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au by no later than 31 August 2014 for travel in 2015.
Please be aware; Transport Assistance is offered to eligible families in two forms. Either by ‘Orange’ school bus or a Conveyance Allowance paid to parents to drive their children to and from school.
The type of Transport Assistance provided to a family depends on many factors including, location and bus availability.
If your child is currently travelling on an ‘Orange’ school bus and they are not changing schools next year, there is no need to reapply or contact us as your transport arrangements as a rule will remain the same.
If you have any further questions please phone 9326 2625 or email schoolbus@pta.wa.gov.au

Kickstart Term 3 with a little extra help
Our students have worked hard in Term 2, and we know our Bentley Street students are looking at more serious study heading into Term 3. That’s why Edith Cowan University provides yourtutor: an online homework and study help service.
Students can log in when they get stuck during study, and ask an expert local tutor their question in maths, English, physics, chemistry, business studies and more. The online tutors will never give out an answer, but will help students figure out the problem and work towards the solution. No more homework meltdowns, no more waiting for appointments. Next time they’re stuck, simply tell your child to connect to yourtutor, and get ‘un-stuck’.
Available: Sunday - Friday, 3pm-10pm.
Students already have their yourtutor access cards.
Sign in via www.ecu.edu.au/yourtutor
Further information for parents is available at www.yourtutor.com.au along with a 24/7 interactive tour.
If your child has forgotten their password, please contact Mrs Esme Kidd, in the school library, on 9731 0432.

Pre-Vet Sustainability & Enterprise Program –Year 9 Boys
The school has implemented a program this semester for a group of Year 9 boys who will engage in a range of projects including the establishment or enhancement of worms farms, raised garden beds, composting bays, shade structures, pizza oven and the landscaping of student areas.
The program and it’s projects will have a sustainability focus, employing the principles of Reduce, Re-use or Recycle to reduce waste to landfill by finding productive uses for it. With this in mind it is hoped that the majority of materials required for infrastructure will be “found” or recycled. If you have any of the following materials lying around that you don’t want then we would be grateful to be given the opportunity to divert them from the tip and put them to good use.

- Bricks, Blocks, Pavers
- Irrigation pipe in good lengths (75mmBlack)
- Sleepers
- Poles and Star pickets
- Roofing tin in good lengths
- Weldmesh, Reo mesh, fencing mesh (rolls)
- PVC pipe (retic) & fittings (elbows & joiners)
- Box tubing, Patio clips, Tek screws
- Poly barrels with lid suitable for drip system header tank.

In addition if you feel you have skills or expertise in the sorts of projects mentioned above then please make contact by emailing Paul.Mckenzie@education.wa.edu.au to see how they might best be put to use.

A big congratulations to Gorgia Babich for being selected to represent Western Australia in 2014 State 12’s Netball Team.
This team will be competing at the National Schools Championships at the Gold Coast, Queensland at the end of August.
We hope you enjoy the experience and the staff and students wish you all the very best for your trip to Queensland.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Donnybrook Amateur Basketball Association
REGISTRATION DAY
SUMMER BASKETBALL
TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
DONNYBROOK REC CENTRE
3:30pm-6:00pm
SCHOOL YEARS - Pre-Primary -12
50% Fees payable on Registration Day
Any queries please call Rick Anderson
9731 1621.
Visit our facebook page to see cost of fees.

Jeans For Genes - Friday 1 August
A big thank you to all the students and staff at Bentley Street and Mead Street who donated money for Jeans for Genes day. The day was a huge success and the total amount raised was $1034.05.
Have you got what it takes to conquer part of the historic Collie to Donnybrook route. We have been asked to provide data about the number and learning needs of children at our school. The name of the school and the name of students will not be reported. Information about the different types of needs and the programs and resources the school uses to overcome barriers and support children with special education needs to be collected.

We believe it is important to contribute to this because it will help Governments and the Department develop better policies that acknowledge the level of resources needed in schools to meet the needs of all students in Western Australia.

If you do not want your child/ren to be included please come to the front office to fill in a form. If you would like to learn more about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for School Students with Disability please go to www.deewr.gov.au/students-disability