Good Evening Everyone

Welcome back to a new year; we trust that you have had an enjoyable and safe break with your child(ren).

One of my first tasks today was to visit all classes; it was great to welcome all the smiling faces and to have 100% of students wearing School uniform. The students appear to be well refreshed and ready for 2012.

Over the holidays many changes have taken place including:

- The old demountable has gone and has been replaced by two ‘new’ transportables that are ready for student use.

- We welcome the arrival of Mr Birkin who will be teaching the Years 4-5 class. Please make yourself known to him when you are next at the School.

- Kindergarten students now attend three full days each week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) under the Federal Government’s Universal Access requirement.

- With a present enrolment of 96 students classes have been restructured as follows:
  - Kindergarten  Mrs Teague-Robertson
  - Pre-Primary/Yr 1  Mrs Williams
  - Years 2-3  Mrs Flett
  - Years 4-5  Mr Birkin
  - Years 6-7  Ms Walker

- Wooz’n’Suz have closed and there is currently no arrangement for students to purchase lunches on a daily basis. We will be trialling a Monday lunch during first term – refer to later information.

- Our application for a Sustainable Energy grant of $50 000.00 has been approved for installation of solar energy and the provision of a 250 000L water tank to provide water for the toilets and reticulation of the garden and orchard. Work will begin this term.

Thank you:

- Especially to the P&C members who willing gave us their time during the holidays to re paint the students games; they look fantastic and the children are really pleased to have visible markings for their games. See pictures further in newsletter

- to the Walpole Op Shop for the donation of a collection of aprons to use for our cooking programme.

SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET
A current version of the School Information Booklet will be posted shortly on the School website: www.walpoleps.wa.edu.au

This booklet contains a lot of information that impacts on the day to day running of the School.

School Fees
The School Council set the following fees for 2012 at:

- **Kindergarten $50.00 per child compulsory**
- **Years P-7 $25 per child voluntary**

These fees enable the School to provide additional facilities to all students and parent support in making the contributions promptly will be appreciated.

Thank you to those parents who have already made this payment.

Last year we received in excess of 90% of payments allowing us to purchase a range of resources that would otherwise not have been possible.
SCHOOL COUNCIL
The first meeting for 2012 will be held in the School Library at 7.00pm on Monday 13 February.
Parents wishing to nominate should lodge their nomination with me prior to 3.30pm on the 13th February.
This year will be a transition year from a Council to a School Board in readiness for becoming and Independent Public School in 2013.
Current Council parent members are:
- Glen Burton 98401332 Chairperson
- Kim Burton 98401332
- Deanne Blake 98408836
- Julie Ewing 98401441
- Dave Edmonds 98401105
- Matt Wrigley 98401852
- Karen Pascoe 0458140656
- Antony Egerton-Warburton 98401636
- Lee Cummuskey 98401019

The staff is currently represented by:
- Richard Walker Principal
- Lisa Teague-Robertson Teacher
- Carolyn Brodie Teacher

MONDAY LUNCHES
On Mondays students will be able to order an ‘oslo’ lunch comprising a salad platter and a vegemite or peanut paste white/wholemeal sandwich or roll, plus a piece of fruit and a fruit drink that all comply with the Department’s food recommendations. This service will be available from next Monday and will run for Term 1.

Students will NOT be assisting with preparation of lunches.
Cost will be four dollars ($4.00) and students need to bring the money in a sealed envelope marked with their name and choices marked on the outside of the envelope:
- vegemite or peanut paste
- white or wholemeal
- sandwich or roll

In the event that no choices are made the lunch will be made at the discretion of the chef.

INCURSIONS/EXCURSIONS POLICY
Incursions and excursions are NOT COMPULSORY parts of the School’s academic programme and in accordance with information included in the November 10, 2011 newsletter students are required to contribute $5.00 towards attending any activity. Students who do not pay the money are provided with other appropriate learning activities and required supervision during the activity.

SCI-TECH INCURSION
We have the opportunity for all students to attend Sci-Tech’s presentation on Thursday 9 February; presentation, workshop and planetarium.
Please return money with form included with this newsletter by Wed 8 Feb.

CLASS MEETINGS
Teachers will shortly be in contact with you regarding the holding of individual class meetings to present their philosophies and explain programmes for the start of the year. Please make the effort to attend these meetings or to see your child’s teacher to make yourself aware of what is happening in their classes. Most of all it is important that you gain an understanding of the teacher’s expectations.

Student Update forms
A number of forms are being sent home and I ask that you complete and return these as soon as possible:
- a blanket excursion permission form for all land excursions within walking distance of School.
- Teachers will still be required to obtain separate permission forms where an excursion requires transport or if it involves aquatic activities.
- Student record update
- Medical information update.
If you have any concerns regarding these requests please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Doust or me.

Bell times are:
8.45am Warning Bell
8.50am School commences
10.40am Morning Recess
10.55am Warning Bell
11.00am Second session commences
12.25pm Lunch
01.00pm Warning Bell
01.05pm Afternoon teaching begins
03.00pm School concludes
This configuration allows for 310 minutes of instruction daily.
Kindergarten students attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09.00am – 12.00 noon providing instruction for the Federal Government’s recommended attendance time of 15 hours per week.
TERM DATES
The following are the 2012 term dates for Government Schools.

Semester 1
Term 1 Wed 1 Feb – Thurs 5 April
Term 2 Thurs 26 April – Fri 6 July

Semester 2
Term 3 Tues 24 July – Fri 28 Sept
Term 4 Tue 16 Oct – Tues 18 Dec

PARENT CONCERNS
Whilst I respect your right to contact the District Office or the local Member of Parliament re concerns please understand that a simple call to me or one of the staff may well solve your worry; contacting District Office or our local member with concerns, prior to making contact with me or staff, often results in a protracted response that disrupts the normal running of the school and is time consuming and often impacts on students.

If you have any matters that you wish to discuss with me or any of the teachers, please telephone to make a mutually convenient appointment. I can’t guarantee the answers that everyone wants BUT I will listen and endeavour to negotiate an acceptable solution or to investigate your concerns and get back to you!

Have a great start to the new year.

Richard Walker

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Sunscreen is available outside each classroom for students use. Teachers will not offer the sunscreen; students will need to exercise responsibility to remember its use.

As part of our dress code students require a broad-brimmed hat to participate in outdoor activities – students not able to meet this requirement will be required to undertake indoor work.

P&C AGM /First Term Meeting
7.00pm on Wednesday 15 February in School Library.
Your attendance is requested to ensure that the P&C is able to continue to provide for the education of students at Walpole PS.

This Fortnight’s Thought
“There are so many distractions in life that seem to take us away from what we all are wanting or needing for our lives. It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day noise (let’s call it white noise) that we end up spending all of our energy and time there instead of working on and towards all of those goals and dreams that we once thought were so important to us. That is why this year, 2012, you need to make a conscious decision to push past the past issues and on to living those future desires. There comes a time in everyone’s lives that we all get frustrated with where we are at. For some it seems as though we have stopped growing. This is why we have to constantly ensure that we are expanding our comfort zones and not just living within the one we are currently in.

Human beings love being comfortable. We don’t like being put in a position where we are not in control for too long. This however, whilst it may be “secure”, is not that healthy. All of us are guilty of too often staying well within the boundaries of our comfort zone. How many times have you decided not to join something or start something because it was out of our comfort zone?

Whether in life or in business, you will eventually be faced with a situation or challenge that you will need to venture out of your comfort zone to complete. Now I know what you are thinking: ‘I only do things that I am comfortable with or comfortable completing’. How boring! The whole purpose of being on this planet is to excel. The only way to excel is to be trying new things and making ourselves better every day. Imagine eating the same food for every meal every day, every week, every year for the rest of your life; let’s say meat and potatoes. While you would probably still live a long life, the essence of that life, without enjoying new taste sensations, would be quite dull. The same principle applies to our lives. If you only do the same-old, same-old every day, not trying new experiences, not allowing yourself to step out and be challenged, then sure, you may still live a life of some satisfaction, but wouldn’t it be great to get to the end of your life not regretting anything, not wishing ‘if only’?

When I was first asked to speak publicly a few years ago I came up with every excuse under the sun why I couldn't do it. Mind you, I had always had the desire to impact people's lives, so you would think that speaking to different crowds, some with thousands of delegates, would achieve that in a faster fashion. Nevertheless, I was in fear; this was way out of my comfort zone. How many times have you had opportunities that have gone begging purely as a result of not stepping out and grabbing what should have been yours? Comfort zones are just that, comfortable, but try and step out of it once in a while and see what will happen.”

Businessman and entrepreneur Justin Herald of Attitude T-Shirt fame
DENMARK LITTLE ATHLETICS
Starts again this Wednesday February 1st for training and Friday night for competition.
6 weeks to go so lets pick up our fitness again!!
Registered members only.

PEACEFUL BAY TRIATHLON (Teams or individuals)

FUN AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.
Kids Saturday 11th Feb 2012 Peaceful Bay
Under 7s 50m swim, 500m bike, 100m run start time 3pm
7-9yrs 100m swim, 2km bike ride, 500m run start time 3.30pm
10-12yrs 200m swim, 4km bike, 1km run start time 3.30pm

Juniors and Adults Sunday 12th Feb 2012
Peaceful Bay short course 400m swim, 10km bike, 2.5km run start time 8am
(long course 800m swim, 18km bike ride 5km run start time 8am)

You will need bathers, goggles, helmet, towel, hat, sunscreen and running shoes.
Please send your registration form in by Thursday 9th February
Registration forms and further information available at www.albanytriclub.com.au
Enquiries to Belinda Ross at pj.ross8@bigpond.com

SCI-TECH INCURSION THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2012 – $5.00 per child

I give permission for my child(ren):

……………………………….. (Yr …)
……………………………….. (Yr …)
……………………………….. (Yr …)
……………………………….. (Yr …)

……………………………………. Signature (Parent/Carer)

to participate in the Sci-Tech incursion on Thursday 9 February and enclose $.................. to cover their contribution.