From the Principal’s desk

Welcome back and Gong Xi Fai Chai!

This year your return to school coincides with Chinese New Year. We welcome everyone back to school and wish all of you a very Happy New Year in every way.

The school grounds look terrific. Graham has been working hard as usual over the holiday break and we appreciate all his efforts.

The classrooms look wonderful too, they are sparkling clean thanks to the care and attention of Marija and Theresa who are here long after we go home!

The whole school photo taken to commemorate our 25th Birthday last year is in this newsletter. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please email the office, there is no cost for this at all.

The teaching and admin staff have also been here during the holidays, preparing the school for the new school year and looking forward to the return of the children. This first week of school there is always such a lot of catching up to do with news of the holiday experiences. Children are happy to be back, parents are happy to have them back at school too!

This term we will miss Marina in the office, she is taking this term for Long Service Leave. We know she will enjoy having time to herself and we all look forward to seeing her next term. In the meantime, Tamara is taking on her role full-time, we are grateful she is able to do so.

Virtue of the Week Assertiveness

Being assertive means being positive and confident. You are aware that you are a worthy person with your own special gifts. You think for yourself and express your own ideas. You know what you stand for and what you won't stand for. You expect respect.
We welcome Samantha (‘Sam’) as the new teacher in Upper Primary, Jarrah Class. She is keen to get to know the children and is settling in very well. Many of the parents and children met Sam at the end of last year before school finished.

There have been some minor changes for staff – Madhu is now full-time Education Assistant in Melaleuca with Tess and Ashlea is part-time Education Assistant in Boronia. We are very pleased to have Rachael continue on as PE Teacher this year too!

**School Policies:**

Last term the following policies were reviewed and revised:

- DC02 Excursions Policy
- HW04 Allergies and Anaphylaxis Policy
- SP09 Observations Policy
- SP11 Pupil-Free Days Policy

Please feel welcome to view them in the Parent Library in the office.

**Uniforms:**

Parents please be aware of our school uniform policy, particularly in relation to shoes. The children need to wear shoes they can run in. Sandals can be worn but they must have an ankle strap. We do not allow brightly coloured shoes such as fluro colours, nor bold logos. We do not require them to be black, brown or blue specifically but do insist they are not too brightly coloured. If you are unsure, check with your classroom teacher.

**Art Class:**

We need to inform you we will no longer hold Art Classes after school. Judith is busy with other commitments such as illustrating children’s books and as the number of children attending the Art Class has dropped quite low, the need does not seem to be there. We thank Judith for the many years she has shared her expertise with us. Many might not know Judith organises and publishes our yearbook each year, and provides all our graphic materials for marketing etc. She has offered to continue to do so, for which we will be eternally grateful.

**Shalom House:**

During the holidays Shalom House contacted us to volunteer for any work that needed to be done around the school. Graham welcomed the extra manpower and a team of men came to the school last week. We thank them for their time and initiative, it was very timely and appreciated.
From the Principal’s desk.

Slalom Kayaking:
In this newsletter you will see an advertisement for the Ascot Slalom Program. We are delighted to remind you that the Olympian (2012), Robin Jeffery was a former student of Riverlands. He competed in the canoe slalom event, so we are keen to encourage any future sportsmen or women by advertising sporting groups such as this.

Surveys:
Thank you to everyone who responded to our Parent Survey, we had a 66% response which is deemed very high by research standards. Over the course of the next few newsletters we will provide information that has been prompted by some of your responses.

We are delighted to report that 94% of parents who responded are satisfied with our school. There was a majority of positive comments, thank you, and other constructive criticisms which have caused reflection and together with new proposed ideas, are under consideration.

Did you know ….? 
Our school provides more ways than most schools for you to be informed regarding your child’s progress at school. We ask that you see the list below and take advantage of what we offer and engage in at least some of these events so you can see firsthand how your child is progressing through the years:

- **Progress Afternoon/Evening** (these are held twice a year, the children come with their parents to their classroom and show them the work they have been doing, either by looking at their workbooks or being given lessons, as is often the case in Children’s House!)
- **Parent Teacher Interviews** – held twice each year.
- **School Reports** – distributed at the end of each semester.
- **Observations** – there is an expectation that each parent will observe their child in their classroom for 30 minutes, at least twice a year. These observations are booked in through the office.
- **Informal interviews** – parents can request a meeting with their class teacher at any time to discuss their child’s progress. These can be arranged directly with the teacher or through the office.
- **Informal communications** – teachers provide their school email addresses to parents so they can contact them directly, or parents can request a phone call to discuss their child’s progress.

Calendar:
Please check the calendar that is attached to this newsletter. Some minor changes have been made e.g. Summer Markets, Quiz Night. We suggest that as each newsletter comes out, the calendar goes on your noticeboard (fridge?) at home. We work hard to avoid calendar changes but at times they are unavoidable.

P & F:
The AGM is at Ugly Duckling Wines on 21st February, always a wonderful venue! We are in need of nominations for office bearers this year, no pressure if you come, but please give it your careful consideration.

Ineke Oliver
Principal
P & F Sausage Sizzle
Sunday 19th March
Bunnings Malaga

Help Needed

RIVERLANDS P AND F
AGM 2017

Let’s celebrate our successes and discuss exciting plans for 2017!

Nominations for a Position on the P and F executive team can also be given during this time

Ugly Duckling Wines
7790 West Swan Rd
West Swan

Tuesday 21st of February 2017
7pm
wine and nibbles provided

R.S.V.P.
to Cassandra - cass_1982au@yahoo.com.au
By Friday 17th of February
PARENT SUPPORT HOURS JOBS

- **Office work** - we have a few jobs in the office including binding.

- **A-Frames** - Looking for a parent who can spare a few minutes once a week to update the A-Frame. Can be done at drop off time.

- **Reading program** - parents who can spare a small amount of time once or twice a week to exchange the reading books, Lower Primary and Upper Primary classes need assistance.

- **Gumnut Class** - Our afternoon program room, Gumnut, is in need of reorganising and we need parent help to make this happen.

Remember you save $140.00 every term by putting in 4 hours work each term towards school. This can be done in one go or on a weekly basis. Whichever suits you. There is something available for everyone. Just ask!
**Slalom Paddle Passport**

**Ascot Kayak Club**
Faunleroy Ave, Garvey Park

**Term One**  
**8 Week Course**

**Wednesdays 4.30-6.00PM Starting 15 Feb**

If you are looking for a sport with a difference for your child... a sport that promotes resilience and a connection with the outdoors and the river, then slalom kayaking is it! This course is perfect for those who have attended our Intro Weekend or for those just starting out. Experienced slalom paddlers will teach the basic skills of flat water and slalom paddling. Suitable for boys and girls aged 10+ who can swim 50 metres and like a bit of adventure! Come and join us and the great club atmosphere at Ascot Kayak Club! Boats and equipment provided.

Enquiries to Jenny Vogel 0427 449 824.

Register now at ascot.canos.org.au/club-activities Junior Slalom Program.
FREE, FUN PROGRAM FOR KIDS

A program for children aged 7-13 years who are above their healthy weight and their parents and carers.

PLACES ARE LIMITED! REGISTER NOW!

Call us: 1300 822 953
Text us: 0409 745 645
Online: www.betterhealthprogram.org
Message us: Better Health Company

What is the Better Health Program?
The Better Health Program is a fun, interactive 10 week healthy lifestyle program for families. In a supportive and friendly environment, the program covers information about healthy eating and includes an hour of physical activity at every session! Sessions run twice a week, for 2 hours.

Children build confidence, boost self-esteem and get fit playing fun games, while parents learn new skills to ensure their children are fit and healthy.

The best part about the program is that it’s FREE!

Programs run every school term at various locations. Contact 1300 822 953 to find your local program!
CoderDojo
Altone Library

Global, volunteer led, coding clubs for young people.

Collaborative, youth centric & fun!

The Altone Library CoderDojo is a club for self-motivated young people to learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and explore technology in an informal and creative environment with the aid of both mentors and each other.

Suitable for ages 7 - 17

Parents are welcome to get involved.

Participants are encouraged to bring a device (a laptop is preferred).

A limited number of devices will be available for those without.

Venue Altone Public Library

Day Every Tuesday
(during the school term)

Time 3.30pm - 5pm

Phone 9207 8585

www.swan.wa.gov.au/library

Altone Park Public Library | 332 Benara Road, Beechboro WA 6063
9207 8585 | altone.library@swan.wa.gov.au

Free, open and inclusive, always!

Developing coding skills and more...
YOUR RURAL PLACE

THE CITY OF SWAN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SWAN VALLEY ROTARY CLUB, PRESENT

SWAN VALLEY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

FINDING DORY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BASKERVILLE OVAL, MEMORIAL AVE

RATED PG

Enjoy a movie night under the stars in the Swan Valley with family, friends and neighbours!

Gates open 5.30pm, movie commences at approximately 7pm. There will be a gourmet sausage sizzle available from the Rotary Club Swan Valley, as well as coffee and ice cream on sale!

BYO picnic blankets and low back chairs.

Support your local community groups providing food and entertainment. This is a smoke and alcohol free event. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.