From The Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to the new school year. We have got off to an excellent start with staffing complete and all children assigned to a class. Thank you for preparing your children to attend school in school uniform and with most children wearing a school hat. I sent a few reminders out earlier in the form of a flyer, I reminded parents about the staff car park, hats etc. If you did not see this flyer please collect one from the front office.

Welcome to new staff;
- Mrs Michelle Wenzel, Pre Primary teacher.
- Mr Jamie Polich, Special Projects teacher.
- Mrs Lisa Armstrong, School Nurse.
- Mr Jeremy Ricciardi, School Psychologist.
- Ms Lisa O’Shaughnessy, Year 6-7 Teacher and teacher support.

A particular welcome to new families and an invitation to participate in school life, either through membership of the P & C Association or as parent helpers around the classrooms. All parents are welcome to have on going contact with the school and to support the students through your engagement in the events associated with the school.

This is an opportune time to remind you all about the Australian Governments Education Tax Refund (ETR). The ETR helps eligible parents, (Those in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A), with out of pocket education expenses, providing help with tax refunds of up to $409 per primary school student. On top of the regular items such as, computers, home internet connections, textbooks and stationery, new charges mean that parents are now able to claim school-approved uniforms including hats, footwear and sports uniforms. Start keeping receipts for school uniform items purchased from 1st July 2011 so you can include them as part of your 2011/12 ETR claim.

This is a significant change that stands to benefit dozens of families in the Swan View area. The ETR is claimed in an individuals tax return or it can be claimed on the ETR refund for individuals claim form available from the ATO.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the cleaners and the school gardener during the holidays. Bernie, Margaret, Jean, Juanita, Rosie and Colin have done a marvellous job preparing the rooms and the grounds for our return.

Have a wonderful year.
Cheers Marg.
Welcome to the Library Resource Centre (LRC).
Things are well underway in the LRC for a great year.
I will be talking to all the Yr 1-7 students about some authors and illustrators who will be at the *Perth Writers’ Festival* on Sunday 26th February.
PLEASE pencil the date in and take your children to this FREE event. On Sunday 26th February from 9.30—4.30 authors and illustrators such as Sally Murphy, James Roy, Mark Greenwood, Frane Lessac, Carole Wilkinson and Leigh Hobbs will be running sessions that you and your child would really enjoy.
The program for the Festival is in the library, so please come and get one and I’ll see you there.

YOUNG WRITERS’ CONTEST.
Please encourage your children to enter the Young Writers’ Contest. The entry must not exceed 1500 words. The contest closes on Wednesday June 27th, 2012. It may be poetry or prose and the age groups are Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6, and Year 7.
Entry forms are available from the school library and each entry must be signed by the student’s class teacher.

Helen McGinniss and Claire Brockway
Library Resource Centre Staff

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Helping your child with maths at home.

### Learning times tables
Knowing your tables is very important

Did you know there are many ways to learn them?
**Chant them, sing them, use flashcards, say and write them over and over again!**

This is the traditional way of learning tables—and works for some children. However, there are 144 facts to remember and that needs a good memory.

### Another way is to find quick and easy ways to calculate the tables.

**Doubling** is a useful skill. The 2 times tables, is in fact, just that—double the 1s.

Did you know that the 4 times table is just double the 2s? So if $2 \times 6 = 12$ then $4 \times 6$ must be double 12, that is 24.
Also the 8 times tables is double the 4 times table.
So $8 \times 6$ must be double 24, that is 48.

**Halving** can also be a useful skill. The five times table is half the 10 times table, so if $8 \times 10 = 80$ then $8 \times 5$ must be half of 80, that is 40.
P & C News

Welcome back staff, students, parents/caregivers. We hope you all had a great holiday and are ready for an exciting year! Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st Feb at 7.30pm in the staffroom. All office bearer positions will be voted for on the night. The office bearer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Come and join a committed and friendly group of parents and community members who are excited about supporting our students and our school. Membership fee is $1.00, tea/coffee and a great atmosphere are free! For further information regarding the AGM, office bearer positions or any other P & C related enquiries please contact Jo Barnes 0403 849 756, or Amanda Kerrison 0438 911 138. Nominations forms are at the office.

Canteen

**HOW TO ORDER** Menus are available from the canteen. Choose from daily specials or the everyday menu. Write recess and lunch orders on one bag be sure to include student name and room number. Place money in the bag and fold down and bring it to the canteen. Lunch bags can be purchased from the canteen 20 for $1.00.

**VOLUNTEERS**
Thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped up for another great year in the canteen. I still need a few to fill some gaps in the roster. One day a month equates to two days a term or I’m also offering half days once a fortnight. 8.30 - 11.15am (recess) or 11.30-1.30 (lunch). All we ask is that you wear closed in shoes. Morning tea and/or lunch is provided.
Call Teresa on 9294 3347 or 0409 107 978

School Banking

We are now up and running and the school banking will be every Thursday in the Library between 8am - 9am. So start saving all those pennies to put into your account this year.
If you would like to start up a new account please don’t hesitate to come and talk to me. All new accounts can now be done at your local branch or through your local school. The children look forward to doing their banking each week as they can see all the money they are saving and look forward to receiving gifts for ten tokens or more. Great new rewards available for term 1.

We are desperately seeking volunteers to run school banking. You’ll be provided with all the support that you require. This could be a shared position.

Amanda Kerrison School Banking Officer

Uniform Shop

We are seeking volunteers to help run the uniform shop. Opening times and days are negotiable and full support will be provided.

Polo shirts have been ordered and are expected to arrived mid to late March. The adult size basketball shorts have arrived.
YEAR 7 ROTTNEST CAMP FUNDRAISING

We are again going to hold school sausage sizzles each term on Mondays when the canteen is not open to raise funds for the Year 7 students to go on camp to Rottnest later on in the year. This was a very successful fundraising event last year and a total of over $3000.00 profit was made. This term sausage sizzles will be held on the following dates:

Monday February 27th, Monday March 19th, Monday April 2nd.

Please make a note of these dates in your diary and support this very important fundraiser. Remember when your child is in Year 7 he or she will also benefit from fundraisers such as this one.

Next week I will be sending a note home to our Year 7 students asking for parent volunteers who may be able to help with the cooking of the sausages on the Monday. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thankyou in anticipation for your support.

Ross Tompkins
Deputy Principal

Italian News

Buongiorno! Signorina Russo (Prof) would like to inform all families that a FREE Italian event is coming up at the Tuscany Association in Balcatta on Saturday, 18th February.

Since February is the time for CARNEVALE in Italy the organisers of this special event hope to give the families of Perth a little glimpse of what the traditional Carnival of Venice is all about...masks, costumes, music, food and fun!

The children are encouraged to wear a mask and costume, which students may wish to make with the help of a family member. There are prizes for the best mask and costume but it is not an obligation to wear one. Families can simply go along to this FREE event, watch the parade, learn a recipe or two and enjoy the festivities of the day..

This is a great cultural event that allows us all to learn about the famous masks and characters of Venice, so I urge all families to make an effort to attend. It will be held at the Tuscany Association at 100 Jones St. Balcatta. The event starts at 2pm and is FREE!

If you wish to stay for the BBQ and live music which begins at 6.30pm, there will be a cost of $20 per person for the food & entertainment.

I hope to see many of my students and their families there on the day!.

Signorina Russo