Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

Last week, we held school elections for our 2012 Student Councillors. Our Year 7 students had to write and then present their election speeches to an audience of Year 4 to 7 students. A student election was held following the speeches. I had the pleasure of listening to our Year 7’s and commend them on their confidence and persuasive ability. I am so proud of you all.

Congratulations to:
Chelsea Batty, Sarah Smit,
Taylor Slater, T.K. Ndabambi,
Petra Gannaway, Jack Elsdon,
Calib MacArthur and Matt Harvey who were elected as councillors for this year.

To take part in Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 4th March) all classes took on the environmental challenge to clean up our school last Friday afternoon. All classes were given an area of the school to clean up. They then brought the rubbish to the covered assembly area, weighed it and classified it. We had lots of plastics—recyclable/non recyclable, paper, metal and even some wood! I hope that you all enjoy our photos on page 4 of the newsletter.

Mathletics is up and running again and all children can log in to Mathletics at home using their student password. Our P&C has part funded this wonderful resource this year (50% school, 50% P&C) and I thank them for their support.

Our first P&C Meeting for the year will be held in the Staffroom on Wednesday 14th March at 7.00pm. All parents are welcome to join us.

Diane Greenaway - PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL SECURITY
We ask parents to ring School Security on 1800 177 777 if you see suspicious activity after school hours.
Please help us look after our school.
**WANTED**
The Art Room is in desperate need of old towels or tea towels. We would also love any old shorts for students to wear as art shirts.

**VOLUNTEERS!**
Our Garden Shed is in need of constant tidying—Is there anyone out there who could help on Wednesdays or Thursdays? If you are interested please see Mr Gear as soon as possible.

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**English…hard….?????**
To help with the planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

I spent last evening evening out a pile of dirt with a shovel.

English can be quite a complicated language to learn, with many components. One of the basic parts which needs constant practice is reading.

Reading for information and reading for pleasure are two kinds of reading our children need to be encouraged to practise.

2012 has received the title The Year of Reading and in many libraries activities have been organized to interest people into reading more and making different choices of reading materials for adults and children.

Our local library is in Strelizia Ave. Take some time and give them a visit…and encourage your children to be regular borrowers.

Leone Schreuders Literacy Coordinator

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**Everyday at School Matters**
Although students must be present and engaged to learn, thousands of this country’s youngest students are academically at-risk because of extended absences when they first start school. Nationally, an estimated one in 10 kindergarten and Year One students are chronically absent (i.e. miss nearly a month or more of school over the course of a year). Absenteeism in the early years of schooling can reach even higher levels in particular schools and districts. The good news is that chronic early absence can be significantly reduced when schools, communities and families join together to monitor and promote attendance, as well as to identify and address the factors that prevent young students from attending school every day.

A new study commissioned by Attendance Works suggests that attendance in the early grades is critical to sustaining the school readiness skills that preschool programs can help children develop. This study examined the progress of 640 young children where research has consistently shown a strong correlation between a high score on their local school readiness assessment measure and third grade reading proficiency. But students who arrived at school academically ready to learn—but then missed 10 percent of their kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year One scored, on average, 60 points below similar students with good attendance on National Assessment reading tests. In math, the gap was nearly 100 points.

This research proves that the best education you can give your children is to make sure they attend every day.

Janine Mason Deputy Principal

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**Parents Information**
**Asthma and your child at school**
Open communication with staff at your child’s school will help the school provide a safe and supportive environment for your child with asthma.

**Ways to work with your child’s school to manage asthma…**
Please make sure that your child’s school is provided with an Asthma Action Plan. An Asthma Action Plan should be reviewed regularly by your child’s doctor, and the school notified of any changes. An Asthma Action plan can also include information for the school if your child requires asthma medications prior to sport or at any other time during school hours.

Ensure that your child has their blue reliever puffer and a spacer with them at school, or that this is kept in a place where the child can access it.

Discuss with your child what their early asthma symptoms might be, and help them to feel comfortable asking teachers for assistance if they are having asthma symptoms. If your child is having difficulty recognizing symptoms or using his or her medications, please call the Asthma Foundation of WA on 1800 645 130 to arrange free asthma education. For further information please contact the Asthma Child and Adolescent Program Coordinator on (08) 9289 3639, or afs@asthmawa.org.au.
ROOM 2’S PARENT ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to Room 2 on a fantastic class assembly.

Their recitals of 6 poems by Kenn Nesbitt including “My Teacher Took My Ipod” & “Our Teacher's Multi Talented”. The students dressed with ties and wore nerdy glasses.

Our music teacher, Mr Paul Borbas, led the school with “A Sailor went to Sea”, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students. A special mention to Sean Mandizuidza, who demonstrated the actions to accompany the song.

TED visited again to present Virtues Certificates to the worthy recipients. Congratulation to those winners, plus the winners of Honour Certificates.

Please join us at our next Student Assembly on Wednesday 14th March. All welcome.

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WRITER OF THE MONTH

This month the topic for Writer of the Month was poetry. The children’s efforts are on display in the foyer.

Congratulations to the following people for the effort you put into your writing.

**Writer of the Month and Runner-up achievers.**

Room 1 Jack Elsdon and Calib MacArthur
Room 2 Michael Russell and Zachary Purtle
Room 4 Sian Lopez and Hayley Willmott
Room 9 Giada Masino and Dylan Harvey
Room 12 Blake Godfrey and Halle–Rose Abraham
Room 13 Elizabeth Milson and Ella McIntosh

Leone Schreuders Literacy Coordinator
As climate change continues to affect the amount of rainfall we receive, we can no longer rely on rainfall to charge our dams and ground water storage. This is why the Water Corporation is developing water sources, like desalination, that will not rely on rainfall in the future. As a community, we too are doing our best to teach our children to conserve our most precious resource. You can do your bit by using a Water Corporation endorsed Waterwise Specialist wherever possible. Our Waterwise Specialists have been trained in the latest water saving techniques and can help you save water and money. Call 13 10 39 or visit www.watercorporation.com.au to find a Waterwise Specialist.

Reinforce the public nature of the Internet and let your adolescent know you will supervise online activity.

Kalamunda Kickboxing and Martial Arts Centre: Promotes the responsible teachings of karate in an environment that encourages self-confidence, discipline, respect and focus. Call Murray 0430 963 034