Dear Parents,

Here we are at the first day of Summer and we have had a lovely lead into it with pleasant weather which the students have enjoyed at recess and lunch time. Generally speaking the playground behaviour has been very positive so we would like it to remain this way until the end of the year. Please keep your child at school and remind them to finish off well by being respectful and diligent in their practices.

Student Council Elections
The school held the Student Council elections for 2017 yesterday with each candidate given an opportunity to present an election speech. Thankfully we had no Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton type comments so all went very well. Actually the speeches were delivered with sincerity and polish with every now and then, a show of humour.

I was extremely proud of the way the students conducted themselves. The audience was also very respectful and attentive. Thanks to Mr Goldsmith for managing the election process. The Australian Election Commission could use his expertise! The new councillors will be announced tomorrow at the assembly and badges will be presented at the final assembly.

Interschool Athletics
Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Interschool Athletics Carnival held last Thursday. In the junior carnival our school was victorious which was a great result and our senior team were third. The hard work put into the training helped in the team games where we performed very well indeed.

Special thanks to Phil Dawson, Chelsey Norman, Jenny Jay and particularly Ben Goldsmith and Deidre Jones for putting in a lot of work to ensure our team was ready. Also thanks to Kym Quartermain, Marnie Brueker and Barry Evans for assisting throughout the day. Much appreciated.

Book Lists
Booklists went out last week. Please ensure you do buy quality items as you head into next year as these items last longer and are more effective in the classroom. We have deliberately gone with a local supplier who has tried very hard to support our school by providing us with a reduced workload and financial support (through commission). Please support them and the school and make it easy on yourself.

School Council
The School Council held its final meeting for the year on Monday night. We reflected on a very positive year while also discussing planning for 2017-18. I also went through the type of data that the school uses to review NAPLAN and other data which is used in this planning. The Council is a very important forum in our school.
Secondary School Orientation
The Year 6s have their orientation day tomorrow and then on Monday, the combined year 6 disco at Flinders Park. Details of these activities have gone home in special notes to parents.

Conclusion
Enjoy the forthcoming weekend. We’re closing in on Christmas! Wow!

Regards,
Brian Lee
Principal

School Council News

At our final School Council meeting of the year we, as ever, discussed a good range of issues relating to the school and its improvement; this included an introduction to the newly revamped sustainability strategy (Thanks Mr Murray). Mr Lee also shared with the School Council how the school is making progress in its Literacy and Numeracy strategy, which has been evidenced by the national standardised NAPLAN tests. It’s great to see that Albany Primary School has moved into the excellent category of being High Achieving & High Improvement for all the NAPLAN domains (of: Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation, and Numeracy). As we discussed the data, its clear to see the teaching team have committed to using this data for even further targeted improvements that will feature in the next business planning cycle.

Darren Kay.

P&C News

Monday 5 December is international volunteer’s day and what a great opportunity to make a special mention of all our volunteer office bearers, executive members and coordinators for 2016. These people have all done an amazing job in keeping the P&C running smoothly in 2016. A HUGE thank you to Leesa Savage, Michelle Gust, Noreen Les, Sharnee Clothier, Joanne Orr; Denise Kay, Rowena Metelaaras, Michelle McGregor and Brian Lee.

We also extend a BIG THANK YOU to our P&C members who attend meetings regularly and gave freely of their own time, these people and other community minded individuals helped with many P&C endeavours in 2016. This includes Uniform Shop and Canteen volunteers who without you, these services would not continue. We applaud you for your efforts. Together you have all helped to make Albany Primary School a great place for our children.

The small Coin Fundraiser finishes tomorrow (Friday 2 December at 9am) If you have any loose change now is your last chance to add it to your classroom tally. At the end of last week Room 11 was in the lead followed closely by room 7 and trailing behind was room 10. The Prize is a sausage sizzle lunch with juice box (special dietary requirements will be met). The winner will be announced tomorrow. Good luck everyone.

Julie Brooks
P&C President
Back to School time
This can be an emotional and stressful time for you and your child, particularly if they are going to school for the first time. It is important to be well prepared. Financial Counselling may help to relieve current or potential financial stress and may assist with strategies for meeting costs of school camps and other large expenses. Anglicare WA provides a free, independent, confidential and fully qualified Financial Counselling Service. Phone 98456666 for an appointment.