



# Aspire to achieve together

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## Principal's Words

Welcome to our latest edition of the Aspiri Primary School newsletter.

We have lots of important and informative messages in this edition of our newsletter and I urge you to read it carefully and share it widely.

Recently our Community Consultation Group held our term one meeting and we undertook an exercise designed to provide the school with up to date and relevant feedback. We conducted a "Pluses / Minuses and Interesting" task which revealed some interesting key points with the Group indicating that, overall our community is very happy with the setup and aesthetics of our school and its management. The group identified some areas of concern, mainly centred around pedestrian safety and ongoing construction works as well as drop off and pickup processes in place. We also received feedback about some interesting elements of our school such as Communication processes, the opportunities for community support and parent help, the positives of our diversity, Mr Morgan in the playground and logo and uniform design which is universally accepted as a real positive.

I think, overall we are all very happy with the start to our school year, but I must remind everyone that we cannot rest. The drive for improvement must be continuous and the care and concern for our students at the forefront of all that we do. We have additional Community Consultation Group meetings scheduled throughout the year and I urge you to consider attending.

## Gates Locked

Parents will have noted that our gates are locked from around 9 am each day until approximately 2.30 pm. This is for the benefit of our students as some remain prone to running away and we wish to control the movement of visitors to our site.

If you are visiting the school during the day, please ring the bell by pushing the button located on the fence nearest the building and a member of our Administration team will let you in. We then ask that you come to the Administration Office so that we can provide the assistance you require.

## Enrolments for 2019

Enrolments for students for 2019 are now open. We will be enrolling students in all year groups ( Kindergarten to Year 6). Please contact our friendly Administration team for assistance and enrolment forms. Please feel free to share this information with family and friends. You can call the school on 93978300 for assistance. Enrolment forms are also available on the website: <http://aspirips.wa.edu.au/>

## Short Absences during term

Cold and Flu season is approaching. It is preferable that your child attends school every day and in the case of Pre Primary onwards, it is compulsory. As the Principal, I am responsible for knowing where each child is on every day of the school year. We realise that there are occasions, such as due to illness or urgent family reasons that your child cannot or should not attend school. If this is only for a short time, for example one or two days, please let us know by telephone, email/or letter on the day. We will then mark on our electronic attendance systems the appropriate notation that matches the absence. If you do not contact us it is likely that you will receive an SMS reminder from school asking you school to provide a suitable reason.

## Long Absences during the school term

Given the multi-cultural nature of our school it is acknowledged that families may need to take extended leave from school during the school term for family and cultural reasons, particularly if this includes a return to countries other than Australia. In this instance families must contact the Principal, Mr Morgan or our Associate Principal, Ms Evans in writing to provide a suitable reason for the impending absence. In nearly every instance your personal circumstances and those surrounding the nature of the trip will be acknowledged and the absence authorised. If you travel without advising the school, your child's absences will be marked as "Unexplained" and this will result in further action by the school or the Department of Education. So we urge everyone to limit these absences if at all possible, but if they are necessary, simply let us know in advance where possible.

## Uniform Jackets and Hats

Hats are now available from the Uniform Concepts store located in Yampi Way, Willetton. If you had a pre-ordered hat it will be available from your classroom teacher. Winter jackets are expected to be in store by April 6.

## Pedestrian Traffic

Can we please ask that everyone coming to and departing our wonderful school please use the footpaths and avoid walking in or around the vehicle access points and middle of the carparks. This is very dangerous, particularly in peak times in the morning and afternoon. It is also a very good skill to teach your children for the times they are not in your company and under your direct supervision. Ms Evans and Mr Morgan will be in the carpark during these busy times reminding you of the need to be careful and vigilant. The results of children versus vehicle accidents never end well for our children, so we are particularly keen for this to be a concerted effort at prevention now and into the future.

See you at the gate,  
Noel Morgan Principal



## Associate Principal's Words

### Parents and Community Association (P & C)

P & C Associations promote community engagement between parents and the school through opportunities to participate in a variety of activities and events. They also provide financial assistance to the school through contributions to a variety of projects, such as fundraisers and annual events.

Aspiri Primary School is looking for expressions of interest (EOI) from parents and community members who wish to become members of our P & C.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month during a school term, at 1.40pm in the school staffroom.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Aspiri P & C Association, please email your details to [sheri.evans@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:sheri.evans@education.wa.edu.au).

### Pick up and home time

Many of you will have noticed that we have established a routine of parents and caregivers waiting under the administration office verandah when picking up your children each afternoon. This may seem like a trivial request but there are many benefits for your child, their teacher and yourselves.

The benefits of this process follow;

- Children are less likely to be distracted and more likely to be able to listen to and follow the instructions by the teacher
- Teachers are able to ensure that your child has everything they need to take home and nothing is left behind (we have had no lost property yet which is a miracle!)
- Children are building their levels of independence – learning how to care for and pack their own bag, and close it to keep their belongings safely inside
- Your child is completely ready for you to collect and you are able to leave the school grounds as quickly as you like

The last 10 minutes of the school day is a very hectic time for our teachers and your children. There are many messages and notes to go out, lunchboxes, drink bottles and hats to be collected and everything needs to be packed into their bag.

Young children are very easily distracted, so the presence of a parent waiting outside or peering in the window of the classroom can be enough to distract not only your child, but many other children around them. We thank you for your ongoing cooperation and hope that the points above explain why this process supports the values of the school.

### Every Minute Counts! Every Day Counts!

We would like to congratulate parents and children on their efforts to arrive at school on time in the morning. We have been very impressed with the commitment and punctuality of our community and all of our classes have been able to develop strong morning routines that maximise learning opportunities.

### Congratulations to Mrs Letton!

We are very excited to announce that Mrs Letton will be having a baby boy! However, unfortunately this will mean that she will not be with us in the second semester of this year. As always, we have extremely high standards when employing our teachers and can ensure you that we already have processes underway to select the best possible replacement.

### See-Saw Classroom Communication

Our main way for communication between teachers and parents is via the teachers department email, phone calls, notes and daily conversations. Important information will always be communicated through these mediums.

However, we offer the option for parents to use the See-Saw APP as an additional information source. The See-Saw APP is one way our teachers will communicate with you. It is a medium for the classroom teacher to provide information, videos and work samples of your child's academic progress and educational journey. Each teacher spoke about this APP and its use during the parent/teacher evenings.

If you would like to receive information, work samples and videos of your child's educational journey and you have not already downloaded the APP and provided your email address to the classroom teacher, you should do so as soon as possible.

### Parents in Partnership (PIP)

We are so excited to announce the beginning of our Parents in Partnership Program (PIP). This program offers parents and volunteers the opportunity to be involved in preparing and covering resources for our new school, as well as meeting other parents, community members and volunteers.

PIP runs every Thursday from 8:40 – 10:30am in the staffroom. Volunteers will help with covering books for the library and making, cutting and laminating resources for the classrooms. Volunteers can attend regularly or 'drop-in' occasionally, staying for a little while or the whole session.

Toddlers are welcome, but you will need to bring their own toys or activities to keep them entertained. School resources, books and puzzles should not be used during this time by toddlers.



Sheri Evans  
Associate Principal

## Every minute counts!

<b>8:30 am</b>	Your child has arrived in time to settle well and has the best start possible. You will have time to settle your child and give any messages to the teacher.
<b>8:40 am</b>	Your child has arrived just after most children and will need to get organised quickly and enter the classroom quietly. You will not be able to interrupt the teacher or enter the classroom with your child.
<b>8:45 am</b>	Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. Being late a few minutes can be unsettling for your child and they will have missed key messages from the teacher. 5 minutes a day = 3 days a year.
<b>8:50 am</b>	10 mins late a day means 6 lost days a year!
<b>9:00 am</b> – Late note is needed	<b>Arriving at 9:00 am, you will need a late note from the office.</b> Your child is severely disadvantaged having missed the morning routine and revision activities. 20 mins late a day means 12 lost days a year!

## We are excited to announce the launch of our Loose Parts Play for our students!

### What are Loose Parts?

Loose Parts are natural or synthetic items that students will have access to during our play times.

Loose Parts can be –

- ✪ Stumps
- ✪ Fabric
- ✪ Old laptops
- ✪ Pallets
- ✪ Boxes
- ✪ Timber cable reals
- ✪ Logs
- ✪ Crates
- ✪ Old vacuum cleaners
- ✪ Baskets
- ✪ Buckets
- ✪ Rope

Loose Parts are materials that can be moved, lined up, built on/with, carried, redesigned, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. (Let the children play, 2010).

### How do I use Loose Parts in ECE?

It is helpful to think of Loose Parts as something that will inspire children's imagination and creativity on their own terms and in their own unique way (Penn State Extension, n.d). Children won't always use equipment the way the adult world expects them to, which is where the magic happens. There is no Right or Wrong in Loose Parts Play!

### Why use Loose Parts to support play?

Loose parts can be used in any way the children choose. This gives them ownership over their play and allows them to create structures that are of interest to them. Loose Parts can be adapted and manipulated in many ways and gives children opportunities in learning by building, measuring, creating, sharing, imagining, socialising and problem solving (Let the children play, 2010). Loose Parts play encourages open-ended learning and gives new life to old 'junk'. (Children can use the same item in different ways).

**On Tuesday our students and teachers had a lesson on how to use the loose parts. They had a wonderful time exploring the new materials.**

### Voluntary Contributions and Charges

Thanks to the parents who have already paid the \$60 Voluntary Contribution and \$10 P & C donation. It is greatly appreciated and assists the

school to purchase additional resources for the benefit of your child's education.

On Friday we will be sending home a Statement of Unpaid Billing Items as a reminder and with information about the various payment options available so please check your child's bag for this notice.

### Absentee Procedures

On Friday 16 March the school is introducing an SMS messaging system messageyouSchools. It will be used primarily to notify parents of student absences but may also be used to send out general messages or reminders.

So that you know that the SMS is from Aspiri Primary School we recommend that you put this number in your contacts – 0488 906 174. Please note that this number will not accept phone calls, only text messages.

How does it work? If the school has not been contacted by 9.30am with a reason for a child's absence a text message will be sent at 10.00am. This will then give the opportunity for parents to notify the school by return text message the reason why the child is not at school. Parents can also use the number to send a text message in advance notifying the school that their child will be absent.

As the system relies on mobile phone numbers it is important to notify the school if you have changed your contact details. Please call into Administration or give us a call to advise of any changes.

### Dates to remember

March	
21	Harmony Day
30	Good Friday
April	
2	Easter Monday
3	Easter Tuesday

## **An important message from the Department of Health and Food**

### **Help us hunt for Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)**

A Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) has been detected in the Jandakot industrial area.

This bug is not normally found in Australia, and so we are reaching out to members of the public in the surveillance area to be part of our community response – to start looking to make sure there are no more bugs out there. BMSB is a voracious feeder which affects many plants and often shelters in buildings, machinery and vehicles in huge numbers.

One way to get more eyes on the ground would be to engage school students in the search. Your school is within the surveillance area, and we have a few options for students to be involved:

- Get out in the garden at school or at home, and use a smartphone app called MyPestGuide Reporter to make any reports.
- Reports can also be made by calling the department's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080 or via [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au).
- Pass on the message to mum and dad - get them looking too.
- Make a trap. We have instructions on our website, both in a flyer and video. The process is cheap, simple and fun!
- Making a trap during a science lesson is a great way to also teach students about the impact of unwanted pests, and why we want everyone to look and report anything unusual.

Many thanks in anticipation of your involvement in this important pest response program. Some useful information on how to identify BMSB is below, and also available from our website.

Useful note: BMSB looks similar to native Australian stink bugs but is larger. The white

bands on its antennae are a give-away.

What to look for -

- BMSB are large bugs (12–17mm long) that emit a foul odour when disturbed.
- They are mottle brown coloured, shield shaped, and have five nymph stages that range from less than 3mm to 12mm long.
- The nymphs are orange and black when they first hatch but quickly develop a similar colouration to the adults.
- Eggs are cream to yellow-orange, approximately 1.6mm long, and laid in clusters on the underside of leaves.
- The most effective way to detect Brown marmorated stink bugs is by visually inspecting plants.
- The Brown marmorated stink bug is known to feed on more than 300 hosts, including agricultural crops such as nuts, grains, berries, cotton, citrus, soybean and some ornamental and weed plant species.
- Ornamental trees such as Tree of Heaven, Princess tree, English holly, Magnolia and Chinese pistachio have been observed to be preferential hosts for BMSB.
- Overseas, red sorghum and sunflower are used as trap crops as they are tall, brightly coloured and have seeds that are a good protein source.
- Look for unusual aggregations of stink bugs in or on buildings.
- They are attracted to light, and may be found in areas that are well lit at night.
- They could possibly be found in spider webs near light sources.