Greetings to staff, students, parents and community members and welcome to a brief School Snippet. I have produced a snippet to provide some important community information before next Wednesday’s newsletter.

**CANTEEN RETIREMENT**

Next Friday, 1 March our Canteen Manager, Mrs Pauline Churchill is leaving the canteen. After over a decade of working in the canteen and being an active parent on the school P&C Mrs Churchill has been successful in gaining a place at University – well done Mrs Churchill. The school and P&C would like to celebrate Mrs Churchill’s contribution as canteen manager with a brief assembly to be held at 9am Friday morning, where we will present Mrs Churchill with a small gift of appreciation, as well as recognize her significant contribution to our school. Both staff and parents are asked to provide a small donation to a gift fund if they so wish. Please place any donations in an envelope, clearly marked and place in the letterbox at the front office. Your donations will then be used to purchase a gift. I am sure that we will give Mrs Churchill the recognition she deserves next Friday!!

**STATE ELECTION FUNDRAISER**

A polling booth for the State election will be held in Room 19 and Applecross Senior High School it has been necessary to have a polling booth here. This is a great opportunity to raise some funds for our identified gifted and talented students. All staff work extremely hard to cater for our wide variety of learning needs in the classroom, and over several years we have implemented Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) strategies. This term we are running a junior robotics program using our new Bee Botts, junior primary robots! Miss Cooper will be coordinating this program with input from the teachers when selecting students. The program started this week with four groups of students, about thirty, participating in the program. The focus of the program will change each term and offer a different learning experience. Parents have been notified of the first term students and future students will participate in the program depending on the needs identified. Should you wish to have more information on this program, please don’t hesitate to contact your classroom teacher.

**MATHLETICS/READING EGGS**

The P&C have generously donated money to allow all students from Pre Primary to Year 7 the ability to access the Mathletics and Reading Eggs program from school and at home. Due to the nature of the program, kindergarten students will be able to access the program next year as pre primaries. All staff have provided students with a log on for both programs and most of the logins are the same for Mathletics as last year. Reading Eggs requires a different password. These programs supplement the classroom programs, and as such should be seen as an opportunity for extension, consolidation and remediation, not as a required homework package. Teachers can develop programs tailored to individual and group needs. Please see your child’s classroom teacher if you require further information about the programs. Teachers will be monitoring the use of both programs to gain a further understanding of its value to our students. Once again, thank you to our wonderful P&C for their generous donation to support our teaching program and the students’ learning.

**WELCOME MORNING TEA**

The P&C are holding a welcome morning tea on Wednesday, 6 March at 9am in the staffroom. All families new to our school should have received a personal invite, however we would love to see as many families as possible. If you would like to attend the morning tea, please RSVP to the front office for catering purposes. The P&C will also be requesting a few parents to assist with providing some small items of cakes and slices on the day. I look forward to welcoming our new parents and “old” parents back for 2013.

**JUNIOR PRIMARY EXTENSION**

Last year we conducted a parent survey and received a number of responses. The results of the survey were tabled at the School Board meeting. As a result of some of the parent feedback, we have implemented a Junior Primary Extension Program, catering for our identified gifted and talented students. All staff work extremely hard to cater for our wide variety of learning needs in the classroom, and over several years we have implemented Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) strategies. This term we are running a junior robotics program using our new Bee Botts, junior primary robots! Miss Cooper will be coordinating this program with input from the teachers when selecting students. The program started this week with four groups of students, about thirty, participating in the program. The focus of the program will change each term and offer a different learning experience. Parents have been notified of the first term students and future students will participate in the program depending on the needs identified. Should you wish to have more information on this program, please don’t hesitate to contact your classroom teacher.

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons for Year 6/7 students commence on Monday. All students will travel to Cottesloe Beach as part of the Department of Education’s swimming program. It is invaluable that our kids learn to swim in a variety of situations, not just an enclosed pool. I look forward to the students learning some valuable lessons about beach swimming. While at the beach, the students will be participating in environmental work, and will also be able to see the construction of the Sculpture By The Sea exhibition. On the last Friday the students will participate in the Sculpture By The Sea program.

It has been a great start to the year.

A full newsletter will be published next Wednesday BUT ONLY PUBLISHED ONLINE.

Please remember if you haven’t done so to subscribe to the newsletter on our web page http://www.ardrossps.wa.edu.au/.

Thank you Mr Hill for your outstanding work with our webpage.

Andrew Holmes
Principal