Welcome back to school. I would like to offer a special welcome to our many new students and their families. I am confident that you will find Heckenberg Public School is a warm and friendly and happy place of learning where all students are valued and provided with maximum opportunities for their learning.

2015 has certainly started well. Last week we held our first swimming carnival in many years. The carnival was an amazing success and was thoroughly enjoyed by students, staff and families. We have also launched our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program. Congratulations to all students for being presented with their Yellow Day certificate.

2015 is certainly going to be an exciting year of learning. We are introducing many new innovative teaching and learning practices, which will enhance the learning of all students. Already, teachers are working hard on creating learning spaces that will better prepare our students and move them into the 21st century.

We are also celebrating our 50th birthday this year. I look forward to meeting with our families to plan some exciting events to celebrate this huge milestone. Already we are planning a whole school concert which is sure to showcase the wonderful talents of our students.

I look forward to meeting with many of you at our first parent committee meeting this Friday.

Have a great fortnight.

Liz Van Der Meulen
Principal
SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015

WOW! What an amazing day our school had last Tuesday at Whitlam Leisure Centre. We saw so many super swimmers in their bright colours, braving the deep 50-metre pool to represent their house. School Spirit was at a high with the house captains and vice captains running war cries to cheer on all the swimmers in the pool to the finish line. Congratulations to all students for your participation, enthusiasm and behaviour, all the teachers are extremely proud of you all. A huge thank you to all the parents who attended the carnival and assisted by timekeeping our races in the hot sun. Congratulations to the Arana house for taking out first place at our first swimming carnival in a number of years. Kootingal came in 2nd place, followed by Camira and then Uloola. If you are looking to improve your swimming don’t forget our swim scheme in term 4, which is at a perfect time before our carnival in 2016. If you are looking to enroll your child into regular swimming lessons please contact either:

- Whitlam Leisure Centre on 9600 9333
- Michael Wenden Aquatic & Recreation Centre at Miller on 9607 6598

Miss O’Rourke

Thank you to Miss O’Rourke and all of our wonderful teachers for organising such a wonderful carnival for our school.

YELLOW DAY

Heckenberg Public School launched their Positive Behaviour for Learning program for 2015 last Friday. All students received their special Yellow Day award in recognition of the beginning of their positive behaviour journey. Each fortnight teachers will be explicitly teaching a positive behaviour strategy, we would like to encourage families work together with us to reinforce these expectations with their children.

Week 1 and 2 focus – Be respectful – Be kind to others

Week 3 and 4 focus – Be Respectful – Use appropriate language

Week 5 and 6 focus – Be Safe – Move around in a sensible manner

Week 7 and 8 focus – Be Safe – Keep your hands and feet to yourself

Week 9 and 10 focus – Be a Learner – Be prepared for learning

A copy of the school’s reward and discipline system is attached at the end of this newsletter.

LEADERSHIP INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

Our leadership induction ceremony will be held this Monday 9 February 2015. Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains, House Vice Captains, Student Representative Council members (SRC) and Peer Mediators will all be inducted into our student leadership team. Assembly starts at 2pm in the school hall.
SCHOOL ZONE TRAFFIC

As we start the school year I would like to remind all parents and carers to slow down and take care when dropping off and picking up your child. Our children are our most precious commodities so please take care when driving around our school.

OFFICE CLOTHING POOL

We would appreciate any donations of smaller size school uniforms as our supplies are very low. These clothes are vital for when your child may have an accident eg. wet pants or clothes. If your child has been sent home in a change of clothes, could you please wash and return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

PARENT GROUP – FIRST MEETING

We are looking forward to our first parent group meeting of the year. All parents and carers are invited to come along this Friday morning to share in a cuppa, cake and friendly faces as we make some plans for our school. Please bring along your awesome ideas. We are looking at establishing various committees such as:

- fundraising committee
- Special events fundraising (Mothers Day, Fathers Day etc…)
- Special events coordination (NAIDOC week, Multicultural day, Harmony day etc…)
- BBQ cooks for special events
- School beautification (painting and gardening)
- 50th Birthday committee
- School Planning

Please come along and put your name down onto one of these committees to work with our teachers and help to support our school.

HECKENBERG PUBLIC SCHOOL – OUR SCHOOL VISION

Last year staff, students and parents shared their ideas, hopes and dreams for our school. From these discussions, meetings and surveys we have developed a school vision.

At Heckenberg Public School caring and responsive staff work collaboratively with the community to inspire confident and respectful individuals. We strive for excellence across all areas of school life and encourage resilient, life-long learners in a quality 21st century learning environment.

Our school vision expresses what the whole school community is striving to achieve. Thank you to the parents and carers who came along to our meetings, to those who contributed to surveys and to the students who told us what was important to them. From this school vision we have developed three strategic directions for our school plan.

- Creating exceptional teachers and educational leaders
- Delivering high quality student learning
- Cultivating productive and supportive professional partnerships with our school community

Embedded in each of the strategic directions will be the fostering of the physical, social and emotional well-being of the school community.

Already the teachers are planning exceptional learning experiences for our students. Teachers are creating stimulating learning environments and classroom talk is focused on learning. I am excited to walk into classrooms and see students engaged in their learning and be able to tell me what they are learning, why they are learning it and how they are going. Our students are taking charge of their own learning!
Parents and carers are advised that religious instruction (Scripture) will re-commence in Week 6. Scripture groups offered will be:

- Protestant
- Pentacostal
- Mulsem

At this stage Catholic are not able to provide a teacher for scripture.

Students will be placed in scripture groups according to the information provided upon enrolment. Please notify the school in writing if you wish to make any changes to your child's scripture group.

Students at Heckenberg are Safe, Respectful Learners.

Term 1 Week 3 and 4 focus:
Be Respectful – Use appropriate language

We are fortunate to have the expertise of the regional Reading Recovery trainers at our school. These ladies train all of the reading recovery teachers in our area. You may see them around our school helping to support our Year One students with their reading.

Mrs Beverly Byrne
Mrs Leanne Cahill
Mrs Vanessa Dimitrolou