network principal . . .
Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. We have a number of new staff in our schools and so a very special welcome to them. We have many plans as a network for 2016 and beyond so get on board - let us know your issues and share your strengths.

High Expectations and High Care – Strategic Plan for WA Public Schools 2016-2019 outlines the big picture priorities for the system over the next 4 years. We need to position ourselves as a network to support each other in delivering on these priorities. Success for all students, High quality teaching, Effective Leadership and Strong Governance and Support are all valid focus areas for our schools. The School Leaders group will be unpacking the Focus 2016 Directions document to find how we can identify gaps and work together. We want to hear from staff and parents about what the plans mean to them.

Please have a look through the network schools priorities published in the newsletter, you will see there are a number of areas in common that invite collaboration. I was so pleased to hear our Director General use the term Reciprocity - it has taken a while but I knew it would catch on!

Last year we applied for a More Support for Students with Disabilities (MSSD) grant based upon their suggested areas. We chose mental health but our application was rejected. We will pursue other avenues to work on this vitally important area. We did receive funding of some $12,000 from the South Metro Education Regional Office to look at videoing exemplary Special Education Pedagogy and sharing evidence based teaching practices via classroom observations. An EOI for a project leader has been circulated and at the time of writing the successful candidate has not yet been selected. Stay tuned for an update.

Our Regional Executive Director (RED) Sue Cuneo is our contact person along with Danuta Doherty for all things regional, and Sue is attending our second school leaders meeting of the year. We look forward to working with them now and in the future.

I have been getting some of our staff to try Skype for Business - it has the potential to be really annoying or if used wisely can assist in communications. We really do have a very good system in our department and there is a commitment to improving its capacity in the future.
As with most things techy I find sharing a tip every now and then the best way forward. I often refer to the following webpage for information about ICT in DOE schools - it is very good and I have also saved it in a discussion thread on our Connect Community - Technology in Special Education – Useful link.

http://intranet.det.wa.edu.au/groups/ict/about/ict-COandDEOs.asp

I am sure there are lots of clever staff out there with lots of tips they would like to share - put them on Connect or send a message to the website hosts to add to our links pages.

The promotions group has recently upgraded our website again at www.educationsupportsouthnetwork.com.au and installed a language selector. Please encourage any parent/ caregivers for whom English is a second language to try out the site and select a language. We want our website to be best practice in accessible and inclusive features so let us know if you would like anymore improvements. Don’t forget to subscribe to our Connect Community http://connect.det.wa.edu.au/ and search for our community ESSN. Just click and say which school you work for and I will get back to you as soon as possible. It is not automated.

Please note we had to change our display names for our distribution lists but relax they still work from the old addresses. If you are not on a list please see your Principal. You can easily find the lists by opening the global address list and typing Network into the search bar. All our addresses now are NetworkEducationSupport-JOBTITLE - SouthMetropolitan. For example NetworkEducationSupportPrincipalsSouthMetropolitan is display name for ESSN.principals@education.wa.edu.au and this is the address.

I hope everyone has had highly satisfying term 1 and has a great holiday break. Don’t forget to pencil in the ESSN conference for day 1 Term 3. Enjoy reading the newsletter.

Andrew Wilson

### School Priorities & SDD for 2016

The following are listed for your information. It may encourage schools with the same topic and a similar cohort to join together on topics of mutual interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>SDD</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannington CESC</td>
<td>8 Mar, 26 April, 18 July, 10 Oct, Dec trade off</td>
<td>Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), Person centred planning (PCP), Learning and Teaching (Classroom observations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carson Street</td>
<td>28/29 Jan, 26 April, 1 July, 18 and 19 July, 11 Oct, 16 Dec</td>
<td>PBS, National Quality Standards (NQS), Classroom Observations, Health &amp; Wellbeing, Communication, SEN Reporting, using B squared (for gauging progress of students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockingham Beach</td>
<td>26 April, 27 April, 18 July, 10 Oct</td>
<td>English, Numeracy, Behaviour Management, Social and Emotional Development, Health and Physical Education, Information Technology</td>
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### school priorities & SDD (cont’d) . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>SDD</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canning Vale College</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 19 August, 10 Oct, 16 Dec</td>
<td>Pedagogy good Teaching and Learning, Instructional Rounds linking with primary schools to establish effective K – 12 instructional strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddington</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 10 and 11 October</td>
<td>NQS, PB, Observations and Feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenwick</td>
<td>26 April, 27 April, 18 July, 10 October</td>
<td>PBS, NQS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atwell</td>
<td>26 April, 3 June, 18 July, 11 Nov, 16 Dec</td>
<td>Literacy and numeracy focus, PCP, ABLEWA, Learning Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leeming</td>
<td>26 April, 3 May, 18 July, 10 Oct</td>
<td>Health and Phys-ed, Teaching and Learning, PCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malibu</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 10 October, 16 December</td>
<td>AAC, Literacy, Protective Behaviours, Positive Behaviour Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirrabirra</td>
<td>26 April, 3 June, 18 July, 10 October</td>
<td>Communication (giving each child a voice), TEACCH developing our NQS for quality teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwynne Park</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 19 July, 10 October, 16 Dec</td>
<td>PBS (building on George Sugai), Communication (both low and high tech), Learning technologies, NQS (as a tool to inform practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Vic Park</td>
<td>28 and 29 Jan, 26 April, 18 July, 19 July, 10 October, 16 Dec</td>
<td>Health and well-being (staff and students), classroom observations, communication (enhancing skills using visual supports), Technologies (learning through technologies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolbellup Learning Centre</td>
<td>26 April, 18 and 19 July, 10 October</td>
<td>Learning and Teaching (Classroom/Peer observations) Learning Environments, mental Health, ASD, IPads – ongoing ASD Early Intervention (k/pp) ABLEWA, AAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koorana</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 19 July, 10 Oct, 16 December</td>
<td>Direct instruction, Health and well-being (students and staff), building teacher capacity/classroom observation, leadership/succession planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloverdale</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 29 September, 10 October, 16 December</td>
<td>Communication, Literacy, Community Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armadale</td>
<td>7 June, 18 July, 12 Aug, 21 Nov, 16 Dec</td>
<td>Explicit teaching (CARS and STARS), Direct Instruction, Preliminary English and Mathematics, Prime Maths, Protective behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamunda Primary ESC</td>
<td>26 April, 18 July, 10 Oct, 4 Nov</td>
<td>Behaviour – purpose, communication for all, sensory integration</td>
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Harmony Day is held every year on 21 March. The central message for Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians, respecting each other, their cultures, backgrounds and share what we have in common.

East Victoria Park Primary Schools have students representing over 31 different countries. We celebrated Harmony Day 2016 devoting the entire day to activities related to this central theme of inclusivity.

In the morning we had “Seedlings Assembly” highlighting friendship. We had Wesley “Moorditj Mob” perform an Aboriginal dance to the sounds of the didgeridoo. It was followed by lunch with a variety of international foods brought in by parents. The students decorated the tables in the morning and lunch was enjoyed with parents. Then the students witnessed a Chinese Dragon Dance. The day culminated with a whole centre art lesson with an African theme.

All in all it was a fun day, enjoyed by all students, parents and staff.

By Sheena Patterson
school update. . .
Maddington ESC

Our cooking classes are in full swing!
Cooking provides wonderful opportunities for literacy and numeracy learning and our students have been putting their learning to the test this term. All classes have been involved in making a range of culinary delights – even selling their delicious cupcakes to further enhance independent living skills, language, social and money skills with their primary school peers. Nothing like a sense of achievement to boost students’ self-esteem!

Community Garden Project:
We are full steam ahead on our two garden projects this term. Our Community Garden is well-established and looking very lush with our variety of herbs, fruit and vegetables. Each class is timetabled to look after our Community Garden and enjoy the fruits of their labour whilst in the garden and in their cooking lessons. A dedicated committee of Education Assistants oversee the project, in consultation with our primary school colleagues and our amazing school gardener, John. It is anticipated that all classes from both MPS and MESC will benefit from a range of activities in our Community Garden.

Sensory Garden Project:
We have many students with sensory processing issues and our Sensory Garden aims to support students to use each of their five senses through sensory stimulation and exploratory play. This project is also well underway and led by our amazing Education Assistants on the committee. Set in the existing tranquil garden area, a range of sensory experiences have been placed throughout the garden to provide therapeutic stimulation whilst learning about the environment around them.

Jodie Norwell
school update (cont’d) . . . 

Castlereagh School

Charlie is a Labrador Retriever who visits Castlereagh School each week. He spends time with his handler Sue from Companion Animals visiting each classroom.

Students love a visit from Charlie – they read him stories, pat and care for him. Charlie has been coming to our school for more than three years.

Chinese New Year Celebration Assembly at Castlereagh School

Our Chinese New Year assembly was more than just monkeying around! Teacher Sin Bee Tan organised students to perform the dragon dance and the balloon dance. Our hall was decorated with lanterns and looked like a true Chinese festival.

Harmony Day was celebrated at Castlereagh with an assembly featuring a powerpoint presentation and with many staff and student dressed in either National costume or their best ‘orange’.

A community lunch was shared between students, parents and staff an event that embodies the supportive culture at Castlereagh.
Castlereagh School celebrated St Patrick’s Day in style this year with parents, students and staff taking the opportunity to dress in green and have a good laugh.

Pauline Winrow

Carson Street School—Bike Week

This is always a very popular outing on the Carson Street school calendar. Once again we were joined by Dreamfit who had cycles on display. Landsdale Farm brought their animals for petting, provided tractor rides and WADSA provided some interesting activities. We were grateful to the Town of Victoria Park for providing the sausage sizzle for those in attendance and Kennards Hire who loaned us their large trailer for transporting bikes to and from the venue. Burswood Park management and staff made us very welcome and helped to set up for the day. It was great to include our friends from East Victoria Park ESC this year.

Parents often ask how to obtain an adapted bike suitable to their child and one source of funding is the Variety Freedom Program and information on this program can be found at: https://www.variety.org.au/WA/How-we-help-Variety-freedom/

In addition it has been mentioned that a number of families have had cycles purchased for their child through the NDIS/My Way program. Therefore this might be something worth passing on to interested families?
Leeming Senior High ESC

Bush Ranger Cadet Program

The Leeming SHS ESC Bush Ranger Cadet unit has grown to 92 cadets in 2016 including students from all year levels. This amazing program has been integrated across all learning areas and fits with our ASDAN and Work Skills programs. All of our students are included at their own level and have the opportunity to be a part of challenge camps, ANZAC celebrations and exciting incursions and excursions. As our cadet unit grows so do the opportunities for the cadets as we focus on environmental issues, indigenous culture, first aid and being an integral part of the local community.

In February our Quenda cadet squads participated in a program that celebrated Aboriginal Australia, delivered by Urban Indigenous. Students learned about Culture, Language, Art, Music and Bush tucker.

In March Our Senior Kangaroos Cadet squad continued learning about Aboriginal culture through the program called “Djalgarra Yarning”. Mr Leonard Thorn talked to our Cadets the Nyoongar people’s strong connection with the wetlands and rivers that flow across the Swan Coastal Plain forms the basis for much of their culture, spirituality, and identity. We followed the footsteps of the Nyoongar people to experience first-hand how the resources provided by the land and river were traditionally used and how the seasons dictated their availability and sustainable use.

By Keran Davies
School update . . . (cont’d)

Leeming Senior High School ESC

Sailing on the Swan

Year 12 students at Leeming ESC undertake a Sailing programme at Nedlands Yacht Club on the Swan River. Students have to move their boats onto trailers, carry their sails, attach the boom, attach the tiller ... then, on a trailer push the boat in the water. At this point, no one is in the boat, we still need to get in, or should I say climb in. Wow! Then we sail!

Sailing challenges and stretches every skill to its boundary – team skills, listening skills, problem solving skills, decision making skills, motor skills and so many more. It challenges students to give it a go, to overcome fears and to be brave, core skills for life beyond secondary education. Sailing is experiential learning at its best.

By Keran Davies
Kensington Car Boot Sale

On Saturday March 19th the Kensington P&C ran its annual car Boot Sale. Many thanks to those ESSN schools that advertised the event; it was great to meet several mums from Carson Street! The rain held off, the air was filled with delicious smells, faces were painted and the collection tins rattled. Lots of staff, present and former turned up with and without kids...and many present and former and we hope future students turned up too! We raised $2300+ which we think is great for a small school! We had many donations from a wide range of businesses. So thanks to those businesses and a really big thank you goes to ESSN for supporting Kensington!

Judy Gardner
Kensington Car Boot Sale

[Images of people and items at the car boot sale]