Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As you would be aware it has been a very exciting and busy few weeks at Spalding Primary. It kicked off with an exciting build up to camp last week and then finally camp.

Camp was a huge success and all who attended seemed to have had a great time. It was obviously my first Spalding Primary camp and I believe all students should be very proud in the manner in which they represented themselves and the school. Although very tired at the end of the week I had also thoroughly enjoyed myself, even though as some of the students could tell you, the flying fox at St. Kilda wasn’t all that kind to me. I also believe there was some fantastic learning students were able to take from the experience. Mr. Clark took us for a walk along the Torrens River and taught us about some Aboriginal Kurna culture. I have been on walks such as these several times with Mr. Clark and every time take away some new information. We also learnt of the significant historical importance of the Medina Grand hotel, the most interesting part for students being part of the tunnel which once upon a time spread across King William Road and was used to carry the planning documents for the city of Adelaide.

This week has also been an extremely busy week. We are very lucky to have all new computers in both the JP and UP rooms. With the new computers are a whole range of different programs to enhance student learning. In addition to this we have a very new piece of technology in each room called a ‘visualiser’. A visualiser can show 2D/3D and still/moving objects in large scale immediately up onto your Interactive Whiteboard. It is a highly flexible learning tool that can take photos, videos and allows teachers to capitalise on vital teaching moments as they happen with immediate effect. We believe with the resources we now have in terms of ICT infrastructure that we are at the cutting edge of technology within the classroom. The major benefit obviously being to the students. I would like to acknowledge and thank Paul Tassell. Without him the whole process wouldn’t have been possible. He spent most of Wednesday and Thursday here with the installation and many hours in his own time prior to coming up to Spalding in loading software and preparing the computers.

Next week I’m sure will prove to be just as busy with NAPLAN testing taking place for some of our students. I have written some information on the following page in relation to NAPLAN.

Yours Faithfully,
Ilia Tsoutouras
Home Reading
As you would all know reading is a crucial part of a child’s education. It is fantastic to see our students reading at home. Congratulations to the following students for reading for 50 and 75 nights:

Zack Longbottom
Kartia Czapla

NAPLAN testing
Next Tuesday years 3, 5 and 7 students across the country will begin the NAPLAN assessment. There have been several public discussions in the media regarding the administration of these and how results are used by schools. The assessments are a snapshot of what students can achieve in a short space of time. At Spalding Primary NAPLAN data is used to assist us to focus and set goals and targets for achievement. Like any business or organisation we need to ensure we are doing everything in our power to achieve our goals. NAPLAN in conjunction with other data provides us with information to monitor improvement.

Unfortunately over the past few years media publicity regarding NAPLAN has created unwanted pressure for what is already considered a demanding assessment. In preparation for the three days our students are practising scenarios to ensure they are not overwhelmed when NAPLAN commences. Teachers are also identifying students they feel may be challenged with test conditions and contacting parents to make alternative arrangements. Student wellbeing is more important for improvement. Skills to perform well at NAPLAN is a year long process. Maintaining a strong focus on learning and improving in our targeted areas is the real benchmark of student growth and school success. This is our core business at Spalding Primary School.

NAB AFL AUSKICK
NAB AFL Auskick is an introductory program to the game of Australian Rules Football for primary school boys & girls. The program aims at teaching participants the basic skills of Australian Football with an emphasis on fun activities conducted in a safe and friendly environment.

All boys & girls are welcome. Parents are most welcome to attend and join in and have some fun with the kids. To find out more details about your closest centre and to register log onto www.aflauskick.com.au

Registration forms are also available from school reception.

Hats
Its May so put hour hat away. As per our SunSmart policy students are no longer required to wear hats. We recommend keeping them at home in a safe place for later on in the year (September) when it is time again to be extra cautious about being SunSmart.

SA Public Teaching Awards
Celebrating inspiring teaching.
Nominations are now open for the SA Public Teaching Awards. Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional of the South Australian public education system. The SA Public Teaching Awards aim to recognise and reward dedicated teachers, education leaders and support staff who have made an inspirational contribution to young South Australians. To nominate a member of our school go to:


Read, Read, Read
You taught your baby to eat, you taught your baby to walk and you taught your baby to talk. Keep growing that knowing to help your child to learn to read, by
• looking at the pictures and talking about them
• looking for words all around you
• getting some magnetic letters and making words on the fridge
• looking through the junk mail together
• taking some family photos and making your own book to read.

“Set Your Sights High”
We are currently working on our 2012 edition of the Spalding Primary Camp Booklet, however, we thought in this edition of student corner we would include some photos of our time at camp for you to have a sneak peek. We would also like to thank ‘The Klub’ again for their very kind donation.
Spalding Primary will be participating in Woolworths earn & learn. Last year we received a huge supply of extra resources for our school through this scheme. The format for this year is a little different, this is described below. Attached to your newsletter you will find you sticker cards. Whilst we are not encouraging people to bypass our local IGA, we would appreciate it if you could collect stickers for the school each time you shop at Woolworths.

Simply start collecting stickers at the checkout of your local Woolworths supermarket (self-service too) until July 22nd to place on your child's sticker card. There'll be one sticker for every $10 spent, excluding purchases of liquor, smoking/tobacco products and gift cards. Once completed, simply drop the sticker card into a collection box, either at your school or at your local Woolworths.

If you don’t have any children at school, you can still help support a local school simply by dropping your stickers into one of the collection boxes found at the front of the store.

We can’t wait to help your school earn valuable learning resources - just by shopping at Woolworths. Last year we gave away over $4.5 million worth of resources to more than 6,900 schools that participated across Australia.

“Set Your Sights High”

Australia’s biggest morning tea.

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea is one of Australia’s best-loved fundraising events, and plays a vital role in raising money towards Cancer Council’s work in research, prevention and support.

Spalding Play Centre will be hosting a biggest morning tea on Wednesday 30th May. Please come along and support this with us.

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation towards the cancer council feel free to drop your donation off at the school.

Trish from CAFHS will be visiting Play Centre on Wednesday May 30th.

Kate Harper from Wooden Toy Factory will be at Play Centre on Wednesday 6th, June from 10-12pm. She will have wooden toys on display for purchase.

"Set Your Sights High"