PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome everyone to Albury High School for the 2013 school year and thank you for making it a smooth start so far. It is fantastic to see the new students and Year 7 settling into our school adding their energy and thoughts to the mix.

We have a number of new and temporary staff filling positions this year. They are:

- Mr Toohey: Junior Deputy Principal
- Ms Crozier: Maths
- Ms Love: Languages
- Ms Passalaqua: Visual Arts
- Mr Sheridan: Music
- Mr Spero: Music
- Mrs Ward: Home Economics
- Mr Bulathsinha: Industrial Arts
- Mr Salmon: Science
- Ms Hudson: Social Science
- Ms Newton: English
- Ms Saul: Maths

There are a number of points I would like to highlight at the start of this year. The first is uniform. Albury High School has high expectations in all areas, but especially uniform. There are a number of reasons. First it makes it easy for us to identify our students, which is important in a large school of over 1100 students. This has a flow on effect. Students in uniform are proudly representing the school and are obvious when on excursions, travelling to and from school and in the grounds. Full uniform sends a strong message to our community and its opinion of the school. While a subtle influence, it’s an important one. I am very pleased with the start to this year in this regard. The only area that needs attention for a few students is shoes. They must be black, leather lace up shoes for WH&S reasons. Students out of uniform without a note may be given a lunch time detention.

As part of the school planning process an analysis of our data showed a large number of students who are missing enough days to significantly impact on their learning. Unfortunately a lot of these absences are condoned by parents. Please assist your sons and daughters learning by encouraging them to attend regularly. If there are issues which impact on attendance we would be happy to assist if we can. Another strategy is to limit the number of appointments during school time if possible and schedule major family holidays in the school holiday period if practical.

Already I have been made aware of examples of our students excelling during the holidays. Nathan Mackay being named Albury Young Citizen of the Year and Sam Robinson was Howlong’s Young Citizen of the Year. Sam also received the NSW Police Recognition Award for the second year running, this is the first time in NSW that this has happened. Congratulations to both.

Mr Darryl Ward
Principal

HSC PRELIMINARY COURSES

Each year the school holds a forum evening to outline the protocols and procedures involved with student study in the year 11 preliminary courses. The school had planned to have this evening on February 12th. Having reviewed the last couple of year’s practice with student assessment in this program it has been decided to vary this in 2013. There will not be a forum evening for parents and students this year. Instead we will have the information session for the year 11 group during school time to maximise the delivery of course requirements to ALL students - an assessment booklet will be issued as well. We have found that even though information was presented in booklet form, the information evening only attracted some of the students/parents of the group. A forum evening will be held in October for both students and parents outlining assessment requirements for the HSC year, career options and advice on maximising students’ HSC outcomes. A letter of invitation will be sent home to publicise this evening prior to the event.

Mr Andrew King
Deputy Principal Senior School
YEAR 7 REPORT FROM THE YEAR ADVISER

Whew! Well Year 7, we have survived the first few days of High School. There were some nerves, tension and anxious moments…. and that was just the Year Advisor! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all Year 7 students to AHS. I hope that you make the most of everything that high school life and Albury High has to offer you over the next 6 years.

To the new parents of AHS and to those who have been involved for several years, I look forward to working with you closely in supporting your child through this sometimes difficult, but exciting time in their life. I can be contacted via the school phone number, but the easiest way to get in contact with me is through e-mail. My address is tracey.lee5@det.nsw.edu.au and even if you would like to drop me a line just so that I have your contact details, I will start to build up a Y7 contact list for ease of communication. Please feel free to ask me on the progress of your child, homework issues or to clarify how we do things here at AHS.

There are several upcoming events that will be important for you to remember

- March 13th to 15th – Year 7 Camp to the Great Aussie Holiday Park, Wymah. More details soon
- March 26th Year 7 Forum Night
- Week 7/8 – Year 7 Interim reports sent home

Also, I will try to keep you up to date on upcoming events through our website. Go to this link http://www.albury-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/years and click on Year 7.

I hope 2013 is a fantastic year, and I look forward to working with the Year 7’s and their parents over the coming months.

Mrs Tracey Lee
Yr 7 Year Advisor

FAMILY ADVOCACY
AFTER SCHOOL- WHAT THEN?
Workshops for parents of students in Years 9-12, with learning and developmental disabilities are being offered in Albury on February 19th 2013. The focus of the workshops is on the system of funding and support. It will cover information about how Commonwealth and State Governments provide post school support for young people with a disability. Cost $15 per person and includes morning tea, lunch and resources.

Call Family Advocacy on 1800 620 588 to find out about venue details and registration.

Ms Sharon Borham
Learning and Support Teacher

PARENTS OF YEAR 10
Parents of Year 10 students, please ensure you check the school website for any important dates coming up this year.

Mrs Melissa Albert
Yr 10 Year Advisor

TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
The Talent Development Project will be running workshops to prepare performing arts students for audition from 8th to 10th of April. See Ms Gleeson for more information if you are a singer, musician or songwriter.

Ms Margie Gleeson
CAPA

YEAR 9/10 DEBATING

Last term the Albury High debaters in year 9 competed in a showcase against many other schools in the Riverina region. The debating day was hosted by Charles Sturt University and funded by the NSW DEC Arts Unit. After a few warm-up workshops, our debaters were ready to take to the stage. Georgie Currie, Meg Fruead, Isabelle Kane and Alex Nero had a very successful day, taking on board all of the adjudicators’ feedback. It came down to a close, nail-biting grand final between AHS and Wagga High School. Our debaters can proudly boast about making the big silver trophy theirs! The AHS debaters have made it a tradition to win this prestigious competition; two years in a row now, can we make it three?

Mrs Angelina Dinham
English Teacher

NSW SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM
Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school based vaccination program.

In 2013 the following vaccines will be offered:
- Hepatitis B vaccine for all Yr 7 students who did not receive the 3 doses when they were a baby
- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for all Yr 7 who have not previously received the vaccine or had the disease
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to Yr 7 girls only as a 3 dose course over a six month period

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits plus the one relating to specific child) on the Consent Form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and, for female students only, link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Dates for the clinics at AHS will be on 7th March, 9th May and 21st November.

Mrs Deb Quinn
HT Welfare
AHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Tuesday, February 12th 2013 Venue: Albury Pool

All students make their way straight to the pool for a 9.00am start, unless they are involved in the 8.30am events.

Bus travellers who are unable to get directly to the pool must meet at the back of the AHS hall and walk to the pool under staff supervision.

Schedule for the day:

8.30am - 100m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly events

Students competing in these events need to be at the pool by 8.30am.

8.50am - Roll Call (at the Pool) for ALL students

9.00am - Marshalling for Backstroke events

3.00pm - Carnival will conclude approximately at this time.

Enough time will be allowed for students to walk back to school if they need to catch a bus.

Entry: $3.00 (have correct money please) OR show your season pass (if you have one)

Uniform: It is an outfit of uniform day and students are encouraged to wear their house colours to promote house spirit. Mitchell (green); Murray (red); Hume (yellow); Hovell (blue)

Please note – all AHS students are expected to attend the Swimming Carnival. If a student needs to leave the pool early for any reason, they MUST bring a signed note, clearly stating the reason and a contact phone number. This note must be signed by Mr. Hobson before they leave.

Sunscreen, drinks, protective hats and clothing are a must!

Students gain participation points for their house when they compete in an event – so have fun and get involved.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS

Students and Valuable Items

During PE lessons, it is not practical or appropriate for students to carry valuables with them. There can be up to 180 students involved in PE lessons at any one time, and although change rooms are locked, there are times when students might return up to five minutes earlier than another class to get changed, or students may still be in the toilets after students have left.

While we would prefer that students do not bring valuables to school at all, we do understand that this is sometimes necessary. In recent years we have encouraged students to hand in valuables to their PE teacher for storage in our storeroom safe at the beginning of the lesson. There are often over 60 mobile phone, wallets, ipods etc in this safe.

We supervise the collection of these valuables at the end of the lesson.

To ensure students collect ONLY those valuables that belong to them, it is important that all items are clearly externally engraved or labelled. Alternatively, placing all of their valuables into a clearly labelled snaplock bag was a popular choice last year and made redistribution of items faster and more efficient. We encourage ALL students to use this method to keep their valuables safe and together.

The Department of Education & Communities does not insure student’s valuables at school and therefore students bring them to school at their own risk.

Mr Greg King
Head Teacher, PDHPE

NSW CHS CRICKET CARNIVALS

Albury High School will be represented by Will McIntosh, Chris Bridle, Tom Ellwood and Matt Crawshaw at this state carnival in Penrith next week. The boys will be playing for Riverina, and will be taking on Sydney West, Sydney North and Sydney East in the first three rounds. The boys are in good form, with Will and Chris (East Albury CC) and Tom and Matt (St.Patricks CC) all playing in the local Albury Wodonga Cricket Competition.

Albury High School has a strong connection to this carnival, with the Player of the Carnival award being named after former Albury High student, and current Australian fielding coach Steve Rixon. We look forward to hearing of the boys progress, as they look to be the first Riverina team to win the State Championship since 1997, when Andrew McDonald led his Riverina team to the State Championship.

Tegan Rennie will be representing Riverina at the NSW CHS Girls Carnival in Coffs Harbour in week 4. This will be Tegan’s second year in this team and she has recently returned from the Cricket Australia U18 Championships where she represented the ACT. Tegan plays club cricket with the East Albury CC.

Mr Damian Toohey
Deputy Principal

FALCONS HOCKEY CLUB.

Registration day: Sun 24th Feb 10am – noon
Alexandra Park (Albury Hockey Centre)
New players always welcome.
Email falconshockey@hotmail.com.au
Website: www.falconshockeyalbury.com.au
New u9 teams in 2013

Junior Training (U9 to U16) 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Thursdays (starts March)
Senior Training 6:00 pm to 8pm Thursdays (starts 7th Feb)

HOWLONG NETBALL REGISTRATION

Any girls aged 15 and under who are interested in playing netball on Saturdays with the Howlong Netball Club with pre-season training starting on 14th February from 5.00-6.30pm, please contact Judy after 2.00pm on 0411 958 653.

DRAMA 2013

Drama classes with the Sharyn Hill School of Speech and Drama will be offered from year 7 to year 12, after school at the Albury Public School Hall. Enrolment forms are available on request. Classes involve creative thinking, improvisation, script work, dramatic movement and vocal work developing confident and imaginative individuals through theatre workshops. All groups devise a performance for the end of year production at Hothouse Theatre. Classes have the opportunity to participate in the Albury/Wodonga Sight and Sound Festival.

For further information contact: Sharyn Hill on 6041 3457 or 0411 181 655
The National Youth Science Forum is a fortnight of science and learning about university particularly related to science courses. The Next Step Programs are then held in various capital cities across Australia, allowing NYSF students to visit universities and institutions in the various cities after the 13 day forum in January 2013. The NYSF session A was held from the 7th January until the 13th January 2013. There are 3 sessions in total held during January. Two sessions in Canberra (session A and C) and one held in Perth (session B).

The purpose of NYSF is to give science students a view into science at university and in the workplace. It also provides a chance to meet scientists and gain contacts at different institutes and universities. NYSF also provides an opportunity to meet people of like mind who are the future of science and make friends that will in the future possibly be our colleagues.

The scientific program was fantastic, fun and educational. I was placed in the Rutherford group, which was focused mainly on Chemistry.

I learnt a lot from the sessions, particularly what to expect at university, what forms of courses are available and the possible career opportunities involved with science. There were courses and careers I hadn’t considered before.

The lab visits were all informative in their own special way. The presentations and lectures were interesting and challenging me to think about important issues related to science and us as a human race.

Some of the events whilst in Canberra included:
- The famous Professor Hans Bacur Laser show
- A field trip to the NASA deep space telescopes
- The Opening Ceremony and mock senate inquiry at Parliament House
- Various lab visits including the John Curtin Medical Research School on campus at ANU dealing with the issues and development related to the bionic eye

Another important part of NYSF is the Forums and speakers related to science and different careers.

Forums at NYSF included:
- Importance of communication
- Future technologies and recent discoveries
- Open floor debates and discussions

During NYSF you are always busy doing something, even in the evening. Almost every evening we were doing something or going somewhere.

Some of these evening events undertaken:
- Science relay quiz
- Rotary dinner with a guest speaker
- Evening activities such as sport, hiking and visits to other sites
- CERN video conference from Geneva (held at Questicon)

I have gained a lot of great experiences and memories and have a much better understanding of my goals and what direction I would like to take in regard to university courses. I also have a better understanding of career opportunities available. As a person I have gained a lot of confidence in regard to interviews and learning to prepare for the workplace. Some of the new skills learnt included communication skills and composing resumes.

I would like to thank the following organisations and people for making this wonderful experience possible.
- Rotary International for their support of NYSF and other youth programs.
- Rotary Club of Albury for sponsoring me both with my nomination and with sponsorship.
- The Rotary District 9710 and the District chairman, Nigel Liggins and District staff.
- Albury High School for supporting my nomination and allowing me to fundraise and promote NYSF.
- My fantastic parents for allowing me to have this great opportunity.
- NYSF for running an amazing event that I gained many benefits from.
- Geoff Burchfield, The Director of the NYSF and Professor Hans Bacur, Chairman of NSSS Council for their excellent jobs of organising and setting up NYSF each year.
- Rotary Mum, Dad and various Rotary Uncles and Aunts for their help and caring for us over the period of the session.
- All the sponsors and partners of NYSF for supporting NYSF and helping arrange activities and lab visits.
- The Staff of NYSF and Staffies, who did an excellent job of running the event, keeping us organised, in the mood and making sure we were having lots of fun and learning.

NYSF has taught me to look forward to the future and not to be intimidated and apprehensive of the future. By putting in your best and taking every opportunity that comes your way you will always find a successful path towards your hopes and dreams. I now hope to do my best and find a way into a science career that I will be passionate about. I hope I can use my experiences to impact my world and the world of others in a positive way. NYSF has been an invaluable tool to exploring my future and meeting lifetime friends I can share my future and experiences with.

Nathan Mackay
2013 NYSF student