PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Attendance Procedures
Regular attendance is a critical component to student learning at school as I mentioned in the first Grapevine of the year.

As such we are refining some of our practices at Albury High School to monitor and encourage students attendance. Strategies will include:

- Roll call teachers will be asking students who have not provided a note to explain their absences to do so. A new procedure has been implemented to support this.
- Students who have attendance patterns that are starting to cause concern will be interviewed by the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) and Head Teacher Administration. The purpose of the interview is two fold. Firstly to gather information on what impacts on attendance and secondly to support students in maintaining good attendance before the need for a formal referral to the HSLO.
- We will start random phone calls home to check that parents are aware students are not at school. Each day we will call a small number of families to find out the reason for the absence. We will then adjust our roll and you will not need to send in a note if the absence is legitimate.
- Positive attendance will be rewarded to students who have 100% attendance each term, with a merit award being given.

Your support in improving overall attendance is appreciated and needed. Wherever practical please make appointments for after school. Normal practices around notes for approved absences such as illness will continue.

Harmony Day
On Tuesday we witnessed a brilliant assembly run by students around the topic of Harmony Day. It started with a welcome to the country and included speeches and musical performances, all a credit to the students involved. The theme for the day is around respect, fairness and a sense of belonging for all in our great country. If the efforts on Tuesday are any indication, we are in great hands as the next generations lead us forward. A comment and picture can be found on twitter at @Albury-High

Congratulations to:
- Dominic Brew for his selection in the NSW All Schools Water Polo team
- Laura Thomson for competing in the Victorian State Titles of the International Optimist Class for sailing
- Renee Boyd, Taylah Grant, Claire Hemsley, Jessica Reid, Laura Roberts, Chloe Sheridan and Rebecca Smits for their selection in the Riverina Albury District Senior Dance Ensemble.

Mr Darryl Ward
Principal
SAFETY AROUND SCHOOL
It has been brought to our attention that there have been some serious incidents in relation to safety during drop off and pick up times around the school.

Please ensure that any small children are supervised at all times and not left unattended. Anyone parking in the side streets around the school need to be reminded to keep clear of driveways. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

ALBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL P&C AGM
Albury District Council of P&C Association invites all interested parents and P&C Members to our Annual General Meeting. It will be held at Albury North Public School (Mate St, North Albury) on Thursday 4th April, at 7.30 pm. Our Guest Speakers for the night will cover the Roles and Responsibilities of the executive positions of P&C Committees. Please come along to gain knowledge, ask questions and meet other members, particularly if you are new to a role or the workings of a P&C Committee.

For further enquiries phone Mark Norden mnorden@awpg.com.au or Neil Mills 0419254464.

AHS SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM
The Annual General Meeting for the AHS School Council will be held on Monday 25th March 2013 in the Boardroom of Albury High School commencing at 7.30pm. The General Meeting for March will follow this meeting. Any interested parents can contact Mark Norden mnorden@awpg.com.au or Neil Mills 0419254464.

ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL P&C AGM
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) will be held on Tuesday 21st May at 7.45pm in the School Common Room. All welcome. At this meeting all executive positions will be declared vacant. The P&C welcome nominations for any of these positions.

The AGM will be followed by the general meeting. Notice of Motion to be voted on at May meeting.

Moved: A. MacDonald, Seconded: D. Nicholson “P&C to purchase new tables and chairs to the value of $10,000.00”

ADRENALINE AUTOINJECTORS
The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit.

This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead, the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Mrs Cheryl Johnson
Administration

OUTWARD BOUND PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
Albury High School is again proposing to conduct an Outdoor Education course for Year 8 students in conjunction with Outward Bound Australia. This course has been conducted for the last nine years at AHS and is open to all students in Year 8. Over 700 AHS students have participated in the program.

The AHS program will run from the 22nd to the 28th October 2013, 7 days, and will be based at Tharwa in the ACT. Through such activities as hiking, climbing, abseiling, decision making, caving and rafting, students discover things about themselves that are not possible in a normal school setting.

The cost of this course is approximately $820 per student. Transport to and from Tharwa will add $50-$70 depending on final numbers.

An information evening for parents of Year 8 students will be held Wednesday 27th March to fully explain the Outward Bound course and its benefits. The evening begins at 7:00pm in the school’s Performing Arts Centre and generally runs for about an hour.

All parents are strongly encouraged to come along and hear about this exciting opportunity aimed at enhancing the education of your child at AHS. Following this evening, parents will then be able to make an informed decision about their child’s involvement in the Outward Bound course. Teachers who were involved with previous Outward Bound courses will be in attendance to share their experiences.

Mr Nigel Heitmeyer

WORLD CHALLENGE
Our Year 9 students have been given a tremendous opportunity to be involved with the ‘World Challenge’ organisation and travel to either Malaysia or Borneo. Kieron Hedge recently came to Albury High School to speak to Year 9 regarding this opportunity, which will not occur until December 2014 / January 2015. Each student should have received a note home regarding a meeting at James Fallon High on Monday 25th March starting 6:30pm in the Library.

The ‘World Challenge’ assists students in planning their trip, and has supervisors with each of the groups, but in general the students do all their planning and organisation while away. While there are sightseeing and general tourist moments on the trip, each group will also assist a local community with a development project.

Albury High School, along with James Fallon, Billabong and Murray High schools are attempting to gather interest in a group from the Albury community participating in this event. If you are interested we look forward to seeing you there on Monday 25th.

Mr Damian Toohey
Junior Deputy Principal
HARMONY DAY ASSEMBLY ADDRESS

As I look out to the audience, I know this hall is filled with people of all different nationalities, some who’s families might have been here for thousands of years, some who may not have been in Australia for even a year and some who’s grandparents migrated to Australia to live at the Bonegilla Migrant camp just over 50 years ago.

Thursday 21st March is Harmony Day, a day to acknowledge the diverse backgrounds.

Harmony Day is a celebration of all cultures and shows respect to everyone who calls Australia home. From the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world, this is a day of cultural respect. Harmony Day aims to show how Australians who have come from a huge variety of places all belong equally to this nation.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and it is at the heart of who we are. It enriches our lives and makes our country an outstanding ambassador for harmony in the wider world.

This year the theme of Harmony Day is ‘Many Stories – One Australia’. We are all encouraged to tell our stories and to help celebrate the many different cultures within our country, our community and our school.

As a school group we all make up the pages of a bigger Australia. We have different stories to tell, stories and histories that combine to help make a harmonious future for our country.

We live and work in a very understanding multicultural society here in Albury and that is definitely worth celebrating on Harmony Day 2013.

Catherine Pratt
Vice Captain

In two days’ time, Australians everywhere will celebrate Harmony Day, a day where schools, businesses, churches and agencies all convey the message of Harmony Day: that everyone belongs.

This year, the theme of Harmony Day is ‘Many Stories, One Australia’. I think that this is an entirely appropriate theme, as there are more than 22 million people who live harmoniously in Australia, each with their own unique story to share. We come from all walks of life, from many diverse nations from around the world. From the intense sunlight of the outback to the blistering city breeze, each Australian has their own story to contribute to the story of our cultural identity.

So, on Thursday, let’s all take a moment to celebrate our diversity as a nation. Let’s celebrate the story that each of us has to share, whether those stories be heart wrenching or inspiring, we can all learn so much from each other, and together, through listening to each other’s unique stories, we can develop a greater understanding of what it means to be Australian.

There are over 22 million individual stories in Australia – share yours with us.

Tom Duck
Vice Captain

Volleyball Gala Day

On Tuesday the 12th of March, 16 students attended the term one Volleyball Gala day at Lauren Jackson Stadium. It gave students an opportunity to participate in a sport not recognised as mainstream in Australia. With two inexperienced teams selected, we went into the day to try something different, enjoy developing existing skills and to dispel the long held assumption that you need to be 7 feet tall to be successful at Volleyball!

The boys’ team played three games against much more experienced lineups from Trinity, James Fallon and Murray High Schools. What the boys lacked in experience, they made up for with tenacity, reflexes and a strong team focus. The boys played very well to win two of their matches and lose one. Indra Paudel was our rock, flying around the court with reckless abandon, digging, setting up and spiking the ball like Italian superstar Lorenzo Bernadi. Jack Day was spiking the ball with the precision and the power of Charles “Karch” Kiraly, while Fletcher Upshall, Michael Heran and Andrew White were like mosquitoes buzzing around the court digging out ball after ball. Michael Brownsea, Paddy Brown, Liam McKay and Henry O’Shea all contributed to the team’s success with excellent defense and Hugo Conte like offense.

The girls’ team went into the day with very little experience at all, against the much taller, well drilled teams of James Fallon, Trinity and Murray High schools and while they never gave up they weren’t able to sneak a win. That being said, the girls started like a house on fire, winning their first set comprehensively against James Fallon High. Unfortunately the girls couldn’t sustain the momentum and lost the second set and third set in a tiebreak. The girls showed glimpses of skill that paralleled that of Cuban superstar Regia Torres, but weren’t able to maintain this level against their opponents. Mica Torre was our most consistent performer with the rest of the team performing ably at different stages of the matches.

Overall both teams showed exemplary sportsmanship, a never give up attitude and team unity that they should be very proud of. These students have represented the school with a fantastic attitude and should be congratulated on their efforts.

Girls Team
Dana Martin
Mica Torre
Erin Macdonald
Sally Jenkins
Rui Huang
Suki Fan
Holly Shepherd

Boys Team
Indra Paudel
Jack Day
Andrew White
Michael Brownsea
Patrick Brown
Liam Mackay
Fletcher Upshall
Michael Heran
Henry O’Shea

Mr Andrew Mollison

School Uniforms

Albury High School operates a second hand school uniform clothing pool. We are currently in need of school jumpers, girls’ winter uniforms and blazers. All donations of good quality, clean items can be given to the office and are greatly appreciated.
WATER POLO
The Open Riverina Water Polo competition was played on Thursday 7th March. The girls’ team played strongly and showed very positive attributes for our future. Many schools struggled to have 8 players, AHS took 13 and had at least 6 more wishing they could attend. We finished third. The boys’ team won the competition very convincingly. Even when beating teams easily, they demonstrated great respect for the opposition and were mature in their victory. The boys now have a tough battle playing in Newcastle in the finals. Special mention needs to be made of Tom Duck, who won the Most Valued Male Player of the Knockout (pictured below).


Girls: Catherine Pratt, Majella Moran, Imogen Brooks, Kaitlyn Evans, Emily Evans, Holly Shepherd, Siena Douglas, Isabella Brew, Bridget Johnston, Reuby McNair, Emma Timmermans, Katie Bruce and Annie Lefoe.

Water Polo students travelled to Wagga Wagga for Riverina Open Water Polo selection trials last week. All students represented the school in a mature and competitive manner. The following students have been selected for competitions later in the year. As usual, with no deep water throughout winter, training is difficult. Some will be competing in Melbourne competitions throughout winter. Our opposition teams have water polo facilities all year round. We wish them the best in their preparation for November.

Boys Team playing at Parramatta 25th to 28th November
Dom Brew (Captain), Brayden Grimmond (Goalie), Sam Lefoe, Michael Brownsea, Lachie Dowding, Baily Hamilton, Adam Mills, Josh Edgar, Harry Duck and Lewis Parrett (reserve).

Girls Team playing at Woy Woy 19th to 22nd November
Imogen Brooks, Bridget Johnston, Emily Evans (reserve) and Samara Jackson (reserve).

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NORTHERN ALBURY DEBUTANTE BALL
The Anglican Parish of Northern Albury is again hosting two Debutante Balls to be held at the Albury Entertainment Centre on:
Friday 30th August and Saturday 31st August
Rehearsals will be held weekly (excluding school holidays) in the Albury High School hall on Sunday evenings at either 5pm – 7pm or 7pm – 9pm (depending on numbers).
To register your interest, please contact:
Mrs Joyce McArthur: 6043 3396 or 0427 958 599
Rev’d Christine Page: 6040 2188
Information Meeting: This will be held at 7pm on 2nd June at the Albury High School hall to provide debutantes, partners and parents with more information. This should last no longer than one hour.
First Rehearsal: Sunday 16th June.

VENT MAGAZINE COMMITTEE
Albury City are seeking creative young people with an interest in writing, journalism, graphic design, art, music, sport or youth issues to join their committee. Representatives from each school are being sought, and will be involved in the development of the VENT Magazine.

For registration or further information please contact Kira June at Albury City on 0409 906 474 or email kjunek@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

WEEKS 9 & 10 CANTEEN
URGENT HELP NEEDED
The Canteen would greatly appreciate assistance in serving between the hours of 11.30 and 12.30. If you are able to help out in any way please contact Betty in the school canteen on 6021 1730.

WEEKS 9 & 10 COMING EVENTS

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