Principal's Report

Welcome back to Albury High School in 2015. In particular we are looking forward to working with all new parents and students who have chosen Albury High School. Congratulations to our 2014 HSC cohort who achieved results that reflected their ability and in many cases set new standards. We had 15 students on the Distinguished Achievers list (at least 1 band 6 result) and two students on the All Rounders list (5 band 6) and one student on the Top Achievers list for being 18th in the state in Legal studies out of 11000 candidates. Many students have now received first round offers and are considering their future at university. Along with this I am aware of several students who have already secured apprenticeships and who are looking at studying at TAFE.

Our excursion to Germany took place over the holiday period and based on early reports was very successful. We also had students involved in the World Challenge travelling to Malaysia where they participated in community projects.

SCHOOL PLAN & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2015 – 17 is a new school management planning period and we are currently working on the plan. So far we have, after looking at our data, established three draft strategic directions. They are:

1. Writing
   PURPOSE
   Literacy is a key determinant in a student’s ability to participate fully in society. We want to empower students to write in ways that are creative, interpretive and critical. In particular we want students to write with fluency, sophistication and purpose.

2. Engagement
   PURPOSE
   We wish to engage students, staff, parents and our community to improve learning for all. A number of areas have been identified through our data analysis and vision statement where we will develop strategies to further engage our stakeholders in learning at AHS. We will strive to meet the needs of our school community.

3. Staff Professional Learning
   PURPOSE
   Staff Professional Learning will be based on best practice and informed by data. We want to ensure our staff maintain their high level of training and to build on their expert knowledge to be able to respond to the emerging needs of our community in a professional and timely manner. We want our staff to be leading learners.

   We are now working on developing the strategies to achieve these directions.

STAFFING

There are number of staffing changes that have occurred for the new year. I would like to welcome the following staff, who were appointed or successful in merit selection, to the staff for 2015 and beyond:

- Mr Richard Leahy - Social Science
- Mr Andrew Mollison - Social Science
- Mr George Salmon - Science
- Mrs Catherine Gibson - Multi-cat class
- Ms Lucy Gilbert - Languages (French & Italian)
- Mr Scott Jacob - IA
- Mr Graham Cox - IA
- Ms Danielle Watters - Maths
- Ms Sadie Butler - VA
- Ms Sharon McEachern - VA
- Mr Matt de Koeyer - Multi-cat and LaST
- Miss Christine Schulz - Science
- Ms Sonia Constantino - History

And in temporary positions for the year:

- Mr Danny Cowan - Music
- Ms Nina Hunt - VA
- Mrs Sharon McEachern - VA
- Miss Sadie Butler - VA
- Mr Matt de Koeyer - Multi-cat and LaST
- Miss Christine Schulz - Science
- Ms Sonia Constantino - History
A crucial part of success at school is attendance. It is essential that parents support students in attending school. If you have any concerns or require assistance please do not hesitate to contact Mr David Hobson HT Administration at the school. If students are not here it makes it very difficult for them to follow the curriculum and they miss the ‘in class’ discussion that enhances the learning of topics covered. Notes concerning absences should be forwarded to school on the day of return.

I would like to wish Ms Moss, our school counsellor, all the best. She has just been offered a transfer and accepted. Ms Moss will be missed.

Unfortunately due to other vacancies within the counselling service this has left us in a difficult position. We will only have access to a counsellor for one day a week. There are no other school counsellors available in our area. As a result, I am trying to fill the vacancy with a student welfare teacher. Our District support team is also working hard to find an appropriate person. Once I have extra support in place I will inform the community. We will continue with our normal support of students. Our year advisers are able to assist as are our Deputy Principals and front office staff. As always Mrs Quinn, Head Teacher Welfare, will assist students. Our District support team is also working hard to find an appropriate person. Once I have extra support in place I will inform the community. We will continue with our normal support of students. Our year advisers are able to assist as are our Deputy Principals and front office staff. As always Mrs Quinn, Head Teacher Welfare, will assist students.

SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION
Albury High School recently joined the Safe Schools Coalition. The national coalition was established to deliver on the vision of the Australian Government’s National Safe Schools Framework which aims to build safe school communities where diversity is valued, the risk of all types of harm is minimised and all members of the community feel respected, included and supported.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia offers member schools access to a broad range of tools, resources and supports that suit the unique needs, concerns and capacity of our schools’ community. These services aim to improve safety and inclusivity for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, their families and teachers while taking a zero tolerance approach to homophobia and transphobia in the school community.

Mrs Deb Quinn
Head Teacher Welfare

PRELIMINARY HSC COURSE
Year 11 students have started their Preliminary HSC courses from day one this year. Senior study requires students to be more pro-active in their learning and organised in their time management. With numbers at over 200 in the year 11 group it is important that all students are informed of the school’s expectations for students’ responsibilities regarding assessments within the Preliminary HSC program. To this end, a Preliminary HSC Assessment booklet will be issued in week 3 - next week. All Year 11 students will attend an information session explaining the complex issues of: Board of Studies requirements, student assessment policy and procedures within the school. A major change to student’s previous experience is that late submissions of assessment items will receive a mark of zero.

Mr Andrew King
Deputy Principal Senior School

OLD KITCHEN UTENSILS WANTED
The Visual Arts department is looking for old kitchen utensils, butter knives, forks, potato mashers, spoons etc. If you have any you would like to dispose of please leave them in the Visual Arts Staffroom.

Mrs Sharon McEachern
Visual Arts

P&C MEETINGS
The Albury High School P&C will hold their first meeting on Tuesday 17th February in the Staff Common Room, which is located just near the front office. The meeting will commence at 7.15pm and all parents are invited to attend. Light refreshments are provided.

Subsequent meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month.
NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM
Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2015 the following vaccines will be offered:

Year 7 Students*
- dTpa Vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussus (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- Viracella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0,2 and six months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

Year 11-12 students*
- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine as a single dose as part of a catch-up vaccination program for students who are not fully protected.

*The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:
- Read all the information provided
- Complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- Return the completed consent form to their child’s school by Tuesday, 3rd March 2015
- Ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so in writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

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 and the 11th number beside the child’s name) 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 each 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.

Mrs Deb Quinn
Head Teacher Welfare

HOUSE LEADERS - 2015
This year sees a change of name for our student leaders in each 'Sport House'. Towards the end of last year we called for nominations from our Year 10 and 11 student body and the response was great. All nominations were carefully considered by a committee which included House Patrons, Year Advisers and Sport Coordinators. Based on the quality of the candidates, it was difficult to come to a decision in some cases, and a few people who missed out would also have been excellent leaders of their 'House'. The students selected to be House Leaders will share the roles and duties required of them equally. These responsibilities include:
- promotion of carnivals and House spirit and participation;
- setting an example by attendance and positive participation at carnivals and school sport;
- encouraging active participation by all House members;
- assisting House Patrons on carnival days;
- organising relay teams and provide assistance to younger students in their House organising cheer squads etc. on carnival days;
- assisting the Sport Coordinators with equipment on Sport Days and completing a variety of other House Leader tasks with enthusiasm and school pride.

Our House Leaders for 2015 are:
Mitchell: Michael Brownsea, Emily Evans, Sophie Edgarm & Kaitlyn Evans
Hovell: Logan Reid, Milla Reid, Micca Torre & Amber Thomas
Hume: Tyler Pinkney, Erin Macdonald, Liam Murtagh-Fraser & Courtney Mason
Murray: Angus Kelly, Sally Jenkins, Bridget Johnston & Jaiden Hamilton

Mr G. King
Head Teacher, PDHPE

SCHOOL HATS
The P&C wish to advise that the school sun hats have been delayed by the supplier and should be available by the end of February. Please feel free to use other sun hats in the interim.
Need help managing stress or anxiety?

If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8-17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.
Soccer Starts Soon!!
Want to play soccer??
Come and join us at Melrose FC. Girls and boys Juniors to Seniors.

Rego Day is on Sunday 8th February between 10am and midday at Melrose Park, Barlow St, Lavington.
For any queries contact Sue 0438 0443 023.

Registrations are now open for the 2015 soccer season.
AIA Vitality MiniRocks U6-U10 boys & girls
Jnr. U11-U17 boys & girls.

Come & Try Day on 12 February 5-6:30 at Jelbart Park West.

Registrar Jodie Greschke 0418 407 805
e.registrar@alburyunited.com

412 Squadron
Cnr Avalon Street & Dalton Place Albury NSW 2640
Telephone: 0427 414 894
When: Recruit Information Evening 5 - 6:30pm
Sunday, 8th February 2015
Parade Night: Friday, 1830 - 2200 h
Email: co.412sqn@aafc.org.au
Website: http://www.aafc.org.au

"Whatever" Adolescent Parenting Program – aims to help parents support their children through this challenging stage of life. Parents will learn about how their child’s brain develops and how emotions impact on their adolescent’s behaviour. Parents learn how to understand the challenges you may be faced with and how to connect and communicate better with your adolescent.

Dates – Thursday’s 19th February – 19th March 2015
Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Venue – Gateway Community Health, 155 High Street, Wodonga
Cost - $30 (Concessions available)
Bookings Essential – Parenting Team 6022 8888