Principal's Report

Congratulations to:-

- Laura Gillard, Indiah Hallows, Renee Boyd, Chloe Sheridan, Asha Kelly & Rebecca Smits on their selection in the Riverina Senior Dance Ensemble
- Zac Kraich & Andrew Nixon on making the Victorian U18 men's team, Oscar Smart & Emma Hooppell who have been selected in the Victorian U15s Hockey teams and Cooper Tanner for his selection on the U15 ACT Hockey team. All of these students will be competing at the National Championships
- Bridget Johnston, Harry Duck & Lachlan Dowding who have been selected as NSW All Schools Team members for Water Polo

The Department of Education & Communities have recently made changes to the School Attendance Policy for 2015. These changes include the following:

- An explanation for absence, preferably in writing, must be provided to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence
- An absence will remain unexplained if the parents have failed to provide an explanation to the school within 7 days (we are unable to override these absences)
- When frequent absences are explained as being due to illness it is the Principals responsibility to ensure medical certificates are sought and consultation with the parents and/or medical professional regarding the student's health care needs and strategies are developed to ensure their attendance at school
- Where the Principal has concerns about the medical certificates being produced for absences, they can ask the parents to request that the medical certificate states “the child is unfit for school” on specified dates
- Application and Certificate of Extended Leave: travel or holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences on the students report. A certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted. Parents will be required to complete an Application for Extended Leave - Travel and submit it to the principal for their consideration. If the principal accepts the reason for travel is in the best interests of the student, the absence will be marked as “L” and a Certificate of Extended Leave - Travel will be issued.
- Exemption can no longer be granted for Students travelling for reasons such as the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons during school terms

**SCHOOL COUNSELLING UPDATE**

We have been allocated a counsellor in training who will be able to assist with student assessments. A student welfare teacher will also develop materials for students and work proactively in areas of bullying and relationships. I have released two welfare teachers, Mrs Ratcliffe and Mrs Deb Quinn, who provide a service to students 5 days a week. If students require counselling or are at risk we will contact parents and assist with referrals to outside agencies. All staff will be supervised by the District Guidance Officer. We are working with the DEC to rectify this situation.

**SPORTS DAY/TIMETABLE CHANGES**

Due to a slight reduction in student numbers we will need to reorganise our timetable in the near future. One ramification of this will be changing sports back to Tuesdays. Year 11’s will no longer be required to do sport. Part of the reason for this is that TAFE has also changed our day to Tuesdays and we have 52 students studying at TAFE. This will mean students will miss less face to face time in normal classes. Another advantage is that extension classes will also run during this time. We will also offer a tutorial/study support program for Year 11 & 12 during this time with dedicated staff to assist with homework, assignments and research for students not doing extension or TAFE. These changes will take place in March and we will provide more details closer to the date.

Mr Darryl Ward
Principal
PUNCTUALITY MATTERS
Just like employers who value punctuality with their employees, we value punctuality in our students. At Albury High School we try to develop the right habits and behaviours, and being on time is one of those behaviours we want to instil in our students so they can become valued members of the work force and community.

At times, however, being late is unavoidable. In such cases, the following procedures for those students who are late to school MUST be followed:

If students are late to school, but arrive before the end of roll call, their roll teacher will mark them present at school, but late. It is then up to the student to bring a note to explain the reason for their lateness. The note should be given to the roll teacher on the day, or as soon as possible afterwards.

If they are late and arrive at school after roll call and ‘DEAR’ (Drop Everything And Read program), they are to report to the main office in ‘A’ block where they will receive a late note. It is up to the student to bring a note to explain that lateness. It should be given to the roll teacher on the day, or as soon as possible afterwards.

Lateness is seen by the Department of Education as a partial absence and all absences must be explained.

While being late may be unavoidable at times, there should be no reason for not following these school procedures. Consistent lateness without explanation may incur some sanction from the school.

Mr David Hobson
Head Teacher Administration

STUDENT INFORMATION CARDS
The Student Information Cards (yellow cards) and Permission to Publish authority were distributed to all students during Roll Call last week. The information on the cards is extremely important to ensure accurate details are available at the school if there is an emergency. School communications are now often via email and therefore we need to keep our records up to date.

Please complete all sections including the back of the card, sign and return as soon as possible. Students should take the completed cards to their Year Adviser.

Mrs Francis Tilbrook
Administration Manager

AHS SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the AHS School Council will be held on Monday 23rd March 2015 in the Boardroom of Albury High School commencing at 7.30pm. The AHS School Council General Meeting for March will follow the AGM.

Any parents interested in joining the Council can contact Judy O’Keefe, on 0408 415196 for information.

AHS P&C AGM
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 7:15pm in the School Common Room. All welcome.

At this meeting all executive positions will be declared vacant. The P&C welcomes nominations for any of these positions.

The AGM will be followed by the general meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: The previous Grapevine advertised that the P&C meetings would be changing to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This change will not occur. The original meeting time of the 3rd Tuesday of the month will remain. The next meeting is on the 17th March and is the AGM.

UNIFORM
All students in Government schools in NSW are required to wear school uniform.

At Albury High School we are very proud of our uniform and the manner in which our students wear it.

2015 has seen a great start to the year with students being in uniform across the board.

We appreciate the efforts of our students, their parents and caregivers who have all worked hard to ensure that clear directions and helpful assistance have been given to have students in uniform. Our students feel good in uniform, they look good in uniform and in uniform they show our community the unity and strength we have as a school.

Parents are reminded that if assistance is needed with uniform, the school is only too willing to help. Just contact Mrs Quinn or Mr Hobson. We want all students to identify fully with the school by being in uniform.

For those times when students can’t be in uniform, parents need to give their child a note to explain and we will attempt to help.

For any inquiries involving uniform, please contact Mr Hobson at the school. Details about the uniform policy are available on the school’s website.

Mr David Hobson
Head Teacher Administration

YEAR 7 CAMP
The dates for the year 7 camp are Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th March. This is a great opportunity for students to get to know their peers and teachers in a fun and relaxed environment. The cost is $225 with a deposit of $50. Please contact the school for further details.

Mrs Angela Moon
Year 7 Adviser 2015
THE ENEMY WITHIN' PRESENTATION
On Wednesday 25th February Year 10 and 11 will watch a short film 'The Enemy Within' inspired by Wagga’s world champion boxer and ex-rugby league player Joe Williams who, despite his achievements and success, fought a battle with depression and suicide.

This documentary exploring Joe’s experiences is peppered with inspiring and helpful messages designed to reach out to young sports fans. The film will be followed by a short motivational speech by Joe. Community Crew @Albury have supported the presentation and its motivational and educational messages on the border.

Parents interested in attending the presentation are welcome to do so. Year 10 will view the film in the school hall from 9:00am to 10:00am and Year 11 will be from 10.30am to 11.30am. Please reply to Fiona Smits in reception on 6021 3488.

Mrs Deb Quinn
Head Teacher Welfare

ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 7 – 2016

Information Evening and School Tour
Wednesday 4th March 2015 - 7pm
Albury High School PAC – entry through Griffith Street.
All prospective Year 7 students and parents welcome

Taste of High School
Albury High School invites Year 6 students to attend a ‘Taste of High School’ afternoon
Tuesday 10th March - 12pm—2.15pm  Albury Public School students
Tuesday 24th March - 12pm—2.25pm  West Albury Public School
Howlong Public School
other Primary School students
Students from non feeder Primary Schools to please RSVP on 60213488
Year 7 School Contributions for 2015 - $145

School Achievements
2014 HSC Results
37 Band 6 results, 15 Students on the Distinguished Achievers List
2 on the All Rounders List, 18th out of 1100 in Legal Studies
8 5+8 scores over 99 with 9 over 90
2014 Apprenticeships and Traineeships - 24
For more stories visit us at Twitter @Albury_High

Part of a strong Public School network in Albury.
Member of the Crossing Point Learning Community
For more information ring Albury High School 60213488
www.albury.h.schools.nsw.edu.au

WRITING COMPETITION

WHAT MATTERS?
What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society? What would you change if you could? What do you want other people to care about?

WHAT MATTERS? is a writing competition that gives Year 5 – 12 students in NSW and the ACT a chance to say what matters to them in society today.

Albury High School students are strongly encouraged to enter this upcoming writing competition.

HOW TO ENTER
Write a 400-600 word opinion piece on what matters to you and why. Entries must be typed on A4 paper. Strictly one entry per student. All entries must be accompanied by a signed entry form. Entry forms are available from your English teacher.

CLOSING DATE
Wednesday 6th May 2015.

STUDENT PRIZES
All entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Prizes are awarded in 4 categories: Years 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12. Plus, an ipad for the overall prize winner. To find out more, students should ask their English teacher and/or visit this website for more information:

Miss Jenna-Lea Peel
English

THE LOST BOOKS
Over the years they have all disappeared,
Lost and forgotten, dust covered we fear.
Under the beds and shoved into drawers,
Their presence is missed on the shelves of our stores.

Students now share which of course has a catch,
Avalon and Hunger Games taken up with a snatch.
If you have one of these or others to best,
Please return urgently and give up your loot!

PLEASE check at home for any English Texts. We are very short in some class sets, especially Destroying Avalon and The Hunger Games. There will be no questions asked nor ironic and derisive comments made. Thank you in anticipation.

The English Staff

NSW Education & Communities
Proud Member of Crossing Point Learning Community ‘Creating our Future’
INDUSTRIAL ARTS SUBJECT CONTRIBUTIONS
Students in Yr 7-12 who are currently doing subjects in Industrial Arts have been issued with notes in class in regard to subject contributions. Subject contributions help to cover the cost of project materials and associated hardware and consumable items such as glue, abrasive paper, gas, brazing rods, rivets, screws, nails, dust masks and ear plugs used in Mandatory Technology as well as elective subjects in Industrial Arts. Payment of these contributions enables our faculty to deliver interesting and appropriate practical experiences to our students.

Your prompt payment of this amount to the school office would be greatly appreciated. Payment by smaller instalments will be accepted for your convenience. Thank you to the parents and guardians who have already paid this year’s elective subject contribution.

If you would like to discuss elective subject contributions, please contact the school during school hours and I would be happy to talk to you.

Mr Gavin Fletcher
Head Teacher Industrial Arts

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION
The Albury High School Faculty of Science, in conjunction with the Ad Astra Program, invites your child to enter the following competition to be conducted during school time.

2015 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) - SCIENCE
Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2015
Test: 45 multiple choice questions in 1 hr
Entry fee: $8.00

The competition is a challenging but rewarding experience and provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation.

All students receive a certificate and an individual report indicating which questions they answered correctly, their total score as well as their average compared with the rest of the students in the state.

These documents are suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.

The last day for student entries will be Wednesday 25th March 2015.

Unfortunately no refunds can be provided for students who are absent from school on the set test dates.

An entry form is available from the Science Staffroom or your child’s Science teacher.

Mr Mark Ellis
Head Teacher Science

ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL’S ANZAC COMMEMORATION
‘Home Before Christmas’ is the name chosen for the performance based commemoration to be held on 23rd April in the Albury High School Hall. An ensemble of drama, music and dance students will be joined by the Year 12 Boys Choir and the newly formed Year 12 Girls Choir to take the audience on a journey through the story of World War 1.

The issues that arose in Australia over the Gallipoli landing, the sending of nurses, conscription and the inevitable sadness of the losses will be explored using diaries, letters, songs, poems and newspaper items. This is not a completely sad tale but it is a timely look at Australians at war.

More information on performances will be sent out towards the end of term.

Visual Arts
Mrs Hunt and Mrs McEachern are the new art teachers joining our staff. Mrs Hunt has begun a mural project with 30 students which will eventually hang on the wall beside the Jones St Store. Mrs McEachern has a project in mind particularly for boys interested in bold projects. More on this in the next Grapevine.

Mr Cowan re-joins the music staff while Mrs Barber is on maternity leave.

Regional Events
Year 12 will be attending a Visual Arts Study Day on 26th March at the Albury Entertainment Centre and Library Museum. The Drama students will journey to Wagga on 19th March for their study day. Music Study Day will be held at the beginning of Term 2. These events are run by the region with Senior Markers who impart experience and advice to students about the curriculum and the exam.

Students interested in Drama, Music, VA and Dance need to keep a lookout for Regional events such as Camps which will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Ms Margie Gleeson
Head Teacher CAPA

LOCAL TRIATHLONS
There are two local triathlon events in March. The Rutherford Triathlon will be held on Sunday the 8th March. As well as open and veterans categories, it features individual and team events for U12s and U17s. These junior events are 10km ride, 200m pool swim and 3.5km run. Information can be found at www.rutherfordrotary.org/triathlon.

The second event is an Olympic distance triathlon at Allan’s Flat on Sunday 24th March. It features a 1.5km swim, 40km ride and 10km run. There are individual and team categories for opens, veterans and U17s. For more information, go to www.awtc.org.au/events-and-results/olympic-distance-triathlon. Mr Fletcher also has printed copies of the details.

Mr Gavin Fletcher
AHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL REPORT
The annual AHS Swimming Carnival was held on Wednesday 4th February. A large attendance on the day ensured we had plenty of students participating in a number of events. Many students took the opportunity to dress in their House colours in support of their House swimmers. The following records were set:

Harry Duck 17yrs Boys 50m Freestyle 25.55
(old record 26.00 Stephen Grove 2004)
Hovell 14yrs Boys 4x50m Freestyle 2:09.52
(old record 2:10.19 Hovell 2003)

Age Champions:
12 years Harry Cameron & Ebony Hoskin
13 years Bailey Clemson & Natalie Gibbons
14 years Austin Shepherd & Natasha Fenton
15 years Daniel Gibbons & Katelyn Bruce / Arielle Jackson
16 years Lachlan Dowding & Mikaela Clemson
17+ years Harry Duck & Samara Jackson

Congratulations to Mitchell House who were winners (again):
Mitchell 791
Murray 725
Hovell 605
Hume 596

The Zone Swimming/Diving Carnival will be held on Tuesday 24th February at the Lavington Swim Centre.

THE VAMPIRE SHIELD
The Albury Blood Bank has a competition running between all schools in the local area called the “Vampire Shield”. The school that donates the most blood wins. I have organised block bookings during sports afternoons at 1:30pm - students would leave school at 1:10pm and walk to the David Street Blood Donor Centre.

Students new to the program must be over 16 years of age and weigh more than 50kg. Students under the age of 18 years of age can only donate once in a 12 month period. Students over 18 years of age and adults can donate once every 3 months. This is a great way for students to contribute to the “Blood Donor Program”. I urge interested students to pick up the appropriate permission slips and brochures from my office and choose a time to donate blood.

Mr Andrew King
Deputy Principal Senior School

FARM SALES
Fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables along with free range eggs (subject to availability) are for sale from our school farm. Cash sales can be made between the hours of 8.30am and 12noon at the farm gate near the oval.

Mrs Tracey Lee
Agriculture

WEEK 5 2015
Tuesday 24th February
COMING EVENTS
Zone Swimming & Diving Carnival
Prefect Investiture

WEEK 6 2015
Tuesday 3rd March
Wednesday 4th March
Friday 6th March
COMING EVENTS
Riverina Diving Carnival
Year 6 into 7 Parent Information Evening for Year 7 2016
Riverina Swimming Carnival
**JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING**

**JINDERA TENNIS COURTS**

Tennis lessons for Term 1 2015 for beginner and intermediate players are happening now at the Jindera Courts on Monday and Wednesday nights at 4.30pm and 5.30pm. Great grassroots coaching at an affordable price $10 per lesson/second child $5. Have some fun, learn the basics or improve your current skills.

Contact Leanne Wheaton 0428263297 lkwheaton@bigpond.com.au to reserve your spot.