IMPORTANT DATES

12th - 15th December
Year 7 Camp
Cape Otway

Tuesday 13th December
Year 6 - 7 Student
Orientation Day
11.00am - 3.00pm

Tuesday 13th December
Year 6 - 7 Parent
Information Evening
7.00pm

Last day of Term 4
Thursday
December 22nd

First day of Term 1 2012
Year 7 students -
Friday 3rd February
Year 8 students -
Monday 6th February

PRINCIPAL’S SAY

One of the really exciting things about being a student at Albert Park College is the chance to go on one of our great school camps. We know how enjoyable camps can be – having fun is, after all, an important part of schooling and a great way to keep students excited about learning. But we also know how important camps can be to the development of a child’s leadership capacities and understanding of the world. In fact our camps program is a central component of our school’s ethos as a place dedicated to the development not only of the mind but of character. We want our children to enter the world as self-confident, self-reliant and practical adults.

Our camps aim to do this in a number of ways, by giving every child exposure to practical skills and leadership training. In December our year-seven students will spend four enjoyable and challenging days with the Bindaree Outdoor Adventure Camp group, hiking, rafting, surfing and learning bush survival skills as they follow a coastal track along the Otway Ranges – all under the close team-based supervision of teachers and expert guides. (Safety is of course our top priority.) Understandably, the children are looking forward to it with great anticipation. We chose this camp because it combines our priorities of leadership training with developing an understanding of the marine environment – which means it will become a starting point for our science and environment programs.

By the time our first intake reaches year-12, we aim to have one of the best developed school camp programs in the state, enhancing our language, science and other academic programs. With French and marine environmental studies on the school curriculum, this opens up all sorts of exciting possibilities for the students.

The Otway coastal trek will build on a number of successful camps so far this year. This started with the first of our annual Skiing Camps at Falls Creek, where the students were taught how to safely ski and snowboard, as well as essential cooking and housekeeping skills.

A number of students also took part in a leadership camp at Phillip Island where the activities centred on team building, the development of trust, and helping students understand what real leadership and responsibility are.

And alongside these official school camps there are our APC Families camps, organised by our parents group, with the aim of increasing parental involvement in the school and their children’s education – something we think is crucial to the school’s success.

I urge you to support these important camps if possible. I know how busy and time-poor our lives can be, but everyone who sets the time aside to attend one of our camps never regrets the experience.
In term 3 I was lucky enough to go on the very first Albert Park College Snow Camp. We met at school at 5 o’clock in the morning to head off to Falls Creek, about a 7 hour drive away. We had the choice of snowboarding or skiing. I chose to ski because I had never tried it before. We had a total of 17 students, 6 adults and 2 teachers. We stayed at Frueauf Village, where we got to share a bunk room.

On the first day our lesson got cancelled because of a snow storm, but we still had to ski down to the bottom of the mountain. I could only see seven feet in front of me, so I fell over a lot! The day after the storm the sun came out and the snow was soft and fluffy, perfect for learning to ski.

Each morning we had a lesson with an instructor, but the fun part was after the lesson when we could all free ski for a few hours. I wasn’t the only beginner, and a lot of us were falling over in the first couple of days.

The snow camp was a blast, and I definitely want to do it again next year.

Nick Matton 7AB
LEADERSHIP CAMP

In August, 38 of the College leaders attended a three day Leadership Camp at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. Students took part in a range of challenging activities, from high ropes to crate climbing and team initiatives. Here, one of our Ambassadors, Aislinge Samuel, recalls her ‘Giant Swing’ experience.

When I first heard of the leadership camp I was thrilled. I didn’t know what any of the activities were, but they sounded exciting! I remember arriving at the camp, seeing all the cabins, and an outdoor games room, and thinking to myself, ‘this is pretty good already!’ When we’d organised our cabins and groups, we set off for our first activity. My group was heading for the Giant Swing. I’d had a couple of ideas running though my head of what it would look like, but it was quite different and daunting when we arrived. We got taught on how to put on the harnesses, which were very uncomfortable, then we lined up. Molly was first, and we pulled her all the way, the whole eighteen metres. When she tugged the rope, letting herself loose, she screamed and we all winced. One after another we went, and each time I got a little more nervous. Finally it was my turn. I put on the harness, and got roped up to the swing. They started pulling me. I focused on the pole, and only the pole, until I got to the top. The instructor shouted, “1, 2, 3, GO!!!!” I pulled the rope, and I free fell until the rope snapped taut and I started swinging. A high pitch scream forced its way through my lips, surprising even myself.

Finally it was just calm swinging, until I came to a stop. The instructor unharnessed me, saying what a pair of lungs I have. I walked, well waddled thanks to the harness, back to my group, the adrenaline still coursing through my body.
VICTORIAN SUPERKART CHAMPIONSHIPS

Conor Nicholson recently took part in the Victorian Superkart Championships. Conor came second overall in the championship, the current National champion came first. His result was based on a total of 10 races at Phillip Island Grand Prix circuit and Calder Park raceway.

They reach speeds of 160kph.

This was his first year in Superkarts, but he has been racing Sprint Karts since he was 7 years of age. Well done Conor!
Halloween was a great success! Thank you to everyone who participated. APC celebrated Halloween with a range of activities including a doughnut eating competition, a costume parade and a pie-throwing auction. In total, $178.50 was raised for Red Cross. We look forward to the celebrations next year.
MUSIC

In the last month APC music students have been involved in a number of high profile public performances. Two in particular stand out:

**Big Band plays at Gasworks Park Farmers Market** and

**Albert Park Primary School Performance**

Determination and resilience were two qualities particularly on display one Saturday in November, when the 28 strong College Big Band played a brilliant set to sunny Latin Jazz tunes through the wind and pouring rain for an equally brave and appreciative audience, among whom were many parents. The organizers of this event gave glowing praise to our students and were very keen to have us back for the next market on December 17.

**PERFORMANCE AT ALBERT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Last week the newly formed APC Choir along with the Big Band visited Albert Park Primary School and gave stellar performances which engaged and enthralled their younger audience who thought the show was ‘cool’ and ‘awesome’. Our students were greeted like rock stars and it was pleasing to witness such a positive dynamic between the two.

We look forward to a reciprocal visit from the Primary school in the new year and to building a productive collaborative relationship.

Finally a special mention should be made to all APC students who performed so wonderfully well at the College opening ceremony. In particular 30 students in the Choir and soloists Eric Loong and Sebastian Karin-Cromie.
EMERALD HILL DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Following community feedback, Council has developed a draft master plan for the Emerald Hill precinct of South Melbourne (around the Town Hall) and is keen to get your feedback. The master plan outlines a number of key actions that aim to revitalise the precinct as the cultural and civic heart of South Melbourne.

Have Your Say
You can view the draft master plan and complete a feedback form online at www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay or at your local ASSIST centre or library.

Drop-in sessions at the South Melbourne Town Hall
Council staff will be available to present the master plan and answer any questions.
Tuesday 6 December 2011 2pm – 4pm

The consultation period for the draft documents will take place from Monday 28 November 2011 to Wednesday 21 December 2011. For more information please contact Council’s ASSIST centre on phone 9209 6777

HOLIDAY READING - ONE SPECIAL EVENING

Books for Sale
Albert Park College
1st Floor Library
83 Danks Street, Albert Park
Tuesday 13th December 2011
3.30pm - 6.30pm

Get your Summer Holiday Reading! 25% of Sales Raised go to APC
CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SCHOOLS

Parents – Your school will receive $5 for every Christmas Tree purchased

6ft Tree $50 (inc GST)
Tree Stand $30 (inc GST)
Tree Set Up $10 (inc GST)

Free Delivery (& Pick Up - if needed) in local area

Place your orders - Commencing 3rd December 2011

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