PRINCIPAL’S SAY
Albert Park College Annual Conference

“The overwhelming feedback from staff is that it is the best professional learning that staff have done. “ - Claudia Johnson, Professional Development leader.

On Sunday the 24th of August the staff of Albert Park College travelled to the RACV club in Torquay for our annual conference. The conference was dedicated to exploring the best ways to challenge students, with a particular emphasis on teaching to the top.

It is always a thrill to bring everyone together on a big stage such as this. To see all our staff working together with a common purpose – to create the best learning environment we possibly can for the students we teach. It is an opportunity to grow our knowledge and our confidence in what we do, which will in turn deliver better outcomes for the students of APC.

The annual conference is the centerpiece of our commitment to professional development. It helps to build our collective passion and enables us to build one team with one vision of the highest standard.

The focus on differentiation and high challenge speaks to our core values at APC. Developing a culture of excellence. Creating an exemplary learning environment. Driven by teachers who are passionate about what they teach.

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Over the next two days our staff led sessions across four distinct themes – high challenge differentiated assessment, transformative e-learning, how to maximize the potential for teaching film, differentiated by ability level, as well as exploring how we can challenge students undertaking the VCE.

Our keynote speaker was Michael McQueen. Michael is an outstanding presenter and he is an expert on what motivates Gen Y and Gen Z students. He made it clear that educators cannot pitch content at a level that was used 5-10 years ago.

He highlighted the enhanced skills kids have today including highly developed spatial skills, the ability to switch tasks quickly, they are flexible, adaptable and multi-media savvy.

For today’s students he highlighted putting the relationship with the students before the role. The teachers that they connect with are the ones that treat them as people not students. They don’t care how much you know until they know you care.

He emphasized the importance of building trust, respect and rapport. Be flexible and be interested in their lives. Be honest and authentic. Show the relevance and connectedness of your teaching with other subjects and the outside world.

He emphasized the power of tech rich classrooms, arguing that with the use of technology we have in our hands the most valuable learning tool any student has ever had. There is more knowledge available on any given device than any public library ever had.

Interestingly, he argued that the average teenager in the 1950’s had a vocabulary of 25,000 words whereas today’s average teenager has a vocabulary of less than 10,000 words.

Less than 30 percent of students today are auditory learners, more are visual. YouTube is king! He emphasized the impact that the use of film can have in the classroom. It allows the teacher to be more flexible and accessible at home. It changes the concept that only their teacher can teach them. Teachers can assign video lectures for homework and do traditional homework in the classroom.

At this conference we explored the best possible ways to get the best from our students, in particular, ensuring that the high performing students at APC are both motivated and challenged by the quality of our teaching.

Our brightest students demand our best. They challenge us and demand that we are highly prepared, knowledgeable and passionate about what we teach. We have to be performing at our very best to meet their highly individualized needs.

The key lesson that I took home from the conference was that you cannot ask too much of students. If you establish a culture of high expectations they will rise to meet that demand and surprise – even amaze you. That modeling, will in turn inspire others, lift the standard and expectation of what we do and create the most rewarding environment you can work in – motivated students, creative and passionate, striving to do the very best they can do.

Steven Cook,
Foundation Principal.
Premier Napthine visted Albert Park College on the 18th of September to launch the Government’s ‘Bullystoppers’ campaign. The event was a huge success with Albert Park College students representing the school to the highest standard.
Another successful snow camp ran this year to Victoria’s popular ski resort Falls Creek, located in the Alpine National Park in North Eastern Victoria. The camp ran from the 25th to the 29th of August and was attended by both Albert Park College students and teachers, as well as by the students parents.

This snow season was one of the best in the past decade and with over one meter of snow coverage below and bright blue skies overhead it was one of the best APC Snow Camps so far.

Students attended ski lessons that were tailored to their skiing ability in the morning, perfecting their technique, before heading out in groups to ski freely in the afternoon.

At night, the group gathered around for warm dinners and games after an exhausting day. It was a fantastic week of great weather and great company. And left us all excited for next year’s trip.
On Thursday the 11th of September a group of year 7 and 8 students gave up their warm cosy beds for a night and instead slept in the freezing cold APC courtyard to raise money for the Vinnies school sleep out. This event aimed to raise as much money as possible for the homeless, through sleeping rough for one night and having no bed to sleep on. Thirty-one Albert park students participated and together we raised over $3000! The night started at 8.00 pm when everyone got ready for the long night. We started the evening by watching a short clip on homelessness in Melbourne.

All of us where really touched by the video and found out some really horrible things about youth homelessness. Together, we all tried to brainstorm some ways to make people aware of homelessness in Melbourne and put a stop to this horrible way of life. After our brainstorm we settled down to watch Finding Nemo and we all had a good laugh. Before we new it, it was eleven a clock and time for bed. We all got our cardboard and sleeping bag and tried to find a comfortable position to sleep in. As we tossed and turned trying to get to sleep the cold hit us and it was just freezing. After a night of torturous weather and uncomfortable sleeping we all woke at the crack of dawn by the light, which was glaring down on us. As we slowly got up and realised where we were, breakfast was cooking and we were all starving by that time. Overall, the night was a huge success. We all had a great time and really grasped what it is like to be out on the street. By the end we were saying, “imagine doing that every night?” We really could not imagine it.

I would like to thank Jules Brook and Tim Walsh for cooking us a delicious breakfast. I would also like to thank Anne Stout, Kate Merakis, Joshua Patrick and John Popjoy for all being brave and sleeping out with us on the evening and making the event run so smoothly. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has donated and everyone who participated in the event – it was a huge success!

Marcel Mena,
Student of 7WH.
During the past term the Outdoor Recreation classes have undergone a variety of outdoor and leadership activities. Students have got an up close and personal look into the endangered species of Australia as the first excursion of the term was a visit to Healsville Sanctuary. On this excursion everyone got to roam throughout the Sanctuary and look at its diverse collection of Australian wildlife. For many this excursion served as an eye opener, students were able to look at some of the last remaining animals of their species. Such as the orange bellied parrots, ten or less of which were at the sanctuary, and it is expected next to none remain in the environment.

The next Outdoor Education excursions that students partook in were bouldering and rock climbing. Students went down to the Yarra River to practice bouldering and a few weeks later the city to do rock climbing. During these excursions students were paired up and climbed a variety of rock walls learning how to belay their partner and provide spotting when harnesses were not involved. These two activities helped to strengthen relationships within the small Leadership classes and to improve group dynamics, as students were completely reliant on their partner for protection from injury.

As well as completing a variety of activities as a class during the past term students, in class, have been focusing on the affects of urbanisation on the environment. The impacts have been thoroughly explored, as students have delved into the concepts of endangered species and environmental change.

The last term has been a blast with the enormous amount of leadership activities. All of the students cannot wait for next term.

CALL FOR MAGAZINES
The Albert Park College Textiles department would greatly appreciate the donation of any used fashion magazines, Vougue, Elle Frankie, and the Art department is in need of old newspapers. Help us to recycle and reuse your old items into hand crafted creations by our talented students.
EQUESTRIAN SUCCESS

On Monday September 1st, Mia Dorge represented Albert Park College at the Victorian Interschool Show Jumping Challenge at the Victorian Equestrian Centre.

In her first Equestrian Event she got a 3rd for Show Jumping Equitation which covers the rider’s performance and control of the horse, use of riding aids, proper attire, correct form, and usually factors in rider poise and the cleanliness and polish of horse, rider and equipment.

She achieved an overall 5th for a combination of Show Jumping, Jumping Equitation and Top Score.

Congratulations to Mia on an impressive result in a highly competitive event!

INTER-SCHOOL SNOWSPORT

Hamish Ramsay and Ben Ashkanasy represented Albert Park College in Division Three, Years 7 and 8, last week at Mt Buller.

Ben achieved 2nd place in moguls and a great effort to be acknowledged from Hamish having competed in all Three skiing events, Alpine GS, SkierX and moguls.

We hope to have a bigger representation in 2015, so if you have a passion for snowsports get in contact with one of your school Sport teachers.
LEADING CHOIR PERFORMANCE

On the 17th of September the Albert Park College Leading Choir performed at a Citizenship Ceremony at the St Kilda Town Hall. The students perfectly represented the school, not only with impeccable behavior but their performance was incredibly moving.

The success of the choir is due to Hannah Cameron who has worked really hard preparing the students.

Multiple audience members commented on how moving the students were and how emotional the performance had made them.

We would like to thank the council who has generously donated $500 towards the music program as a token of their appreciation, which will go towards developing the choirs music library.

And a huge congratulations to the students for their efforts on the night.

APC MUSIC CONCERT

If you would like an opportunity to view the exceptional talents of our music students, like the Leading Choir above, then come along to the annual APC Music Concert, held on the 6th of November, in the schools Drama space.

It's guaranteed to be an incredible evening showcasing the schools music ensembles as well as its finest soloists!
VAUDEVILLE PHOTOS FOR SALE

We are very fortunate to have been able to capture the evening in a series of stunning photos, taken at our request, by professional photographer and parent Simon James. Simon has very kindly photographed both the 2013 and 2014 Vaudeville productions and has made the images available for families to purchase.

A percentage of sales is being generously donated to the school and we thank Simon immensely for this initiative. The links below contain the images and you can order prints at various sizes or can purchase the digital file.

Instructions:

Click on the links below and you will be taken to Simon James’ website and enter the password: danks83. You will then be able to scroll through the images and simply click to enlarge. Add images to your shopping cart by clicking ‘add to order’. You can then click ‘view order’ to see your choices and select the print sizes and digital files you desire. Pay by credit card, PayPal or bank deposit.

Orders need to be completed by Friday 19th September 2014 and will be delivered to Albert Park College at the start of Term 4 for collection.

Alternatively your purchases can be sent to you in the mail but there will be a delivery charge.

The link for Vaudeville 2013 is: http://www.fotrel.com/simonjames/a-p-c-vaudeville-2013

Albert Park College student Elly Tew is soon to be performing in the highly acclaimed Melbourne Fringe Festival. Elly has a passion for contemporary dance and trains for 15 hours a week at a local dance studio, Sheek Dance Studio.

This year she spent the Easter school holidays at the Australian Youth Dance Festival where she and 80 other young contemporary dancers worked with some of Australia’s top choreographers to put a 40 minute work together that was performed on the banks of the Murray River.

These holidays Elly will be dancing in the Melbourne Fringe festival in a work entitled “I came here to Dance Once”. Yellow Wheel will unleash acclaimed choreographer Jo Lloyd alongside Joshua Lowe and Amber McCartney to make new contemporary dance works with a company of 35 next generation dance artists. “This is a dance project that spans over three decades of insight about our relationship to the body and how it moves” – Adam Wheeler Yellow Wheel’s Artistic Director. It is an opportunity for the APC community to support one of its own artists and to be exposed to contemporary dance.
Contact Tiffany for more information - 0420 660 364
tiffanytoombs@australiancricketcollege.com
www.australiancricketcollege.com