IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 19th December 2014
Last day of School Year

Friday 30th January 2015
First day of School for Year 7 students only

Monday 2nd February 2015
First day of School for Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students

College Reception
2015 Opening Hours
Wednesday 28th January - 12.00pm to 4.00pm
Thursday 29th January - 9.00am to 12.00pm
Friday 30th January and ongoing - 8.30am to 4.30pm

Wednesday 25th February 2015
School Photographs

PRINCIPAL’S SAY
A TIME FOR REFLECTION

“Albert Park College exudes energy and a passion for student learning and achievement and has been gaining a reputation as the school of choice in the Albert Park area and beyond.”

Christmas is a time of reflection, an opportunity to look back at what we have achieved at Albert Park College. Four years into the life of the new College, we felt it was time that we undertook an extensive, externally assessed review of our performance. We have just received the results and this seems a very apt time to share the findings.

The reviewer found that “there is an air of anticipation, enthusiasm and passion as the school moves forward. The College has worked diligently to create a highly effective school and the leaders, staff, students and council have much to be proud of.

There is a strong sense of purpose and the college strives to create a culture of excellence in an exemplary learning environment. The purpose is to develop model citizens who have strong cross-cultural knowledge and who value tolerance, understanding and respect.

This is led by teachers who are passionate about what they teach and achievement and learning of students is at the centre of everything we do.

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“The school ethos of Lead, Create, Inspire underpins student learning, engagement and well-being and is evident in everything the school undertakes and has achieved so far.”


This was also the year in which we secured the former Circus Oz site. The historic post office and naval drill hall will be transformed into a purpose built Year 9 Campus and provide a valuable addition to our senior years performing arts program. It will house our innovative Da Vinci project and provide a hothouse of ideas for middle years education with a particular emphasis on the exploration of the environment and the arts.

We are pleased to announce that the architectural firm 6 Degrees will be designing the new space. 6 Degrees are renowned for their work in converting heritage listed buildings and for their emphasis on environmentally sustainable design. They seem a perfect fit for this project.

2014 has also seen a blossoming of creativity and the arts. Once again, we produced an original Opera with the team from WotOpera, Vaudeville was a great success at its new home at the National Theatre. We ran a very successful music performance evening and the ever popular Art Show was once again a standout event. Instrumental music is also booming with over 100 of our incoming year 7 students taking up an instrument in 2015.

However, for me the highlight was the school production, an original work written and performed by our students. It spoke clearly to our emphasis on creativity and innovation. It was clever, finely acted and underpinned by clear moral purpose. Every year our arts program grows and you should expect more creative highlights throughout 2015.

The Da Vinci Project has also gone from strength to strength with the originality and quality of the student work growing from year to year. This is now our landmark program for year 9 and a great way to challenge year 9 students before they progress to the senior years.

“Albert Park College is set to become an outstanding government school of choice in the south of Melbourne offering high quality education to all students. “

This year saw the introduction of the senior years program with over 60 percent of our students accelerating into one or more VCE studies. We are proud that we have already established an academic culture at this level which provides a thorough grounding for the senior years of secondary school.

The basketball academy goes from strength to strength with over 150 students participating in this program. This year saw it deliver our first state championship and we are enormously proud of our teams effort in clinching this well earnt victory.

All of this is driven by the wonderfully committed and passionate teaching team at APC. As the reviewer said “there are strong staff and teacher-student relationships at every level and the genuine care and support for every student is evident.” There has been a clear focus on building a stimulating learning environment so that every student is engaged in high quality learning.”

I would like to invite you to celebrate what we have achieved together by viewing The Year in Review which will be e-mailed to you shortly. It is a great way to capture the essence of what our wonderful students have achieved this year.

On behalf of Albert Park College we wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the freedom of the holiday period and we look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Merry Christmas,

Steve Cook
Foundation Principal.
MULTICULTURAL DAY

Every year we dedicate a day to the celebration of the rich and varied cultures that make up Australian society. This year a team of parents worked with APC students to transform the courtyard into a colourful and creative space, full of music, dancing and the delicious aroma of exotic foods. Throughout the day there were performances from cultures around the world. Some of the highlights included our very own Bollywood dancers, a Japanese drumming troupe who impressed with the power and energy of their performance, Krishna dancing and tai chi classes in the Library.

We all enjoyed the opportunity to sample first hand a range of cultural experiences from across the world. This is an important part of being a global citizen at APC-students who appreciate and care about what other cultures have to offer. A special thanks to Alisha Kirtley and James Wallace-Smith who organised the day.

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2015

Can you host a French student from the 10-23 March 2015?

We need 10 Albert Park College families to host 10 students from our new French sister school Lycée Sainte Marie du Port in Les Sables d’Olonne on the Atlantic Coast of France.

Ideally, the visiting students would have a host brother or sister who will be in Year 10 or Year 11 in 2015.

As a host you simply need to provide a room for the visiting student, three meals a day and a normal family experience. You don’t need to do anything special as being with you is special enough! They really just want the chance to experience life in Australia and practise their English.

For French students this would be an amazing opportunity to put French language skills into action.

If you could host, please contact Tasha Paquier within the next week on paquier.tasha.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or 0413 246 676.
ALBERT PARK COLLEGE’S FIRST NEPAL HIKING TRIP

6am, 3210m altitude, Poon Hill, Annapurna South Track, Nepal. Knees and hips hurt. Leg muscles are sore. Wet clothes are sticking on our bodies. We have left Ghorepani at 5am in the morning and after one hour steep climbing of uneven steps in the darkness in a procession of hundreds of other hikers, we all share the same goal: Being at the top of Poon Hill to watch the sun rise over 17 Himalayan stunning snow-capped peaks. One last deep breath, one last exhausting step and Maree Denahy-Maloney sums it up for all of us: “Yes! We did it.” Our reward is a breathtaking sun rise, an awe inspiring moment fulfilling every one of us hikers with deep satisfaction.

Poon Hill is one of the most famous viewpoints in Nepal and one of the highlights and at the same time the highest point we reached in the Himalayas during our amazing APC Nepal trekking trip. Yes, indeed we did it: nine APC students, nine APC parents and one APC teacher, James Wallace-Smith, who boarded the plane in Melbourne to disembark in Kathmandu on a life time adventure: hiking in Nepal.

The idea for the trip was born after several APC-Family hikes in Victoria over the past three years. Thanks to James Wallace-Smith’s experience, commitment, thorough preparation and Dominique Ground’s enthusiasm, encouragement and support, Hamish and Elaine, Maree and Callum, Lynda and Emma, Aileen and Olivia, Dominque and Isabelle, Letitia and Lachlan, Andrew and Jack, Tim and Sam as well as Matthias and Connor Raab could experience a 15 day long journey with James Wallace-Smith through amazing Nepalese history, the country’s rich culture and magnificent nature.
These 15 days were jam packed with indulging in exotic Nepalese food, back to basics accommodation and incredible experiences ranging from visits to the boarding school Mr Wallace-Smith taught for one year, to gaining an insight into the life of young Nepalese boys and girls in orphanages, thrilling white water rafting and an exhausting seven day trek in the Annapurna Ranges that literally takes your breath away. Furthermore we gained first-hand knowledge from local experts in discussions about nature conservation in the Annapurna Conversation Area in Ghandruk or while chatting and even dancing with locals and our friendly porters.

We began the journey staying in the precinct of Bhaktapur in Kathmandu, one of the ancient Nepalese kingdoms. Time seemed to stand still when we passed by little shops with merchants offering crafts, jewellery, paintings, pottery and garments. Quickly adjusting to our first Nepalese accommodation with tables on the roof top, local food, traffic jams and noise as well as massive air pollution in Kathmandu, we learned the art of bargaining and embraced the rich history and culture surrounding us.

Peaceful and traditional Bhaktapur allowed us to experience the buzz of a truly different world. Mr Wallace-Smith not only introduced us to traditional Newari food, but to his former school where teachers and students were celebrating the last day of learning before the five-day long Tihar Festival. In Nagargot we celebrated Lachlan’s 17th birthday with views of Mt Everest although covered in clouds, and saw one of the world’s largest Buddhist Stupa dominating the skyline in Boudhanath.

The following day a small aircraft from Buddha Air took us from Kathmandu to Phokara, from where most of the trekkers start their journeys into the Annapurna Ranges, one of the most popular trekking area in the world.

The warm climate and tranquil setting of Phokara invited to swim in the lake, bicycle trips or enjoyable walks and the entire group embarked on the first thrilling adventure: White Water rafting on the Upper Seti River with strong currents that were even for advanced rafters more than a refreshing experience.

After picking up our guides and porters, the bus trip let us enjoy tight roads in the mountains, some smooth, mostly rough though. Half of the group could look up the mountains on one side and the other half could enjoy the big void on the other side. How vehicles can stay safely on the roads or even pass each other defeats the laws of physics.
Already deeper in the mountainous valley we got dropped off, the porters grabbed our backpacks and dis-appeared quickly. We immediately discovered that there is no easy walking in the mountains. It either goes steeply up or even steeper down. On our ascent to the small village of Ghandruk we only experienced what if feels to just walk up. And this was just a tiny taste of what was yet to come.

Arriving in Ghandruk we were warmly welcomed with flower necklaces by women engaged in an amazing rural educational and nature conservation program. From the village of Ghandruk we enjoyed the stunning views of the mountains of Annapurna including the sacred landmark Machapuchre. Celebrating the Tihar Festival with ceremonies and dancing with the locals at our beautiful guesthouse was the second highlight after a day exploring genuine village life in Ghandruk.

From then onwards we started to push harder and ascend further. The weather began an unusual pattern following the storms from weeks before. From around midday the blue sky got covered by dark clouds opening up to heavy rain for the rest of each day from now onwards. Tadapani blessed us with stunning mountain views when having breakfast outside. Accommodation and facilities got more basic and as we were shifting into serious trekking mode the group including our porters bonded very strongly.

Reaching our highest point at Poon Hill our journey back began. Sharing a rugged track with other trekkers, locals, mules and buffalos before we spent the last night in Jinundanda where sore hikers could recover in the nearby hot springs. What a rare treat after this was the first warm water for some of us since leaving Melbourne.

Recovering back in Phokara got a few restless thrill seekers into paragliding in arguably one of the best paragliding locations in the world. All of us enjoyed a long dinner with our tour guide Chandra in the charming Moondance Restaurant in Phokara.

The pristine beauty of the Annapurna Ranges was even more prevalent after returning to busy Kathmandu. Finishing our journey at the Swambunath Buddhist Temple provided us with a last sight of the Kathmandu valley surrounded by the highest mountains on earth.
APC BASKETBALL STATE FINAL

This long but rewarding journey started with the beachside division competition held in Dandenong. During this time, both the APC teams got through to the regional tournament, with the boys defeating Melbourne High School by about 30 points! Winning this tournament was a huge confidence booster for us, since we lost to Melbourne High in last year’s grand final match.

A couple of weeks later, the regional tournament was upon us, with much fiercer competition (especially McKinnon as we had lost to them in the regional finals in year 8). The first game for the APC boys started slow, just managing to come out victorious in our first pool game by 1 point. After that game, the boys tremendously improved their performance winning each game by a larger margin, eventually leading to the state finals.

The state finals was going to be a tough challenge especially with Rowville in our pool. To advance to the grand final and compete for the title of state champs, we had to beat Rowville a team with multiple state and high achieving players. The Rowville game was close all the way, with the APC boys down by 4 points at the half. During the second half, we made a big run leading the game by 7 points with about 2 minutes left in the game. Rowville showed why they were the favourites to win the tournament cutting the lead to 1 with 0.2 seconds left. Thanks to a crucial defensive possession, the APC boys were able to seal the game and compete for the title of state champs.

In the state grand final, we played Bendigo Catholic College. The game started out close but thanks to some crucial plays, we were able to generate a lead and become the best basketball team in Victoria.

I would like to thank the APC Basketball Academy coaches (especially Nick and Dave), parents and players for all the hard work, dedication and the time put into training. Winning this prestigious title would not have been possible without the help and support of them. I would also like to thank the students and teachers of APC, especially Miss Murphy for filling up the drink bottles, registering players and supporting the team for three consecutive tournaments; as well as Miss Riosa for re-scheduling the exams and providing the opportunity for the team to participate in inter-school sport and win this illustrious title.

TEXTBOOK DONATIONS

As another year draws to a close, Albert Park College is asking students to donate old textbooks to new students, who will be attending the College in 2015.

These textbooks will be recycled and donated to students struggling with the cost of materials. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Textbooks should be handed into the library.

Albert Park College thanks the community for their support.
Albert Park College wishes all of our students, staff and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are especially grateful for the hard work and time that was given throughout this year by our generous and motivated school community. Helping to make memorable events like Vaudeville, the APC Art Show, Swim and Athletics’ carnivals and countless musical performances a success.

We look forward to commencing the 2015 school year with you on the 2nd of February and to the success of another year at Albert Park College.