PRINCIPAL’S SAY
FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW...

No matter how long you have been in education there is still a lift of excitement when a new group of Year 7 students commence their first day of secondary school. You can sense their parents nervousness as they wait expectantly for the day to begin. The new students in their bright new uniforms bubbling over with nervous energy as they assemble at the beginning of the day waiting patiently for the experiences that life at Albert Park College will bring.

You can rest assured that this year’s intake of Year 7’s have gotten off to a flying start. Their enthusiasm and passion for learning is already evident. It is pretty inspiring to be approached by our new students in the yard only for them to declare that “I love school.”

I love the vibrancy that comes from a growing school. Our overall student intake has reached just over 480 students and 18 new teachers have joined our teaching team this year. Students and teachers have settled in remarkably well and it has been a smooth beginning to the 2013 school year.
I am proud to say we have employed some of the brightest and most highly skilled young teachers in the state. They have already added to the sense of energy and purpose in the College and that bodes well for the future of Albert Park College.

One of the most exciting aspects of leading one of Victoria’s newest schools is the opportunity to develop new and innovative programs.

At the Year 9 level we have launched the Da Vinci project, a specialized Year 9 curriculum designed to challenge the brightest minds at the school. Students are immersed in the exploration of the environment and are asked to produce creative and original art based responses to the study of the environment. They are learning essential 21st century skills including problem solving, high level communication skills and the ability to work in teams. I am looking forward to them presenting their work to you at the end of semester one.

We have also built on the success of the Basketball Academy, 110 students enrolled this year, by introducing a Football Academy. 28 students have signed up to this new program that is led by former Socceroo and Melbourne Victory coach Mehmet Durakovic. Follow the link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0NyDlaPJMY to view their first ever training session at Lagoon Reserve.

We have been incredibly busy over the holiday period as we prepared the school for a new cohort of students. We have opened up a new art space on the top floor of the building. It has fabulous views across the city skyline and Port Phillip Bay. It should prove to be an inspirational space to produce art.

We have also grown our multimedia capacity with the addition of 6 new large scale LCD screens and have both restored and placed some really beautiful pieces of furniture around the school to soften the overall look and feel of the building.

One of the most visible changes since 2012 has been the opening of a new circuit training centre. It is a state of the art facility that offers our students the opportunity to build their overall fitness. We have this new facility because of the fundraising activities of our parents who raised over $25,000 in 2012. I want to thank them for their wonderful contribution to the life of the school.

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It is also through their efforts that we have been able to install six raised garden beds. Located outside the food area we are now growing a range of seasonal herbs and vegetables. Now our food students can truly understand the concept of food moving from the “paddock to the plate” as they plant the seeds, grow and harvest the food and finally prepare it to be eaten.

Last weekend many of our families made the journey to Marysville. The family led camps keep growing in popularity to the extent that we fully booked out the Marysville campsite. Albert Park College is certainly making a fine contribution to the rebuilding of the Marysville community.

It was great to see new and established families mingling across the weekend. For the kids the highlights being the opportunity to swim and build friendships while for the adults the barbeque and open fire at night was a great bonding experience. On the drive home, as I was winding my way through the black spur; I reflected on how proud I was at the way we have developed such a wonderful community spirit.

Steve Cook
Foundation Principal
DANCE NEWS

For those that read Dance Informa, you may have seen an article with one of APC’s very own students as the focus. Noah Missell of Year 9 is part of a dance group called Project Y and their upcoming performance Project #1 Apocalypse will be a work to remember for the 31 performers aged 11 to 22. The show is a physical theatre piece with dance and acting involved and tells the story of a group of young people trapped in an army bunker after the world has “ended.” With raw emotion and thrilling stories, this could be Project Y’s best work to date. The show is running for a short time at the Revolt Art Space in Kensington, from the 8th to the 10th of March with tickets available by calling 93762115 or the website - www.revoltproductions.com.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

To celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD) on Friday 8th March students are encouraged to come to school in casual clothes wearing either purple, green or white (or a mix). These are the colours that represent IWD. Purple represents justice, dignity, self reverence and self respect (and the women’s vote). Green represents hope and new life. White represents purity both in public as well as private life. If students choose to wear casual clothes in these colours they will need to bring a gold coin donation. This money will go to the YWCA Victoria, an organization that helps support women of all ages in Victoria find accommodation, gain education and job opportunities.

We will have ribbons and cookies to celebrate the day. Both boys and girls are encouraged to participate as it is important that we all raise awareness and celebrate female achievement.

If students are not participating they are expected to be in full school uniform.

Kate Merakis

APC BALLKIDS 2013

Two of our students from APC took the initiative to be involved in the Australian Open earlier this year as ballkids. Alexander Scott, 8KR, (pictured) and Jacob Spiropoulos, 8MS, were short listed from over 3,000 applicants to become members of the elite 380 ballkid squad. Both enjoyed the experience immensely.
EMERALD HILL PRECINCT DESIGN

Council’s vision is to make South Melbourne an engaging civic, community and arts hub.

We would like to hear from you about our draft designs for Emerald Hill that include improvements to the Library and Heritage Centre forecourt, the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt and surrounding streetscapes. The designs build on plans outlined in the Emerald Hill Master Plan, and respond to the community consultation undertaken in 2012.

**Have Your Say**

We are committed to working with the community and are providing a variety of opportunities for you to have your say on the designs.

**Online consultation**

To view the draft designs and have your say online visit [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

**Drop-in sessions at a marquee on the lawn of the South Melbourne Town Hall**

Council staff will be available to present the designs and answer any questions.

- Thursday 14 March 2013 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
- Saturday 16 March 2013 10 am – 12 pm

**More information**

Please contact Elena Kalnin, Place Manager via ASSIST 9209 6777 or ekalnin@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Consultation closes Monday 18 March
WELCOME TO APC PARENT CONNECT

Every month an article will be placed in the newsletter highlighting various adolescent topics which we hope you will find informative.

Michael Grose is the author of eight parenting books and contributes popular parenting columns for many national newspapers and magazines.

He also has a regular fortnightly half hour parenting segment on ABC radio Victoria.

Michael’s background is in education and he holds a Master of Educational Studies with research into what makes healthy families tick. He has conducted over 1,500 parenting seminars over the last two decades.

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Starting secondary school is a time of change and uncertainty, which places new demands on kids. Being at the bottom of the pecking order where they are unsure of the playground hierarchies is just one adjustment that they need to make. Getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships are just some of their challenges during this period.

Some kids take these new experiences in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty, particularly as it’s accompanied by the potentially unsettling transition from childhood to adolescence. It’s no coincidence that children’s learning levels out in the transition year presumably because the social tasks of adjustment take precedence over academic performance.

It helps to remember the 3 P’s to assist your young person to settle in:

1. **Patience**
   Be patient and understanding in the early weeks. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it is normal to feel nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many of the difficulties they face will be temporary.

2. **Positive attitude**
   Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in problems with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

3. **Process their day**
   Some young people may come home with fairly exaggerated accounts of secondary school and may not always paint a fair picture. They can be sensitive to many things, which they would have shrugged off in primary school. It helps if you can listen without judgement and show a real interest in their new school, while providing them with the space they need to get away for a while. Expect some behaviour blowouts as many kids let off some steam in the safe and stable environment of a loving family.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school’s culture and communication methods.

Although secondary schools may seem a little foreign for those used to the relative intimacy of primary schools one aspect is the same – **outcomes for students is maximised when schools and parents work together in the best interests of the student**.

One way to support your young person’s school is by actively promoting the schools’ values. For instance, if respect is a prominent school value then you can discuss this in relation to the way your young person behaves around friends, relatives and family.

Most importantly, talk your young person’s new school up, rather than talking it down as kids of all ages take their cues from the most significant adults in their lives- their parents!
Start rehearsing!

AUDITIONS early in Term 2

 Further info see Ms Brown
 or email
 nadinebrown@albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au
NATIONAL RIDE 2 SCHOOL DAY

FRIDAY 22 MARCH

RIDE • SCOOT • SKATE • WALK

Be part of the fun!