PRINCIPAL’S SAY
IN DEFENCE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION...

We all thrive on inspiration and I was fortunate enough to receive a healthy dose of it when I had the privilege to hear Justice Michael Kirby speak at a recent conference.

Justice Kirby gave a spirited defence of the public education system at his address. His entire education was spent at public schools and he is a passionate defender of the quality of a public school education. I loved his emphasis on the use of the word "public" and his insistence that “public education is there for everyone.”

He tackled head on the issue of teaching values in schools with the assertion that "values matter" and highlighted the fact that "values affect decisions." It certainly made me feel good about our emphasis on student leadership and our insistence on developing a consistent core set of values for the school. Indeed, our core values resonate in everything we do from our positive school culture, built around respect and tolerance of others, to our commitment to caring for the environment.

Justice Kirby’s respect for every one of his teachers shone through. He was able to describe them by name and personality, and his reverence for his teachers reminded me of the impact that a
A highly effective teacher can have on your life. Here is a link to an interview he gave in NSW in 2012 on the same topic. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIpBnKjsd_w

It was a timely reminder for us all that public education matters. Justice Kirby pointed out that it is public education that does the heavy lifting in our society and that it deserves the support of the whole country. He pointed out that public schools are vital to the democratic ethos of Australia and all of us should support them.

Justice Kirby believes that public education is under attack and that there has been too much drift to private and Catholic schools. Indeed, every second student from a wealthy privileged background is now drawn into the private sector.

He suggested that the moment of truth is coming and that all of us should support public education. He was, of course, pointing to the Gonski report and the reforms that sit behind it.

The report says school funding is not simply a financial matter. Rather, it is about strengthening and securing Australia’s future. It says schools must be appropriately resourced to support every child, and every teacher must expect the most from every child. It says Australian children, now and in the future, deserve nothing less. This is a message that is starting to resonate in our community. Indeed, on the day of his speech 78% of readers surveyed in the Age supported the Gonski reforms while only 22% were opposed.

I was left with an enormous sense of pride in the work that we do. Respect for teachers in general and in particular for the wonderful staff at Albert Park College. He left us with the message that “It’s time for public education to have its time in the sun.” I like to think that we share his commitment and that at Albert Park College we are conducting our own spirited defence of the public education system.

Steve Cook
Foundation Principal
A GREAT HIKE WITH GREAT PEOPLE!

On Saturday the 16th of March, a group of over thirty parents and students set off to go hiking in the Lederderg Gorge for three days. The Lederderg Gorge is about an hour north-west of Melbourne and the starting place point was O’Briens Crossing, not far from the small town of Blackwood. Although this valley is not extremely well known, it is a beautiful area and is host to a number of interesting relics from the gold mining era.

Initially, we gathered at O’Brien’s Crossing as a group, distributed the food, pots, pans and trangiers between us, took the team photograph, wished each other well and headed on our way.

Although the tracks were generally well defined, there were a few rough sections and obstacles we had to contend with. There were also a couple of steep climbs, but nothing held this group back. They all took the challenging track in their stride and we never heard anyone complain, just laughter and smiles the whole way.

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As the valley is not well known, we rarely saw anyone else and we managed to secure two great campsites, where we lit fires and cooked our dinners. The team worked extremely well on this front and there were rumours about starting a ‘team’ restaurant when we returned to Melbourne, as the food was so delicious.

In addition to the hiking, camping and consumption of delicious food, the group also panned for gold, swam in the river, explored old ruins and listened to ghost stories from the region. Unlike Melbourne that weekend, the conditions were great, a little drizzle, but overall, it was perfect for hiking!

Our final day was up the Razorback Trail, which the team had no problems navigating before finishing at a local establishment in Greendale for a refreshing and well earnt cold drink.

Overall, it was a very successful and fun hike, with a great group of APC parents and students. Thanks must also be given to Dominic Grounds, who did a lot of the legwork to get everyone organised and to make the hike possible. Looking forward to doing it again next year!

Mr Wallace Smith.
APC HEADS TO MALAYSIA!

In September 2013, the very first World Challenge Expedition team from APC will be heading to Malaysia. The trip is scheduled to leave on the 7th of September and return on the 21st of September, and we currently have 18 students who have committed to the trip. The main focus of this Da Vinci expedition is to work on a ‘Turtle Conservation’ project around the Perhentian Islands. There are currently seven different types of sea turtles around the world, all of which are endangered due to human poaching, pollution and climate change.

Our students will work very closely with a local organisation on this project, however, there will also be time in Kuala Lumpur, exploring the capital of Malaysia, as well as hiking and rafting in the Cameron Highlands amongst other adventures.

The organisation that has prepared our itinerary is World Challenge – [http://www.worldchallenge.com.au](http://www.worldchallenge.com.au) – which is one of the original Adventure Travel Companies that focuses on school expeditions around the world. On average, they assist over 7,000 students to complete their expeditions in over 50 countries around the world. They currently work with almost 200 schools in Australia and we hope that this is the beginning of a long-term relationship with them.

Students have already commenced fundraising, researching Malaysia and getting fit for our adventure. As a group, we also have plans to learn some Malaysian before we go, which two other APC students have volunteered their time to assist us with. We will also investigate local customs and culture before we leave.

Our expedition sounds incredible and I am looking forward to assisting this group of very fortunate APC students on this expedition, which will no doubt be a very enriching and life changing experience for all involved.

For additional information on APC’s trip to Malaysia, please look on the ‘Expeditions’ page on the Da Vinci website.

*Mr Wallace Smith*
BEACH VOLLEYBALL SCHOOLS CUP

The Volleyball Victoria’s Beach Schools Cup was held at local South Melbourne Beach over three days this term. Eight students entered in the Year 9 pairs division, representing Albert Park College for the first time. The most experienced entrants were Brandon Eagle & Jeremy Meyn, who have been training together for the last six months and have built a strong partnership on court. Brandon & Jeremy fought their way through to the semi-final, finishing in 3rd place in the State, a fantastic achievement. Also competing respectfully well were Janna Fotokopolous, Nicky Tzouvanellis, Zane Chapman, Tyla-Giles Watson, Gene Kuzmenko and Andres Ferrandon. A special thanks also goes to John Eagle for his refereeing and coaching support on the day.

VOLLEYBALL AT ALBERT PARK COLLEGE

Volleyball is a fun, active and inclusive sport both on the beach and indoors. APC is ideally located next to South Melbourne Beach courts, the home of beach volleyball in Victoria, and next to MSAC where the Australian Schools Cup is run every year.

APC is currently looking for interested parents to join the APC Volleyball Committee. The Committee’s main objective is to help set-up avenues for students to train and compete in both indoor and beach volleyball tournaments. Interested parents please email edwardgillespie@albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au.
The annual College swimming carnival was held at MSAC on the 27th of February. After a stormy start to the day, the carnival was moved inside for the twilight session. With over 60 races and in electric conditions Freeman succeeded in securing this years title closely followed by Winton and Flannery.

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Champion swimmers and leading competitors then represented Albert Park College in the interschool swimming competition at Oakleigh the following week. A squad of 24 students swam in individual races and relays scoring points for the College and gaining a credible position in the final standings against much bigger schools.

Many students competed in open races. This means that students aged from 12 to 20 are eligible to compete. Our students are to be commended for entering in these races and gaining points for Albert Park College.

Regional swimming championships saw our first place swimmers all gain a position on the podium and everyone achieve a medal.

Oscar Paulke
Paris Wright
Kurtis Macaulay
Emma Madgwick
Hamish Ramsay
Fraser Jackson

The proud students through to the next stage in the State finals are Emma Madgwick and Paris Wright. Well done girls!

*Kyeran Clutton, Sports Coordinator.*
APC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

The Football Academy has had a fantastic start to its first year. The program is run by professional footballer and coach Mehmet Durakovic and the VIF (Victorian Institute of Football).

There is an opportunity for students interested in the program to enrol in Term 2. The cost for the program for the three terms will be $1,240 but payments can be paid in two instalments of $620 payable at the start of Term 2, with the second instalment due at the beginning of Term 3. This fee includes 6 hours of training per week and includes player’s jersey, short and rain jacket and a personalised fitness training program.

If you are interested in the program or have any queries contact Tony Curulli by email at info@vif.com.au.

FRENCH EXTENSION CLASSES

Do you want to extend your French?

We have 10 places are available for a French extension class with a specialist native speaker. These classes will be on Wednesday afternoon from 3.30pm – 4.30pm in the library.

There is a cost of $300 involved, and this will be for the rest of the year.

Please pay at Reception if you are interested.
Albert Park College students ditched the bus in favour of leg power on March 22 for Ride2School Day.

The College joined more than 140,000 students across Australia who rode, skated, scooted or walked to school.

Albert Park College sports and humanities teacher Skanda Coffield-Feith said the initiative was a healthy way for kids to develop independence and not rely on mum or dad to shuttle them to school.

“Lots of the kids live locally and we want to try and promote a healthier way to get to school,” My Coffield-Feith said.

Participating students were given a free healthy morning tea.

My Coffield-Feith said it was estimated that at least a third of students already rode, walked, scooted or skated to school each day, and he hoped participation in this year’s Ride2School event would encourage more to adopt these modes of transport.

The initiative has been running nationally since 2006.

Ride2School team manager Kelly Pearson said encouraging students to ride to school made them more self-sufficient and was a crucial part of education and the development of social skills.

“Students who ride to school arrive energised and alert, resulting in higher concentration times than those who don’t,” Miss Pearson said.

“National Ride2School Day allows the school community to embrace riding as a viable and sustainable transport alternative.”

For more information on the Ride2School program, visit bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/ride2school.

Laura Banks
Friday the 8th of March was International Women’s Day. APC celebrated this special event with a casual clothes’ day, where students wore purple, white and green (the colours of IWD) to symbolise their support. Each student received a ribbon of purple, white and green wear on their lapel in recognition of the work still needed to done all across the globe to ensure equality for women. Cookies were kindly provided by the Café for the girls to enjoy at recess.

At the end of day, the girls attended a special assembly with guest speaker Rachel Jarry, of the Australian Opals. As a young athlete, Olympic Bronze Medal winner and player in both the WNBL and very soon the WNBA, Rachel was well positioned to speak to our female students about some of the obstacles she has had to overcome in her career as a woman in a male dominated sport.
Rachel informed the girls that in the WNBA, the maximum wage a player is allowed to earn is 100,000 dollars per year. This is contrasted with the multi-million dollar salaries the male players earn as a base level in America’s NBL. Furthermore, in Australia, some players don’t even earn a wage. These athletes have to work full time to support their passion. Highlighting these sorts of discrepancies is what International Women’s Day is all about – so we can work together in order to change the status quo.

The day ended with Rachel, very kindly, allowing the students to hold her Olympic Medal and answering some pertinent questions on the inequality in her sport.

A very special thanks to Rachel for giving up her time to share IWD with us.

Thank you to John, Naomi, Tia, Mary, Harris, Eric, Grace, Elias, Panos and Tom for giving up their time to help with construction of the ribbons.

Kate Merakis – Student Leadership Coordinator
VISIT FROM PROFESSOR SCHMIDT

On Friday 1 March, Albert Park College students enjoyed a visit from Australia’s 2011 physics Nobel Laureate, Professor Brian Schmidt.

He was here with Associate Professor Andrew Greentree from RMIT’s School of Applied Sciences, for the launch of ‘the BIG little g project’. This new initiative from the University involves working with students to replicate some of Galileo’s initial experiments exploring gravity.

Students from 9MB were lucky enough to be invited to work with Professor Schmidt and participated in a hands-on experiment exploring how the Earth’s gravity could be measured using every day equipment: a homemade pendulum, a tape measure and a stop watch.

The gravitational field of the earth will then be mapped, using results from various locations around the globe. This exciting initiative is hoped to become one of the biggest physics experiments ever conducted.

More information can be found on RMIT’s website http://rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=cj7q2mqe5dre if you want to be involved.
MTC PRESENTS ‘ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS’

Francis Henshall is hungry. He desperately needs a job after being sacked from his skiffle band. And if two jobs come his way, why shouldn’t he take both? So Francis becomes the minder of Roscoe Crabbe, a vicious London bovver boy, but he’s also running errands around Brighton for a chinless wonder going by the name of Stanley Stubbers. Two guvnors, two pay days, two meal tickets. And as long as they don’t meet each other – it’s money for jam, times two!

The MTC is bringing this overseas production from the National Theatre in the UK to Melbourne.

Albert Park College has a booking for 10 to see this play at the Playhouse Theatre at 8:00pm on Friday 24th May. The cost is $59 per student and $99 per adult. All students are required to make their own way to the theatre (Playhouse, Arts Centre) and will be dismissed from there. There will not be any teachers in attendance.

If you are interested, please pay at Reception.

The next play to be booked is ‘Rupert’ by David Williamson.
ALBERT PARK COLLEGE CHESS ACADEMY
TERM 2, 2013

Chess is the world’s most popular mind sport! It is not only fun to play but has many educational benefits. Chess has been shown to develop numerical skills, problem solving, pattern visualisation, memory, creativity, concentration and confidence.

Whether you would like to play chess as a hobby or represent APC at Interschool Chess Competitions, you will learn many techniques to improve your play. Lessons include strategy, tactics, psychological preparation, chess mythology and stories, and of course, playing plenty of chess! Trophies are presented to the top players at the end of every Term.

DAY: Monday Lunchtimes
DATES: 22nd April – 17th June
COST: $90 ($10 per week)
TEACHER: George Zaprudsky. George has been playing top level tournament chess for 25 years and has been teaching chess for 10 years. He is the winner of State and National Junior titles Contact: george@zedchess.com.au.

All students are welcome to try out the Chess Academy in the first week and there will be no charge if you decide not to sign up for the Term.

ALBERT PARK COLLEGE CHESS ACADEMY – TERM 2, 2013

Please return with payment to the school office or to the chess teacher by the second week of chess classes in a clearly marked envelope. (Cheques are payable to zedChess).

Name: ____________________________ Age: ___ Parent Name: ____________________________

Phone/s: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Payment By: □ Cash □ Cheque (Payable to zedChess) □ Direct Debit*

* Account Name: zedChess
Branch/BSB: 013214
Account No: 902036205

If paying by Direct Debit please ensure that you have paid prior to returning this form. Thank you.
Community Chest

South Melbourne Community Chest is one of APC’s partners. Last year, it awarded the school $2,000 to help us build up our stock of musical instruments.

The Community Chest has been providing financial support for welfare and other groups in the community for 60 years. It derives its income from an opportunity shop at 200 Bank St, South Melbourne (just near the Town Hall).

We can support Community Chest by donating clothing and other goods at the opportunity shop. If you do not work full-time, Community Chest is always looking for volunteers to assist in running the shop.

Year 7 Parent Class Representatives

Dear Year 7 Parents,

I am part of the Parent Connect group at APC. During our 1st meeting recently, it was decided that we check the level of interest amongst Year 7 parents for Parent Class Representatives (1 or 2 for each class) to volunteer to coordinate activities in each Year 7 class. We decided that we would do a trial run only for Year 7 classes initially.

Therefore, if you are interested in becoming a Parent Class Representative for your child’s class, please contact me at khueenie@gmail.com

Khueenie (parent of Luke in 7RP)

Buttons Wanted

Our Textiles Department is in need of buttons.

If any one can help in the supplying of buttons it would be greatly appreciated please contact Hayley Schirmer - hayleyschirmer@albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au or drop them off to Reception.
Parental withdrawal from children’s education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. By the time you get home from work or doing other activities you are spent.

But the message for parents is clear – become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child’s education. The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Parent participation is much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple ways to assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child. These include; hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

✔ Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child’s school apart from others.

✔ Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s.

✔ Direct constructive criticism through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.

✔ Become an advocate for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

✔ Attend school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.

✔ Consult with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school-life.

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

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Help Council design your new park!

Do you want to be involved in designing a new park for your area?
Have you got some great ideas you want to share with us?

Pop by - even for a quick visit - and help us design a new park for the local community.

We’ll be at the new park site in Emerald Hill Place Reserve (behind the Emerald Hill Library) on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 March, from 12.30 - 1.30 pm and 3.30 - 5 pm.

Drop in to either of these sessions for a visit.

Have your say and make an impact!

For more information contact us via ASSIST on 03 9209 6777 or email ospace@portphillip.vic.gov.au
FILM OPPORTUNITY

To celebrate National Youth Awareness Week, Far Out Films will be filming a community message, written and filmed by a group of 12 children, aged 14-18 years. (http://faroutfilms.tv)

The community message will cover identity, self-esteem, personal value and contributing to your community themes from a teenager’s point of view. It will be broadcast at the St Kilda Film Festival in May 2013.

The filming will be split over two days whereby the children write the script on day 1 and film the script on day 2. No experience in filmmaking is necessary and there is no charge to participate.

Details:

Venue: St Kilda Youth Services (SKYS) 5 Duke St. St Kilda.
Time/Date: Saturday 6 April and Sunday 7 April 2013, 10am-4pm
Requirements: Hat, BYO water bottle, snacks and lunchbox.

To participate, email admin@faroutfilms.tv - places are limited and will be filled quickly so please don’t delay.