Inaugural Open Day

On Wednesday 4th of May, Albert Park College held its first ever Open Day. Although we currently have just 150 students, we attracted more than 1000 visitors, and filled our 300+ capacity gym for two separate presentations by the Principal.

Word is getting around the community that something very special is happening at our College, and parents and students want to see it for themselves.

This of course meant we were under considerable pressure, as nothing exposes a school like opening up to the public. Few things are more important to families than finding a good school for their children, and with the vast choice now on offer, parents know exactly what to look out for. I’m pleased to say our school passed this first big test with flying colours.

The students, teachers and staff were on display for five hours between 2pm and 7pm, providing two tours every 30 minutes, which displayed the best of which we are capable. Visitors got to see students working with teachers using the latest online learning through our iPad program. They got to hear children practising their classical music and their French language conversation. They got to watch art being created and woodworking skills getting a work-out. And they even got to taste some of the French baking coming out of our state-of-the-art kitchen - our own Masterchef studio.

Of course along the way, our guests got to see inside our wonderful new buildings, which they’d heard so much about, and our smart uniforms, including the blazers which students are now wearing.

The Open Day also gave me an opportunity to talk to prospective parents and community members about the philosophy of the school, including its commitment to academic excellence, high standards of behaviour, creativity, values and leadership.

I wanted the event to symbolise something very important about our school: we are part of the community, we serve the community and we will always be open to the community.
We want to reflect the interests of parents, residents, businesses and creative producers, as well as children - because gaining this involvement is the best way there is to create a great school.

The follow-up response has also been quite overwhelming, with community blogs and correspondence expressing great interest from parents looking for a place for their children.

Leadership Program launched

As well as our Open Day, the school has launched its leadership program at a special evening event attended by around 200 parents and family members.

All of our school leaders have now been selected, from our two school captains, to our environmental captains, house captains and others.

And in their presentations, the children displayed their passion for learning, spoke with confidence, and displayed great pride in being the foundation intake of the new school. It provided yet another important opportunity for their beaming, proud parents to get involved in the college.

What the event showed is that we are building a school culture driven by the children - one that will encourage them to strive always to achieve their best, whether it be in exams, in their behaviour towards one another, in their artistic endeavours, on the sports field, or within the wider community.

Not every child can be a school captain, of course, but through the program every child will get to experience office holding in some form and be required to develop the self-confidence, self-discipline and selflessness that are the hallmarks of real leadership.

Our leadership program is a terrific addition and a great part of the school’s special offering to our community.

As an example of what it can achieve, here is the speech given at the leadership night by one of our two school captains, Campbell Rider. (Our other school captain is Nova Harrison.)

“It’s a great privilege to have been selected as one of the inaugural school captains here at Albert Park College in this foundation year.

Tonight, I’m going to tell you about what I think leadership means.

When we hear ‘leadership’, we tend to think of politicians. But leadership comes in so many other forms. We often find better examples of leadership in our local community: Doctors, volunteer workers, police officers and sporting coaches all play a huge role in the development of any community—but their contributions frequently go unnoticed.

True leadership requires the strength to voice an opinion, even if it will not please the vast majority of people. Because leadership is not about gaining power, and it should never be about self-interest. It is about being the one who is ready to make a difference, and the courage to take a stand.

However, leaders also need to be able to show respect for the opinions and thoughts of others. They need to be open to new ideas—open to change.

Leaders also have to be prepared to take responsibility for others, and they need to care about the welfare of the people they represent. They must also guide and support them into the future.

Leadership means having determination. The world today would not be such a safe and free place if those great leaders of the past gave up on their struggle at the first sign of danger or difficulty.
Rosa Parks was not a politician, and she was definitely not a powerful or rich person, but her actions are still today one of the best examples of leadership. Because of her race, she was expected to sit at the back of the bus when asked. But her stubborn refusal to do so almost completely started the civil rights movement in America.

This shows that anyone can be an influential leader, regardless of race, gender or social status. In our changing world, this kind of leadership is one of the most valuable assets any community can have. By ‘community’ I mean any network of people, including our state and even our nation as a whole.

Being a leader should also be an enjoyable experience. We want to know that our leaders genuinely want to make a difference, and take pride in doing so.

As a student captain, I commit to displaying these qualities and values as I work to make Albert Park College a great school.

Campbell Rider, School Captain

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE - JOHN MEADE

This term we are delighted to welcome local artist John Meade to Albert Park College. Part of the Artists in School program, John is visiting the College every Tuesday to work with our art students, introducing them to the way a practicing artist thinks, explores and creates.

John will be with us for terms two and three, and during that time, he’ll collaborate with students to design and create an artwork for the College. The concept for this project is ‘Foundation’, to tie in with our foundation year. Students have already begun their exploration with John and have produced some dynamic and exciting work; we are looking forward to seeing all the fruits of their labour in October when it will be showcased at the APC Art Show.

Working with the artist in residence: students took a journey to observe the local area and recreated their observations using electrical tape.
IT UPDATE

It’s been an exciting few weeks here at Albert Park College in the IT space. Students have been set up with their own email address, the IT Ambassadors Helpdesk has been launched and students have had opportunities to explore topical issues with mobile device use at school. These are just a few activities which support the value we place on internet and digital technologies for learning, whilst ensuring they are used responsibly and safely.

Email Addresses

Each student is now the proud owner of an Albert Park College email address. This will be used for communication with teachers and students as well as for specific learning purposes - such as joining collaboration spaces and registering for RSS feeds. Students are spending the next week accessing their accounts for the first time and setting email up on their iPad Mail App.

IT Ambassadors

Students and teachers now have weekly access to the IT Helpdesk hosted by our own ICT Ambassadors: Paris Scott, Charles Denison, Brandon Park, Oliver Noonan and Sebastian Karin-Cromie. The students, who each have particular IT skills, are offering support with general iPad use and maintenance, student email addresses, wireless connectivity and almost anything else you can think of!

Using Mobile Devices

In the fast-paced digital age we live in, it’s impossible to keep track of all the websites, technologies and networks that are popping up every day. However, what we can ensure is that all students are clear on the appropriate use of mobile devices at school - and more importantly, that they understand why the boundaries exist. In our tutorial groups we are spending time discussing relevant issues such as:

• how does online communication differ from face-to-face?
• why might some online activities be appropriate at home but not at school?
• what are some of these activities?
• how might a simple action on a website be harmful to another person?

Students are encouraged to password protect their devices and use secure passwords for any online activity. The College has security measures in place which make it possible to track online activity, should the need arise.

Upcoming developments

In the near future we will be launching a suite of collaboration and interactive tools which will assist classroom learning and school efficiencies. Students will be exposed to cutting edge technologies allowing for instant feedback, higher interaction with students and teachers and more detailed information about classes and assessment. Alongside this students will be coached in effective and appropriate use of these platforms.

Bridget McGuinness
E-Learning Leader
Congratulations
to Albert Park College Café, for hosting
“Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea.”
They raised an amount of
$151.30
for the Cancer Council Victoria

If you would like further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact Tania Scaramozzino on scaramozzino.tania.t@edumail.vic.gov.au or 8695 9000
www.albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au
Dear Parents and Carers

Planning for the first ever APC Art Show is under way. This event will be the major fundraiser of the year, and we would like to make it as fabulous and successful as possible. Therefore we need you!

We are looking for people who would like to be involved and can help in any way - no matter how large or small - and no experience necessary.

To get you thinking, we will be requiring:

• sponsors
• prizes that can be raffled
• artwork that can be auctioned
• setting up of the show
• helping out on the day
• and just spreading the word about this event

All students will be encouraged to contribute to the show and be involved.

We will be running creative workshops lead by teachers/parents/students and will be fundraising to purchase additional school resources for our school.

We would love for you to join us and look forward to meeting you soon.

Date: Wednesday 8th June 2011
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Meeting room next to reception, Albert Park College

If you cannot make this meeting and would like to assist, please email us at apc.families@gmail.com and we will keep you updated on our progress.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Trudy on 0410 596 415 or Lisa on 0420 272 894.
How to Enter the Art Competition

1. Create an image that you think provides a creative representation of the Albert Park College motto "Lead, Create, Inspire".
2. Photograph your image (it is important to make this photo a clear copy of your artwork as this will be how the competition is judged).
3. Email this image (file no larger then 1mb) to apcartshow2011@gmail.com
4. In your email include: Artists Name, Phone Number & Email Address

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<tr>
<td>Cheque:</td>
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<td>Cash:</td>
<td>Post or deliver to: 83 Danks Street, Albert Park Vic 3206</td>
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<td>Credit Card:</td>
<td>Tania &amp; Lisa at the APC Office Phone 8695 9000</td>
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$10 per entry

Prizes

$500 CASH Prize – kindly sponsored by APC Families

Mystery Art Prize

The Winning image (with full credit) will be used in all Advertising Material to promote the up and coming Art Show for Albert Park College to be held in October 2011.

A Non Acquisitive prize

Judging

Artworks will be numbered for the Judging process and therefore all work will be judged anonymously.

The winning image will be chosen for its representation of the Albert Park College motto "Lead, Create, Inspire" as well as its advertising qualities.

Our Judges will be introduced at our Gala Evening on 21st October 2011.

Judges decision is final.

Closing Date for Entries

31st July 2011 (no entries will be received after this date).

For your Diary - Art Show Dates

Gala Night 21st October, Exhibition & Workshops 22nd October 2011

Enquiries: Trudy Rice 0410 596 415 apcartshow2011@gmail.com