As our opening date approaches, I want everyone – students, parents and teachers – to understand what they can expect from their new school. As the principal, I want to give you a contract you can hold me to. Underpinning such a contract must be a clear understanding of the school’s values.

**Lead** Leadership in our school won’t just come from the principal’s office. Every staff member, student and parent will be asked to take responsibility for lifting the college’s academic, cultural, sporting and pastoral performance. Experience tells me that when school members combine individual initiative with mutual responsibility, success follows.

This will go especially for teachers. Our staff members will be part of a team, learning from each other to constantly improve results as they work towards agreed goals.

**Create** Our school is going to be open to new ideas about what and how we learn. Tradition is obviously important. For instance, our school will place a strong emphasis on traditional academic disciplines, and we will expect selfdiscipline, respect for teachers, and pride in our uniform. But we should never be slaves to tradition. Tradition should be seen as the foundation to achieve so much more. New
technologies, academic subjects and teaching methods will also be used to make education effective and exciting. And we are going to be creative in the most obvious sense by making painting, sculpture, music, dance, drama and contemporary art forms a major focus of the school’s activities.

**Inspire** Our students and teachers will take their talents to the utmost limit. I want them to combine a love of learning with a passion to succeed, led by inspiring teachers. We will discover your child’s true interests and help him or her pursue them.

Our school will of course always aim for high academic results, but for us that’s just the start. The true goal of education is the development of the whole person. Our school will therefore inspire the sorts of qualities you want to see in your own children: honesty, integrity and moral strength. I believe getting students to take responsibility for the environment is a terrific way to help them understand that they are part of a community, with profound duties to the wider world. Environmental sustainability will therefore be a big part of the school’s ethos and curriculum.

**Our motto** If I could sum up our values in just three words, they would be: lead, create, inspire – our school motto. Some parents have asked me to pass on an invitation to a small party for foundation parents of the new school. I hope the event will be the first of many, as this sort of community building is the making of a great school. Details are in the box below.

**Steve Cook**
*Foundation Principal*

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**Foundation parents’ gathering**

If your child will be in year 7 at Albert Park College in 2011 and you would like to get to know other foundation parents, please email Gillian Coult (a parent) on apc.parents@gmail.com for details. It is planned for the evening of Wednesday 25 August.

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If you would like further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact Tania Scaramozzino on scaramozzino.tania.s@edumail.vic.gov.au or 0408 367 359