### Coming events

**Week 10**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/12</td>
<td>All Years</td>
<td>Sports Presentation Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/12</td>
<td>All Years</td>
<td>House Cup Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/12</td>
<td>Yr 9</td>
<td>Child Studies Playgroup Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/12</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 8 Support</td>
<td>Jamberoo Rewards Ex. Work Placement Koori Men’s Shed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12/12</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Development Days</td>
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**Week 11**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15/11</td>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Yr 9 – Leadership Exc. - Imax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16/12</td>
<td>Yr 12</td>
<td>Overnight Geo. Exc. Killalea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17/12</td>
<td>Yr 12 All Years</td>
<td>Overnight Geo. Exc. Killalea Last Day for Students</td>
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<td>Thursday 18/12</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19/12</td>
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<td>Development Days</td>
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REMINDER NEXT P&C MEETING – Monday, 15 December, 2014 at 6pm.

Don’t let your education slip away,  
Come to school every day

### Principal’s Message

**Presentation Speech**

Good evening parents and family, special guests: Schools Director Marian Grant, Petty Officer Michael Cloutt, Kelly Marsh representing Gareth Ward, Paul Rankin representing Shellharbour Council and finally but most importantly, our 138 award recipient students.

Welcome to the Albion Park High 2014 presentation evening where we share the best of what we have all achieved and celebrate the extraordinary variety of success of our wonderful students.

I acknowledge that we are on Dhurrrawal land - the land of the Wadi Wadi and Five Islands people who have always been, and remain, the custodians of this land. I also acknowledge elders both past and present and thank them for paving what has been a long and difficult struggle to find equity. I know that as educators we do hold the key to the future for our Indigenous students and acknowledge that we as educators have an enormous impact on our Aboriginal community for the future. Congratulations to the Five Indigenous students who were successful at the Regional Aboriginal Education Awards last month: Redieka, Brittany, Brock, Dru and Mitchell. Congratulations especially to Brittany Luland who is the first Aboriginal Albion Park High School captain.

2014 has been a tremendously exciting year for our school. The staff have worked extremely hard over the past 2 years - to evaluate where we were and map forward where we wanted to go. Whilst this ceremony tonight is all about student success; we must not forget that all success starts with staff; it starts with an idea which grows with belief and passion and a constant drive for something better. I wish to acknowledge my staff: they are caring, compassionate, committed and highly competent!

There are a 1000 stories that if I had time I could share with you such as: my very special Head Teacher VET Cheryl Burling who cried when a young man she had been working with for 6 years got a job, or the phone calls thanking us for life-changing programs we organise such as the police leadership program for Koori boys, the excitement in the room when we told students we are forming, despite small numbers, a junior dance class in the hope that it will build, the moving White Ribbon assembly where male staff spoke about their commitment to the cause, the joy on the primary school students’ faces as they took part in Bridge to Asia Day. Or of the students who flew on a plane for the very first time when we went to Japan! I could go on and on... so many life changing moments, so many memories.

I will share with you some (but certainly not all) of the aspects of change of which I am most proud.

- The introduction of the teacher buddy program - this program sees staff buddy up with a teacher from a different faculty and experience each other’s teaching with a view to share ideas and strategies to improve.
• The growth of project-based learning – where staff plan and deliver high quality projects which are rich, complex and exciting to students. We have seen projects such as: camembert in the classroom, play group which attracts over 20 pre-schoolers, the healthy breakfast program, the skateboard making program, drama projects to combat bullying, Bridge to Asia program, blogging and student leadership growth in special ceremonies such as ANZAC and Remembrance Days. Engaging our young people with authentic learning is certainly important for success.

• We have enjoyed the continual growth of our significant sister school relationship with Omiya Kita in Japan.

• The development and improvements across the school in the area of G&T – but especially in the ABC program.

• The physical and philosophical improvements to the library, in particular how many more students visit and use the space well - this includes the success of the homework centre on Wednesday afternoons.

• The creation of a resolution officer to be a support and mediate for students who have suffered any bullying or harassment. We would have our heads in the sand if we did not recognise that this is unfortunately one of the growing areas of concern across Australian society. At Albion Park High School we have a no tolerance for bullying. Albion Park High School is officially a WHITE RIBBON school the strong and public anti-violence stance against women is something we believe in & stand-for.

• The creation of a House System - which allows for that buzz and excitement of competition at a whole school level. Our new houses are Aboriginal names for animals: Buru (Kangaroo), Gurwin (Shark), Gugara (Kookaburra) and Munda (Black Snake).

• And of course there are the myriad of individual successes of students and groups of students who are too many to name - in VET, sport, drama, art and science … but who are celebrated in the Park Press every fortnight.

Our shared vision for Albion Park High School is to ensure that our young men and women are ready for the future - a future that has not yet been created but has begun to be imagined. Parents have spoken very clearly in all of the evaluations and questionnaires we have had this year - that the importance of happiness of your child is paramount and equally as important is students being ready for a future which is complex, IT centric, multi-skilled, creative-rich and forever changing. This is a future where we need to work together - school and home - as a team.

We have this year 3 wonderful, hardworking and talented staff leaving us for retirement, All of whom have worked for over 30 years in education:

• Jill Bryant - Head teacher English and LOTE 15 years at Albion Park High School
• Joan Parkes - Science teacher - 17 years at Albion Park High School
• Kathy White - SASS - front office (and previously the library) - 20 years at Albion Park High School

Each of these women in their own way have helped shape Albion Park High School and given their all to the service of Public education and young people. I thank them all from the Albion Park Community.

Finally - award recipients - well done on your achievements, you and your parents should be most proud! For many of you this may be another presentation night in a myriad of nights of success, for others it may be the first significant educational achievement for you. No matter what your particular story, the common denominator is that you have shown that you value your education - and for that I commend you.

It isn’t in fact the piece of paper or medal that you will receive in these awards that matters the most – it is indeed the journey that you have taken to earn it. May you continue your journey of education with enthusiasm and verve, passion and excitement!

Suzi Clapham
Principal

May your holiday season
Be blessed with
Peace, love and great joy.
Annual Presentation Night
This year’s Annual Presentation Night was held on 10 December. We are happy to celebrate the academic success of our students, and this year a record 138 students were awarded for their efforts. Some of the more notable awards of the night included the 2013 School Dux, Damon Stevens who has recently completed his first year of Law at University of Wollongong and the 2014 Dux, Sarah Higginbottom who has recently completed Year 12.

The presentation of the two awards was a one off event, as the executive have made a change that the Dux will be awarded at the end of their academic year, not in the following year as has been our previous method. In this way, the monetary award can assist that student as they proceed to their tertiary studies.

The Kiama Community College VET student of the year was Layne Hornby. Layne’s work ethos, drive and desire to succeed made her a highly motivated student in the Business Studies course. She not only gained a Certificate 2 in Business Services, but also employment in the industry.

The Pat Blake Memorial Trophy for Special Education was awarded to Jordan Evans, described as a mature student with the ability to show initiative and manage his work commitments. Jordan works diligently and quietly in class at all times. He is well organised for lessons and is kind to others. He works independently and he consistently and conscientiously applies herself to all set tasks. His mature and committed nature, make him a valued class member. He is an outstanding role model for his peers.

The Shellharbour Council Social Commitment and Responsibility Award was awarded to Natasha Molloy. Natasha is a dedicated and committed member of our school and wider Shellharbour community. Natasha has this year worked on a depression initiative, distributing kits to assist individuals with depression throughout the community. Natasha has invested hours of research and time in developing the tools that will best assist individuals in their fight against depression and we think this level of care and compassion should be rewarded. Thank you Shellharbour Council for your sponsorship of this award.

The Lioness Club of Oak Flats, sponsors the Lioness Junior Citizenship award. It is given to a student who demonstrates the values and ethics that they endeavour to promote: kindness, friendship, high standards, social awareness and equity. While these are qualities displayed by many of our students, one in particular seemed most deserving of this award. Michael Fielder is a young man who epitomises the values of the Lioness Club. He works tirelessly to assist in the promotion of well-being and equity for all within the school, he is the first to arrive and last to leave any event, he is polite, a wonderful representative, and a passionate fundraiser, and is truly someone who cares that he makes the world a better place. We are so proud to have him as a representative on our SRC and of our school.

The Harry Brown Legacy Award for Citizenship is awarded to a student who goes above and beyond what is expected of someone their age in the realm of community service. This year, the award was presented to a young lady, who has consistently demonstrated these values over her time at the school. Kayla Smylie has worked tirelessly for the CAPA committee and the SRC to raise funds and advocate for those in need; she is passionate about the arts, and making a kind contribution to the world. She will be sadly missed from our school.

The Stephen Jones Award for Active Citizenship was this year, its inaugural year, presented to Grace Sullivan for her work within the school and community. She is a lovely student, who for the past 18 months has been working on a pillow project - donating pillow cases to the Children's Ward of Wollongong hospital so that each sick child has something they can call 'theirs' in the room. For this, and many other reasons, we feel that she is a most deserving recipient of this award.
award. Thank you Mr Jones for your sponsorship of this award.

The Reuben F Scarf Commitment Award was presented to a student who demonstrates a commitment to doing their best. It is the consistent effort and desire to improve that is acknowledged with this award. Brayden Neaves exemplifies these attributes from the class of 2014. As all of Brayden’s teachers will attest, he has spent his time wisely, dedicating himself to reaching his personal goals and improving his skills and techniques to do so.

The Caltex All Rounder award was presented to Jessica Hull who has been a valued member of the sports committee since its inception. Jessica was not only a leader among athletes, but among the school population in general as school captain. Jessica has initiated fundraising and committee events designed to bring the school community together as one. She has also committed herself tirelessly to her studies, and has achieved some outstanding results, whilst competing for and representing Australia.

The 100% Attendance Awards are presented to students with 100% attendance over the course of a school year, which is very difficult to achieve. Claire Hansen–Arthur, Brody Masland, Jessica Thurgood, Benjamin Rice, Chloie El-Awar, Aaron Bressan, Kahyla Burnett, Alisha Cock, Emma MacQueen. What a great commitment you have made to your learning, thank you all.

All of the recipients of awards at the 2014 Presentation Night are to be congratulated for their efforts in the past year.

The Welfare team would like to thank the following people for their assistance in making Presentation Night such a success. Jack Twist of Year 10 - for setting up all of the sound equipment. Mrs Keen and Jack for running the sound up the back of the gym. Miss Harris for all of her assistance in organising all of the paperwork, trophies, medals. The office ladies for all of the certificates and programs. The numerous organisations, groups and people who sponsor our awards. Finally, the invited guests and presenters, who all willingly gave their time and all of you, the friends and family who have come to support your young person. Have a safe and Merry Christmas, and we look forward to working with you in 2015.

Semester 2 Merit Assemblies

On Wednesday of Week 8, Albion Park High School celebrated the successes of over 320 students who have excelled in Semester 2 (Terms 3 and 4).

This semester, a new format of awarding merits was trialled. Each class teacher was eligible to nominate two students from their classes to receive a merit that aligned to the school’s core values of ‘Respect, Responsibility and Commitment.’ It was wonderful to see so many students awarded merits for academic excellence, diligence in their studies and respectful interactions with their teachers and peers.

Albion Park High School would like to extend a warm thank you to all parents and families who were able to attend the ceremonies and celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students.

Sports Presentation Ceremony

Our annual Sports Presentation Ceremony was held on Tuesday 9 December and celebrated another great year in sport for the school.

Our special guest this year was a parent of the school - Mr David Gentles - who has officiated at the last three Olympic Games, including umpiring the Gold Medal hockey matches in London and Beijing. It was certainly very interesting to hear about top level sport from an official’s perspective compared to an athletes.

The top gong - Sportsperson of the Year - was awarded to Nicholas Horton (Yr 9) who finished his athletics season just last weekend at the National Athletics Championships in Adelaide, finishing 7th in the High Jump event (14 Yrs) and jumping a new personal best of 1.88m.

It is a huge honour to receive this award and Nick's name will now be etched onto the Honour Board that hangs in the front foyer of the school.

There were many other award winners on the day (listed below), but thanks must go to the Sports Committee for organising and running this awards ceremony.

Most Outstanding:
Swimmers – Amy Lucas and Samuel Tripi
Cross Country Runners - Karlie Gentles and Codie McNamara
Athletes - Alysia Gardner and Nicholas Horton
**Outstanding Representation in Sport:** Jessica Hull  
**Pierre de Coubertin Award:** Jessica Hull  
**School Sporting Blue:**  
- Squash – Georgia Moore  
- Cross Country – Karlie Gentles  
**Sportsperson of the Year:** Nicholas Horton

**White Ribbon Day 2014 at Albion Park High School**

White Ribbon Australia observes the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day, annually on November 25. White Ribbon Day signals the start of the 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence against Women, which ends on Human Rights Day December 10.

On November 25 all around Australia you will have seen people wearing white ribbons, and committing themselves to the cause - 'I swear'. This year, for the very first time, Albion Park High School also took part in White Ribbon Day, and members of staff took the pledge.

Led by our school captains, Julian Lorenson and Taylor Garner, the assembly heard about the statistics of violence committed against women. Male members of staff, invited to speak by the leadership committees, spoke about why they are choosing to make the commitment to help end violence against women, their stories and reasons for taking action were personal and heartfelt.

What struck the students particularly were the statistics - Mr Poole researched that there were 8 domestic violence calls to the Lake Illawarra Police Station in the 12 hours before school started, this is only a small minority of domestic violence cases, as less than 10% are reported.

Our ambassadors spoke about the fact that as a community we not only need to support victims of domestic and intimate partner violence, but we need, as a school, to build a community that does not contribute to a violent society. We are privileged to have such wonderful ambassadors for White Ribbon at our school.

For our school, acknowledging and taking part in White Ribbon Day has been the culmination of a year of training and marks the start of our continued support of this important cause, because it does matter.

White Ribbon Day would not have been promoted so successfully at our school without the capable leadership by Ms Horton, and the advocates from the SRC. Thank you for helping us to promote such an important initiative.

This image is the men who spoke at our assembly taking the White Ribbon pledge, “I swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women”.

**Homework Centre Wednesday afternoons till 4pm**

Congratulations to all the students who have attended Homework Centre in 2014. What a fantastic, free resource! Teachers from a variety of subject areas volunteer their time to assist students in completing homework and assignments. Afternoon tea, also free, is an added bonus.

A huge thanks to the teachers who regularly attend: Mr Gonzalez, Ms Phillips, Ms Nelson, Mrs Cole, Ms Drummond, Ms Woods and Ms Gregorio. The generous contribution of your time and expertise is greatly appreciated. We hope to see even more students take advantage of this opportunity in 2015. Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and holiday break.

Regards, Mrs Hoole.  
(Teacher Librarian)

**Year 9 Food Technology – “Let’s Celebrate”**

During Term 4, the Year 9 Food technology classes have been learning about food for special occasions.

As part of their course work, they were asked to research and plan a children’s birthday party. They
were to present their research and final party plan as well as make and decorate the specialty birthday cake.

Below are a few examples of students’ finished birthday cakes. A fantastic effort was made by the students and I congratulate all of them.

We had a range of birthday cakes, from pirate ships, princess designs, cookie monster and the Avengers. The Lifeskills students made an amazing 3 layered Treasure Chest cake, filled with lollies and covered in nerds. Truly amazing!

So much fun was had by all the students and were proud of their planning, organisation and management of time to produce such brilliant cakes over two lessons. Mrs Woolley and Mrs Joynson.

**Special Education FUTSAL Gala Day**

On Wednesday 3 December 2014 the International Day for People with a Disability, Albion Park High School hosted the annual FUTSAL gala day for Special Education units across the Illawarra. We played host to Warilla High School, Keira High School, Corrimal High School, Kanahooka High School, Para Meadows School as well as three teams from our school.

Weather was not looking promising leading up to the day but luck was on our side and it turned out to be a nice, but very hot day. Students battled through the heat in what turned out to be a closely contested competition with Keira High School being the eventual winners and Warilla High School being the runners up. Every player from every school played their hardest and with great sportsmanship throughout the day.

A special thanks needs to go to Sports Committee members Nick Horton, Mitchell Potts, Darcy Usmar, Cody Hutchinson and Blake McKenzie who helped with the BBQ lunch; the Sports Coaching class members Blake Maples, Zac Barry and Jayden Magrin who refereed all the games. We also need to give thanks to Amart All Sports, Greater Union, Hoyts, BigW, McDonalds, Bakers Delight and Greg Smith the Icee Man for donating their time and prizes for the day.

**Bridge to Asia Day**

On Friday 5 December, seventy excited students from Albion Park and Tullimbar Primary Schools crossed the “Bridge into Asia”. This was a fun-filled day of exploring and understanding the diversity of Asia and its relation to Australia. Students took part in exciting activities designed to increase their awareness of Asia and learn more about our Asian neighbours. These activities included making sushi, decorating masks, calligraphy, origami, taekwondo, dancing and sports. Japanese elective students and various teachers ran these activities. Students from both schools were extremely well-behaved and had a lot of fun. They are now looking forward to High School with great anticipation.

**Orientation Day 2014**

It has been another very busy year for transition programs at Albion Park High School. We have welcomed primary school students from our community of schools for a variety of activities across many faculties. This all culminated in last week’s Orientation Day. Approximately 120 students who will join us as Year 7’s next year, arrived bright-eyed and full of beans on Tuesday. A quick introduction by their Year Adviser, Mrs McKinnirey and they were off to navigate their way around the school to try out some mini High School lessons.
The day was a huge success with some minor anxieties washed away by meeting new people and trying out new things. All students left with a smile on their face and enthusiasm to start at ‘big school’ next year. Thanks to all the students who have been guides, leaders, helpers and mentors over the year. Most importantly a massive thank you to all staff who work tirelessly, giving up planning time to inspire these new students making sure that they see Albion Park High School as a fun, safe place of learning.

‘SistaSpeak’

‘SistaSpeak’ is an Aboriginal girl’s wellbeing program designed to be run in partnership with the local community. The SistaSpeak project was specifically designed for and targets young girls and women to gain valuable knowledge around their educational needs, career aspirations, personal needs and qualities.

The SistaSpeak program has run during Term 4 here at Albion Park High School with the girls meeting on a weekly basis and hearing stories from Aboriginal mentors in the community. One of our own talented students Rideika Wright rode her bicycle over 300 kilometres as part of the Tour da Country project highlighting Aboriginal Men’s Health. She shared her story with the girls. Sharlene Marsden came each week to share her knowledge and skills, especially regarding dot painting, an area that she is very talented in. The picture attached shows Sharlene assisting the girls with their dot paintings.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Normal Trading hours:
- Tuesday 1 pm till 3 pm
- Friday 8 am till 11 am and 1 pm till 3 pm

Please note that the last trading day of this year will be Tuesday 16 December 2014. (EFTPOS available)
UNIFORM SHOP
Special opening hours for 2015

Tuesday 20 January 9am to 2pm
Wednesday 21 January 9am to 2pm
Thursday 22 January 9am to 2pm
Friday 23 January 9am to 2pm
Tuesday 27 January 8am to 3pm
Wednesday 28 January 8am to 3pm

Then back to normal trading hours

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Kids Concert
5.30 - 6.15pm
Cards
6.30 - 8.30pm
Fireworks
9.30pm

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
5.30 - 8.30pm
REDALL RESERVE, LAKE ILLAWARRA

DIVERSITY STREET WEAR

VIP SCHOOL
KIDS DISCOUNT

Sushi

Electric

Dragon

Spy

Live

Qdo

Toddler's through to adults
sizes 00 - 1000
**Albion Park High School**

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

**When:** Thursday 5th February, 2015 (Week 2) – compulsory all day, whole School event.

**Where:** Meet at school for normal roll call at 8:25am. We will depart for Albion Park Pool after rolls have been marked. The carnival will conclude at 2:35pm.

**What to bring:** Bring your swimmers, hat, sun cream, towel, lunch, drink and money if you would like to buy a sausage sandwich or something from the canteen.

**What to Wear:** Something in your house colour or school PE uniform!!

- House races, novelties and usual events will be held on the day.
- A program of events and more information will be available closer to the event.
- Which House will win?? Bura, Guruwin, Gugara or Munda?
- Start training now!!

“Our School Values are – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY & COMMITMENT”