Coming events

Week 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 23 February</th>
<th>Selected Year 12</th>
<th>Shine ½ Yearly Exam Information to students</th>
</tr>
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Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 2 March</th>
<th>Selected</th>
<th>Shine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 March</td>
<td>All Years Mixed</td>
<td>Year Meetings Park vs Picton Rugby League Trials - School oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Sth.Coast Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Work Placement</td>
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Principal's Message

By now all parents should know about our wonderful new Rewards program ViVO! 🌟

I would like to thank the staff who really supported, learned about, organized and advertised the ViVO online rewards, already we have had thousands of well-earned points go out to students for every imaginable positive action. The ViVO rewards is linked to our Positive Behaviour for Learning (previously PBS) program overseen by Mr Adam Blake and Ms Kelly Poole and their fabulous team of teachers. We look forward to watching the points grow!

Last week was photo day and we had our ‘make up’ day today for students who missed out. I want to congratulate and praise the excellent behaviour and attitude of all of our students. Marissa and her MSP team were glowing in their praise of how settled, polite and quick the students (and staff) were!

If your child was asked to be part of an ‘extra’ photo shoot could you please write a brief note to say that we are able to utilize the photo in our promotional material. The extra photos that were taken were just beautiful and I have already used some in next week’s Advertiser.

Congratulations - 2015 School Leaders

Reagan Pabis (VC) Brittany Luland (C) Suzi Clapham (Principal) Taylor Garner (VC) and Julian Lorenson (C).

Please note that the P&C have voted to alter the ‘week’ that they meet, starting with the 2015 AGM.
P&C now meet in the fourth week of every month, and not the third.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the P&C for their ongoing work and support of the school. The canteen is their only source of income, and all of it comes directly back into the school to support the facilities and education of all of our students.

Last year the P&C made a magnificent donation of $40,000 to the focus areas of English, Maths, Science and HSIE to support them in their preparation for the new Australian curriculum, this money has been extremely well spent in the purchase of new texts for all students. Already this year the P&C have given the school nearly $6,000 to support a new sound system in the gym to enhance important presentations and celebrations. I encourage and urge new parents to join our team, which is very small but extremely important! Next week’s meeting we will be visiting the library to look at the new layout and carpet, improvements that were also supported by the P&C in 2014.

Suzi Clapham
Principal

Student Welfare

Recently, there have been reports in the media about the increased prevalence of drugs in local communities and how this is undermining regional lifestyle.

At Albion Park High School, we believe in a proactive approach and ask that if any parents or students have any information in this regard to pass it on to the school. The safety of our students is always our prime concern.

Paul Ryan
Deputy Principal

Attendance Matters

The start of a new school year provides parents with an excellent opportunity to develop great attendance habits in their children. Most of our students already have these well established. The following information is provided as a reminder of obligations if a child is absent from school.

Parent/s or caregivers are required – by law – to provide a written or verbal explanation to the Principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school. It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

(1) It is a parent’s legal obligation to explain their child’s absence within seven days

(2) It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences

(3) It avoids the school and the School Attendance Officer from making unnecessary investigations

(4) It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school

The note of explanation should contain:

a. Date that the note was written;
b. Child’s name;
c. Days/dates the child was absent from school;
d. The reason the child was absent;
e. The signature of the child’s parent or caregiver.

If more than one child from the same family has been absent a separate note for each child should be written. A note should be brought to school on the first day the student returns to school after an absence. Your school is required to investigate all unexplained absences (where a child has been absent and no explanation has been received) within two days.

The Principal will only grant leave for the following instances:

- Sickness – where the absence is satisfactorily explained as being due to illness
- misadventure or unforeseen event
- participation in special events not related to the school
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- attendance at funerals
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs Cole
Head Teacher, Administration

English Faculty News

The English faculty has undergone a few staffing changes this year. Mrs Bryant has left after 37 years of dedicated service to the education of young people and Ms Goodwin is on Maternity leave after welcoming a new baby in the holidays. Mrs Sacco will be relieving as Head Teacher of English and LOTE, while Ms Gilmartin will be with us on Mondays and Fridays to replace Ms Goodwin.

“Our School Values are – RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY & COMMITMENT”
Year 7 Reading Program
Reading is such an important skill and it only gets better with practice. Reading a wide variety of texts helps to improve our comprehension, vocabulary and written expression as well as inspiring both imaginative and critical thinking.

Year 7 students have been asked to read every night for 15 minutes as part of their English homework. Students have been provided with a Reading Log to document their reading and to assist with the development of a regular reading routine. They are able to borrow books from the Library in their breaks as well as in their fortnightly library lesson with Mrs Hoole. Older students are also encouraged to take advantage of the great resources in our library, which will help cultivate their enjoyment of reading and encourage lifelong reading habits.

Debating and Public Speaking
After such a successful year debating in 2014, Mrs Cable and Mrs Shaw are in the process of forming our 2015 debating team. If you are a Year 7 student who is a keen debater, enjoys public speaking and would like to compete against other schools, please let Mrs Cable or Mrs Shaw know.

New Curriculum
The new English curriculum has now been introduced in Years 8 and 10, which completes the implementation across Years 7 to 10. Our new programs are focused on developing skills that are a necessity for all citizens in the 21st century; digital technologies, critical thinking and collaborative learning are all key components in the new curriculum.

2015 Swimming Carnival
2015 saw us hold our first whole school swimming carnival in many years. The carnival was originally postponed due to Albion Park’s unique weather cycle! A heavy downpour of rain the night before our carnival resulted in puddles of water surrounding the pool and covering the area in which our students needed to sit. After rescheduling the carnival to Tuesday 10 February, Mother Nature was much more kind, producing a beautiful sunny day with around 90% humidity! It was hot and sticky which prompted many students and teachers alike to jump in and cool off with a few easy laps.

There was something for everyone with competitive racers swimming new personal bests, a number of novelty events and house group competitions throughout the day.

Highlights definitely included Mr Poole’s belly flop, the house group dance off with all students channelling their inner ‘Village People’ for the YMCA and of course, the teachers thrashing the Year 12’s in a teacher vs student relay!!

Congratulations to the following students who are our 2015 Swimming Age Champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys Champion (point score)</th>
<th>Girls Champion (point score)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Benjamin Hansen-Arthur (40)</td>
<td>Hailee Pickering (48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Aidan Sheil (32)</td>
<td>Sarah Lucas (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jacob Bridgett (46)</td>
<td>Amber Robinson (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jake Hollingsworth (48)</td>
<td>Destiny Matesic (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brock Harrison (30)</td>
<td>Amy Lucas (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Jaad Matesic and Taylor Garner (10 points each)</td>
<td>Alysia Gardner (30)</td>
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And a big congratulations to Gugara house who took out the Swimming House Cup with a massive 1,788 points. Guruwin were in second place on 1,662 points, followed by Munda on 1,520 points. Miss Clapham made many attempts at increasing her house groups’ final score through her participation in a number of events, however, someone has to come fourth and this year, Buru took it out with 1,211 points.

Thank you to everybody who made the day such a success. We are proud of all of our students who attended the carnival and we are looking forward to a bigger and better event in 2016.

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

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The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.
I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.
A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February.
Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above. Should you wish to discuss the survey with the school, feel free to contact Ms. E. Asanovic, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning.

Supported Pathways to Higher Education And Employment program
In 2015, the University of Wollongong is launching the ‘Supported Pathways to Higher Education & Employment’ program. Should you have contact with any Year 12 students from 2014 and those students who perhaps did not get into university via their ATAR and would like a different pathway – this information may help them.

The ‘Supported Pathways to Higher Education & Employment’ Program supports individuals from equity backgrounds to improve their educational and employment capacity.
As part of this program students will receive:
- A sponsored Certificate IV qualification. The qualification is recognised as an equivalent to a 72 ATAR.
- A pathway to the University of Wollongong
- A bridging and transition program to ensure that their first year at university is a success.

Students can undertake their qualification with a variety of providers.
Students can contact the University of Wollongong for further information:
Alannah Curry
(02) 4221 3423
acurry@uow.edu.au

AD Money Course
A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well PLUS specialised help with managing debt.
Date: 3 x Monday nights 7.15pm-9pm (2nd, 9th & 16th March 2015)
Albion Park Community Hall, Russell Street,
Albion Park
RSVP Bec Coole on 0425 265 742
(or email – bcoole@c3churchshellharbour.com.au)

Are you interested in playing hockey? Albion Park RSL Flames Hockey Club is looking for players

Junior Mixed Teams – Under 7’s, Under 9’s, Under 11’s, Under 13’s & Under 15’s
Registrations begin Tuesday 17th February 5pm-6.30pm
Training commences Tuesday 24th February 5pm - 6pm
Croome Rd Hockey Fields – Albion Park

Senior Women Teams
Registrations begin Tuesday 17th February 5pm-6.30pm
Training commences Tuesday 24th February 6pm – 7pm
Croome Rd Hockey Fields – Albion Park
Enquiries contact Tamara on 42564014 or 0405095228

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The Outreach Unit at TAFE NSW Wollongong Campus will be conducting courses for people who want to develop skills for employment or further study.

1. Certificate 2 skills for work and Training (Office and customer Service) – commencing late February
2. Certificate 2 in Skills for Work and Training (Employability/Work Placement) – commencing late April
3. TAFE fees and concessions apply

Please contact the Outreach unit on 4229 0149

Foster kids need more people like you.
FREE information session
5pm, Thursday 26 February

Great kids come from good families. Please help.
Could your family include a foster child every second weekend? We urgently need respite foster carers to care for children on a regular short term basis. Come along to one a FREE foster care information session on Thursday 26th February at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto from 5 to 6pm.
To reserve your place CALL 1300 130 585.

Albion Park Show Society invites any young ladies in Year 10 or older to be part of the
Debutante Ball to be held on 29 May, 2015
Enquiries Diane McParland 42360403/0427360403 by 5 March, 2013, a meeting with those interested will be held on 8 March 7.30pm in the HACC Centre Albion Park Showground.

Basketball Illawarra is launching High School Basketball Competition in March 2015. All games will be played Friday evenings at the Illawarra Basketball Stadium ‘The Snakepit’ located at Foley Street, Gwynneville. Junior and Senior competitions for Boys and Girls will be available. Juniors competition for all players in years 7-8. Senior competition for all players in years 9-12. More details regarding team registration and rules will follow in the first week of term 1. I will email a flyer over the weekend could this kindly be included in the next school newsletter. Thank you for your assistance, please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist.

Simon Makres
Competition Supervisor

"A Sport for Everyone"
Address: Beaton Park Stadium 'The Snakepit’ Foleys Rd Gwynneville
Post: PO Box 7141, Gwynneville 2500 Phone: 42259999 Fax: 42263596
Email: admin@snakepit.com.au Internet: www.snakepit.com.au

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A welcoming and friendly school working with and for our local community

2015 Swimming Carnival