



# Albert Park Primary School

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21 April 2017

## The Albert Park Way

### Principal's Report

Dear Parents

Welcome back and I hope everyone had a good rest over the holidays. There was no rest for our contractors who worked long hours during the break installing the lift well and sky bridges. This work will continue for the four days of next weekend. The lift will arrive in the next term break and the outside carpet between the buildings, should be laid for the beginning of Term 3.

At the end of 2013, our school based parent survey said that we had started to make improvements in communications between the school and home. We implemented the following strategies to improve the communications:

- Improved school webpage
- The Konnective phone app for alerts and photos of events
- Term calendar of known events to put on the fridge. (This was stopped because of the sustainability initiatives of school council and our electronic transfer of communication)
- Class teacher newsletter to inform you about what had been happening in the classroom over the last month or what might be coming up
- Leading teacher newsletters once a month to keep you abreast of English and Maths curriculum. Maths and English are the enablers for education and as such are the main focus of our primary school curriculum.
- Open classrooms to let you see whatever your child or teacher wanted to share with you.
- eSmart, Wellbeing, Maths and Science nights for parents and students
- Employment of school nurses to administer first aid and let you know if there was an issue you needed to know about. (There was no expectation that the nurse would contact a parent every time a student visited the sick bay.)
- Focus groups invited to share about a topic- e.g. school reports, homework or Individual Educational Plans
- Parent Representatives at each class
- Diaries and communication folders

The same survey was sent out last term and there was overwhelming feedback that we now have too many, inconsistent forms of communication and parents confirmed that less and more accurate communications were desired.



#### School Vision Statement:

*We are a unique village community, becoming life-long learners with high expectations.*

#### Important dates:

##### Monday 24 April

Curriculum Day – No School

##### Tuesday 25 April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

##### Friday 12 May

Mother's Day Luncheon – Greenfields  
Albert Park – bookings essential

##### Friday 23 June

Parents' Gala – 'Love Boat' theme  
SAVE THE DATE!

KONNECTIVE: All parents wishing to receive notification of school events and alerts should now be signed up to Konnective via the smartphone App. Remember to answer yes to push notifications.

Be Kind and Fair

Act Safely

One Voice at a Time

Respect Everyone's Rights

Keep Trying

## Principal's Report ...cont'd

Because we do listen and want to improve our practices, our communication strategy will be

- School Communication officer: Jedda Reidy. (Four days a week. Not Wednesday.)
- Webpage: Curriculum information, calendar, forms and policies.
- Konnective phone app: alerts and reminders. Use kept to a minimum.
- SeeSaw phone app: students and teachers sharing the learning from each classroom.
- Parent Reps for each class: social and information role.
- Written student reports twice a year, parent teacher interviews and a student led conference.
- Student diary and communication folders.

There were many misconceptions highlighted by parent comments on the last survey and the following points may help to clarify these.

- A staff member DET email is not for distribution to parents. Parents can contact a teacher through the school email or through the office.
- Teachers are not employed by Albert Park PS. They are employed by DET (Department of Education & Training) and are able to apply to work in another school. We celebrate promotions of teachers to another school. Teachers are not required to complete a full year in any class. They can and do leave as they wish.
- DET requires two written reports for parents. The graphic page is the main section of the written report because it shows the learning, which has been, accomplished over the 12 months period against the expected the Victorian Curriculum achievement standards.
- The report schedule is a parent- teacher interview in term one, written report in term two, student- led conference in term three and written report in term four.
- The first day of each school year in every Victorian state school is a pupil free curriculum day.
- The last day of each term at APPS is a free dress day.
- French is taught at APPS for 50 minutes a week. Primary school students are not expected to be fluent in French by the time they leave the school. We teach French because Albert Park College teaches French.
- APPS will not be erecting high fences and locking the gates to keep the community out. We are happy to share our playgrounds with the community. Visitors are to leave the school grounds after 8pm each day.
- The basketball rings will not be left up after school hours because of the complaints from the neighbours. If the school community cannot accept this position then DET will build a cage around the school basketball court. The court would only then be available during school hours. DET has done this elsewhere.
- Visitors are not permitted in the school grounds during a pupil free curriculum day. This is because a curriculum day is a workday for school staff.
- The student assembly is an opportunity
  - for students to recognise that they are part of the Australian community and we sing the National Song in recognition of this and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the school is built.
  - to acknowledge our history through other ceremonies
  - for school leaders to gain confidence to speak in front of a large group of people
  - to highlight past or upcoming events
  - to acknowledge academic excellence through our learning disposition awards
  - to showcase all specialist programs with a musical performance
  - to enable the four students to work on an agenda and timetable for each assembly

Thank you to the 23 parents who offered their skills to assist the school. Unfortunately, only one parent put their name and phone number in the response section and because of this, we are unable to contact you. If you are still willing to assist the school, please email us and we will contact you.

We cannot always change policies and procedures after seeking feedback, but we are committed to streamlining communications. This will be the last newsletter and next week we will commence with our new communication strategies, which will be shorter, sharper and reliable.

Next Wednesday, I commence 8 days Long Service Leave. In my absence, Jane Battrick has been approved by DET as Acting Principal. With over forty years of experience in teaching and leadership, I have every confidence in Jane's ability to lead the school in my absence.

Elaine.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### KISS & DROP ZONE

Shortly the City of Port Phillip will be setting up a 'kiss and Drop' zone in Moubray Street where there is currently 3 minute parking at the beginning and end of the school day.

If you need to leave your vehicle you will need to park in a legal long term parking spot. Strictly no parking or standing in this new zone.

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

APPS Mother's Day Luncheon, Friday 12 May 2017, 12-3pm

Greenfields, Albert Park

We are thrilled to invite all APPS mums to a gorgeous afternoon to celebrate each other! It is a great chance to come together without the kids and socialise with the amazing network of mums at our school.

This year we are moving to an exciting new venue - Greenfields Albert Park. Ticket price of \$60 include champagne on arrival, a seated two course lunch and showcase of the latest fashion for winter. Drinks can be purchased at bar prices. We will be seated at 12.45pm and we have long tables to encourage mingling!

We will conclude formalities at 3pm and for those not needing to do school pick up (hint to organise dads!) we will move into the Bar for drinks.

And whilst we are celebrating all things women - we would love to give back to the girls of APPS. We are aiming to purchase 200 books for our new library that focus on female interest (including girl heroes, self acceptance & healthy body image, positive friendships and diversity). A bookplate can be purchased for \$25 and it will be included in each book purchased from the Luncheon. In return you will go in the draw for some fantastic prizes on the day. Let's hit that 200 target ladies and remember to bring your cash on the day 😊

Hurry though - tickets are strictly limited so get in quick and book now!

<https://www.trybooking.com/277256>

We can't wait to see you there.

Bec Brodie 0414 659 821 Nat Kringoudis 0432 357 743

### PARENTS' GALA - Save the Date!

The Parents' Gala is Friday 23rd June. 7:30pm - 12:30am. At Terminal Pier, Port Melbourne.

Tables of 10 (organised by a Table Captain), theme is "Love Boat", dress cruisewear.

Poster out soon, with trybooking details!