Dear Parents, Staff & Students

We have had a very smooth start to our school year with all students being settled and happy in their new classes. The staff is also very pleased with the way in which all children have adapted to new classrooms, teachers and routines. Our Kinders are extremely settled and are very quickly learning about school life. Well done everyone!

Staffing

There has been a few changes to staffing at Alfords Point Public School for 2013. Firstly we have enrolled 28 Kinders and our school numbers are 214 pupils K-6. As a result of our enrolments we are sitting again with nine teachers. Classes were formed on Monday of this week. However as you know changes in classes can occur over the next two weeks as nothing is permanent at the moment. Our teaching staff has not changed greatly. Mrs Rider is on class four days and Mr John has 1-2R on Friday. Mr Sweet is again on 1/2S. Mrs Naoum is of course running our library three days a week. Mrs Panourgias is teaching 2/3P. Mr McKrell is teaching 3/4M and Mrs Brown is on 3/4B. Mrs Davis and Mrs Burke are teaching our Stage 3 students. Mrs Lombe is teaching Kindergarten along with Mrs Dobson. Mrs Wendy Wilson will be running our ESL (English as a second language) and Mrs Karatzis is our Learning Support Teacher (LAST) this year and I would like to welcome Mrs Kim Pastor our new School Counsellor. Miss Ruth is also with us two days a week as School Chaplain.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - ANAPHYLAXIS

In 2013, there are students attending our school that have a proven nut allergy. This puts the student at risk of a severe allergic reaction called Anaphylaxis, should the student be exposed to nuts. Such exposure, although uncommon, is potentially life threatening.

It is for this reason, that Alfords Point School has adopted a ‘nut minimisation initiative’ and request that you DO NOT send your child to school with any food item that contains nuts. Such items include peanut butter, Nutella, nut food bars etc. We are asking all of our families at our school to support us in this endeavour as traces of these foods products can be easily left on any school items - pencils, books, furniture etc as well as on other students’ hands and on their breath. The washing of hands and cleaning teeth thoroughly after eating foods with nuts will also help remove any traces before coming to school. We have also implemented a NO SHARE FOOD initiative as this can also reduce the risk of younger children being tempted by foods they are allergic to.

Alfords Point Public School staff has had training relating to anaphylaxis and the school has put into place procedures to ensure the safe well being of these students. The school canteen also assists the school in this endeavour by eliminating all nut products from the canteen purchase list. Some background information is provided for your reference: anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that involves two or more body systems (skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal).

Common causes of severe anaphylaxis in childhood include insect stings (eg bees, wasps, jumper ants) and food allergy (eg. peanuts, nuts, fish, shellfish, dairy). It is important to note that even trace amounts of food cause anaphylaxis.

Early symptoms may include itchiness of palms or soles, faintness, feeling of generalised warmth, tingling in the mouth, throat or chest discomfort, breathing difficulties, choking or coughing, vomiting or stomach upset, dizziness, loss of consciousness, collapse.

Anaphylaxis is uncommon in childhood, but when it occurs it is a medical emergency and requires early recognition and prompt treatment.

Please assist us in supporting our ‘nut minimisation’ no share food initiative to ensure the well being of all students at Alfords Point Public School. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the front office.

The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Special Induction Assembly 10.15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Back to School BBQ</td>
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<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and AS-CIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

◊ An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
◊ There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
◊ A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Parent Information Evenings
As always the beginning of each school year is a new adventure for all involved. It is also time where new information is being distributed and new procedures put in place. To help parents understand school and classroom expectations we will be holding our usual Parent Information Evenings. A note has come home with dates and times. It is important that you attend these sessions to gain knowledge about learning for your child.

Information Evenings
ES1 - Monday 25 February 2013 at 5.30pm
S1 - Tuesday 19 February 2013 at 5.30pm
S2 - Wednesday 15 February 2013 at 6.30pm
S3 - Monday 18 February 2013 at 5.30pm

Also at these evenings teachers will be explaining how reading is taught and how you can help at home.

Back to School Barbecue
On Wednesday evening 13 February at 6.00pm we are holding a Back to School barbecue to welcome everyone back for 2013 - another great year. We would love everyone to come along and enjoy an easy dinner and a Bop Till You Drop Disco. Mrs Burke will again be manning the Fairy Floss machine. It should be a great night. Come and enjoy!

Bushfire Procedures
Alfords Point Public School has been identified as a school that is vulnerable to bushfires. During the school holidays we had some extremely hot days and on one particular day when the bushfire rating was catastrophic our school was closed meaning our OOSH centre was not able to operate. The Department of Education and Communities require schools to have an Emergency Management Plan to cover all emergency situations, including bushfires. Our Emergency Management Plan includes specific measures to cover days where there is a significant risk. We have a Bushfire Emergency Plan in place and next week you will receive all the information about that Plan and what parents are required to do. Please look out for the notes. Our Bushfire procedures are to keep all of us safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Starting Time
It is most important that students who are at school before 8.30am in the morning are seated on the silver seats near the canteen. A teacher is on duty at 8.30am and not before. Students should not be at school any earlier than 8.20am. If your child is being dropped early please write a note so that we are aware of the circumstances. Our main goal is to keep all students safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

Robyn Dowse
Principal

From the Library
We wish to congratulate the following Year 6 girls who will be inducted as our Semester 1, 2013 Library Monitors at an assembly to be held next Wednesday. Caitlyn A, Georgia B, Bethany C, Angelique H, Chloe H, Julia J, Anastasia K, Britney S, Joanna T and Lara V. Those students who were not successful are invited to apply to be Library Monitors in Semester 2. Please remember to ensure that your child has a school library bag ready for borrowing next week.

Ann Naoum
Teacher Librarian

SRC News and Induction Assembly
Congratulations to the students who have been elected by their classmates to the important position of Student Representative Councillor for Semester 1. They will be inducted next Wednesday 13 February in a special assembly at 10.15am with the Sports House Captains and Library Monitors. These students will receive their badges and pledge an oath promising to be responsible leaders. Parents and friends of these students are invited to attend the assembly and a special morning tea that will follow. Don’t forget your cameras. Ideas and suggestions for activities to be organised by the SRC should be given by class members to their representatives so that they can be brought up at future meetings. Congratulations to the following students who are the Semester 1 2013 SRC.

Maria Panourgias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Aya A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>Cooper J</td>
<td>Halle L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Steven K</td>
<td>Leilani H</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3P</td>
<td>Andrew H</td>
<td>Hannah B</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Eva V</td>
<td>Jack H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Dane K</td>
<td>Erin S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>David M</td>
<td>Sophie J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Harrison M</td>
<td>Ebony J</td>
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<td>Lochie F</td>
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SPORTS NEWS
At our first house meeting for 2013 we elected the Sports House Captains for 2013. Those elected did a great job leading by example and encouraging their house mates at our swimming carnival last Friday. They will be inducted on Wednesday 13 February with the Semester 1, 2013 SRC and Library Monitors 2013. Congratulations to:

Green House – Lorikeets
Girls’ Captain: Chloe H
Boys’ Captain: George P
Girls’ Vice Captain: Julia J
Boys’ Vice Captain: Joel P

Blue House – Kookaburras
Girls’ Captain: Caitlyn A
Boys’ Captain: Joshua L
Girls’ Vice Captain: Anastasia K
Boys’ Vice Captain: Peter K

Red House – Rosellas
Girls’ Captain: Georgia B
Boys’ Captain: Jai M
Girls’ Vice Captain: Erica C
Boys’ Vice Captain: Dean T

Yellow House – Cockatoos
Girls’ Captain: Lara V
Boys’ Captain: Marley D
Girls’ Vice Captain: Ellen M
Boys’ Vice Captain: Valentino P

Swimming Carnival
Last Friday all students in Years 3 to 6 and some very tiny eight year old Year 2 students attended our annual swimming carnival at Revesby Swimming Pool. The weather was on our side with the rain holding off until home time. Many points were gained for each house by students who competed in individual events, house relays and novelty events. Bonus points were awarded for war cries. The winning house was Green Lorikeets (577 pts), second was a draw Red Rosellas (349 pts), and Blue Kookaburras (349 pts) and fourth was Yellow Cockatoos (335 pts). I was very proud of the students as they demonstrated great sportsmanship and participated keenly in events. The new house captains did a great job inspiring their houses and leading them in the war cries. The Mexican waves were very impressive. In next week’s newsletter we will include the official results of all events. The carnival flowed along smoothly due to the expertise of the staff and parent helpers. A big thank you to the following parents and grandparents who helped make the day a success Susan Bullock, Anna Koshionis, Angie Andrew, Lisa McLeod, Wendy Rowe, Penny Farquhar, Cheryl Todd, Nicci Jones, Maree Stuart, Janelle Tweed, Ha Thanh Brard, Lynda Arano, Rebecca Johnstone, Kim O’Loughlin, Foula Herodotou, Janette Murray, Christina Van Den Dolder, Tony Corben and Pa Hannon.

Ribbons will be handed out to final placegetters in each event at Monday’s 11 February assembly at 12.30pm. The squad of students selected to represent our school at the Engadine Zone Carnival will be announced next week and those students will compete on Tuesday 5 March at Engadine Pool. Good luck to those swimmers. Once again thanks to Menai Swim Club who lent us the timing and judging equipment. Joining the Menai Swim Club means the children can compete in a friendly atmosphere in races according to their ability. Squad training sessions increases their fitness levels. To be able to enjoy the water with confidence, ability and safety enables the children to participate in so many fun activities and the skills they develop will stay with them throughout their teenage and adult years. The Menai Swim Club operates on Friday nights at the Menai Swim Academy pool (near Video Ezy/Pizza Hut) at 6.45pm. Why not go along tonight?

PSSA News
Yesterday I attended the first Engadine Zone PSSA meeting for 2013 where sport for the year was organised. During Term 1 2013 NSW Touch Football will be working with the teachers and schools to run a six week program in Touch Footy. On Friday mornings in weeks 4-5 selected students will be participating in drills that increase their understanding of the game and improve their skill levels. A round-robin friendly competition will then be organised for Friday morning in weeks 6, 7, 10 & 11 all at Heathcote Oval. We are all very excited about this new sports initiate offered.

Today for sport our students participated in a tabloid of activities in Touch Footy. An expression of interest was then filled in by students in Years 3-6 relating to being part of the upcoming PSSA program starting Week 4. Trials will continue in Touch next Friday for school sport.

Debbie Burke
Scholastic Book Club
Thank you all the families who supported the Scholastic Book Club in 2012. We obtained over $400 worth of free books and education resources for both the library and classroom use. During 2013 Scholastic is increasing the rewards with schools receiving a flat 20% reward on all orders. Looking forward to your continued support throughout the year. Happy reading!!!
Thank you
Barbara Bricknell (Scholastic Book Club co-ordinator)

THE POINT CAFE
Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated.

Volunteers for Week 3
Monday, 11/2
Jane Hyslop & Beck Jones
Wednesday, 13/2
Nicci Jones & Mino Matsumoto C/S
Friday, 15/2
Pam Ryan, Chris Powell & Megan Feghali

Thank you
Jodie Followes & Megan Brice (Canteen Coordinators)
Canteen Mobile: 0458 806 875
**MENAI DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Home of the Mighty Menai Roosters – 28 years strong  
**WINNER of the Menai District Sports Award for Club of the Year**

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Player registrations for 2013 season are invited for ages U6 to A Grade  
**Modified rules** for U6 – U12; Certified Coaches; Be a part of Junior Rugby League  
**Free rego for Under 6’s and 7’s (from age 4)**  
Registration Days are being held at;  
Menai Marketplace – Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th February – 8am-4pm  
Menai Roosters Club House (Akuna Oval, Bangor)- Sunday 17th February, 10-2pm -  
Sunday 24th February, 10-2pm  
For further details please contact: Drew Blackman - President - 0410 442 121  
Jodie Hendley - Registrar - 0408 440 723  
New registrations will need to provide copy of birth certificate/passport at time of rego.

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**MindQuest 2013**  
St George Girls HS Victoria St Kogarah  
Saturday & Sunday 6 & 7 April 2013  

On Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 April 2013 the 68th NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend **MindQuest** will be held for primary students from Years 1-6 at St George Girls HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 38 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much, much more. Many of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students’ evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is $170 (including GST).

Contact your school for a brochure or Shelagh Poray 02 4232 2494.  
Closing Date: Friday 8 March 2013

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**Silverleaf Counselling**  
Child, Adult, Relationship, Family  
0408 876 282  
Alfords Point Medical Practice

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**AUSTRALIAN AIR LEAGUE**  
**SUTHERLAND SHIRE SQUADRON**  
Air cadets for boys aged 8 years and older  
Flight training - real-life flight simulator  
Aviation courses - engines, navigation etc.  
Camping, camouflage and bush survival  
Flying days, aeromodelling and ball games  
Leadership, teamwork and self-discipline

www.airleague.com.au  
oc.sutherlandshire@airleague.com.au

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

In 2013 the uniform shop will be opening on Friday mornings at 8.45am - 9.30am

Please report trespassers in the school grounds to:  
School Security ☏ 1300 880 021

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Businesses advertising in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by Alfords Point Public School or the Dept of Education and Training