Friday 1 March 2013  
Term 1, Week 5  
Dear Parents, Staff & Students

This has been another very busy and productive week at Alfords Point Public School. It is the end of Week 5 and we have certainly achieved a lot in the last five weeks in both teaching and learning and student welfare. We are well and truly on track with our targets for 2013 always striving towards school improvement.

**Changes to Staff Development Day**

Due to the mandatory implementation of the new NSW English Syllabus in 2014 two staff development days have been set aside for the professional learning of teachers. These staff development days are scheduled at the beginning of Term 2 – 29 & 30 April.

The staff at Alfords Point Public School will however be joining a Community of Schools Professional Learning Day on Thursday 28 March 2013 instead of Tuesday 30 April.

In other words -

Thursday 28 March will be a pupil free day so that staff can engage in professional learning.

Monday 29 April – Staff Development Day is a pupil free day.

Tuesday 30 April – All students attend school for the commencement of Term 2.

Our OOSH Centre Cindi Kindi will be open on Thursday 28 March as well as Monday 29 April for vacation care. Cindi Kindi – Cindy can be contacted on 0412 575 551. A note will be sent home.

**Parents in Partnership Program**

We have now completed all our Parent Information evenings and I would like to thank all parents for attending. Again our theme throughout the year is Partnerships making a Difference - Leading Learning and Celebrating Success.

Our Parents in Partnership Program is a very important initiative in our school. Parents are children's first teachers and children learn a lot from their parents. Parents never stop being teachers for their children. At Alfords Point Public School teachers and parents work together to make school an exciting place to be and to help children achieve their very best at school. We are all in this together. Attached is another article by Michael Grose. Please have a read.

**The 5 Keys to School Success - Organisation**

One of the 5 Keys to School Success is Organisation. This is really important in the child’s day to day learning and can help build confidence. Here are some tips to help to teach students organisation.

- Have school equipment and books ready to take to school.
- Have homework ready to go back on the due date.
- Practise putting things away in designated places at home.
- Write a list of things to be done and check them off.
- Pack school bags the night before and keep them clean and neat.
- Be on time for school.
- Set the goal to do the best you can at all times.

**Clean Up Australia Day**

Our weather has been against us today but we hope to participate in this initiative next Friday.
Kinder Open Morning 2013
On 13 March we are inviting all parents and preschoolers to a very special morning at Alfords Point P.S. i.e. Our Kinder Open Morning. This year again we have a very special treat for new Kinders 2014 and our Kinders 2013. We will have an animal farm visiting the school and all children and parents will be able to participate in the activities as well as having a tour of the school and a welcoming morning tea. A special invitation will go out to the whole community and the pre-schools. Please keep an eye out for this and if you do know of parents with Kindergarten children 2014 please encourage them to come along to this special morning. A big thank you to our P&C who is funding this initiative.

Grandparents & Grandfriends Day
This year we are holding our Grandparents Day on Wednesday 27 March. We are inviting all grandparents and friends to our school to spend one hour before recess in their grandchildren’s classroom to participate in Harmony Day activities and then to join their grandchildren for a morning tea. In the afternoon we have our Easter Hat Parade for Kindergarten and Stage 1 performing all in our school hall. It should be a great afternoon. In the middle session we have a very special whole school Easter Service run by our Scripture teachers. All are welcome. If grandparents are unable to attend we do welcome a grand friend or a special aunty or neighbour who is involved with your children. Parents of course are very welcome on this day. A special note will go home very soon.

Robyn Dowse
Principal

The Thoughtful Tree
Outside the library is our new, colourful Thoughtful Tree with two boxes for the whole school community to interact with. One box is the WORRY BOX – with cards attached for people to write their worries down. Students may write your name and class with the worry and they will receive help. The THANKFUL BOX also hangs on the tree, giving people the opportunity to think about all the good things in their life and be grateful. In every hard situation and worry, there is always something good that we can be thankful for.

School Chaplain - Ruth Lewis-Jones

Can You Help?
Kindergarten are having a great time playing lots of games and participating in activities that are helping us to match phonemes (sounds) to the letters. For one of our activities we need lots of plastic bread clips. We would appreciate the donation of any unneeded plastic bread clips. If you have any of these could you please drop them off into the container in the office. Thank you

Kindergarten

SPORTS NEWS
Unfortunately the PSSA Touch Footy Program for today had to be called off due to the wet weather. The same selected children that were going to attend today will now be attending next week.

Congratulations to Lochie J who displayed his wonderful skills in the AFL trials last Wednesday. He was selected as a member of the Engadine Zone Team who will be participating at the Regional Trials for the Sydney East Team.

Good luck to Sophie A, Sophie J, Ebony J and Ellen M who are all off to the Engadine Zone Netball trials next week. Also off to the Zone trials next week are Brandyn L and Britney S for Tennis. We know these six sports people will do themselves proud and be wonderful ambassadors for our great school.

Good luck to the squad of swimmers competing next Tuesday at the Engadine Zone Swimming Carnival. Here’s hoping for fine weather and lots of PB’s.

Debbie Burke

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK - T1, Week 5
KL  Sophie S
K-1D  Alyssa S
1-2R  Halle L
1-2S  Madison L
2-3P  Pamela K
3-4B  Rachael G
3-4M  Dane K
5-6B  Valentino P
5-6D  George P
THE POINT CAFE
A warm welcome to our newest volunteer Carly Smith.

Two volunteers needed on Friday, 8 March (11am to 12pm).

Volunteers for Week 6
Monday, 4/3
Jane Hyslop & Leisa St John

Wednesday, 6/3
Angela Riley, Mino Matsumoto C/S & Carly Smith C/S

Friday, 8/3
Megan Brice

Thank you
Jodie Followes & Megan Brice (Canteen Coordinators)
Canteen Mobile: 0458 806 875

Lucas Heights
Community School
Educational excellence in a safe and friendly environment

OPEN NIGHT 2013
Parents of Years 5 & 6 students are invited to attend an open night at Lucas Heights Community School.

Date: Tuesday March 5
Time: 6:30 pm in the school Gymnasium

*Principal’s welcome address
*Guided and self-guided school tours
*Lesson demonstrations
*Band and drama performances
*Café and canteen drinks and snacks available for purchase

Menai High School
Open Night

Come along and witness first hand the outstanding work of our students and the impressive opportunities available at Menai High School.

Date: Wednesday 6 March 2013
Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm
Faculty displays around the school
6.30pm information session for Year 7 2014 parents and students

Club Menai
Watch & Jewellery Sale

50-70% Off RRP!!

Guess Guess

Club Central Menai
44-60 Allison Crescent, Menai
WEDNESDAY
6TH MARCH
10am - 4pm

Visa, MasterCard & Bankcard Welcome. EFTPOS Facilities Available.

No Refund, No Exchange. Genuine Product. Samples and Discontinued Lines. Please check your order carefully on delivery. Casual store entry only and not accessed in school hours.

40 Gerald Road Ilawong 95437000
This has been another very busy and productive week at Alfords Point Public School. It is the end of Week 6 and we have certainly achieved a lot in the last six weeks in both teaching and learn-