Dear Parents, Staff & Students

Our weeks are certainly flying by and it is hard to believe that we are heading towards the last part of the term. Next week is Week 7 and we are all working very hard to improve student outcomes at Alfords Point Public School. Literacy and Numeracy are our core business at Alfords Point Public School as well as Quality Teaching. In all lessons deep knowledge and deep understanding are being systematically and explicitly taught through questioning in the classroom.

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 has been sent home.

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. Important notes have gone home about that Plan and what parents are required to do. Please send back the information required on those notes. Our Bushfire procedures are to keep all of us safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents in Partnership Program
Your input in your children’s learning at home has a very powerful influence on children’s success and level of achievement in learning. It also strengthens the important partnership you have with the school. Parent involvement can take on many forms but these are some very important ways that you can have input in your child’s learning.

1. Personal involvement with the school.
2. Hands on tutoring of the child by the parent.
3. Passing on of beliefs and attitudes about learning and school.
4. Passing on of beliefs and attitudes about yourself and your children.

To put things simply take a simple everyday approach to make a point of asking your children about school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Kindi 2014 Open Morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Grandparents Day and Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 8/9/10</td>
<td>Stage 3 Camp</td>
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<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
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</tbody>
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OUR VALUES AT ALFORDS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE AS SOLID AS A ROCK
The Five Keys to School Success
Last week I wrote about the key - Organisation. Our second key to success and well-being is Confidence. Here are some tips to help teach students confidence.

- Try different things that may be hard - Have a go!
- Speak in a clear voice.
- Have eye contact.
- Stand straight and tall.
- Greet people and start a conversation.
- Encourage “I can do it thinking”.
- Take risks and don’t worry about making a mistake.

Parent Interviews
This year we will again be holding our formal parent interviews early. Interviews will take place at the end of this term and the beginning of Term 2. Teachers now have a good knowledge of the children in their class and we feel that it is important to discuss individual progress now so that all students are working towards the outcomes expected over the next three terms. At the end of Term 2, a half yearly report will go home but there will be no formal interview unless requested by parent or teacher. Our interviews will take the same format as a three way interview involving teacher, students and parents for Stage 2 & 3.

For ES1 and Stage 1 our interviews will only involve parents and teachers. Notes have gone home.

KL & K-1D       Wednesday 10 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm
1-2R, 1-2S & 2-3P Tuesday 9 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm
3-4B & 3-4M    Wednesday 3 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm
5-6B & 5-6D    Wednesday 1 May 1.30pm to 6.30pm

Kinder Open Morning 2013
On 13 March we are inviting all parents and pre-schoolers to a very special morning at Alfords Point P.S. ie. 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 has gone 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.

The Zone Swimming Carnival
We can be very proud of our school and the students who represented us at the Zone Swimming carnival and we can be also very proud of our school as we ran the carnival this year. Mrs Burke was the co-ordinator and with the help of parents, students, teachers and admin staff the Zone Swimming Carnival was a wonderful success for all schools. Congratulations to everyone and thank you for all your support.

School A to Z
A very useful and important website to look into is School A to Z. This website gives you practical help for Homework and Study, Child Well Being, Technology use and keeping kids safe on line. The website is www.school@oz.com.au. Have a look you will be impressed.

The Bridge Playgroup
Again this year we would like to run some Playgroup sessions. Playgroup will be on Thursday morning at 9.00am on March 14 and March 21. Please come along. It is a great opportunity for pre-schoolers and their mums and families to get to know Big School. Thank you to Gloria Habbouk who is co-ordinating these sessions.

Oliver
Last week we advertised the musical “Oliver” being presented by the Rockdale Musical Society. Aidan M one of our Year 5 students is playing the main role as Oliver. This is a fantastic opportunity for Aidan whose talents in performing arts are outstanding. Congratulations Aidan on your successful performances and we know there are many more to come.

Robyn Dowse
Principal
SRC News
On Wednesday the SRC held their first official meeting for 2013. Many interesting activities were placed on the agenda. The meeting followed an official format and all representatives voted about several activities. The four school captains then took the SRC’s suggestions and ideas to our principal. The outcome from this week’s meeting is that: we will be holding our first mufti day for 2013 on Wednesday 27th March. The theme will be “Easter”. Students could come dressed with big ears, fluffy tails, big teeth, bunnies, Easter eggs etc. A gold coin donation is required if your child attends school in mufti which will be donated to Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania as it was recently burnt to the ground in the Tasmanian bush fires. On the same day the SRC will also be holding an Eggshibi- tion. Kindy and Stage 1 will be able to enter a colouring and decorating competition. Stages 2 and 3 will be able to enter in an egg decorating competition. More information about these competitions will be in next week’s newsletter.

SPORTS NEWS
Nominations of students to trial in sporting teams that represent the Engadine Zone PSSA are still continuing. The weather has meant some change of dates. Good luck to the following students who will be trialling in coming weeks.

Soccer - Jordan P and Nicholas B
Basketball - George P Lachie J, Joel M, Joel J, Aidan M, Mya D and Kristy M
Rugby League - Joel P, Marley D, Jye M and Valentino P
Cricket - Joel P

We know that these students will display sportsmanship whilst demonstrating their special talents on the fields and court.

Zone Swimming Carnival
Last Tuesday several of our students attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Engadine Pool. Many family and friends came along to support our swimmers. Each of the students did their best gaining many points for our school. Thank you to the parents who assisted with timekeeping: Lisa McLeod, Andrew Johnson, Lynda Aranjo, Ben Jones, Cheryl Todd, Maree Stuart, Penny Baxter and Melinda Symniuk. Congratulations Katie S, Lochie F and Julia J who qualified for their age 50m Freestyle finals. Lochie placed 4th in the final and Julia 2nd. Lochie also placed 2nd in the 100m open Freestyle, 2nd in the Senior boys 200m Medley and 4th in the 50m 12 years Backstroke. Julia also placed 2nd in the 12 years Breaststroke. These two students were rewarded with prestigious Engadine Zone ribbons and have qualified for the Sydney East Regional Carnival. We wish them all the best when they compete at Homebush Olympic Pool on Monday 11th March. For the second year in a row Alfords Point Public School had the duty of organising the Engadine Zone Swimming Carnival with myself as swimming convenor. This organisation is quite a huge job and without the support of all admin and teacher staff and students (six gave up their lunchtime to sort race entry cards) prior to the carnival and then at the carnival offers to be volunteers by parents along with the officiating by Mrs Dowse, Mrs Davis, Mr Davis and team manager Mrs Rider the carnival would not have run so well. As convenor my job is to then organise the Zone team for Sydney East Regional Carnival at Homebush next Monday. This organisation is a mammoth job and without the support of Mrs Adderley, Mrs Luckman and Mrs Davis the necessary paperwork, data entries and calculations would not have been able to be completed by the set date. Once again the Alfords Point community has worked together in partnership to make these carnivals successful events. Congratulations to all. The students were the winners.

Cross Country Carnival
All is booked for the Annual Cross Country Carnival which will be held this term on Thursday 4 April at Coachwood Oval. Students should be starting their training program by doing some brisk walking and leading into jogging of course always with parental permission.

Kindy run 400m, Yr 1 600m, Yr 2 800m, 8,9 & 10 yr olds run 2km and 11,12 & 13 yr olds run 3km.

Debbie Burke

Achievement Awards
Stage 1– Cooper J, Kaitlin G, Nicholas T, Michael H

Banners
Stage 1 - Kaitlin G, Jessica J, Pamela K

THE POINT CAFE
Thank you to Beck Jones and Natasha Petkovski for working extra shifts in the canteen this week.

Volunteer needed on Wednesday, 20 March (12.45pm to 2.00pm). Volunteers also needed for Term 2, please contact Megan if you are available to help out.

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

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK - T1, Week 6

KL
Marko P

K-1D
Alexander D

1-2R
Melis O

1-2S
Hayley J

2-3P
Joshua Z

3-4B
Katie S

3-4M
Alarna Z

5-6B
Bella H

5-6D
Julian M

VOLUNTEERS FOR WEEK 7
Monday, 11/3
Nicci Jones & Bronwen Mackney

Wednesday, 13/3
Ha Thanh Brard, Sue Wilkes & Vicky Tsomis C/S

Friday, 15/3
Pam Ryan, Judy Weatherly, Alana Witting & Janelle Tweed
P&C Meeting
Don’t forget the P & C AGM meeting to be held at 7pm Monday 18 of March in the school library. Everyone is welcome, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members. By having as many representatives of the school parenting community we can ensure that, together, we can provide the school with feedback, help fund additional resources to enhance learning and ultimately, be involved in our children’s education. Come and make your vote count.
Another way to help the P & C is by completing the survey that went out last week with the P & C booklet. Please pop it in the yellow mail box in the front office. We look forward to working together to make 2013 a year for success.

Junior State Dance Workshops
Nominations are now open for the 2013 Junior Dance Workshops.
The NSW Public Schools Junior State Dance Workshops are open to interested students in Years 5–7.
When: Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 May, 2013
Where: Sydney Dance Company Studios, Walsh Bay
How Much: $215.00
How do I apply: Go to our website and download an Application form:

AUDITION NOW FOR THE 2013
PRODUCTION OF “ANNIE” THE MUSICAL
Presented Live at Seymour Centre October School Holidays

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• Our patients enjoy DVD entertainment whilst being treated

UNIFORM SHOP
In 2013 the uniform shop will be opening on Friday mornings at 8.45am - 9.30am in the hall.

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