Dear Parents, Staff & Students

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of Week 8 already. Our next few weeks are very eventful with Grandparents Day, Easter Hat Parade, a well deserved Easter break, Stage 3 camp, parent interviews and ANZAC day. I will be on Long Service Leave from Monday 25 March to April 11 as I am off to Vietnam. Mrs Anne Brown will be relieving principal, supported by Mrs Jennie Lombe Assistant Principal and Mrs Maria Panourgias Relieving Assistant Principal. Please enjoy all our special events and have a very relaxing and happy Easter. Due to our very short week there will be no newsletter next week.

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 ie 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.

The Five Keys to School Success
Over the last few weeks I have been writing about The Five Keys to School Success. Last week I wrote about the key Persistence. Our fourth key to children’s success and well being is Getting Along. The message of Getting Along is for children to work co-operatively with each other, resolve conflicts by discussion rather than fights as the ‘Restorative Practice’ model.

- Being Tolerant of Others - accept that all people are different and make mistakes.
- Playing by the rules - by following school expectations, school will be a better and safer place in which to live and learn.
- Thinking First - before reaching, think first of different ways to resolve setbacks or conflicts.

P & C AGM
Last Monday night our P&C held for Annual General Meeting. Thank you to those parents who accepted office bearing positions and key responsibilities.
President - Marie Stuart
Vice Presidents - Angela Riley & Melissa Trinder
Secretary - Penny Farquhar
Treasurer - Ha Thanh Brard
Fundraising Co-ordinator - Kim Honeyman
Uniforms - Kelly Davies
Canteen Team Leaders - Megan Brice & Jodie Followes

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 & Tuesday 9 April 1.30pm to 2-3P 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

Dates for Your Diary
Mar 27  Grandparents Day and Easter Hat Parade
Mar 28  Staff Development Day
Apr 8/9/10  Stage 3 Camp
Apr 12  ANZAC Day Service
             Last day of Term 1
Apr 29  Staff Development Day
Apr 30  Students return for Term 2
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 has gone home.

The Bridge Playgroup
Our playgroup was again a very successful event this week with lots of pre-schoolers and their parents coming along to interact with other parents from the school. Our next session will be on April 11. 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 Habkouk who is co-ordinating these sessions.

Earth Hour Activity for NSW Schools
At Alfords Point Public School we are supporting Earth Hour which is Saturday 23 March 2013. Our school will be switching off lights during morning recess and lunch break as they do most days. The Earth Hour program encourages Sydney to switch off its lights for one hour at 8.30pm on Saturday 23 March, 2013 as a demonstration of how individuals and organisations can take action against global warming. The program is being jointly conducted by The Sydney Morning Herald.

Values Assembly
Respect and Responsibility and Excellence
This term we have been focussing on Values Education in both our classroom and playground. Values are embedded in our curriculum and are a part of every day life at school. During this term we have concentrated on the values of Respect and Responsibility and Excellence. The value of Excellence is one that we hope all students will aspire to throughout the year. Respect and Responsibility is also ongoing throughout the year. On Monday we held our Values Assembly and I congratulate those students who have been outstanding in upholding the value of Respect and Responsibility by listening to all, making good choices, being responsible for their learning and obeying school rules. These students have received a special gemstone or rock to celebrate their success.

The Point Café
Our school canteen, The Point Café is a very valuable asset to our school. Our school canteen supports the school’s healthy eating initiative and it is enjoyed by all students. Our school canteen is run by volunteers. This is where we need your help. We need more mums or dads to volunteer their time to help in the canteen. School canteens have always been a great place to make friends and have fun. Nothing is too hard so please help out with volunteering your time to help in the canteen. Our canteen is very important.

Homework Club
Homework Club has been very successful this term and our students are working very hard and enjoying as well the hour after school. Wednesday however was the last Homework Club for the term as we have our Easter Hat Parade on Wednesday 27 March, our pupil free day on Thursday 28 March and our last two weeks are parent interviews. Homework Club will resume early in Term 2. Thank you for your co-operation.

ANZAC Service
This year our ANZAC service will be held at 2.15pm on Friday 12 April. A detailed note about this service will go home next week.

Robyn Dowse
Principal

Preloved games wanted
Kindergarten and Stage 1 are building up a collection of resources to be used to support the Synthetic Phonics program. We are looking for donations of preloved, no longer wanted games of twister or scrabble to be donated. These games need to be in good condition. If you are having a clean out at home and would be willing to donate any of these preloved games could you please see Mrs Lombe or Mrs Dobson.

We are still collecting the plastic bread clips so if you have any please drop them into the container in the office. Thank you to everyone who has been helping us to collect these so far.

Thank you

Jennie Lombe

SRC News- An Eggciting Wednesday
Next Wednesday we will be hosting our annual eggcellent, eggciting Easter Exhibition. All dioramas will be brought to the tables near our new hall before 8.45am. The SRC and teachers will be voting before recess. Students in K-2 have to bring in their Easter bunny colouring competition before next Tuesday. We will also be having a mufti day with an Easter theme. A gold coin donation will be required if a student comes to school in Easter mufti (remember it is not just weekend clothes but an Easter themed mufti). We will be forwarding all donations to Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania due to the school being burnt down to the ground in the Tasmanian bush fires.

Aaron McKrell & Maria Panourgias

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Respect & Responsibility, Care & Compassion, Cooperation & Fairness
Film By The Sea
This year our school will be taking part in the ‘Film by the sea’ short film festival. The screening night will be held on the evening of Tuesday 29 October at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre and if our film gets selected we will be walking down the red carpet on this night. We are lucky enough to have Claire Thurkett (an ex- Alford's Point student) working with us to create our film.

Today, we have opened a story line competition to a group of selected primary students. The story line is the first step in our film production process. The winner of this competition will win 2 free tickets to the ‘Film By The Sea’ screening night. A criteria was handed out today and students participating in this competition will need to submit their story line in by Friday 5th April in a hard copy. An electronic copy must also kept on a USB.

The filming of our movie will begin next Term during lunchtimes on a Wednesday. A note will go home to all students who are interested in taking part in the Film Making Project. Please return all notes by Friday 5 April.

Maria Panourgias & Brenton Sweet

Public Speaking
It’s almost that time of year again for our Annual Public Speaking Competition. Public speaking is taught to students to help them develop the skills necessary to become confident, clear and focused speakers and it is part of the English Syllabus relating to the Talking and Listening strand. It assists students to develop the skills necessary to be able to speak and communicate with class members, teachers, peers and other individuals about a topic of personal interest and it assists with building greater self-esteem. The public speaking challenge instills confidence, encourages the reluctant speakers and recognises the talented ones. Impromptu speeches also demonstrate a student's ability to organise information, create and logically structure a speech to suit the topic and the audience and to convey an opinion convincingly. The prepared speeches for Kinder, Years 1 and 2 are to last for 2 minutes, Years 3 and 4 for 3 minutes and Years 5 and 6 for 4 minutes. Impromptu speeches for Kinder, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 are to last for 1 minute and for Years 5 and 6 for 1.5 minutes. Students are given 5 minutes preparation time. All class competitions will commence in early Term 2. Your child’s teacher will advise you when your child’s speech is to be delivered. The holidays may be an opportune time to start preparing and practicing.

Debbie Burke, Kim Dobson & Nick John

SPORT NEWS
Cross Country Carnival
It’s only two weeks till our Annual Cross Country Carnival Thursday 4 April. The ES1 and Stage 1 carnival will commence at 9.30am and the Stage 2-3 carnival will commence approximately 10.30am. Family and friends are welcome to come along and spectate. Students should be upping the antics in the training program (of course always under adult supervision). Kinders run 400m, Yr 1 600m, Yr 2 800m, 8,9 & 10 yr olds run 2km and 11,12 & 13 yr olds run 3km. The carnival is a normal school day and all children are expected to participate. Notes have gone home today.

Debbie Burke

Grow Plus

Honesty & Integrity, Friendliness & Acceptance, Excellence
THE POINT CAFE
Thank you to Judy Weatherly, Christina Savage, Carly Smith and Gloria Habkouk for your help in the canteen this week. Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated.

Volunteer needed on Friday, 5 April (11.00am to 12.00pm).

The canteen will be closed during week 11 for cleaning and stocktake.

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

Volunteers for Week 9
Monday, 25/3
Jane Hyslop & Leisa St John

Wednesday, 27/3
Megan Brice, Natasha Petkovski C/S & Mino Matsumoto C/S

Friday, 29/3
CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY

SHARKS BASKETBALL
HOLIDAY CAMP
16th to 19th April 2013
9am - 2pm Age 6 to 15 years
T-Shirt & Ball for all Camp Participants

Enrolments close 10th April 2013. (Unless maximum numbers are reached prior to closing date). Book early to avoid disappointment.

Download enrolment form from our website:
www.sutherland.basketball.net.au

Waratah Park Rawson Ave Sutherland
Phone: 9542-1999 Fax: 9521-5696
Email: admin@sutherlandbasketball.net.au
Website: www.sutherland.basketball.net.au

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