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 2014. Firstly we have enrolled 33 Kinders and our school numbers are 210 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 1/2R and Mr John is on 1/2J. Mrs Naoum is of course running our library three days a week. Mrs Panourgias is teaching 2/3P but will be on maternity leave from the end of Term 1. Mrs Lombe is teaching Kindergarten along with Mrs Dobson. Mrs Wendy Wilson will be running our EALD (English as a second language) and Mrs Karatzis is our Learning Support Teacher (LAST) this year. I would like to welcome Mrs Heidi Page our new School Counsellor. Miss Ruth is also with us two days a week as School Chaplain.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - ANAPHYLAXIS
In 2014, there are 6 students attending our school that have a proven nut allergy. This puts the student at a 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 (e.g. bees, wasps, jumper ants) and food allergy (e.g. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM Meeting - all welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Basketball Clinic Yrs 2-6 normal school uniform and bring joggers in school bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>SRC Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Stage 3 Information Evening 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Year 5 Excursion Bring Back the Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Year 6 Excursion Bring Back the Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>ES1 Information Evening 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Stage 1 Information Evening 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Stage 2 Information Evening 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Movie Night Welcome Back to School BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Kindi 2015 Open Morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Selective High School Test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUR VALUES AT ALFORDS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE AS SOLID AS A ROCK
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. 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 will 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 24 February 2013 at 5.30pm
S1 - Tuesday 25 February 2013 at 5.30pm
S2 - Tuesday 25 February 2013 at 6.30pm
S3 - Monday 17 February 2013 at 5.30pm

Also at these evenings teachers will be explaining how reading is taught and how you can help at 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. We also experienced hot conditions in Term 4 2013. 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 look out for the notes and send back the information required on those 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.

The Bridge Playgroup
Our Bridge Playgroup will be underway next Thursday February 13. All are welcome. Playgroup will be held in our canteen/hall at 9.15am to 11.00am after our morning assembly. Playgroup is a very important part of transitioning pre-schoolers to school as well as giving parents opportunities to network and their little ones to socialise. Please come along. It’s a great experience.

The Multi Purpose Court
Congratulations to our P&C and our whole school community who have worked endlessly to raise the funds for our new multi purpose court that is now in action. Our Stage 3 christened the court on Thursday with an organised game of basketball at lunch time. It is a great asset to our school playground and one that will be enjoyed by all. Thank you.

Parents in Partnership
Again this year we welcome our partnership with you the parents. As reported last week our theme for the year is Partnerships Making a Difference - The Key to the Future. Our first parent sessions this term will be our Parent/Information evenings. We hope that you are able to attend these meetings. Our first P&C meeting is on Monday evening 10 Feb at 7.00pm and this is another great way to enhance partnerships with parents. This term I am continuing our articles from Michael Grose. Our first article is Parent involvement and how valuable it is to children’s school success. It’s a great read.

The Annual School Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all students, staff and parents for running such a successful day. I know it was a great day of sportsmanship and co-operation. Congratulations all students who participated. You are all stars. Our students who performed with brilliance and speed in the pool, congratulations you are off to the Zone carnival. Of course our carnival would not be a success without our parents working side by side with all staff. It is a real team effort. Last but not least a big thank you to our newly elected House Captains. You had a big job and did well with war cries and building house spirit. Well done!

Robyn Dowse
Principal

SRC News
On Friday 14 February, all students in Years 1 to 6 who were not an SRC representative in the last two years (2012/13) will have the opportunity to informally introduce themselves to their class and briefly tell why they would
make a reliable SRC representative for the class during Semester 1, 2014. This way the students in each class can make an informed vote. Perhaps the weekend would be a good time for interested students to gather their thoughts. Being a class SRC representative means that you attend meetings and pass on ideas from your classmates. The SRC try to organise activities that can be of benefit to students of Alfrords Point Public School, also the community and various charities. Class elections will be finalised by the end of next week. An induction assembly will take place on Monday 24 February, 2014.

Maria Panourgias and Aaron McKrell

SPORTS NEWS
At our first house meeting for 2014 we elected the Sports House Captains for 2014. Those elected did a great job leading by example and encouraging their house mates at our swimming carnival last Wednesday. They will be inducted on Monday 24 February with the Semester 1, 2014 SRC and Library Monitors 2014. Congratulations to:

Green House – Loriekeets
Girls’ Captain: Amber Baillie
Boys’ Captain: Jordan Perez
Girls’ Vice Captain: Natasha Bakopoulos
Boys’ Vice Captain: Daniel Biber

Blue House – Kookaburras
Girls’ Captain: Sophie Jones
Boys’ Captain: Martin Nicaj
Girls’ Vice Captain: Bella Hadley
Boys’ Vice Captain: Sebastien Hernandez

Red House – Rosellas
Girls’ Captain: Erica Carlino
Boys’ Captain: Nicholas Nicholas
Girls’ Vice Captain: Georgia Kalatzis
Boys’ Vice Captain: James Comninos

Yellow House – Cockatoos
Girls’ Captain: Sophie Andrew
Boys’ Captain: Aidan McLeod
Girls’ Vice Captain: Rachel Low
Boys’ Vice Captain: Joel Morris

Debbie Burke

Swimming Carnival
Last Wednesday 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. 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 Loriekeets (736 pts) second was Yellow Cockatoos (630 pts) third Red Rosellas (575 pts) and fourth was Blue Kookaburras (531 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. 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 who helped make the day a success. Susan Bullock, Angie Andrew, Lisa McLeod, Serge Nascimento, Angela Riley, Nicole & Adam Coe, Nicci Jones, Jodie Followes, Thano Bakopoulos, Craig Dunkley, Cara Rixon, Kelly Davies, Matthew Slynny, Ha Thanh Brard, Di & Andrew Johnson, Val Marsh and Gloria Habkouk.

Ribbons will be handed out to final placegetters in each event at Monday’s 10 February assembly at 12.20pm. 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 4 March at Engadine Pool. Good luck to those swimmers. This year due to time availability we were able to introduce and promote the non competitive safety stroke of ‘Backscull’. All students participated in land drills and then according to their confidence and ability level they then were given opportunity to practice this stroke in either the shallow or deep water. This was a fun way to end the carnival and provide the students with a survival strategy to use if the need arises. Participating in training sessions/lessons will increase the students fitness levels and enable them 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. Why not even think about joining a swimming club at a nearby pool or in the summer months a Nippers Club at the beach?

PSSA News
Last Tuesday I attended the first Engadine Zone PSSA meeting for 2014 where sport for the year was organised. During Term 1 2014 the Cronulla Sharks NRL development officers will be working with the teachers and schools to run a five week program in Modified Rugby League for both boys and girls. On Friday mornings in weeks 5-9 selected students will be participating in drills that increase their understanding of the game and improve their skill levels. We are all very excited about this new sports initiative offered. Today for sport our Year 3-6 students participated in games making use of our new multi purpose court.

THE POINT CAFÉ
We would like to welcome our new volunteers: Marcia Bruen, Simone Carlino, Anmmanie Hola, Cara Rixon, Pamela Rogaris, Haley O’Hara, Sarah Wyman and Sofia Zachariou. Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. Thank you

Natasha Petkovski & Megan Brice (Canteen Coordinators)
Canteen Mobile: 0458 806 875

Volunteers for Week 3
Monday, 10 February
Nicci Jones & Simone Carlino

Wednesday, 12 February
Angela Riley, Mino Matsumoto C/S & Thano Bakopoulos C/S

Friday, 14 February
Ha Thanh Brard, Cheryl Todd & Megan Brice
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UNIFORM SHOP

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

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