Friday 21 March 2014
Term 1 Week 8
Dear Parents, Staff & Students

Our combined Grandparents/Grandfriends Day and Harmony Day and our launch of our Kids Matter - mental health wellbeing again emphasised how important and valuable our partnerships with you the parents and your family are. Our theme Every face has a place along with Harmony Day Everyone Belongs - emphasised our important message of belonging and inclusion for all.

Our day on Wednesday was absolutely beautiful with bright, blue skies and a cool breeze. It was an absolute delight to see so many grandparents/friends and parents enjoying a wonderful morning tea with all their children in our school playground. As I entered classrooms where our students were working on Kids Matter activities it was a delight to see so many smiling faces enjoying the interaction of grandparents and parents in the lessons.

At lunchtime again the playground was a buzz with happy students enjoying a picnic lunch with their special visitors. Our Stage 3 students performed for everyone in the hall their musical item “Revolting Children” and our crowds grew as Drumbeat musicians arrived and thrilled everyone over lunch and for the next hour with their fantastic African music. All students had an opportunity to play a drum and be part of the performance. Even parents and teachers took the stage to be part of the performance. What a day!

I received many compliments about our fantastic school with visitors thanking us for having such a day. Thank you so much to our grandparents and friends who came to be with their grandchildren and a big thank you to parents who supported our day. Thank you to our P&C and Canteen who supplied coffee and tea throughout the day as well as lunch. Congratulations to all students who displayed their best Alfords Point manners and hospitality. And a big thank you to all staff especially Mr McKrell and Miss Ruth for planning the wonderful classroom activities.

Here is the website from the Leader to view our article. http://www.theleader.com.au/story/2161350/drums-and-fun-for-children-on-harmony-day/?cs=1255

Changes to Staff Development Day
Our usual Staff Development Day schedule for 28 April Term 2 will now be held on Monday 26 May. All staff at Alfords Point Public School will be joining a Community of Schools Between the Rivers Professional Learning Day at Menai High instead of Monday 28 April.

In other words
Monday 26 May will be a pupil free day so that staff can engage in professional learning around Literacy and NAPLAN.

Monday 28 April will be the first day back of Term 2 for all students at Alfords Point Public School. Our OOSH Centre Cindi Kindi will be open on Monday 26 May for vacation care. Cindi Kindi - Cindy can be contacted on 0412 575 551. A note will be 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 reacting, think first of different ways to resolve setbacks or conflicts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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OUR VALUES AT ALFORDS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE AS SOLID AS A ROCK
**Parent Interviews**
This year we will again be holding our formal parent interviews early. Interviews will take place at the end of this term. 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 will go home soon.

**KL & KD**
Tuesday 1 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm

1-2R, 1-2J & 2-3P
Wednesday 2 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm

3-4B & 3-4M
Tuesday 8 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm

5-6B & 5-6D
Monday 7 April 1.30pm to 6.30pm

**Parents in Partnership - Our School Canteen**
**The Point Café**
Well Wednesday was a fantastic example of our partnership with our parents and their families. We have a wonderful school community with everyone belonging. At the moment, however our school canteen needs your help. Megan Brice and Natasha Petkovski are our volunteer coordinators and they are doing a wonderful job and it is a big job. The canteen is short of volunteers on a Friday. We would love some more mums, dads or grandparents to give a little time to help. Our canteen is also passionate about healthy food and promoting healthy eating, supporting the school’s healthy eating initiative. We hope that you can be supportive of our canteen as it is all the students who benefit.

**Michael Grose’s Articles**
This week Michael Grose emailed through an article on Stranger Awareness. I feel it is a really important article for all parents to read and discuss with their children. During Semester 1 teachers do Child Protection lessons in class and Stranger Awareness is covered. Please have a read.

**The Bridge Playgroup**
Our next session for Playgroup will be on March 27. 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 Slavica Kotevski for coordinating these sessions.

**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. Next Wednesday however will be last Homework Club for the term. Homework Club will resume early in Term 2. Thank you for your co-operation.

**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**
Today is the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. The focus of this day in 2014 is on parents and families taking a stand together with school communities and recognising the important role everyone plays. Today we have reminded all students of the ‘Power of One Oath’ that states; I will not bully others I will not stand by while others are bullied I will report bullying whenever I see it because I have

**The Power of One.**

**ANZAC Service**
This year our ANZAC service will be held at 2.15pm on Friday 11 April. A detailed note about this service will go home next week.

**Robyn Dowse**
Principal

**SRC News**
Last week the SRC held their first official meeting for 2014. Many interesting activities were placed on the agenda. The meeting followed an official format and all representatives voted about several activities. The outcome from last week’s meeting was that we will be holding our first mufti day for 2014 on Thursday 10 April which will also be the day for our annual Easter Hat Parade. On the same day the SRC will also be holding an Egg-hibition. 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.

**Aaron McKrell & Maria Panourgias**

**Sports News**
The Engadine Zone trials are happening now. Already we have sent children off to trial to be part of the Engadine Zone team in the sport of Soccer and Basketball. Next week the netball trials will take place. Congratulations to the following students who were the Alford’s Point Public School representatives.
Soccer - Nicholas B, Martin N and Jordan P
Basketball - Mya D
Netball - Sophie J, Ellen M, Ebony J and Sophie A

Congratulations to Jordan P who has progressed to the regional trials next week. Good luck Jordan.

Mya D was successful in being selected for the Sydney East Regional Basketball Team and will be playing in State Cup over four days in May. Well done Mya.

Today in sport students in Years 3-6 continued their Cross Country training program. Firstly they stretched in the hall, then warmed up with games of poison ball and then they all ran for eleven minutes. It would be great if the students could continue this training over the weekend and next week in preparation for our Annual Cross Country Carnival which is only two weeks from today.

Next week a permission note will go home and we ask that it is returned promptly to school.

Debbie Burke

Achievement Awards

Stage 1 - Abby S, Timothy R, Perry K
Stage 2 - Monique O, Pamela K
Stage 3 - Aidan M, Ebony O, Natasha B

Banners

Stage 1 - Timothy R
Stage 2 - Monique O
Stage 3 - Ebony O, Natasha B

Bronze Medals

Stage 3 - Ebony O, Natasha B

Silver Medals

Stage 3 - Georgia K

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK - T1, Week 8
KL Indiana O
KD Jessica M
1-2R Annabelle S
1-2J Sophie S
2-3P Justin K
3-4B Ella W
3-4M Valerie P
5-6B Rachael G
5-6D Dylan W

THE POINT CAFÉ
Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. New volunteers needed for Term 2. Please contact Megan if you are available.

The canteen will be closed during week 11 and will reopen on Monday, 5 May.

Natasha Petkovski & Megan Brice (Canteen Coordinators)
Canteen Mobile: 0458 806 875
Email: apcanteen@telstra.com

Volunteers for Week 9
Monday, 24 March
Natasha Petkovski & Cara Rixon

Wednesday, 26 March
Angela Riley, Vicky Tsomis & Annmarie Hola C/S

Friday, 28 March
Ha Thanh Bnard, Alana Witting & Kelly Guy C/S

MindQuest 2014

St George Girls HS Victoria St, Kogarah
Saturday & Sunday 5&6 April 2014

On Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April 2014 the 71st NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend MindQuest will be held for primary students from Years 1-6 at St George Girls HS. 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 more. The cost of the weekend is $175 (including GST).

Contact details– Shelagh Poray 02 4232 2494
SHARKS BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMP
14th to 17th April 2014
9am - 2pm  Age 7 to 15 years
T-Shirt & Ball for all Camp Participants

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

PRIMARY SCHOOLS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE
FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 2,3,4
Enrol with a friend or form a team from your school.
We will be running Learn to Play sessions and games on Friday nights, from
4.30 to 6.30pm, at Menai Indoor Sports Centre

UNIFORM SHOP
In 2013 the uniform shop will be opening on Friday mornings at 8.30am - 9.15am in the hall.