It's already the end of Week 4 and school is such a busy place. However our students are very settled and the tone of our school is great. I would like to congratulate all our Year 5 buddies for their wonderful support in helping Kindy. You are our heroes.

Empowering Partnerships
Thank you to all parents who attended our Stage 1, 2 and 3 parent information sessions. Our Early Stage 1 session will be held next Monday at 5.30pm in the Kindergarten rooms.

At our Parent Information Evenings I had an opportunity to introduce briefly our new School Plan 2015-2017. Again the plan was written in consultation with parents, staff and executive teachers. We valued greatly the input from our parent community and when we compared the thoughts of teachers and parents on the “big idea” of the school plan we were all talking the same language. This was very exciting and reassuring. So as introduced at the Parent Information Evenings we have three strategic directions Growing Champions, Nurturing Life Long Learners and Empowering Partnerships. The School Plan will be published on our website at the beginning of Term 2. I am always happy to discuss the direction of our school and our school plan if you would like further explanation.

Alfords Point Public School P&C
Our first P&C meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon of this week. This meeting was the AGM. It was great to see parent representation from Year 1 to Year 6. Thank you to all parents who came along on Wednesday afternoon. The P&C plays a very important part in our school community. The partnership between the school and the community is invaluable. It is essential that parents and citizens be part of the connection and team that support and work with our school. The P&C works with the school to provide the best learning for all students. The P&C raises extremely valuable funds that support school improvement. Last year our P&C and a team of parents worked hard together on lots of initiatives to raise money for the school. We would love you to come along to the next meeting and be part of our 2015 P&C. Congratulations to our P&C Office Bearers:

President - Angela Riley
Vice President - Kim Honeyman
Vice President - Danielle Meggos
Secretary - Sarah Wyman
Treasurer - Ha Thanh Brard
Fundraising - Jodie Followes, Kim Honeyman, Hanady Nasser
Uniform - Kelly Davies, Hanady Nasser

A KidsMatter School
Our journey in focussing on a positive school community is continuing under our KidsMatter initiative. We all know mentally healthy students come to school ready to learn and achieve success. At the core of a positive school community are responsive and respectful relationships. These help create a sense of belonging, enable inclusive practices to occur and increase involvement and contribution to school. On going efforts at a whole-school level are required to ensure that all community members feel included and are able to participate actively in day to day school life.

The Language that we are using everyday at school is Every Face has a Place emphasising, belonging
being included and feeling welcome at Alfords Points Public School.

Grandparents/Grandfriends Day
This year we are holding our Grandparents Day on Wednesday 18 March. We are inviting all grandparents and friends to our school at 10am to have a special morning tea with their grandchildren in their grandchild’s class. As well as spend time in their grandchild’s class we hope you will to participate in Harmony Day activities. After our morning tea at 11.30am our students will be part of our Fit Futures dance display. We hope you enjoy this special morning. A note will come home soon about this event.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Michael Grose - Parenting Ideas
During 2014 we subscribed to Michael Grose’s Parenting Ideas. Each week attached to the newsletter were articles written by experts and researchers helping parents deal with many facets of parenting. We will be continuing to email these articles to you. They are a wealth of information and we hope that they can reduce parent anxiety. Please find attached the article, 10 golden rules for parenting success in 2015.

Crossing roads before and after school
Everyone needs to be very mindful of how quickly an accident can happen around schools in the afternoon or morning. Our roads around our school are particularly busy in the afternoon and everyone needs to stay safe. Please use the designated crossings to cross the roads around the school. Bronwen Mackney is our crossing lady on Brushwood Drive and staff supervise the crossing on Coachwood. Students need to hold an adult's hand when crossing the road and never follow an adult out onto the road. Let's keep everyone safe.

School Photos
On Monday 23 February, The School Photographer will be at our school taking class photos, family photos, individual photos and some group photos. Full school summer uniform with the correct black shoes are the order for the day along with great manners and cooperative behaviour.

Robyn Dowse
Principal

Unfortunately we were unable to secure the student numbers to participate in the Term 1 Engadine Zone PSSA sport initiative of ‘Background Footy’. Students in Years 3-6 will participate in organised sport at school for Term 1. In the coming weeks we will be trialling for selection in the Term 2 (Winter) PSSA teams of soccer and netball during Friday sport timeslots.

For the second year in a row all students in Years 3-6 will be travelling by bus to sport on Fridays during Term 2. The sports on offer will be soccer, netball and swimming. More information will follow in coming weeks.

Good luck to Dane Kingston, Callum Powell, James Herodotou, Costa Tsakalis and Alyssa Stevens who will be attending the Engadine Zone Soccer Trials next Thursday at Buckle Reserve. We know they will display great sportsmanship.
as they trial to be part of the Zone Team.

Cross Country Carnival
The 2015 Alfords Point Public School Cross Country Carnival is beginning to be organised. The date is Wednesday 1 April 2015 at Coachwood Oval.

Debbie Burke

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Thank you to Kim Honeyman for lending an extra hand this week.

Specials for weeks 5;

Lunch orders on Mon & Wed Only
Mini Vegetable Quiche $1.50

Counter sales
Fruit salad & yoghurt 50c
Jelly Cups 50c

Thank you to our Volunteers for Week 5

Monday, 23 February
Belinda Mainprize, Nicola Branco C/S

Wednesday, 25 February
Angela Riley, Carly Smith

Friday, 27 February
Ha Thanh Brard, Sarah Wyman, Rachel Wright

Colouring competition coming in week 6!

Email: appscanteen@gmail.com
Mobile: 0409 905 564
Clement Art School
Epping, Hornsby, Chatswood, Burwood, Hurstville, Eastwood, Parramatta, Killara, Central, Castle Hill

www.clementart.com.au
Email: clementartschool@hotmail.com
Tel: 0414435388

UNIFORM SHOP
In 2015 the uniform shop will be opening on Friday mornings at 8.30am - 9.15am in the hall.

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Please report trespassers in the school grounds to:
School Security 1300 880 021
Menai Police 9541 4499

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