Dear All

A very hot couple of days have reminded us of the importance of hats in the playground. It has been great to see our students adhering so well to this very important safety aspect of our uniform. It is also timely to remind parents to send plastic drink bottles with water, preferably with some ice to keep it cold, to keep children well hydrated.

Within the next couple of days, our playground will have some new water bubblers available. Unfortunately there were some delivery delays over the holidays and the replacement bubblers were not delivered until yesterday, with plumbers starting early to get them installed as soon as possible. These are replacing the old bubblers which have serviced many, many students at the school.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS - As has been mentioned in the last two newsletters, there are Parent Information sessions tonight commencing in the school hall. 
Starting times:   Kindergarten - 6:30pm,  Years 1 & 2 - 7:00pm,  
Years 3 & 4 - 7:30pm and Years 5 & 6 - 8:00pm.

Each of the sessions will start in the hall and then individual teachers will take parents to their respective classrooms. The sessions in the hall will give generic information about what is occurring for students in those years eg major excursions. The class specific sessions will address specific class activities and routines. We look forward to having many parents share these sessions with our staff!
Parking will be available in the playground, entering from Smollett St. Please park PAST the hall.

PLANNING DAYS - During this week teachers of Years 1 to 6, will be working with their stage colleagues on one day, planning units, excursions, assessment tasks and learning activities for the following ten weeks. These 'Planning Days' are a valuable professional learning activity as our staff have varying skills and interests. Being able to share their knowledge and skills enables our students to be offered differentiated and relevant learning activities.

LATE ARRIVALS - Classes commence at 9.00am each morning. For a range of reasons, each morning we have a number of late arrivals. We understand that there are times when ‘it is one of those days’. However, it can be very unsettling for our students if they arrive late to a class which is already completing tasks and do not know what to do. We ask that families strive to ensure their children are at school by 8.55am each day, so their children have a ‘normal’ start to the day.

SPORTS NEWS - Best wishes to Will Clarke and Tegan Gibbons, who today competed in the area diving competition with primary and secondary students from the Albury area. Best wishes on an enjoyable and successful day!

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Riverina Junior Dance Ensemble: Ava Howard - 5AP, Mia Johannis - 6AKB, Alanah Kilo - 5/6AB, Asha Krautz - 6AB and Petria Travassaros - 6AKB. They will have the opportunity to participate in dance festivals and events organised by the DEC throughout the year.

P.T.O.
WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING IN THE LUNCHBOX? - As I was wandering through the playground this week, I noticed a number of our students, especially younger ones, spending a lot of time at recess or lunch, ‘finishing’ their lunch or recess. Perhaps some of them are having too much prepared for them whilst at school.

As your family becomes older, they become a little more picky about what they want to eat. It is a challenge to provide interesting appealing lunches everyday. By following the link below, you may be inspired: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/recipes

Just in case parents are happy to provide additional food for their children, (and the kids don't eat it and do not want to take the uneaten food home), the chooks appreciate the donations, or the Stephanie Alexander Program Year 4 students are happy to collect the scraps and put them in the compost heap. Congratulations to the Stephanie Alexander Garden participants: the tomatoes which were harvested yesterday were a credit to you!

SCHOOL JARGON - School has changed a bit since most of us were at school (for some of us it has changed a lot). One of the things that parents often find challenging is the inevitable use of jargon. Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.


AVOIDING INJURIES - Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/ways-to-keep-your-childs-back-and-posture-healthy

MATHS QUESTIONS - Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child’s maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 6.


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HOMEWORK - How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework

Have a great week. Vicki Harris, Principal.

SPORTS NEWS - PSSA CRICKET AND TENNIS TRIALS - Trials will be held this Thursday and Friday at lunch for students who have signed up to try out for tennis (Years 4 - 6 girls and boys) and cricket (Years 5 - 6 boys) to attend the district pre-selection trials which will be held in Albury next week. Cricket trials will be held first lunch and tennis trials second lunch.

Thank you. Chris Bourke, Coordinator.

PAYMENTS - When any payments are required, you have several different options. You may pay by eftpos at the front office, ($10 minimum) you may choose to use the Parent Online Payment option on our school website ($10 minimum) or you may pay at the front office. If you pay at the front office, we ask you to put the correct money/cheque in an envelope, write the details, include the note and post it in the slot at the front counter in the office, by the due date. Payment envelopes are available from the front office.

We are unable to provide change, as we are not allowed to keep money on school premises. Any note printed on blue paper is a “Boomerang Blue” and must be returned to this slot in the front office. As you can imagine, in a school our size, we need a process which streamlines the collection of money. Please assist us with this process.

HUME STUDENT BANKING - Please remember that the Hume Student Banking day is Tuesday. If you are new to the school the application forms are available from the front office.

CLOTHING POOL - We are in desperate need of small underpants for girls and boys. (New items)

The little ones often have “accidents” at school and require a change of underclothes. If you can help with a donation it would be very much appreciated. Please leave donations at the front office.

THE BIG SPLASH - The Big Splash is a community event to raise awareness for mental health, funds for Headspace and Survivors of Suicide. It will take place on Wednesday 4 March between 5:00pm and 8:00pm. This year Albury Public School students in Year 6 will be participating in the 4 X 50m relay event. To show our support for this cause, we ask all of the students from Kindergarten to Year 6 to bring in a gold coin donation on Thursday 26 February. They will then place their coin on an outline drawn in the Gym.

As this is a community event, all families are welcome to join in the festivities of the night which is held at the Albury Swim Centre as there are many other relay events to watch, a BBQ and DJ.

Christel Pargeter, Coordinator.
CANTEEN ROSTER

Thurs  12  9:00-11:30am  HELPER NEEDED  12:45-1:30pm Kirsty James
Fri  13  9:00-11:30am  Tracey Kellock  11:30-1:30pm HELPER NEEDED
Mon  16  12:30-1:30pm  Louise Cameron
Tues  17  12:45-1:30pm  HELPER NEEDED
Wed  18  9:00-11:30am  HELPER NEEDED  11:00-1:30pm Danielle Williams

Thank you to all the parents/carers/grandparents who have come into the canteen to put their names on the canteen volunteers roster.

Welcome to our new families who have also volunteered, we hope you meet lots of local families by being an active part of our school community.

Well done to all the children using the canteen. We are very impressed with everyone’s wonderful manners.

Great effort, keep it up.


HAPPENINGS IN THE KITCHEN AND GARDEN- We would like to welcome all students in 3/4CM, 4CH, 4CCB and 4/5LJH who will be participating in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for 2015. We had a fantastic time during our first garden lessons this week and look forward to introducing students to the kitchen next week! During this term there will be a special Stephanie Alexander newsletter sent home so that you are well informed about our exciting endeavours. We are happy for any parents or carers to come along and join their child in the sessions as long as you sign in at the front office please. If you have any special skills or interests in cooking or gardening, please leave your name and phone number with the office as we would love to have you on board. We were very fortunate to have had many donations last year, as they helped sustain the program. Over the next few weeks we will be placing a list in the newsletter for parents who would like to donate some dry ingredients to replenish our pantry, as well as some items needed for garden lessons. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

We would like to extend a very heartfelt and enthusiastic thank you to Cathy and her staff at OOSH for their amazing generosity in allowing us to utilise the OOSH kitchen for our kitchen classes last year. Lynda Joyce and Leanne Schifferle, Garden and Kitchen Specialists SAKGP.

P & C NEWS- “Cinema Under the Stars”. What a lovely night to host our BBQ. Many thanks to Cathy and Matthew Chapman, Nikki Bruce, Janet Howie, Pat Freeman and Bruce Haszard and family for their assistance in running the BBQ on Saturday night. From a small crowd we made $250 in profit, which shall go to the Stephanie Alexander Garden Program.

We also need to thank Baker’s Delight for the donation of their bread and also Scott’s Jones St Butchery for their cost price sausages.

We look forward to seeing new faces at our first P&C meeting for the year on Tuesday 24 February at 7:30pm, in the staffroom. Any enquires please contact me on 0401 202 860.

Kate Preston President P&C Committee

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

ALBURY JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE- seeking players.
Boys Under 7- Under 9, Under 10—Under 15.
Girls- League Tag- Girls aged 5 –16 years. Registration, Sarvaas Park, Curlew Cres, North Albury, 10:00am-12:00noon. Saturday 28 February and 7 March. Contact Mark on 0481 012 526.

HOT HOUSE DRAMA SCHOOL- Hot House Drama School is the only professional acting training program in the region. Catering for all ages from 5 to adults. Contact us on 60217433 or visit www.hothousetheatre.com.au for further information.

Year 6 have been concentrating on Leadership skills this week. They are pictured here developing some ideas for our playground.
The 2015 Albury Public School Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 30 January. The carnival was completed in perfect conditions.

Thanks to the fantastic support from community members and staff, the carnival ran very smoothly on the day. Thank you to the staff for their non-stop commitment during the day. Thank you also to the many parents who helped with marshalling, time keeping, place rankings and food.

There are many jobs that are completed ‘behind the scenes’ which also contribute to a successful carnival on the day. Thank you to the office ladies for their usual efficiency in the handling of money and notes. We all appreciated the shade at the pool and our General Assistant, Mr Pantling, takes the credit for having this in place.

Finally the results of the carnival were as follows:

**HOUSE POINTS**
- 1st Murray 441
- 2nd Mitchell 368
- 3rd Hume 314
- 4th Hovell 273

**AGE CHAMPIONS**

**Junior Girl:**  Elinor McGarvie 36  
**Runner Up:**  Harriet Murphy 34

**Junior Boy:**  Rhys Kilo 40  
**Runner Up:**  Jack Wills 30

**11Yrs Girl:**  Ava Tuksar 42  
**Runner Up:**  Phoebe Grigg 24

**11yrs Boy:**  Deacon Hogan 30

**Equal Runners Up:**  Brodie Porta 16, Ian Howsam 16

**Senior Girl:**  Ella Riches 42  
**Runner Up:**  Emily Wills 30

**Equal Senior Boys:**  Will Pargeter 42, Will Murphy 42

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the carnival. Your excellent behaviour and sportsmanship was a credit to you and your school.

Rosemary Coughlan, Swimming Carnival Convenor.