Dear All

THANK YOU! The Parent Information sessions last week were very well attended. Our students are the beneficiaries when we work together and everyone knows where we are heading. Thank you so much to the staff as well! It was a hot day and when requested, they returned to school to inform their students’ families of classroom routines and programs.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK- It is a legal requirement that any people working with children must make certain declarations. We really appreciate assistance in classrooms and at sporting activities, but we are required to enforce the legal obligations. If you are a parent or relative of an enrolled student you are required to complete a declaration and provide a 100 point check at the front office.

If you are not related to a student and wish to volunteer at the school, you are required to complete a declaration and have the declaration verified (at no cost) at the RMS (RTA).

The link below will take you to a site which will explain which documents can be used to provide the 100 point check:

MERIT CERTIFICATES- This following excerpt is from our current Student Welfare and Discipline Policy.

- Blue Certificates are presented on a weekly basis at assembly.
- Each class teacher awards Blue Certificates at combined assemblies.
- Each class teacher K -Yr 2 awards two Blue Certificates at weekly assemblies.
- Each class teacher Yr 3 – Yr 6 awards three Blue Certificates at weekly assemblies.
- When a student has received five Blue Certificates they are returned to the teacher and are eligible for a Gold Certificate and $1.00 Canteen Voucher.
- When a student has gained Five Gold Certificates he/she is invited to Morning Tea with their Parents/Carers, Deputy Principal and Principal.

For students who enrol at Albury Public School after Year 2 the following allowances are made:

- Year 6 = 1 Gold Certificate to attend Parent/Carer Morning Tea
- Year 5 = 2 Gold Certificates to attend Parent/Carer Morning Tea
- Year 4 = 3 Gold Certificates to attend Parent/Carer Morning Tea
- Year 3 = 4 Gold Certificates to attend Parent/Carer Morning Tea

SCRIPTURE (SRE)- The DEC has sent out some clarification about Special Religious Education (Scripture) this year. As a consequence, we have had to send out some information for parents, attached to this newsletter. This year we will offer non-denominational scripture to all students in Years 1 and 2, according to enrolment information AND any families (K-6) who have listed Catholic as their religious persuasion upon enrolment. Only the previously mentioned two groups will have a note. (Unfortunately it is on white paper – please look for it and return it to the front office ASAP). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Carolyn Howard or myself for clarification.

P & C MEETING- Next Tuesday evening at 7.30pm the first P & C meeting of the year will be held in the staff room. Parking will be available in the school grounds. All families are welcome to attend.
FAMILY LAW - We know that some families experience breakdown. In meeting our obligations to students and parents, the Department of Education and Communities relies on a number of basic principles. Among the most important is that schools' decisions in relation to family issues will be based on what is considered to be in the best educational interests of the child. Also of paramount importance is the continued effective and efficient operation of the school. Parents have a responsibility to advise the school immediately if any change to family circumstances occur which has the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and the parents and/or students. Unless schools are informed otherwise (eg by providing a copy of the court orders), they will assume that both parents retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving their children's education at the school.


EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT HOME - Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects? Families often ask us for some activities their children can do at home on ipads/iphones. The DEC have developed an app called 'School A to Z'. The link below will give you access to a number of games relating to spelling, maths and reading.

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

Have a great week – Vicki Harris – Principal.

ALBURY SWIM TEAM - Congratulations to the following students who will be representing our school at the District Carnival on Wednesday 25 February: Will Murphy, Will Pargeter, Emily Wills, Ella Riches, Ella Henderson, Charlie Murphy, Mitchel Spokes, Rhys Kilo, Zachary King, Daisy Tuksar, Ryleigh Hogan, Caleb Clemson, Jack Wills, Harriet Murphy, Elinor McGarvie, Brodie Porta, Deacon Hogan, Ava Tuksar, Phoebe Grigg, Myron Aytin, Will Haberfield, Ian Howsam, Olivia McCaig, Joel Orchard, Reese Spokes. Rosemary Coughlan, Coordinator.

PSSA TENNIS TRIALS - Last Thursday and Friday we braved the heat and had a hit out for PSSA Tennis Selections. Thank you to those boys and girls who came along. Congratulations to these boys, who showcased their ability to hit an excellent forehand, backhand and serve, as well as having great foot work and knowledge of the game: Max Byrne, Will Haberfield and Oliver Henderson. They will be going on to the Albury PSSA Tennis Trials next week. Good luck boys! Rachel Johnson, Tennis Coordinator.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library program focuses on literature and information skills. All classes K-6 have a set library session. Library times for the children are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1MS - Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1MC, 1MD &amp; 1MM</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2LN &amp; 2/3LK - Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2MS</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2MWM - Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3CC &amp; 3/4CM</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4CCB, 4CH &amp; 4/5LJH - Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 5/6 classes</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Year 6 - Wednesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K-2 children require a library bag to borrow. Students may borrow two items for two weeks. The library is open from Monday to Thursday at the second half of lunch time. The expectation is that children will be involved in “Quiet” activities (reading, borrowing, board games, homework etc.)

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE - The Challenge is an excellent program that aims to encourage a love of reading by experiencing quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge for each student to read widely. Any student from Kindergarten to Year 6 is able to participate. K-2 students need to read 30 books, 25 of which need to be from the set reading list. Students 3-6 need to read 20 books of which 15 need to be from the provided reading list. Please refer to the website for the complete rules and reading lists. Alternatively, see Ms Griffith in the library. If students are interested in completing the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) they can start reading now. The Challenge runs from 1 February to 1 September. Students just need to keep a personal record of their reading until online registration becomes available 1 March 2015. There are copies of the log available from the library. A reading log is also available on the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website at: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html Alison Griffith, PRC Co-ordinator/Teacher/Librarian.
We are unable to get “Glass Noodles” We will have to take these off the menu for now. We will keep trying and let you know when/if we get them again. Thank you to those people who have put their name on the roster. We still have some gaps. Please contact us if you are able to help. Even 12:45 - 1:30pm some days is a great help. This can be done in your lunch hour if you work but would still like to help out.

Thank you, Rachael & Ali, Ph. 60212370.

**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Helper Needed</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Helper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19</td>
<td>9:00-11:00am</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
<td>11:00-1:30pm</td>
<td>Danielle Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri  20</td>
<td>9:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Sara Clift</td>
<td>11:30-1:30pm</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30-1:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>12:45-1:30pm</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 24</td>
<td>12:45-1:30pm</td>
<td>Sue Shiphard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25</td>
<td>9:00-11:30am</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
<td>11:30-1:30pm</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 26</td>
<td>9:00-11:00am</td>
<td>HELPER NEEDED</td>
<td>11:00-1:30pm</td>
<td>Tracey Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri  27</td>
<td>9:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Anna Sutherland</td>
<td>11:00-1:30pm</td>
<td>Tracey Kellock</td>
</tr>
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**P & C News** - The Albury Public School bags can be purchased from the front office for $45.00. Please make sure if paying by cash that you have the correct money. You can also pay by cheque. The bags cannot be paid by eftpos, as this facility is not available to the P & C.

Kate Preston, P & C President.

**Thank You to the Albury Quest Apartments** - A huge thank you to Noel and Madeleine Wood from the Albury Quest Apartments, who have generously donated chairs/lounges and canvases for the staff and students in the Castle. We are putting them to good use daily.

Rosemary Coughlan, 4CCB Class Teacher.

**AFL Visit / Clinics** - Albury Public School was very privileged this week with two AFL players from GWS attending at lunch to ‘have a kick’ with students. Caleb Marchbank and Sam Schulz along with Jack Bradley from AFL NSW/ACT visited the school as part of the AFL Community Camp program on Monday. Children were able to participate in activities held over lunch by the AFL footballers, with an opportunity after to ‘get up close’ for a meet and greet. Many students asked questions of the footballers. On Tuesday AFL clinics were held for Years 2-6 students on the block by AFL NSW/ACT. Chris Bourke, AFL Coordinator.

**National Ride2School Day** - Albury Public School will be celebrating Ride2School Day on 13 March. We encourage students and their families to leave the car at home on this day and get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to ride and walk to school. So dust off your bike, pump up the tyres and start planning or practising your best route to school. Dylan Clift, Coordinator.

**Community Noticeboard**

**Free Professional “Back to School” Support for NSW Parents** - Free Parent Line publicity material is available on [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au) and the Parenting Counsellors can be accessed on 1300 1300 52.


**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](http://www.hothousetheatre.com.au) for further information.

**Albury United Soccer Club** - Under 12 girl's Soccer team seeking any girls aged 10-12 willing to join a fun team. Please contact Graham Lamond 0458586161 or Jodie Greschke on 0418 407 805 or by email [registrar@alburyunited.com](mailto:registrar@alburyunited.com)


**Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers** is running a new & free youth MTB race series this year. There will be a schools cup rewarding participation through the series. For details see :-[http://www.alburywodongamtmb.org.au/2015/02/cycle-station-nail-can-hill-youth-mtb-series/](http://www.alburywodongamtmb.org.au/2015/02/cycle-station-nail-can-hill-youth-mtb-series/) Marcus Richardson.
6AKB and Mrs Browne have been enjoying getting to know the students of 1MS and Miss Sheridan. We enjoyed helping them create art work about their families and appreciated them assisting us with an item for our assembly on Thursday!