Settling in
It has been wonderful to walk into our classrooms and see the smiles on our children’s faces as they work in their new classes, with possible new friends, a new teacher, a new classroom and new expectations. We are all very aware that sometimes the first couple of weeks can leave some students (and parents) a little nervous about how they might cope with such changes, but please be rest assured in knowing that your child’s class placement was carefully considered and that our exceptional teachers respond extremely well to the many differing needs that are found in our classes. We will be holding parent interviews later on this term to discuss personalised learning plans, however if you have important issues or questions that need addressing within the next couple of weeks, please feel free to speak to your child’s teacher.

We are learners too
Our staff is committed to providing valuable learning opportunities for our students and to support this we have set aside every Tuesday from 3.15pm – 4.30pm as the time that we will participate in training and development. We understand that at times you will have questions about what is happening in your child’s class, but to ensure that your child’s teacher does not miss out on learning new things, we ask that you make appointments with them on other days. All staff, except those on duty, also attend a weekly briefing on Thursday from 8.30am – 9.00am. We thank you for your cooperation.

Uniform
It is great to see so many students in full school uniform and my thanks go out to parents and guardians for their support in this area. We are enforcing our safety message of no hat, play in the shade. We no longer have a hat borrowing system, for obvious hygienic reasons, so kids without broad brimmed hats are directed to play under the COLA, in the library or in the computer room. The P&C runs an excellent uniform shop, so if anyone is looking for a uniform please contact the ladies in the clothing pool which is open every Tuesday morning.

Respect, Responsibility, Care.
**Swimming Carnival**
The swimming carnival was held today in wonderful conditions. It was great to see so many students join in the spirit of the day by wearing house colours and behaving in such a positive manner. The house leaders were particularly impressive in the way they participated in events and encouraged others in their house groups to contribute. Once again our children were praised by pool staff for their excellent behaviour and lovely manners.

To our parents who helped, we really appreciated your donated time. These carnivals cannot run without you.

Congratulations to all participants who ‘had a go’ and special congratulations to our champions. Many students will now participate in the Albury Zone Carnival which will be held next week. Once again a special thank you to John Beattie for all of his hard work in organising the carnival.

**What is the Australian Curriculum?**
An Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History has been developed. The new syllabuses build on the strength of the existing NSW curriculum. Literacy and numeracy remain important areas of focus in K-6 where essential foundation skills are being developed. This year AWPS will continue to teach the current syllabuses whilst trialling the new English syllabus. The new English syllabus will be taught next year. We will trial the new Mathematics and Science syllabuses next year.

By 2016 all new syllabuses will be taught at AWPS. This is an exciting time for teachers and education. Attached is a flyer further detailing what students will learn in each of the subjects being taught.

**Where can you find more information?**
Board of Studies NSW syllabuses website: [http://syllabuses.bos.nsw.edu.au](http://syllabuses.bos.nsw.edu.au)

**Attendance**
Recently our Home School Liaison Officer completed an audit on our school attendance. Sadly our figures are not looking very good.

So far this year we have had a total of **93 whole day absences** and **56 partial absences** – this is staggering, with some of our students having already missed up to 3 days of school. Sadly it is our younger students who are missing several days of school – as you can appreciate this is disappointing for us as we do not want poor attendance patterns to be established at such an early age.

Please talk to your child about being on time and how it is also important. Children that are often late to school miss the part of the school day when the teacher explains new activities. The beginning of the day is also when many students are freshest and can concentrate better. So please remember - “**It’s not ok to be late through the school gate**’.

I would encourage you to read the attached brochure on School Attendance.

**Arriving at School**
All students and parents are reminded that teacher supervision is provided for students from 8:30 am. All families are asked that for safety reasons **NO STUDENT IS TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8:30am**. If there are extenuating circumstances where an early arrival cannot be avoided, please inform the school. Your child’s safety is our highest priority.

**Advanced Warning**
Once again schools will be given a half day public holiday for the Albury Gold Cup which will be held on Friday 22nd March. **PLEASE NOTE** that bus companies are also entitled to the half day public holiday and as such earlier pick ups will not be available. I am asking that you make alternative arrangements to pick children up at 12pm on that Friday.

**Presentation Night End of Year Vouchers**
Many of our students, who received an award at the end of last year, were given a voucher that could be presented at local suppliers. Sadly, many of these vouchers have not been used. If your child received an award during Presentation Night last year we encourage you to use these wonderful gifts as soon as possible.
**General School Contributions and updated notes**

Thanks to the families who have sent in their contributions already. This funding immediately supports the class programs and resources in the school and these contributions are minimal, considering AWPS does not set levies for books and other classroom supplies like many other schools. We are hoping all families can meet this contribution. Don’t forget that we now have Eftpos facilities available at the front office.

Thank you to the many families who have already returned the family information update page and media consent forms. If you have not already returned these notes we ask that you do so at your earliest convenience. **We are asking that all kindergarten students return their media consent form before next Thursday as the Border Mail will be taking a photo of our new kinders.** If you need additional copies just give us a call or come into the front office.

Don’t forget to keep an eye out for ‘blue notes’. These obvious blue notes mean they have to be returned with completed details to the school. They should stand out on the kitchen bench, on the fridge and in school bags.

**School Excursions**

End of year excursion notes have been sent out to families. Students in Years 3 and 4 have the opportunity to attend a two day, one night excursion to the Great Aussie Holiday Park. This excursion will cost approximately $120.

The students in Years 5 and 6 can attend an excursion to Borambola Sport and Recreation Camp. This will be a four day / three night excursion costing $320.

We have given families plenty of notice so that small payment plans can be put in place and that way hopefully no one will miss the opportunity to attend these great excursions. The Great Aussie Holiday Park will cost less than $5.00 a week and Borambola will be less than $13.00 a week if you start putting money aside now. Don’t forget that Eftpos is now available at the front office.

**What is PBL?**

PBL stands for Positive Behaviour for Learning. It is an approach for creating safer and more effective schools. PBL helps schools to set up a consistent discipline system, while focusing on rewarding positive behaviour for all students. PBL has been implemented in our school playground for some time now, with great success. We are now moving into classrooms and looking at ways in which our three values, respect, responsibility and care, can be displayed in classrooms. In the coming weeks signs will be placed in classrooms demonstrating expected behaviours around our three values.

Attached to the newsletter is a matrix that can be used at home – we hope that this may be useful.

Sharon Julien
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates for your Diary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
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<td>Monday 25\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
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<td>Merit Certificates</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>K/1B</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mia Chandler, Angelo Zamudio</td>
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<td>Logan Harman, Charlotte Horn</td>
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<td><strong>K/1C</strong></td>
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<td>Madison Heeman, Hayley John</td>
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<td>Harley Gill, Taneisha Murray</td>
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<td><strong>2/3G</strong></td>
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<td>Tahlia Evans, Jacob Horn</td>
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<td>Maverick Parker, Rianna Fitzgerald</td>
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<td><strong>3/4/5 K</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Williams, Taralee Bottrell</td>
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<td>Ashleigh Harman, Sarah Shoemark</td>
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<td><strong>5/6B</strong></td>
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<td>Chevy Parker, Chloe Smith</td>
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<td>Alex Howard, Blair Wilson</td>
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**P&C News - Canteen**

With the start of another year the AWPS Canteen Committee welcomes everyone back and looks forward to another good year. Our Canteen is run by the school P&C Association and is open every day at recess and lunchtime offering a range of hot foods, sandwiches, snacks and drinks. Students who wish to buy lunch must place their order and money, before 9.00am, in the box provided at the Canteen. Counter sales of drinks, cupcakes, popcorn, milkshakes, etc are available at both recess and lunchtime. We will continue with the very popular Wednesday Warmer Specials program. Each Tuesday a note goes home with students detailing the next day’s special lunch order - no other lunch orders are available that day, though counter sales will be as normal.

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the new canteen menu. The Canteen Committee tries it’s very best to keep all prices as low as possible to ensure affordability for all families. Most prices are unchanged from last year but it has been necessary to raise prices for a number of items, including Quench drinks (now $1.20) and Ovalteenies (also now $1.20).

Thank you for supporting our canteen. Thank you also to all those parents and carers who have volunteered to help out – a roster will be issued next week.

**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop opens from 8.40am - 9.15am on Tuesday mornings. **A complete price list of all uniform items is attached.**

If you are unable to get to school when the Uniform Shop is open there are order forms available at the office which you can fill out requesting a particular item. This item will be brought up to the office within a couple of days and you can collect it at your convenience. Payment must be received before the item can be taken home. Please enquire at the office for further details.

We try to have a varied selection of second-hand stock and rely on families to donate any uniforms which their children have outgrown. If you have unused uniform items at home which are still in good condition please consider donating them to our shop.

**FUNDRAISING 2013**

Again this year the P & C will be undertaking a variety of fundraising activities to raise money that will go towards school improvements that benefit the students and wider school community. We are starting the year off with an Easter hamper raffle and are looking for donations to create some great prizes (see attached notice).
Other plans for 2013 include:

- Nail Can Hill Run stall
- Mother’s Day stall
- Chocolate fundraising
- Father’s Day lucky dip
- Election Day stall
- 5c collection
- Christmas hamper raffle

These activities could not take place without the support and assistance of staff, students and families at the school. We are always seeking individuals who can lend a helping hand in whatever way possible. This can be as much or as little as you like. Do you have some creative flair? Maybe you could assist with making up the hampers. Do you have an hour or two to spare to serve sausages at a stall? Participating in school life is not only fun and social; it also makes children happy to see their parents contributing at their school. If you can assist in any way please call Shelly on 0425 359 656. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Community News

**Melrose FC** - “Come and try soccer” every Wednesday at 5pm at Melrose Park - Lavington. Ages 5 years & Up.
Contact number 0438 443 023 or [www.melrosefc.com](http://www.melrosefc.com)

**FALCONS HOCKEY CLUB** - Junior Academy – Introduction to Hockey - Major League Indoor Sports Centre at 119 North St Albury from 4:30 to 6:30 each Thursday. 28th Feb – 4th April (6 weeks) $60 includes kit to keep - hockey stick, Hockey ball, Shin pads, Academy T-shirt, (bring mouth guard and water bottle) All children aged 9 - 12 welcome. Email [falconshockey@hotmail.com.au](mailto:falconshockey@hotmail.com.au) Website: [www.falconshockeyalbury.com.au](http://www.falconshockeyalbury.com.au)

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**INTERESTED IN A FREE COURSE TO GET LIFE AND WORK SKILLS?** This is an opportunity for women or men who would like to gain confidence or skills to make the transition back to work or study.

**TAFE NSW Riverina Institute** is offering **Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training** in first and second semester at the Albury Campus. The course is fee exempt and runs from February to June and also from July to November full time during the day in hours to suit parents (three days a week 9.30 am to 3 pm). Part time study is also possible. For further details, please contact Barbara Heron on (02) 6058 2893. You can also email Barbara.Heron@det.nsw.edu.au.

**Soccer** - Is your son or daughter looking to play or try soccer in 2013? Albury United Soccer Club is currently registering players aged 5 to 12. For more information contact club president Chris Rochford on 0400 011 766

**Wombats Hockey Club** - Interested in playing hockey or learning to play hockey? We are looking for boys and girls for all our teams, Under 9s, Under 12’s Under 14’s and Under 16’s right though to seniors and veterans. Registration day Sunday 24th February at the Albury Hockey Centre in Cadell St (athletics entrance area) from 10am until noon. Please come and see us on the day (look for the green and gold banner). Alternatively you can give Cayte Campbell a call on 0402 435 433 or Joy Lee a call on 0438 216 085

Respect, Responsibility, Care.
Albury Junior Rugby League – THUNDER - Registrations for 2013 Season
Boys to 16 years – Girls to 12 years - Sarvaas Park North Albury
March, Saturday, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd - 10am to 12 noon - Birth Certificates for new registrations - Registration Fees – One off $85
For more information – Ivan 0421807090
www.alburythunderjrl.org.au

Respect, Responsibility, Care.