Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to the final Alba News for 2013. Though, in terms of the weather, it certainly doesn’t feel like the middle of December. On the other hand, with the Year 10’s, 11’s and 12’s already on holidays, there is definitely an end of year atmosphere about the place!

Orientation Day - Welcome to Year 7’s of 2014

This week we welcomed our new Year 7 students and their families to the school as part of their transition program.

The students experienced a day of Year 7 classes, as well some activities to help them get to know their new classmates. And, judging by the level of excitement at the final assembly, they thoroughly enjoyed their Orientation Day.

Our Year 7 parents attended an Information Morning the previous day. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with them, and to welcome them as members of the school community.

Apart from the Year 7 students, we have approximately 226 new students and families joining us next year.

Sub Schools will run special Induction Programs to support all our new students.

Thank you to Transition Coordinator, Marlene Cassar & her staff & student teams for all their work on creating a positive start for the Year 7’s.

Farewells

At the end of this year, we will bid farewell to three members of staff who have announced their intention to retire from teaching.

Between them, Mr Les Chapman, Mr Sjaak de Jong and Mr Peter Sinclair have contributed 70 years to government school education – a truly outstanding achievement.

Teaching was Les’s second career which he took up in 1990 at Galvin Park Secondary College after working as a pattern maker, a skill that has stood him in good stead in his field of Woodwork and Graphics.

Les transferred to St Albans Secondary College in 1992, and for the last 22 years, his love of teaching has been second only to that of his family – and, of course, golf! Les’s passion for woodwork, and his pride in the development and achievements of each of his students always shines through when he talks about his classes. This was never more so than when he taught in the VCAL program. Les’s exacting standards and his extensive industry knowledge inspired the VCAL students to complete some wonderful construction projects at our school, the camp and at several local primary schools. These, and his Taj Mahal, the Woodwork room, are a major part of Les’s legacy at St Albans.

Another is his commitment and contribution over many years to student management and wellbeing at our school, both as a teacher & a respected member of the leadership team. Les has been a Year Level Coordinator in all three Sub Schools, and has led the Junior Sub School team for the past 5 years. He has mentored colleagues, and provided valued support and guidance to hundreds of students and their families.

Calendar - 2014

January

| Wed 22 | Book Collection Day in PA |
| Tue 28 | All Staff Return |
| Wed 29 | Yr 7, 10 & 12 VCE, 12 VCAL & 11 VCAL Start Today |
| Thu 30 | Yr 8, 9, 11 VCE Today |
|         | Yr 11 & 11 VCAL ‘Headstart’ presentation in PA |

February

| Mon 10 | Yr 7 & 10 students and Yr 9 boys - Talk on the importance of having their immunisations P3&4 (Nicky Collins-Smith) |
| Wed 12 | Yr 7 Camp - 3 days |
| Thu 13 | Yr 7 Camp - 3 days |
|         | Yr 12 Camp - Melbourne University - 2 Days |
| Fri 14  | Yr 7 Camp - 3 days |
|         | Yr 12 Camp - Melbourne University - 2 Days |
| Tue 25  | Immunisation - All Yr 7 & Yr 10 students & Yr 9 Boys only |

2014 Year 7 students on Orientation Day

Mr Les Chapman
What’s been happening at SASC...Principal Report con’t

Sjaak joined the staff of St Albans Secondary College in 2006, having also worked at Cheltenham and Debney Park Secondary Colleges. Like Les, Sjaak commenced teaching later in his career, after working in various fields both here and overseas.

Sjaak brings amazing talents as a scientist, poet, musician and singer to his work with his students and colleagues. Whether in his Year 12 Chemistry class, his ukulele club, or the annual Star Gazing night, Sjaak’s creativity and love of science and the arts have inspired and motivated others. The End of Year concert won’t be quite the same without a poetry reading or song on the ukulele by Sjaak. His scientific knowledge and commitment to his discipline will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Peter began teaching at Nhill High School in 1976, but quickly decided he preferred life in the city and joined the staff of St Albans Secondary College in 1978. Peter is a dedicated and committed teacher, and an unflaggingly generous and supportive colleague. A hallmark of his work as a teacher and leader within the school has been his deep knowledge of his subject area and his focussed determination to provide every one of his students with the very best opportunities for success. As coordinator of the English Faculty, a mentor for beginning teachers, and as a supervisor for student teachers, Peter has provided guidance and support for others, and contributed enormously to the high quality teaching within the English team. The wisdom, thoughtfulness and integrity with which he approaches all aspects of his work are respected and much appreciated. Peter’s impact on the lives of so many young people extends beyond the classroom to the fabulous sets he designed and constructed with teams of students for MAC productions, and to the time he devotes each Friday lunchtime to tilling the soil with the Gardening Club. The quiet, individualised care and attention Peter so often gives students in these contexts is invaluable, & very much a part of his work as a teacher.

On behalf of the staff, School Council, students and families, I congratulate Les, Sjaak and Peter on their outstanding careers in education, and thank them for their individual and collective contribution to the St Albans Secondary College community.

We wish each of them all the very best of happiness and health for their retirements.

Several other staff will also leave us at the end of this year. We wish Mr Chris Lee, who is taking time to travel overseas, and Mr Kevin Higgins well, and thank them for their contributions to the school during their time here. Best wishes, too, to Mr Rod Bear and to Ms Naomi Thyer who will both take leave for Term 1 next year.

Facilities upgrades over the holidays

Once again these holidays, we are undertaking some significant works to continue the improvements to our facilities.

As usual, classrooms will be repainted and refurbished. But, as well as this, the following special projects will make a huge difference to the school:

- **Renovating the Library** is well underway. The new Careers room is open, and construction of the new library offices is going ahead quickly. Stage 2 of this renovation will happen during 2014.

- **New external doors** in the D and F wing corridors will make a huge difference to the look of these areas.

- **A new recreation room and classroom** at the camp will be ready for the Year 7 camps in Term 1 next year, and will be a great addition to the facilities for students at Strathbogie.

Age article

Congratulations to our Mathematics staff and students on having their achievements recognised in the article that appeared in The Age last week. See article on page 4.

Whilst Australian results in Mathematics on international tests for 15 year olds fell, our results were above national levels, with students showing very positive growth in their Math’s learning.

Semester 2 Examinations and Reports

Congratulations to all of our Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students on the positive, serious approach they took to their recent exams and semester tests.

Our external supervisors, in particular, were very impressed with how the Year 12 students conducted themselves throughout their exams.

Semester 2 reports for students in Years 7 to 11 will be posted home in the next few days, and Year 12 results will be available to students on Monday 16 December. All Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to contact Mr Jon Kortuem to confirm their tertiary preferences as soon as their results are known.

Thank you….

To all our teaching and education support staff for your dedication, hard work and the support you have given our students and their families in so many different ways throughout this year.

Thank you, too, to our School Councillors who, under the leadership of Mr Wally Gatt, are wonderful champions of our school.

To Assistant Principals, Mr Ian Crocker, Mr Craig Jennings, Ms Losh Pillay and Ms Mary Adamou for their leadership & support.

To our parents, family and community members for the support you have given us throughout the year.

I wish all of you a very happy, relaxing holiday season, and look forward to welcoming you back in 2014.

Kerrie Dowley
Principal
The School Campsite gets a fantastic upgrade

New decking has been installed at the school campsite in Strathbogie so students can have easy access to their cabins. The decking was installed in Term 3 of this year and it certainly has greatly improved the safety and appearance of the whole facility. The decking was installed by the husband of our Camp Manager and we can’t thank Ron Willis enough for his quality workmanship and support. The final hand rails and steps were being installed just after these photos were taken and I think you will agree it is a high quality job.

Early on Friday morning, the 29th of November 5 large tray trucks delivered the new recreation building to our Strathbogie Campsite. The project had been planned for some months and was a vital addition to the camp so we could provide a large recreation space for camp users. We now have two large classrooms in which we can set up a table tennis table and other indoor game areas. This area can double as a venue to educate students about the magnificent Strathbogie Ranges and an area where students can socialise and bond with their classmates.

The installation of the building was overseen by our Camp Manager, Ms Roz Willis and she will work through the next couple of weeks to ensure the building is connected to services and made ready for the use of students on camp.

The acquisition of our new building has been made possible through the tremendous support of students who have attended the camp in record numbers over the past 2 years, fundraising efforts from both the Parents & Friends and SRC as well as several Bunning BBQ’s staffed by school councillors, staff and students. We thank them all for their selfless support and contribution to making the camp a fabulous place for our students to stay and explore country Victoria.

Mr Ian Crocker
Assistant Principal
What's been happening at SASC...Newspapers

The Age - Wednesday 4 December

St Albans Secondary College students perform above the national average. Photo: Pat Scala

Konrad Marshall

There was not a lot of good news in the report released on Tuesday - How Australia Measures Up - by the Program for International Student Assessment.

But perhaps one shining light in the otherwise grim batch of results was the performance of Victorian schools when socio-economic status is taken into account.

Educational outcomes here rest less on socio-economic factors than anywhere else in the country. And nowhere is that equity better exemplified than at St Albans Secondary College, a highly multicultural and socio-economically disadvantaged school where students perform above the national average.

Lynette French, who coaches numeracy teachers at the school, said they take a forensic approach to education, examining extensive data about students (NAPLAN results, On Demand Testing, teacher assessments) and then using that information to determine target areas.

They also approach learning in non-traditional ways, employing an array of visual aids, and extensive group work. Students are often presented a problem in groups and then told to "nut it out" by themselves.

"And they might not get very far. Maybe they only get halfway," Ms French said. "Then you ask them how they got there, and the teacher can use that as a springboard for showing them more sophisticated techniques.

"It's about risk taking, and deconstructing what the question is asking. I've been teaching for a long, long time, and it's the best thing I've ever done. I wish I'd known about it 30 years ago."

The faculty at St Albans has been exposed to the new methods for a few years, focusing on everything from curriculum planning and assessment methods to pedagogy and feedback.

The space might have specific vocabulary on the walls, and physical tools - blocks, cards and counters - on the desks. Examples of student work - with comments and marks - are on show for all. A collaborative environment is built, and standards are set.

"We don't have low expectations because of what your parents do," said Ms French. "We have high expectations for all."
What's been happening at SASC

7A Science Nov. 2013

Year 7’s have been studying “Consumer Science”. We have looked at a variety of products and considered:

- desirable features (effect on the environment, price, safety, Australian made, warranty/guarantee)
- what makes a fair test
- how to interpret results and make decisions

Students were placed in groups, and each group chose a product to test. They then listed the features they wanted to test. From this information, each group designed and carried out a fair test, then recorded and interpreted the results in order to decide the “best” product.

Each group then made a presentation about their product to the rest of the class.

Here is one group's presentation:

“Hello 7A. We did our experiment on pens. We had different brands like Papermate, Staedler and Bic. We also tested different types of pens including: ink, ballpoint and felt tipped. Our aim was to see which pen was best for everyday use. We tested for smudge, visibility, appearance, versatility, ergonomics and smoothness.

We found that the pen suitable for everyday use was pen number 7 (brands were covered so we made a fair unbiased judgement), which scored 28.7 out of a total of 32 points. This was followed by pen number 17, which scored 27.5 points and pen number 8 (27.44 points). The least suitable pen for daily use was pen number 20, scoring 11.3 out of 32. We discovered that in general, the pens that smudged were the inkier pens rather than the ball-tipped pens.

Overall, this was a fair test, because we averaged the results from 5 trials for each of the criteria and also tested pens on the same surface. To make the experiment even better, we could get people from different age groups to test the 28 pens. If we also knew the price and if we had enough time to test the “life” of the pens, this test would have been more accurate.”

Ling Sun, Lani Nguyen, Shani Nguyen, Phung Tran and Sunny Huang. 7A Science

Year 8A Science reflections - Chemistry Assignment SE

“This term, we were assigned with a project on “Elements and Compounds”. Our task was to research three essential elements and three essential compounds that the human body needs.

We then had to create a brochure/summary sheets/webpage/pamphlet or fact sheets using the information gathered. I learnt many different ways to organise my time and more information about our body and how it works” Dominic Lay.

“I found that sometimes the paraphrasing was a little challenging, this is because there were a lot of technical names I had to look up, but I feel that I gave it my best shot. It was a success and a job well done.

The thing I learnt most about during this task was the health penalties for over-dosing and under-dosing. I learnt a lot of things, but the thing I found the most interesting is that it can be bad to have too much water as the level of the important mineral, Sodium, can drop too low and you can get a disease called Hypernatremia”. Kareem Habib.

“The aspect of this task I found most interesting was that the elements that make up water are gases, but the compound water is a liquid. At the start, I did not think about how important elements are to us, but after this investigation, I was quite astonished. I found it challenging finding out and explaining why an element is metal or non-metal because sometimes the websites that I went on gave me a highly advanced scientific explanation that I couldn’t understand.” Kim Vu.

“I think the most important thing I learned was that too much calcium can cause heart problems.” Judy La

“My thinking of this topic has changed from the start of the investigation till now. At first, I wasn’t aware of the health risks that could occur (from too much or too little) but now, I am able to understand that balance is important” Sang Nguyen

“In this topic, I learned that compounds and elements are everywhere, in our day to day life. I also learnt most of the symbols and atomic numbers of the elements. I found all the elements interesting- it’s hard to get bored by that many things.” Yen Tran.

“I have learnt how Sodium, Selenium and Zinc are important to our body. I have also learnt what a compound is, I watched the reactions of various elements and compounds in our experiments, and I was fascinated. It was really amazing.” Moira Oro

Ms Lynne Borle - Science Coordinator
**What’s been happening at SASC**

**Year 7, 2014**

**Parent and Student Orientation Days**

The staff and students at St Albans Secondary College warmly welcomed our new Year 7 students and their families to our College community on Monday 9th of December at our Parent Orientation Morning, and on Tuesday 10th of December during our Student Orientation Day.

Both orientation days were well attended by our new students and their parents/guardians. It provided them with an opportunity to meet and greet our school Principal, staff and students and to hear about and experience our Year 7 program.

Parents purchased uniforms, paid the school charges and received assistance to fill in the booklists, whilst the students participated in engaging sessions to get to know their new teachers and classmates. We were thrilled with the positive and enthusiastic behaviour shown by the students, and the efforts that they made to make new friends and in adapting so readily to the secondary school setting.

The students were treated to a sausage sizzle lunch and the day concluded with musical performances from our talented Year 7 and 8 bands and musicians. Many thanks to our dedicated and experienced staff who have supported the transition program by organising and facilitating the sessions.

Thank you also to all our junior sub school student leaders, including 7A who guided and warmly welcomed the primary school students into our College community. They showed great initiative and leadership and accepted responsibility readily.

**Ms Marlene Cassar**

**Transition Officer**

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**CELEBRATING THE VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2013**

What a year it has been! The Year 12 VCAL students have been involved in so many exciting activities to develop their literacy, numeracy, personal development and employability skills to prepare them for apprentices, traineeships, the work force and further studies next year.

The Year 12 VCAL students have:-

- Completed two short courses through Hospitality Training Australia; Barista Coffee - Level 1 and Safe Food Handling - Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures.
- Attended an excursion to Medibank head office for the Careers Day program.
- Liaised with members of the community and discussed their job prospects through the Smith Family’s Straight Talk program.
- Worked on school facilities under the guidance of Dave Fraser.
- Participated in the i-Track program and Face-to Face mentoring program.
- Spoke at year level assemblies, Beacon Breakfast and Beacon Bonanza Day.
- Participated in University Park Primary School’s Stephanie Alexander Kitchen project.
- Assisted with preparation for the launching of the Science Mural.
- Volunteered to assist the elderly at Blue Cross Aged Care.
- Provided meals and support to disadvantaged members of the community through the Matthew Talbot Soup Van.
- Provided classroom support at St Albans Primary School.
- Investigated issues within the St Albans Community and made suggestions for improvement.
- Organised Youth Day, Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day stalls.
- Planned, organised and ran the Student Cafeteria.
- Mentored junior school PE students and created a Healthy Lifestyle package
- Painted banners for the Senior Sub School Soccer Challenge.
- Created a 3D model of a house from floor plans to scale.
- Planned all components of a hypothetical trip overseas.
- Participated in Work Placement and VET studies throughout the year.
- And much more....... 

On behalf of the Year 12 VCAL students, I would like to thank all staff and community members for their involvement in the VCAL program and support of the students during the year. Your patience and cooperation is very much appreciated by the students. Finally, the VCAL team would like to congratulate all the Year 12 VCAL students on all their personal achievements this year, and would like to wish them success with their future endeavours.

For further information on the VCAL program at St Albans Secondary College, please do not hesitate to contact the VCAL Coordinator, Marlene Cassar.
What’s been happening at SASC…. Continued

Year 9 Advance DUKES Finale Hike

Year 9 Advance students completed their DUKES qualifying hike at the Angahook-Lorne State Park accompanied by Latrobe University Outdoor Education graduate, Sarah Wynn. The highlights included beautiful waterfalls and glorious mountain ash; experiencing the temperate rainforest in the rain; stunning ocean views from Castle Rock; frolicking at Lorne beach and of course, “chilling out” around the campsite. The students are to be congratulated for their perseverance and resilience in the challenging weather conditions. Sincere thanks to Mark Micallef for his support, leadership and friendship on the Advance adventures in 2013. It’s been a great year, congratulations Year 9 Advance class.

Ms Marion Mortimer
Advance Coordinator
What’s been happening at SASC.... Continued

Year 9 City Experience
News from our Sub Schools....

Year Level Coordinators 2013

Year Level Coordinators work closely with students, families and teachers to ensure that your child is happy and supported at school. Please contact them if you have any concerns or for any information about your child’s progress.

Junior Sub School: T: 9356 4066
Mr Les Chapman - Sub School Leader
7E, 8I, 8J
Ms Lauren Honeycombe - Assistant Sub School Leader
7A, 8A, 8E

Mr Robert Krysinski - Sub School Coordinator
7D, 8B, 8D

Ms Anna Woods - Sub School Coordinator
11C  (N)

Ms Melissa D’Amico - Sub School Coordinator
11B  (H)

Mr Julie Bird - Sub School Leader
11B (H-M), 12B (H-M)
Ms Melissa D’Amico - Assistant Sub School Leader
11C (N-S), 12C (N-S)

Ms Anna Woods - Sub School Coordinator
11A (A-G), 12A (A-G), 11 VCAL

Mr Robert Krysinski - Sub School Coordinator
11D (T-Z), 12D (T-Z), 12 VCAL

Ms Rosemary Bambery - Sub School Assistant
9A, 10D

Middle Sub School: T: 9356 4088
Ms Janet McKenzie - Sub School Leader
9A, 10D

Ms Becky Annett - Assistant Sub School Leader
9B, 9C, 10C

Mr Sean Ryan - Sub School Coordinator
9F, 9G, 10A

Ms Louise Bryant - Sub School Coordinator
9F, 9H, 8B, 8H

Ms Di Phyland - Sub School Coordinator
7C, 7G, 8C, 8G

Ms Laura Gough - Sub School Coordinator
7B, 7D, 8B, 8D

Mr Louie Traianou - Sub School Leader
7A, 8A, 8E
Ms Lauren Honeycombe - Assistant Sub School Leader
7E, 8I, 8J

Senior Sub School: T: 9356 4099
Ms Julie Bird - Sub School Leader
11B  (H-M), 12B  (H-M)
Ms Melissa D’Amico - Assistant Sub School Leader
11C  (N-S), 12C  (N-S)

Ms Anna Woods - Sub School Coordinator
11A  (A-G), 12A  (A-G), 11 VCAL

Mr Robert Krysinski - Sub School Coordinator
11D  (T-Z), 12D  (T-Z), 12 VCAL

Ms Rosemary Bambery - Sub School Assistant
9D, 9E, 10B

Junior School Report

It’s a busy time of the year and students have been working hard to get their best results and to complete assignments for reports. Junior School students are involved in lots of activities around the school and the normal requirements of uniform, punctuality and attendance still apply. Students have had a wonderful year in the Junior School and experienced many outings and happenings around the school.

End of Year Activities are planned for Year 7 to Fun Fields on Monday 16th and for Year 8 to Adventure Park, Geelong on Wednesday 18th December. Please ensure your child has water, hat, sunscreen and lunch for the day. Students not attending are required at school for the day.

The Year 8 Graduation Dance will be held on Tuesday 17th December from 3.30pm to 6.00 pm at the school. Students will be dismissed at 12.30 to go home and get prepared then return at 3.30. Pizza and other refreshments will be provided. The Alpine School students will be selling drinks to fund raise. Cost for drinks is $2 or $1 for water. Students may bring their own water but no other drinks will be permitted to be brought in. Invitations have been sent out with students and we are looking forward to seeing them all dressed up.

The End of Year Awards and Concert are on Thursday 20th December. Students are required to attend these events. The concert will be an exciting way to end the busy year with students and staff performing for everyone.

Dates for next year:

Year 7 starts on January 29th
Year 8 starts on January 30th

We’re looking forward to a great start to 2014. If students have everything they require for the first day of school, it makes for a much smoother start for them. Please make sure that all books have been purchased and everything is labelled. It is also a good idea to cover the expensive text books to improve their resale value. Please ensure you have a lock on the first day of the year and make sure that all uniform items including PE uniform are named.

If your child is going overseas they must return to school by the first day in 2014. Please let the office know if you are away. Please call the coordinators if you have any questions on 9355 4066.

The Junior Sub School would like to thank Mr. Chapman for his wonderful time as Sub School Leader. Mr. Chapman is retiring and looking forward to spending time with his family. Ms. Phyland is also taking time out of the sub school. We have a new team starting in 2014 that are all looking forward to working with Year 7 and 8 students and their parents. We would also like to thank staff for their support and hard work with the Junior Team over the year.

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

See you in 2014.

Lauren Honeycombe
Assistant Sub School Leader
Junior School Continued
Middle School Report

The last few weeks are racing by and before we know it we will be on our summer holidays. We are very pleased with the behaviour that we have seen from the middle school students over the last few weeks. Year 10 students conducted themselves very well during the exams and have completed the orientation program for VCE and VCAL. It is important that the students complete any holiday homework they have been given so that they will be thoroughly prepared for year 11.

The year 10 students are looking forward to the formal and the committee has worked very hard to make this a very enjoyable event. Thank you very much to Ms Annetts also as she has put a great deal of effort into the occasion and I am sure it will be lots of fun.

On Tuesday 3rd of December Myers Nguyen of Year 10 was presented with the inaugural ABCN scholarship at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Southbank. It was lovely to see Myers graciously accept this award. He is one of 4 Victorian winners.

Year 9 students have had a wonderful time on the city experience. They have had to deal with some strange weather and by all accounts have coped very well. We are very pleased with the way the students have conducted themselves in the city and they can be very proud of their behaviour. Thank you very much to Louis Turner who has done a magnificent job organising this large-scale event.

Year 9 students are looking forward to House Dance on Friday the 13th of December. They are rehearsing dance numbers and have expert choreographers including 2 of our own staff, Tania D’Silva and Meaghan Hocking helping them with their dance numbers. A final awards assembly will be held for year 9 on Wednesday 11th of December. At this assembly we will be presenting student awards and the overall student of the year award.

Thank you to all families for their continued support of the students in the Middle School. We wish you a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing you next year.

Janet McKenzie
Middle Sub School Leader

Year 9 LOTE Experience at the National Gallery of Victoria
Senior School Report

Although VCE and VCAL classes have concluded, there is still plenty of activity in Senior School. Teachers have finished their reports for Semester Two and Orientation for next year’s Year 11 and Year 12 classes has been conducted.

If you have a student going into Year 11 or 12 next year, please ask them about the Holiday Homework which they will have received during Orientation. Holiday Homework has been set for all VCE subjects, and students will have some hours of work that is due in on the first day of classes in 2014. It is expected that this homework is completed on time so that the classes can begin smoothly. If homework is not completed, students will be required to stay back after school in the first week to finish the work.

Students and teachers participating in the Year 11 Queensland Camp left Melbourne by bus on Sunday 8th December. Students will attend the major theme parks on the Gold Coast and also have a look at Cavell Avenue in Surfers Paradise. For many of the students it will be the first time they have been so far north in Australia. The students and staff will stay in accommodation at the Gold Coast Sports Super Centre located in Runaway Bay. The group returns to Melbourne on Friday 13th December.

Many thanks to the parents who have contacted us when their child is absent for any reason. This is of great assistance to the Year Level Coordinators, as we call home regularly if there are any unexplained absences for your child. Please contact us on 9366.2555 if you have any queries or concerns about the progress of your child.

On behalf of the Senior Sub School team, I wish all of our students and staff a safe and happy festive season. We look forward to working with you again next year.

Julie Bird
Senior Sub-School Leader
St Albans Secondary College Breakfast Club

St Albans Secondary College is involved in a Breakfast Club Program which serves free breakfast every Friday morning to all students. This program not only ensures that our students eat a healthy breakfast but it also educates them of the importance of healthy eating.

We would like to thank The Australian Workers Union who have donated $500 to help support the program. Bakers Delight have also offered St Albans Secondary College the opportunity to take part in their fundraiser and have generously donated a percentage to the Breakfast Club.

Generous donors like these are the key to our success and make it possible for St Albans Secondary College to provide our students with this wonderful program.

We hope that we can count on your support to help the Breakfast Club Program continue for 2014.

Carmel Castorina
Administration Officer – Breakfast Club

Parents & Friends Association

Our annual Christmas Raffle was drawn on Friday the 6th of December by our illustrious Principal Ms Kerrie Dowsley, under strict supervision of the Parents and Friends committee. And the following persons were lucky enough to be drawn out winners:

1st PRIZE: Amicroe Touch Tab IV 9.7” Tablet PC 8g memory, expandable to 32g. Logitech iPod Doc Pure Fi Express Plus
Won By Ms Amy Lee.

2nd PRIZE: $50 Bunnings Voucher. Breville Stick Mixer with stainless steel blades. Salad spinner. Serving bowls. And a Jamie Oliver sample pack
Won By Miss Renae Wilke 9A.

3rd PRIZE: George Foreman indoor/outdoor BBQ grill. Won by Mr Loue Traianou.

We have raised a total of $640 which wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the great school community at SASC. All proceeds will be awarded to the school camp to assist in ongoing refurbishments. We thank-you again for your support of this worthy cause.

For any further information about Parents and Friends please contact Maree Wilke on 9366 2555 between 8.30a.m and 2.30p.m.

1st prize winner Ms Amy Lee
From the General Office

Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014

The EMA is being restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents.

The changes to the EMA starting in 2014 include:
• The School Start Bonus will be discontinued.
• EMA payments to parents increased from:
  • $235 to $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
  • $235 to $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2014, you must:
• be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
• be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 28 January 2014 (Instalment One) and 14 July 2014 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2014.

Payment Amounts - 2014:

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<td>Instalment Two</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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* Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of Students turning 16 years in 2014 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application.

For more information about the Schoolkids Bonus, visit www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/schoolkids-bonus
## Important Dates 2013 – 2014

### Booklist Return – General Office

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 December 2013</td>
<td>9:00am – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Book Collection Day – Performing Arts Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 January 2014</td>
<td>9:00am – 12:00pm, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, 5:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books not collected on Book Order Collection Day can be collected directly from Landmark School Supplies in Derrimut. Phone 1300 658 641.

### Secondhand Books

Completed by parents online with the Sustainable School Shop. Instructions distributed with Booklists.

### School Charges Payment – General Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 January 2014</td>
<td>Times as listed above for Book Collection Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If paying charges in two instalments, the due dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1st Instalment Payment of $122.50 (Years 8 &amp; 9), $140.00 (Years 10 – 12)</th>
<th>2nd Instalment Payment of $122.50 (Years 8 &amp; 9), $140.00 (Years 10 – 12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 February 2014</td>
<td>Monday 12 May 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Uniforms – G Block

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 18 January 2014</td>
<td>9:00am – 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 January 2014</td>
<td>9:00am – 12:00pm, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, 5:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 25 January 2014</td>
<td>9:00am – 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 January 2014</td>
<td>8:00am – 10:00pm, 3:00pm – 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 January 2014</td>
<td>12:15pm – 1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 February 2014</td>
<td>9:00am – 12:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Return to School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28 Jan 2014</td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 January 2014</td>
<td>Years 7, 10 &amp; 12 VCE &amp; 12 VCAL and 11 VCAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 January 2014</td>
<td>Years 8, 9, 11 VCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Parent Teacher Interviews – F Block

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 March 2014</td>
<td>1:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 September 2014</td>
<td>1:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>