



Alphington
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Alphington Grammar School Newsletter **Winter Edition 2010**

DIARY DATES

JULY

Senior School Ski Camp

Monday 5th to Friday 9th July

Staff Professional Development Week

Monday 12th to Friday 16th July

Term 3 Commences

Students – Monday 19th July

Metropolis Week, Year 9 commences

Wednesday 22nd July

Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 29th July

AUGUST

Westpac Maths Competition

Thursday 5th August

VCE Expo Open Morning

Sunday 15th August

Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th August

Year 7 Night of the Notables

Wednesday 18th August

AGS Secondary Cross-Country Championships

Friday 27th August

SEPTEMBER

PTA Fathers Day Stall

Thursday 2nd September

VCE Exam Practice Week

Monday 6th to Friday 10th September

EISM Cross-Country Championships

Wednesday 8th September

Year 9 Metropolis Presentation

Evening, Wednesday 15th September

End of Term 3

Students and Staff

Friday 17th September

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



Bill Papastergiadis

Building a School for Multiple Futures

It is with great pleasure I write to all members of our school as Chairman of the School Council.

I am pleased to be able to introduce the focus of the Council as we build on the great traditions already in our School, and cater

for the diverse needs not only of our current students, but of the generations to come.

Alphington Grammar School has always focused on servicing the needs of the community it engages and has dedicated itself to building a school that is committed to excellence. The Council's commitment is to ensure we are engaging and responding to the growth and development of our students and staff, working collaboratively with our parents and the broader educational community. Work has begun on the next strategic plan that will identify our priorities for the next five-year period.

Most recently we opened up discussions and dialogue with our parent body by circulating our first full parent climate survey. I thank those parents who took the time to provide extensive feedback on the things they value and expect of our school, its programmes and its facilities and also on the feedback of how well we are meeting these expectations. This information has provided rich data for us to work with as a Council as we shape the future direction, initiatives and focus for the teaching and learning that goes on in our school.

The evaluation of parent feedback will help shape the next strategic plan currently being formulated across the school with input from the senior leadership team and other staff. I look forward to communicating this outcome as we work through the various parts of the strategic plan over the course of the year.

As a School Council, our commitment is to continue to work with the school leaders to ensure we have a school environment that supports girls and boys in every regard, including teaching and learning, classroom management, school organisation and the social, cultural and physical environment. It's our values and attitudes that define us as a learning organisation. We aim to allocate resources accordingly to support specific initiatives that better produce skilled young men and women who can engage with, and make positive contributions to the global world they live in.

Under this Council, the school has seen the endorsement of significant building programmes that have received Australian Government funding across our school. These include:

Planning and building permit for the long awaited multi-purpose hall. Construction has commenced on this project and is scheduled to be completed in readiness for the 2011 School Year. This project has also received capital funding of \$480,000 from the Australian Government. The school is also grateful to the Andrianakos family for their generous donation of \$300,000. In addition to this there has been over \$2M from the Greek Government allocated to this project.

Upgrade of the Junior School playground: \$200,000 funding was received as part of the Australian Governments Building the Education Revolution: National School Pride completed in 2009. This has definitely enhanced the already wonderful existing facilities of the Junior School.

The school also was successful in receiving \$2M grant under the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution – Primary Schools for the 21st Century. This project includes the construction of four state-of-the-art primary classrooms and a multi-purpose common area.



Artist's Impression of the Primary Wing – Stage One

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN (Continued)

School Council has taken the decision to proceed with Stage 2 of the Primary School classrooms (which is a duplication of Stage 1). With the completion of Stage 2 the school will be able to accommodate all of its students in permanent buildings and will no longer require relocatable classrooms.

Progress against these plans is strong. Both projects are currently on schedule to be completed and ready for the 2011 school year. With the completion of these projects the school will be in the position to review its Master Plan. This process has already commenced as part of the "School Strategic Plan". This process will require the assessment of current facilities and the development of a priority list for future campus development. Future possible projects that will be considered by Council are a new science and technology block, synthetic surface soccer/hockey oval and a fully equipped Senior School wing.

I would like to thank the Principal, Mike Smith, for his leadership in managing these projects, and particularly thank the school's Business Manager, Manuel Pappos, who has relentlessly pursued and followed up all details relating to these projects, by working with the School architects, quantity surveyors, builders and

contractors to ensure the most cost-effective outcomes have been reached.

I would also like to thank my fellow board members for their united approach to these initiatives and for the robust way they have all worked to ensure these projects have progressed smoothly. The significant projects underway in our school will ensure we are well placed to meet the needs of our current

students and the generations of future students of our school in the near future. It is truly an exciting time to be in our school and our commitment to the infrastructure development will ensure our students have exemplary facilities.

Bill Papastergiadis
Council Chairman



The Multi-Purpose building under construction

THE GREEK CONNECTION

Greek language, culture and importance of community are integral to our learning environment at Alphington Grammar School. A recent visit to **Froniditha Care** (pictured right) emphasised these themes.

Greek lecturer, Dr Kastrinakis from the University of Florina, visited Middle School students to discuss the Pontians – Historical / Cultural Events last month. Mr Nick Zarkadas co-ordinated both of these visits.



Jordan Koutsoukas, Dr Kastrinakis and Margaret Vasilopoulos



Mr Zarkadas and Dr Kastrinakis



AGS Students at Froniditha Care

On behalf of residents and staff, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the attendance by Alphington Grammar students on the 24th of March 2010 at our facility "Storgi". Our residents were overcome with emotion by the warmth and politeness of your students, as well as their wonderful performance on the day.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the teachers Ms Katerina and Ms Christina that accompanied the students on the day. It was also a wonderful surprise to receive a visit a week later from Katerina who brought in eggs and koulourakia for our residents.

It is worthy to note the importance of maintaining bonds between the older and younger generations, as both groups have so much to learn and appreciate from each other. We look forward to organising similar events in the near future. We wish you all the very best.

Our residents send "filakia" and good wishes.
Kind Regards,

**Nicky Zougoulos, Rodi Karaferis
& Katerina Velissaris**
Activity Staff, Froniditha Care



Louis Diamandikos, Head of Maths Faculty

1. Outline your educational path leading to your appointment at Alphington Grammar School.

Born in Australia from migrant Greek parents, attended and completed secondary education in Athens, Greece and tertiary education in Thessaloniki, Greece (Aristotelian University), where I completed my *Bachelor of Science* (Physics) Degree. Upon returning to Australia, I completed my *Masters in Educational Studies* (Monash) following my *Diploma in Education* (Maths-Physics). I have been teaching at Alphington Grammar School for 17 years (second school in my teaching career) being the Head of Maths Faculty. I mainly teach Maths, Science and Physics (Year 10–12).

Γεννημένος στην Αυστραλία από Έλληνες μετανάστες, ακολούθησα και τελείωσα τη Δευτεροβάθμια εκπαίδευσή μου σε Λύκειο της Αθήνας και την Τριτοβάθμια εκπαίδευση στο Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης (Τμήμα Φυσικών).

Επιστρέφοντας στην Αυστραλία, πήρα το Δίπλωμα Εκπαίδευσης και έκανα μεταπτυχιακές σπουδές στο Monash (Master Εκπαίδευσης με ειδικότητα στα Μαθηματικά και Φυσική). Διδάσκω στο Alphington Grammar εδώ και 17 χρόνια, ως Καθηγητής Φυσικής και Μαθηματικών (1η με 3η Λυκείου) και ως συντονιστής-υπεύθυνος Μαθηματικών.

2. Explain the importance of your Greek/Australian heritage and how that impacts on your educational perspective.

Having a Greek-Australian heritage makes me feel very proud. Having met my late grandparents in Greece and living there for 15 years makes me feel more proud and privileged for learning two languages and cultures.

My educational experiences are a blend of both systems, and I have always had the opportunity to compare and extract the best of both worlds in order to facilitate my teaching!

Είμαι πολύ υπερήφανος που έχω δύο πατρίδες, αλλά ακόμα πίο υπερήφανος που έτυχε να γνωρίσω και ζήσω μαζί με τους παππούδες και γιαγιάδες μου στην Ελλάδα.

Ζώντας για 15 χρόνια στην Ελλάδα μου δόθηκε η ευκαιρία να μάθω τα Ελληνικά και τον Ελληνικό πολιτισμό.

Οι εμπειρίες μου στον εκπαιδευτικό τομέα είναι μείγμα και των δύο συστημάτων (Ελλάδας-Αυστραλίας), και έτσι είμαι σε θέση να μπορώ να συγκρίνω και χρησιμοποιώ τις καλύτερες μεθόδους από κάθε σύστημα για το επάγγελμά μου ως καθηγητής!

3. How do you remain passionate about teaching?

Teaching is constantly evolving. Learning different ways and methods to teach Maths and Physics is both a challenge and pleasure. Maths and Science have a high degree of visual and conceptual understanding, so finding new and old (but refined) ways of transmitting knowledge and understanding to students is very satisfying as a teacher and learner.

Η Διδασκαλία εξελίσσεται συνεχώς. Μαθαίνοντας διαφορετικούς τρόπους και μεθόδους διδασκαλίας Φυσικής και Μαθηματικών είναι ταυτόχρονα πρόκληση και ευχαρίστηση. Οι κλάδοι Θετικών Επιστημών έχουν μεγάλο βαθμό οπτικού και νοηματικού περιεχομένου και κατανόησης. Συνδυάζοντας παλαιές και νέες μεθόδους διδασκαλίας και γνώσεων σε μαθητές είναι πολύ μεγάλη ευχαρίστηση και ως Καθηγητής αλλά και μαθητευόμενος.

4. What are the main goals of the Maths Faculty at Alphington Grammar School?

The Maths Faculty endeavours to give every student the opportunity to learn the basic concepts and applications of Maths and extend learning to higher degrees of complexity and difficulty. We try to give senior students the correct advice for maths subject selections at VCE level. Finally, we hope to make maths learning a fun activity by using different approaches to teaching.

Το Τμήμα Μαθηματικών φροντίζει ώστε να δοθεί η ευκαιρία σε όλους τους μαθητές/τριες να μάθουν τις βασικές έννοιες και εφαρμογές των Μαθηματικών, και να επεκταθεί η μάθηση όλων σε ψηλότερα επίπεδα δυσκολίας. Επίσης φροντίζουμε να δώσουμε τη σωστή συμβουλή στους τελειόφοιτους μας όσον αφορά την επιλογή μαθημάτων τους για το VCE. Τέλος ελπίζουμε ότι τα Μαθηματικά είναι πηγή και άσκηση χαράς χρησιμοποιώντας διάφορες μεθόδους διδασκαλίας.

5. You are a strong supporter of School Sports programmes. How do you encourage students to become involved?

Sport is an integral part of developing healthy children (in conjunction with exercising the mind). Basketball is my favourite sport and I always show my passion on the court as a coach. In the past I have participated in many competitions with students from our school.

Ο Αθλητισμός είναι αναπόσπαστο κομμάτι για την ανάπτυξη υγιών παιδιών, σε συνδυασμό με την νοηματική ανάπτυξη. Το Μπάσκετ είναι το αγαπημένο μου σπορ και πάντα δείχνω το πάθος μου σαν προπονητής. Κατα το παρελθόν έχω συμμετάσχει σε αγώνες μπάσκετ με μαθητές απο το σχολείο μας.

6. List three of your most proud achievements whilst teaching.

- When students are happy with their final results;
 - Implementing various programmes that have worked over a number of years; and
 - Being involved as a sports coach (basketball) and winning a game on the buzzer in 2002! Also the current 2010 team is one of the best I've ever coached!
- Όταν βλέπω χαρούμενους μαθητές/τριες με τα αποτελέσματά τους.
 - Η εφαρμογή διαφόρων προγραμμάτων με επιτυχία κατά καιρούς, και
 - Η συμμετοχή μου σαν προπονητής μπάσκετ ομάδων Λυκείου, κερδίζοντας ένα ματς στο τελευταίο δευτερόλεπτο το 2002! Επίσης η ομάδα του 2010 είναι ίσως η καλύτερη που είχα ποτέ ως προπονητής!

THE PTA

Many new parents have become active members of the PTA this year. This has greatly assisted our efforts in achieving our goals of bringing families together and fundraising for specific facilities and programmes.

Please diarise Saturday 28th August for our Greek Tavern Night!

Venue: Yianni's Tavern, 840 High St, Kew East at 7.30pm.

Encourage your friends to make up a table and complete your booking form without delay! All enquiries to Sia or Emanuela at the School Front Reception.

We had great success at our Bunning's BBQ fundraiser and now look towards your support of the Father's Day Stall on 2nd September.



1. Outline your role as a Middle School Leader.

This role requires great responsibility and maturity to be done effectively. We attend various school events and, to an extent, are the "voice of the students". We help form a bridge, or link, between Middle School students and the wider school community. By attending meetings, we discuss student issues and welfare needs and work out strategies to help deal with them. We also participate in organising special events and programmes.

Lewis Vatsky and Shoumyaa Thanaskanda

2. How do you become involved in different activities around the school and community?

The Middle School Council meets regularly with Mrs Nicholson. When special assemblies are diarised, the Middle School Council members assist. We hosted the ANZAC Day assembly and recently attended an aged care dance at the Collingwood Town Hall.

Hudson Brown

3. Explain the process of Middle School Council. Are you being heard?

The Middle School Council works together in a very close group. We are familiar with each other as many of us share the same classes. We all pitch in ideas for reviewing aspects of the Middle School and these are all heard by Council members so we can work together to develop favourable recommendations. We can always confidently discuss our concerns, as our views are always given a great deal of importance.

Leo Rodrigo and Shoumyaa Thanaskanda

4. Are you more passionate about the arts or sport?

I have never been big on playing sports, but enjoy watching them! My passion is the arts, particularly guitar, which I have played since I was five years old.

Hudson Brown

I am more passionate about sport and always have been. My main interests are playing soccer and Futsal. In addition, I enjoy web designing and playing bass guitar and piano.

Lewis Vatsky

Music is my absolute passion. Although I do enjoy tennis in particular, I really love playing violin as well as piano, both of which I have been playing from a very young age.

Shoumyaa Thanaskanda

I am more of an arts person than a sports person. I love everything about music. I have played drums for three years and am a member of the Industry Styles Band at school, which is heaps of fun! Sometimes a few band members meet at lunchtime in the music room just to play together.

Leo Rodrigo

5. What year did you commence at Alphington Grammar School?

I began my school life at AGS in Pre-Prep and have been extremely happy with what the school has offered me since.

Lewis Vatsky

I have been attending AGS since Prep, so I have been learning here for 10 years so far!

Shoumyaa Thanaskanda

I started at AGS in Year 7 and straight away fitted in as if I was always part of the community here.

George Athanasakos

We both started in Year 7.

Leo Rodrigo and Hudson Brown

6. How do you believe Senior School will be different from Middle School?

Senior School will be a big step from Middle School, and I think it will be a very different experience, but in a good way. I believe having the extra flexibility to select different subjects will open up many new opportunities for my peers and it will be a great experience.

George Athanasakos

7. List three major advantages of being a student at Alphington Grammar School.

- We are part of a close-knit community.
- Teachers are extremely focused and approachable. They genuinely care about your wellbeing and academic progress.
- Being a student at AGS is very much like living in a small town. This is what makes it great because you know a lot of people around the school who can help to guide you, but also have the space to be yourself. It is a very welcoming environment to return to each week.

Leo Rodrigo

PERFORMING ARTS : BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Once upon a time in a faraway land, an Enchantress turned a cruel, unfeeling Prince into a hideous Beast. And so, our journey began.

Over the past few months, we have been welcomed into a world of *enchantment*. We have been guests at a most exquisitely spectacular event! Our magical cast of Freaky Furniture, Fiery Wolves, Goofy Sidekicks, Tavern Dwellers, Strange Inventors, Hairly Beasts, Eccentric Villagers, Sparkling Flatware and Narcissistic Villains entertained and impressed us with their "rapier wit" and great endeavour to change costumes (many, many times) in a single bound!

If you ever needed a tale of hope and inspiration, look no further than the staff and students at Alphington Grammar School. With over 200 costumes for some 70 cast members, we certainly had a mission on our hands. Some doubters may have said that this was a feat beyond a team of Year 5 and 6 students, or out of reach of a Year 9 crew, or too much to handle for the teaching staff onboard. But not too much for this group – not by a long shot! Resilience is the key.



Year 5 and 6 Students Performing Beauty and the Beast

Resilience we had, and success we found.

"Dreams aren't perfect. They come true, not free." Its true, everyone worked really hard. It's also true that it was... "totally worth it"! The experience, support and teamwork needed to make this production dream a reality was truly *enchanted!*

And so, we look forward to the next Performing Arts project – Wakakirri with the Year 3 and 4's. Bring it on!

Jacinta Shannon
Head of VAPA

CYBER SAFETY AND AGS

The rise of inexpensive and accessible technology in the form of personal and portable devices, such as mobile phones, PDAs and iPods etc is a global phenomenon. The increased use of online social networking sites such as Facebook is widespread. These all create new and potentially serious situations in regards to privacy and safety, and all impact upon the school and home in various degrees.

Mobile phones, ipods and PDAs

While the school acknowledges that these devices are convenient, entertaining and part of daily life, their use at school is restricted to recess and lunchtime. This is to ensure that the 'distracting' nature of these items in class is kept to an absolute minimum. Furthermore, the policy is that mobile phones are switched off in class and out of sight. There is a distinction here between 'switched off' and on 'silent' or 'meeting' or the like. The latter two settings still create a temptation for the student to be distracted and also leave open the opportunity for improper use in class such as recording or taking photos.

Recording a teacher or student either via audio, video or photograph is forbidden unless express permission is granted by the subject being recorded. It is in contravention of the mobile phone policy, which seeks to protect the privacy of all, and is considered a severe breach of the code of conduct.

The use of portable music devices should be limited to the student's personal time. This does not include class time, unless the teacher gives permission to do so as part of the class, for example in a VAPA class.

Internet use: Facebook and social networking

Regardless of personal opinion about these forms of technology, they are here to stay and, for many of us, we have forgotten what life before 'online' was like! Certainly search engines such as 'Google' and resources such as 'Wikipedia' have had a huge impact on our ability to access information. The concept and belief that everything one reads on the Internet is true is another issue in itself.

The school enforces strict guidelines with regards to Internet use for the safety of individual students and for the safety of the whole school community. This is outlined in the ICT policy each year and students in breach of those guidelines have their IT privileges suspended. The use of Facebook and other social networking sites is forbidden at school.

Parents are urged to monitor the use of Facebook at home to ensure that their family members are using correct privacy settings for their own safety. Social networking is a topical news item in the media. We will be addressing issues of cyber safety at school, initially in year group meetings, leading to parent information sessions later in the year.

Stay tuned!

Tracey Nicholson

*Director of Student Services
and Staff Well Being*

THE DEBATING TEAM



Debating Team – Years 7 to 9

I find debating extremely beneficial for personal growth as it allows you to feel comfortable with yourself in front of people. Debating teaches you to think on your feet, have confidence in front of others and develop the basic fundamentals of presenting an argument and delivering it in an orderly and intelligent manner.

Debating also encourages you to think logically; to build arguments; to create speeches; to perfect special techniques and gestures; and most importantly, listen to others.

I would highly recommend students becoming involved in debating. In my opinion, it is the most useful class I have ever taken!

Jawad Abidi Year 9P

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD 2010

This year's Alphington Grammar School recipient of the Pierre de Coubertin Award is Year 11 student Maria Tsibidis. The Pierre de Coubertin awards are named after the founder of the modern Olympic Games and take place on an annual basis to recognise Senior Secondary students who demonstrate attributes consistent with the Olympic movement through participation and commendable behaviour in sporting activities.

All Secondary Government and Independent Schools are invited to nominate one recipient from Year 10, 11 or 12 for the Pierre de Coubertin Award annually. Each nominee must participate actively in the school's physical education programme, with a consistently positive attitude, and must have represented the school in a sport. Maria joins a long and proud list of students at Alphington Grammar

School who have previously received this award. They include: James Tunchon (2009), Sarah Tsuboukas (2008), Tom Pappas (2007), Ashleigh Tunchon (2006) and Victor Dislakis (2005).

Maria has been a House Captain for Socrates, has always set a high standard and is a fine example for her peers. Throughout her time at Alphington Grammar School, Maria has been a reliable, enthusiastic and energetic participant in all aspects of the sport and PE programmes and she thoroughly deserves her nomination.

Maria was presented with her award at a special ceremony at The University of Melbourne, on Sunday 6 June.

Steve Viccars

Secondary PE / Sport



Maria Tsibidis



Open Day Guides, Lewis Vatcky and Samuel Savvidis



Joel Ryan at Junior Book Parade



The Savopoulos Family with Paul



The Mavridis Family with Lizzy



Terence and Valente Mavropoulos and Theodore Vesnaver

TEACHING & LEARNING INITIATIVES

It seems fitting to discuss the achievements of young Australian Jessica Watson in this term's Mosaic. Over the course of the last few weeks, Tracey Nicholson and I have used the story of Jessica Watson to make a few points to our students in Years 5 to 12. The point is that Jessica had a dream to complete something special and unique. It was a big dream. It was difficult. She experienced hardship along the way. She had moments before she even started when she wanted to give up. She had to battle more than the elements. When she finished there were still people belittling her achievement.

There is a real parallel between the story of Jessica and the story of students all over the world. Many students in schools have a tendency to sell themselves short. They set their sights lower than they should. They are worried they might fail. They give up when

they meet the first challenge or set back. They doubt themselves and despair of any hope of achieving their goals. In short, unlike Jessica, they do not push themselves to get the very best out of themselves.

At Alphington Grammar School we continue to challenge our students to push themselves more and to rise above the challenges and setbacks. We have tried to encourage our students to expect more from themselves. We want our students to fearlessly pursue greater levels of achievement from themselves and worry less about what happens when they can't do something. We extol upon them the virtues of preparing thoroughly, and encourage them to resiliently face the setbacks and challenges that threaten to erode their confidence. We have asked them to consider working together more to encourage each other and to cooperatively learn, rather than

following the lead of several elements of society (in Jessica's case) and trying to make small the achievement of others.

Our Year 9, 10 and 11 students have all completed their Semester One Exams. Our Year 12's have completed their first round of Practice Exams and their first formal VCE exams for 2010. It has been really obvious that many of these students have really tried to achieve their personal best. We wish all of our students the best of luck in their endeavours and hope that over the course of the remainder of this year, more and more of our students can continue to raise the bar of personal expectation.

Mark Stanton

Director of Teaching and Learning

ENHANCEMENT FOCUS

Enhancement Programmes at Alphington Grammar School are now a fixture of the academic year. These include ongoing one-day events and competitions that require training for some weeks.

The Mathematics Enhancement

Programmes operate at Year 5 and Year 8 over the course of the year, with all children at those levels being involved. At each year level, the two core groups are split into three smaller groups, to allow for more individual learning through problem solving, use of equipment and discussion of topics as the need arises. This semester, the Year 5 students have been looking at place value and fractions while the Year 8's have worked with the mathematics of chance as well as algebra in problem solving situations.

A number of students in Year 5, 6 and 7 recently completed the **2010 Maths Challenge**, which is an initiative of the Australian Mathematics Trust. The challenge involved completing a set of problem solving questions over a three-week period, without any human assistance. The Year 5 and 6 students needed to complete four questions (each with four parts), while the Year 7's were required to complete six questions. This year there were 46 participants from Alphington Grammar School.

Through an application process, eight students were selected to compete in the **Year 7 Da Vinci Decathlon**, which is a day of academic competition against other schools. It involves solving difficult problems in 10 different disciplines namely: Science, English, Maths, Forensics, Engineering, Code Breaking, General Knowledge, Art and Poetry, Games of Strategy and Creative Producers. The selected team has been training for some weeks and competed during Term 2.

The **Tournament of Minds (TOM)** Year 5 and 6 team has been selected and has now begun training. TOM is a problem-solving programme where teams of students are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges in a creative format. The team will select a 'long term' challenge from one of the following disciplines: Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths, Engineering and Social Sciences. They will produce a solution through performance to this challenge and also participate in an unseen spontaneous challenge, on competition day in August. The Alphington Grammar School team will compete at La Trobe University.

During Term 2 a selected group of Year 6 and 8 students attended a student conference, "**Vanished – Silence in the Rainforest**" at the Melbourne Zoo. This programme is designed to provide an opportunity for students to engage in real life learning experiences at a challenging level, beyond the classroom. Students used their imagination and creativity as well as developing the ability to think analytically, problem solve and negotiate as they explored the impact on ecosystems of human-animal conflict and biodiversity loss in the Asian rainforest.

Two teams of children from Year 6, 7 and 8 levels will be competing against other schools in **Mathematics Games Days** during Term 3. These competitions enable students to compete as a team, as well as individually, with other students who are specifically mathematically talented.

A variety of programmes will be offered each year to maximise the opportunities for students and extend their levels of skill and enquiry.

Glenda McKie

Enhancement Programmes Coordinator



Bill Diep and Alexandra Papadakis

Every Thursday a group of Year 8 students attend a maths class with Mrs McKie. Basically, we are challenged by the advanced tasks presented. We use computers, complete exercises and play games to enhance our maths skills. We enjoy the classes with Mrs McKie!

Κάθε Πέμπτη, μια ομάδα από τη Β' Γυμνασίου, παρευρίσκεται σε ένα μάθημα μαθηματικών, που διδάσκει η κύρια McKie. Βασικά, εμείς κάνουμε μάθημα που κάνουν τα άλλα παιδιά άλλα είναι προηγμένο. Χρησιμοποιούμε το κομπιούτερ, κάνουμε ασκήσεις και παιχνίδια για να καλυτερέψουμε τα μαθηματικά μας.

Με την κύρια McKie, εμείς μαθαίνουμε πολλά μαθηματικά!

Isabella Pehlivanidis

OUT & ABOUT



Beauty and the Beast Cast



Across Generations at Open Day



Year 7, 2011 Orientation Activities



Enhancement Students at Melbourne Zoo

**Touch Footy at Alphington Grammar School**

During Term 2, and for the first time at Alphington Grammar School, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been introduced to the sport of Touch Footy during their PE classes. Students have had to learn the passing, catching, running and evasive skills needed in this game, which was foreign to most of them at the beginning of the programme. The concept of running forward and passing backwards, as well as stopping to play the ball after a 'touch' to the 'half' and maintaining a defensive line were some of the many challenges that faced the students during this term. All students also completed a written assignment to further their knowledge and understand the rules of game play.

As a whole, the students have embraced the game and appreciate how physically and aerobically demanding it is with its constant running, sprinting and changing of direction. Students in Year 7 and some in Years 8 and 9 also had the opportunity to learn from expert coaches from Touch Footy Victoria who visited us during sport afternoons and took us through their various drills and physical challenges. Overall, the students improved immensely and should look forward to further involvement with the sport in the future.

*Tee Ball Girls Grand Final Victory***Primary House Cross-Country 2010**

The Primary combined Fun Run/House Cross Country was held in perfect conditions at Darebin Parklands. The Junior students had a great day running with their teachers and parents. All Year 3 to 6 students compete in the AGS Primary House Cross Country event which was again won by Byron in a very close contest. The highest performing students are selected as the school representative team to compete in the Ivanhoe District carnival.

55 AGS runners competed in wet conditions at Banyule Flats, Viewbank with four of our competitors successful in qualifying for the Eastern Yarra Zone Cross Country on Wednesday, 9th June. We congratulate Christos Ghenes-Lambiris, Peter Papadakis, Jonathon Hantsikonstantis and Maurice Cutajar on their achievements.

Primary Summer Sport 2010

Both boys and girls tee ball teams competed in the Ivanhoe District Summer finals series with the boys losing in their Semi Final game. The girls won their way to the Grand Final and, in a very exciting contest, defeated Ivanhoe PS in the Grand Final. They now progress to the School Sport Victoria state competition in Term 3. Go Girls!

*Year 7 Touch Footy Clinic – Monday 17 May***THE FINAL WORD...**

The building of our new facilities is capturing the interest and imagination of all our school community. It is an extremely proud and optimistic time to be involved at Alphington Grammar School.

This positive atmosphere is reflected in the Winter edition of Mosaic. Students are striving for excellence, participating in a variety of activities and being encouraged by outstanding educators. Enjoy Mosaic and share the excitement of the teaching and learning programmes available at our school.

Judy Fetter*Mosaic Editor**School Development Manager*