

2 July 2010

Dear Parents

A very active and successful Semester 1 has ended and we are now looking forward to an equally busy and productive second half of the year. I hope you are happy with your child's Semester 1 report and I urge you to take advantage of the upcoming Parent-Teacher consultations to discuss the report in detail and follow up any questions you may have. It is most important that you take every opportunity to speak with your child's teachers and if you cannot attend the scheduled consultations please let us know so that we can make alternative arrangements for you to have those conversations.

Do you ever break the law?

If you drive into the dead end section of Old Heidelberg Road, between Lucerne Crescent and the school gates, between 8.15 and 9.15am or 3.00 and 4.00pm, and there is no legal parking place free, then you have broken the law. You either have to stop in a no standing zone or in the middle of the road, or do a U-turn. All of these things are banned. It is a no U-turn zone at those times, specifically to stop traffic movements so close to the Junior School entrance.

This is for the safety of your kids. So there is absolutely no excuse for ever ignoring these rules.

“On Track” Data

The “On-Track” data for 2009 Year 12 students was published on June 7. It showed that, in April of this year, 74% of former Alphington Grammar students were enrolled at university,

5% had deferred a university place, 18% were enrolled in a TAFE or VET course and 3% were undertaking apprenticeships. None was employed full-time or seeking work. These figures do not include international students. The data is compiled by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The Alphington Grammar community can be proud of these results, which are better than many highly reputed schools across all sectors, including many of our competitor schools. People wishing to make comparisons between Alphington and other schools on the basis of these figures will be impressed by our students' performance and rightly so.

Staffing

You should all have received a letter introducing our new School Counsellor, **Celia Brenchley**. Celia joined us in early June and has been busy establishing contact with students and parents. She is a registered psychologist and an experienced counsellor in school settings, most recently at Wesley College. She is available to assist with any personal or social concerns your child may experience.

At the end of last term we farewelled **Gina Tucker** who had been teaching Grade 2 while **Anya Latham** was taking maternity leave. Anya will be rejoining us at the start of Term 3 and we are delighted to welcome her back. However we are sorry to say goodbye to Gina, who is a well-known member

of our school community and a much-loved teacher. She regularly joins us in replacement positions and we are sure we will see her again before too long. We are very lucky to have such an excellent teacher available to fill replacement positions when they arise.

Irene Port will be taking long service leave in Term 3 and her place in Grade 1 will be taken by **Danielle Nicholson**, whom some of you will have got to know as a replacement teacher. We wish Irene a wonderful trip to catch up with her far-flung family and we hope Danielle enjoys her time teaching Grade 1 at Alphington. We are sure she will.

Finally **Maria Deltouzou**, one of our seconded Greek teachers from the Education Office at the Greek Consulate, left us at the end of Term 2. She is returning to Greece for family reasons. We wish her well and thank her for her work here.

Professional Development Week

July 12 is the start of our annual Professional Development Week for staff. This year the focus for the week is “Effective Engagement K-12 – Every Student, Every Day”. The opening day will be presented by the highly respected adolescent psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg. He will be followed later in the week by sessions on the latest learning technologies and the use of computers to enhance learning, on catering for individual needs in the classroom and on enhancing our effectiveness in teaching and in promoting student welfare.

School Performance Data

Our 2009 School Performance Data report is now available on our new school website, www.alphington.vic.edu.au. Click on

the drop down menu on the Welcome tab. All schools publish this data as part of accountability requirements with the Commonwealth Government. If you are unable to access this information on the website and would like a hard copy, please let the school office know.

I wish you well for Term 3.

Yours sincerely

Mike Smith
Principal