FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK

Happy New Year and welcome back to all students and their families to a new academic year. I extend a warm welcome to all new students and families who join us for the first time. I trust everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is excited about all that 2015 will bring.

I had a lovely break, which included time in New Zealand exploring the North Island, a handful of films, some reading for pleasure and a summer of sporting events including the Asian Cup Final last Sunday. It was terrific to see all the students return to School excited about catching up with their classmates and settling in to all that 2015 holds and, what I hope will be a brilliant year for us all.

CLASS OF 2014

We started the year off on a very positive note having received the news that the Class of 2014 has followed their predecessors and, for a third year in a row and maintained our admirable record number of students achieving an ATAR of 90+.

Our highest ATAR score of 98.50 was achieved by School Vice Captain Yuqing Yi (Mercury), followed closely by School Captain Nikolas Kazantzidis with an ATAR of 97.75. Both students served our school with distinction in curricular and co-curricular activities.

A SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Top ATAR 98.50
Median Study Score 31.00
Average Study Score 31.15
ATAR of 90+ 22.64%
ATAR of 80+ 39.62%

A considerable number of our leading students achieved 40+ scores in a range of subjects including:

- English
- English as an Additional Language
- History (Revolutions)
- Greek
- Legal Studies
- Further Maths
- Specialist Maths
- Maths Methods

THIS COMING WEEK

TUESDAY
School Photos
Year 3 & 4 Swimming
Year 4 Lawn Bowls
Secondary Students Homework Club
4pm to 5.30pm in the Study Room
All are welcome to attend

Years 7, 8 & 9 Parent Information Evening
7pm - Andrianakos Centre
Year 7 Camp Information Evening
Year 9 Gateways Parent Update

WEDNESDAY
Uniform Shop
3pm - 4pm

THURSDAY
Secondary Students Homework Club
4pm to 5.30pm in the Study Room
All are welcome to attend
Prep to Year 6 Parent Information Evening
6.30pm

FRIDAY
Uniform Shop
8.30am - 9.30am
Year 5 & 6 Summer Interschool Sports
Chairbag, Art Smock, Library Bag sale
8.15am - 9.15am
Antipodes Festival Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th February
Lonsdale St. Melbourne

Yuqing Yi (Mercury) 98.50
Nikolas Kazantzidis 97.75
It is worth noting that, a score of 40+ indicates students are in the top 7.5% of the State.

The results for 2014 are a culmination of hard work and tenacity over many years. We congratulate the students for their commitment and perseverance over the years. I thank our teachers for their dedication and care extended to the students of our school. These results should give students in lower year levels the self belief to aim high, work hard and aspire to excellence.

YEAR 12 DESTINATIONS:

I am pleased to report the destinations of our Class of 2014. A special assembly will be held towards the end of the month to induct our top students into the Scholars’ fraternity.

NEW STAFF

I take this opportunity to welcome our new staff to our School and look forward to all that they will contribute.

Mrs Angelina Eyers returns to us to teach Year 11 and 12 Accounting. She has vast experience in the commercial world having worked at the tax office for close on 15 years as well as teaching and tutoring accounting for the past decade.

Mrs Michelle Jennings is an experienced lawyer with close on a decade of commercial experience. She is joining us to teach Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies having chosen to use her experience to enhance teaching and learning.

Mrs Maria Mina re-joins the school to teach Mathematics and Greek. Maria has continued to work part time at the school over the past decade having taken time to raise her family.

Ms Simone Qi will be joining us to teach Chinese in Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as, teaching Business Management to the Year 10 International students.

Ms Katie Bedsor rejoins us as Year 5 teacher. Katie taught with us in 2013 before returning home to Queensland but has decided Melbourne is where her heart is. I am delighted to welcome her back.

Mr Koral Murat joined the primary school in late 2014 from the UK on an exchange program. He will continue teaching part time in Year 4.

Mrs Jodie Preiss has been appointed Marketing and Communications Officer having worked in this capacity both in Independent schools and in private practice. Jodie will be working on our new website and prospectus as well as undertake the tasks of developing our social media profile and alumni function.
GROUND AND MAINTENANCE UPGRADES

Families will notice that work on the new Yarra bike path is well underway now. We anticipate some disruption and vehicle movement while the bike path is being completed, however, this will not affect the operations of the School and access to our sporting facilities. We anticipate the works to be completed by later this year.

Other maintenance and upgrades completed around the school during the break included:

- Server upgraded requiring the total migration of all software from old to new server.
- Replacement of old computers with the setting-up of a new IT Lab with Apple computers.
- ERC enhancement and new air-conditioner.
- Programmed Maintenance: Completed their annual service which included classrooms, administration corridors and Flowerdale painting.
- Reception and Offices, New IT Room and LOTE Staffroom all painted.
- Essential Services Maintenance: Fire equipment, Gas Appliances, Electrical lighting and Air Conditioning all inspected and serviced.
- New carpet in LOTE Staffroom and IT Room.
- Installation of Cool room and dry storage area in the Andrinakos Centre kitchen.
- Annual Cleaning in accordance with contractual specifications.
- Audit and recommendation report on school grounds.

I thank the School’s Business Manager, Mr Manuel Pappos for overseeing the completion of these tasks to ensure we continue to provide the very best facilities for our students.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Years 7 – 9 Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 10th February
Prep – Year 6 Parent Information Evening: Thursday 12th February

An important aspect of keeping our children focused and on task is the continued partnership between school and home. We know that children learn best when they feel supported and know their learning matters to the significant adults in their lives. With this in mind, I encourage all families to continue to work with us in whatever way and time you have available to support and nurture the learning process with us.

There are many opportunities parents can connect to the learning process themselves and first and foremost, I encourage families to stay informed and to attend the relevant information.

We have already held the first of these, our Years 10-12 Parents Information Evening this week with the above sessions due to take place next week.

The newsletter will, in the first instance, provide families with important and, up to date information. It will continue to be distributed at the end of every week in term time. Please take the time to read it.

NEW FAMILIES WELCOME

New Families Welcome: Wednesday 18th February

Families joining us for the first time should have received their invitation to the New Parents Welcome evening held on Wednesday 18th February. I look forward to sharing the evening with you and hearing more about your child’s experience.

Dr Vivianne Nikou
PRINCIPAL
Welcome back to all our families in the Primary School and a special welcome to all our new families. We have new students in almost every year level in the primary school and we hope that they feel part of the Alphington Grammar School community in no time at all. It is wonderful seeing the students on that first day….all rested and sparkling and eager to begin the new year. As usual, our classes have settled down beautifully and the job of learning is already under way. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year working with all our families to achieve the best outcome for every child.

At the beginning of every year there is so much to pass on and I thank parents for their patience and understanding as they are inundated with information. Term One is certainly a busy one and only 8 weeks this year so there is much to be done. Here are some important reminders:

**Email:** The school uses email to communicate rather than send out hard copy notices for every event. We ask you to please check your emails regularly to stay in touch. Some parents have reported not receiving emails this year…please check your spam or junk folder and ensure that AGS emails are marked as safe.

**2015 Permission Slips and Confidential Medical Records:** These document are important and should already have been returned to school. Without them your child will not be able to leave the school for sporting or other events.

**School Photographs:** These will be taken on Tuesday 10th February for all students in Prep to Year 12. Full summer uniform including blazer should be worn (no jumper). Uniform rules will be strictly enforced. Hair below shoulder length should be tied back, no make-up, discreet school colours hair adornments, plain earrings, religious jewellery out of sight. All students will be photographed. A letter has been emailed to parents about how to order photographs. You have up to 10 days after photos are taken to order without financial penalty.

**Chairbag, Art Smock, Library Bag sales:** As per the note emailed home, this will take place on Friday February 13th in the Alphazone area. If you can’t make it on the day you are welcome to send money in an envelope to your child’s teacher and I will help them with their shopping!

**Primary Parent Information Evening:** This will take place on Thursday 12th February for all parents with students in Prep to Year 6. A separate letter about this has been emailed home. This is an important event and an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and hear more about the upcoming year.

**Unsupervised children in the school grounds:** As a school we take our Duty of Care seriously. Teachers are rostered on for playground supervision at recess and lunchtime and also in the bus area after school and the front gate area before and after school. We have noticed increasing numbers of children unsupervised in the school grounds after school last year and again this year. Although their parents are present, they are often nowhere near where their children are playing. We love that you like to stay at school at the end of the day and socialise but please make sure that you have your children in your eyesight at all times. Although the school grounds are very safe, children still need constant supervision. We cannot discount the possibility of hazards such as snakes, especially when there is little noise and only a few children around. There has been an out of school hours sighting of a snake this year. Parents also need to be aware that the play equipment closest to Flowerdale House is not designed for children in Year 1 or below. We do want your children to be safe at all times. If teachers see a child playing unsupervised after school after 3.50pm they will be asked to return to their parent and play nearby.

Thank you again for your continued support. We are looking forward to another successful year in the Primary School.

*Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate is quoted as saying: ‘In some parts of the world students are going to school every day. It’s their normal life. But in other parts of the world we are starving for education…it’s like a precious gift. It’s like a diamond’.*

Let’s enjoy, appreciate and polish our diamond opportunities together in 2015.

Tracey Nicholson
Assistant Principal, Head of Primary
Welcome to the new school year. I wish all Alphington Grammar School families a very Happy New Year. I would like to also extend a particular welcome to our new staff and students. We sincerely hope that your time with us will be fulfilling and enjoyable.

The school year has commenced very smoothly and we have been greatly impressed by the enthusiasm and excitement of the students to commence their new academic programs.

We are all very excited about the year ahead. 2015 will be another wonderful year for the School. We have many new things planned for this year and we can’t wait to get to work on putting them into place. We know that we will continue to go from strength to strength with the support of our parent community.

We have exciting plans for the School which will build on the strong foundations already laid at Alphington throughout our first twenty-five years. These new initiatives will continue the School’s development and establishment as a respected educational provider, based on the provision of a rigorous academic program, outstanding co-curricular opportunities and a nurturing environment, supported by a pastoral care model which ensures that all students are well known and supported by our staff and student leaders.

The House Pastoral System was implemented last year and proved to be a great success. In the Secondary School, the House System is based on a vertical pastoral model, led by Heads of House and House Mentors, with House Rooms comprised of students across the secondary spectrum from Years 7 to 12. The aims of the House System at Alphington Grammar School are as follows;

- To foster a sense of student identity and belonging to the School
- To facilitate effective and efficient student management and care
- To provide opportunities for formal and informal student leadership
- To promote role modeling within the student body
- To build and nurture healthy relationships between the students, between staff and students, as well as between the School and school families
- To underpin the School’s community involvement and commitment to service
- To support seamless transition of students as they progress through the School
- To engender a spirit of healthy competition amongst the students

The House competition commences in earnest in Week 3 with our House swimming Sports. This is always a wonderful event, with something for everyone. It is a great chance to show your house spirit and have some fun.

A great deal of work has already been completed in preparation for the 2014 school year. I am personally looking forward to an amazing year ahead, full of many challenges, achievements and wonderful experiences for our students. I encourage all of our students to set their goals high for 2015 and work consistently towards achieving those goals. Our school is very well placed in assisting all students to reach their potential. All it takes is hard work and commitment.

We look forward to meeting with parents at our many parent forums throughout the year.

We held a very successful Parent Information Evening for families of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 during the past week and we look forward to meeting with students in Years 7, 8 and 9, along with their families, during Week 2.
KEY SECONDARY DATES:

- Tues. 10 Feb.  School Photographs (ID Cards and Portraits)  Andrianakos Centre  All Morning
- Tues. 10 Feb.  Years 7, 8 & 9 Parent Information Evening  Andrianakos Centre  7.00pm
- Tues. 10 Feb.  Year 7 Camp Information Evening  Andrianakos Centre  7.00pm
- Sat. 14 Feb.  Antipodes Festival  Lonsdale St, Melbourne  Afternoon
- Sun. 15 Feb.  Antipodes Festival  Lonsdale St, Melbourne  Afternoon
- Tues. 17 Feb.  Secondary House Swimming Sports  Booroondara Pool  All Day
- Wed. 18 Feb.  New Parents Welcome Evening  Flowerdale Lawn  5.00pm
- Mon. 23 Feb.  Year 7 Camp commences  Paynesville  8.00am
- Mon. 23 Feb.  Scholar’s Assembly  Andrianakos Centre  10.30am
- Fri. 27 Feb.  Year 7 Camp concludes  School Grounds  3.30pm
- Fri. 27 Feb.  Chinese New Year Celebration  Andrianakos Centre  2.15pm

Secondary House Pastoral System 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARISTOTLE</th>
<th>BYRON</th>
<th>PERICLES</th>
<th>SOCRATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEAD OF HOUSE</td>
<td>Margaret Huddlestson</td>
<td>Primrose Tyson</td>
<td>Con Papoulis</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOUSE MENTOR 1</td>
<td>Kylie Nealon</td>
<td>Vicki Patrikios</td>
<td>Helen Mallis</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOUSE MENTOR 2</td>
<td>Olivia Rahme</td>
<td>Jack Mithen</td>
<td>Louis Diamandikos</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOUSE MENTOR 3</td>
<td>Toula Terezakis (Mary Kontosis on Wednesdays)</td>
<td>Danielle Lichoudaris</td>
<td>John Savopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT HOUSE LEADERS</td>
<td>Yiota Sarantis</td>
<td>Kira McGilvray</td>
<td>Pallavi Daniel</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Stephanie Turnbull</td>
<td>Gerald Papoulis</td>
<td>Nicholas Kierce</td>
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Rowan Evans
Assistant Principal
Head of Secondary
Please note the days and times in which Secondary students are able to wear their sport uniform during school hours.

SPORT: During sport time students are to wear their sport uniform to school and can stay in sport all day.

- Monday - Year 7 students
- Wednesday - Year 10 & 11 (Year 12 students who are involved in sport)
- Thursday - Year 8&9

PE LESSONS:

- Students are required to come in their school uniform and get changed at the start of the PE lesson, then back into their school uniform at the end of PE lesson
- This also applies to students who have PE first period

Unless there has been a message in which students are able to wear their sports uniform these are the only times in which they should be wearing sport uniform.

Secondary Students Homework Club
Tuesday and Thursday
4pm to 5.30pm
in the Study Room
All are welcome to attend

Parents and Friends Association
Tuesday 24 February
Annual General Meeting, 6pm
Committee Meeting, 6.30pm
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS - Second Hand Uniform Shop
The PFA second hand uniform shop is seeking a volunteer to help run the shop on a Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm. This can be a weekly or fortnightly commitment. Previous volunteers have found the job to be easy and a rewarding way to be involved in the school.
Hello and welcome to the start of a bright new year. During the course of the recent holidays, AGS achieved and made a number of positive changes in the areas of technology. With the improvement of our network infrastructure and digital space, our teaching and learning will be enhanced. The following improvements were made to our technological environment:

1. New network server rebuild
2. Increased storage capacity for data
3. Improved wireless connectivity
4. More secure network and internet access
5. Remote access for students
6. Improved backup system for our network
7. Redesign of our school website
8. Recording of assessments electronically for progressive marking
9. Timetabling developing software
10. A new iMac lab with 21 inch screens
11. E-Diary launch
12. Fibre connection 100Mb/100Mb to our school will be available by the end of February

The speed at which technology is advancing is revolutionising how, where, and even when students access and share information. Within the next few weeks we will be launching the e-Diary (APP4) for all students from Year 5 to 12. The e-Diary will facilitate digitally enabled, twenty-first century teaching and learning. This will enable efficient communication between students, teachers and parents.

It will provide students with a safe and user-friendly environment, and teachers with a tool to effectively and efficiently share resources such as worksheets and website links.

This e-Diary will ensure that students are up-to-date with all their homework and assessment tasks and are kept up-to-date with school events. Students will be able to see their timetables, create their own calendars, send messages to teachers and receive messages from teachers and receive important information from school. It also allows parents to view their child’s diary information including the list of homework and assignments that have been set and completed. Parents can check that only appropriate text and images are being recorded in their child’s diary. Key parent functions are protected by means of a parent chosen Access Code. All the necessary information to access the e-Diary will be given to all parents and students at the time of rollout during Term 1.
Welcome back!

Look out for these exciting events in Term 1:

**Language Perfect**

All students studying Greek and/or Chinese at AGS, from Year 3 and up, should now have their subscription for Language Perfect for 2015. We will shortly receive student passwords and then be able to forward those to students during class time.

Language Perfect is a fun online vocabulary-learning tool. Students can learn and revise words while earning points. Students are encouraged to login and work on their word lists regularly. In addition, teachers will be setting specific homework lists for each class. We will be regularly publishing names of students on our own Leaderboard.

Don’t forget, the team at LP regularly draw random prizes! Go online to the website (www.educationperfect.com) or onto their Facebook page for latest information.

Don’t forget the Language Perfect World Championships 18 – 28 May 2015!!!

**Theatre lessons with Katerina Potahidou**

We are fortunate to have the services of experienced theatre teacher Ms Katerina Potahidou, who will be running workshops with many of our students during the course of the year. This term, it is the turn of Year 2 and Year 8 students. We look forward to seeing these students perform at the 25th March Assembly in the last week of term!

**Traditional Greek costumes**

Thank you once again to all students who made a gold coin donation during Greek Week Casual Day last year. Our new costumes will soon be ready and will make a welcome addition at many AGS events. Thank you to Mrs Terezakis for organising these.

**Easter Candle fundraiser**

Also coming up later this term is our annual Easter candle fundraiser, organised by Mrs Mavropoulos and Mrs Vayenas. This year the proceeds will go to a special cause, soon to be confirmed and voted on by students. Please get behind this wonderful initiative again in 2015.

Denise Diakodimitriou

Head of Greek
Welcome back to Physical Education news in the Primary School! It was so good to see such excited faces, children all happy to be back and in to our new year. This week we have reminded children about the importance of wearing a hat and bringing a drink bottle to each session. The weather hasn’t been too warm yet but I’m sure there will be warmer days in store for us before the end of Summer.

It was interesting to ask the children about their holiday activities. There was certainly a great variety that the children were offered. I was pleased to hear that many had taken up some swimming clinics which will help the 3/4 students especially as they begin swimming lessons this term. If they have undertaken some clinics over the holidays it further enhances their confidence and sometimes it is wonderful for the students to be able to demonstrate to some of their peers the skills that they have developed.

Please remember to label all clothing so that when we peel off rugby tops or hats or grab our drink bottles, there are only ever happy matches!

During the summer holidays I was fortunate enough to volunteer to teach English in a country school in Northern Thailand. I worked there for two weeks and in that time taught Primary classes English for one hour everyday. Our lessons were planned and prepared in a very small office with no air conditioning and one fan. I was asked to mentor younger volunteer teachers and help them to prepare lessons and to include different strategies, games and activities to help the children in their learning. We followed the Thai curriculum and lessons were presented based on themes such as colours, fruits, sports, weather, time and household activities for example.

The children were very keen and excited and enjoyed everything presented to them. It was quite a poor, underprivileged school run by the government so the children were given breakfast and lunch every day. This meant that I was also fed every day and quickly realized that my favorite tasty, fresh Greek salad would not be on the menu! The staff were also very welcoming and even though I could not speak Thai and they could not speak English, it was amazing what could be discussed! Using my iPad photos I was able to talk about my family and theirs, as well as our countries, the weather and even soccer! I had a wonderful trip and thoroughly enjoyed working in Thailand especially when I could go to the beach every day after school for a swim! I missed the students at Alphington and was reminded very often, just how lucky I am to work with very keen and enthusiastic students who love school and are keen to learn! Best wishes for a wonderful term.

Adrienne Bishop
Physical Education Specialist.
School Photographs

Dear Parent,

Photographs will be taken at Alphington Grammar School on February 10, 2015.

School photographs provide a unique opportunity to record these special times for years to come and we look forward to providing them to your family.

New for 2015 are our ‘Wish’ packages. For every ‘Wish’ pack purchased, $1 will be donated to Make-A-Wish® Australia to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

When ordering school photos online you may also purchase a high resolution, digital copy of your child’s image.

Your package of school photographs will be delivered to the school approximately four weeks after photography is completed.

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.

Important information

LATE ORDERS
Orders placed more than 10 days after photo day will cost an extra $15 to cover special handling requirements and must be accompanied by a statutory declaration. For late orders, please download the required forms from our website.

FAMILY DISCOUNT
Families with 3 or more children attending THE SAME SCHOOL can benefit from our family discount. The first two children pay full price for their photo packages while other siblings attending THE SAME SCHOOL can receive their photographs for HALF the normal price.

When ordering school photos for your children online and at the same time, the discount will automatically be calculated for you.

When ordering using this order form:
1. Select the photo package you would like to order and mark this on the order form. The same package will be provided for all siblings.
2. Complete student details for EACH CHILD.
3. Calculate the required payment for ALL packages and include with order.

Not able to order online?

Please complete the order details on the other side of this form and return it directly to Arthur Reed Photos before the ten day cut off time.

Orders placed after this time will be considered as late orders and will incur additional costs as outlined above.

Unconditional Money-Back Guarantee
You will receive a full refund if you are not completely satisfied with your photographs - just return your complete photo package directly to us, within 10 days and a refund will be sent to you. (Please keep evidence and date of return).
**Wish PACKAGES**

In 2015 Arthur Reed Photos is partnering with Make-A-Wish Australia who grant the cherished wishes of seriously ill children. $1 from the purchase of each ‘Wish’ package will be donated to help bring the healing power of a wish to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

**Wish PACKAGE A - $44**
- 1 - Personalised photobook
- 1 - Larger size 25 x 18 cm portrait
- 1 - 18 x 13 cm B&W portrait
- 4 - 18 x 13 cm portraits
- 1 - Display mount
- 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits
- 1 - Group photo

**Wish PACKAGE B - $40**
- 1 - Personalised photobook
- 3 - 18 x 13 cm portraits
- 1 - Display mount
- 3 - 8 x 5 cm portraits
- 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits
- 1 - Group photo

**STANDARD PACKAGE D - $31**
- 3 - 18 x 13 cm portraits
- 1 - Display mount
- 3 - 8 x 5 cm portraits
- 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits
- 1 - Group photo

**BASIC PACKAGE E - $28**
- 1 - 18 x 13 cm portraits
- 1 - Display mount
- 1 - Group photo

**Wish PACKAGE B - $44**
- 1 - Personalised photobook
- 3 - 18 x 13 cm portraits
- 1 - Display mount
- 3 - 8 x 5 cm portraits
- 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits
- 1 - Group photo

**GROUP ONLY PACKAGE G - $23**
- 1 - Group photo

**WHEN ORDERING PACKAGES B, C OR D ONLINE, YOU MAY ALSO PURCHASE A HIGH QUALITY DIGITAL COPY OF YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL PORTRAIT FOR ONLY $7 PER IMAGE.**

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

Credit card payments within charge are extra $1 to cover handling costs. If this authority cannot be processed due to internet problems or insufficient funds, an administration charge of $9 will be made to cover the extra processing costs involved. In signing this authority you accept this charge, should it apply. To avoid credit card charges, purchase photographs on-line.

**TOTAL COST OF ORDER $**

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**PACKAGE CHOICE**

- Wish Pack A - $44
- Wish Pack B - $40
- Package C - $35
- Package D - $31
- Package E - $28
- Package G - $23