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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>22nd Feb</td>
<td>Meet and Greet Interviews for 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed – Fri</td>
<td>7th – 9th March</td>
<td>3/4 Camp to The Briars</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>Labour Day – No School</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>22nd March</td>
<td>Multi Cultural Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>30th March</td>
<td>Last Day of term 1 – 2.30pm dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16th April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>Anzac Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Tues - Thu</td>
<td>15th – 17th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing</td>
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<td>Mon – Fri</td>
<td>21st – 25th May</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>11th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>Reports go home</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26th June</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>29th June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2 – early dismissal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Term 3 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon – Fri</td>
<td>20th – 24th Aug.</td>
<td>5/6 Coonawarra Camp</td>
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<td>Mon – Fri</td>
<td>20th – 24th Aug.</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
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<td>Mon – Fri</td>
<td>27th – 31st Aug.</td>
<td>Literacy and Numeracy Week</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>21st Sep.</td>
<td>Last Day of term 3 – early dismissal.</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>5th Nov.</td>
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<td>Melbourne Cup Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4th Dec.</td>
<td>Year 6 orientation day</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18th Dec.</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>21st Dec.</td>
<td>Last day of term 4 – early dismissal.</td>
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Thursday 9th February 2012

Dear Parents,

It’s School Council election time at Albany Rise Primary School
...and we would love to have your involvement!

School Council elections are held in Term 1 of each year.

The following School Councillors’ membership ends in March of this year and their positions have become vacant:

Parent members:
Scott Thompson-Whiteside, Sally Castle, Fiona Daniel, Samantha Bailey

Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
Tony Clayton

There are four parent vacancies and one staff vacancy. **The parent representatives whose membership ends this year and who still have children at the school are welcome to renominate.**

The timeline for the School Council elections will be as follows:

- **Monday 13th February**
  - Call for nominations for School Council
- **Monday 20th February**
  - Nominations close 4:00 pm
  - Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder

* **Election Process**
- **Monday 27th February**
  - Ballot papers distributed
- **Tuesday 6th March**
  - Ballot closes
- **Thursday 8th March**
  - Count votes and declare the poll

* **No election will be necessary if only the required numbers nominate.**

Find attached:
- An outline of School Council and what is involved.

**Self-nomination form or nomination forms are available at the office.**

I would **encourage** all parents to consider being on School Council. **If this information has left you with questions still to be answered please come and have a chat or contact me on the school phone number 9547 1146.**

Regards,

[Signature]

Belinda Jones
Principal
School Council Elections
- What is a school council and what does it do?
- Who is on the school council?
- Why is parent membership so important?
- How can you become involved?
- Do I need special experience to be on school council?
- What do you need to do to stand for election?

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:
- A mandated elected parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. DEECD employees can be parent members at their child’s school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which will be held in March this year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future. This is a great opportunity for someone to be a part of one of the most important decision making groups in the school!!! Please don’t think you don’t have the skills to be an effective contributor – this could not be further from the truth. If you can answer yes to the following questions, then we want you to nominate for School Council.
- Do you have a genuine interest in the education of your child/ren and other children?
- Are you a good listener?
- Do you have a spare two hours (no more) a month to attend a meeting and a little more time (not much) to do some background reading?
- Are you able to work as part of a team?

Schools and Communities- “COMMUNITY BUILDING”
School Council has an important role in fostering:
1. Connectedness: Building a strong bond between all school community members (students, parents & staff) and with our wider community.
2. Relationships: When people know each other better, the more aligned their expectations become. If you are the only parent who expects his or her child to go to bed at a certain time, this will be harder to achieve.
3. Harmony: Most conflict is caused by differences in perception. Our children will be safer and happier if we are able to connect with each other.
4. Values: When our school values are shared and lived by us as adults in our school community they will be transmitted to the children. Our actions and interactions show children what we value.
5. Civics and Citizenship: Children who see their parents making positive contributions to society are much more likely to do so themselves.
Welcome back everyone!!

It’s wonderful to be joining you in my role as Principal at Albany Rise. I have already discovered what a wonderful school we have here. Our staff has been working hard well before school started to prepare for the upcoming year, our students arrived last Thursday looking fresh and ready to commence in their new classes and parents at Albany Rise are warm, friendly and welcoming.

At Albany Rise Primary we have high expectations of student learning. We look forward to this continuing in 2012. Welcome to all parents, those who are returning and those who are new to Albany Rise. I enjoyed meeting a number of new parents at our special ‘Tea and Tissues’ morning tea which was held last Friday morning after the prep children went to their classes.

I wish to especially welcome our 2012 Preps to the Albany Rise Primary School community. This year we have three Prep classes with 51 excited and eager students beginning their primary school years. They have settled in well thanks to parents, staff and no doubt the transition program they participated in last year.

Information Sessions
Our information sessions on Wednesday 15th February provide an opportunity for all parents to understand the events, expectations, curriculum and routines relevant to each level.

Please come along to the appropriate session(s) for your child(ren). Information provided will assist with a smooth year and ensure that teachers and parents are able to work together to support the learning of each child. I look forward to meeting parents at these sessions.

Staffing
We welcome to Albany Rise Primary School the following staff:

   Melanie Inglefinger – Prep Teacher
   Melanie Beers – Visual Arts Teacher
   Lidiya Milosavljevic – Integration Team
   Hourie Ipradjian – Integration Team

A full staff plan for 2012 is included in the newsletter

Congratulations!
Rebecca Rundle has returned to Albany Rise as Rebecca Mason after her recent marriage. We wish her loads of happiness for the future.
School Captains and House Captains
We are fortunate to have such wonderful school leaders at Albany Rise. Our Captains for 2012 are:

**School Captains**
Britney & Christian

**Vice Captains**
Kelly & Theodore

House Captains will be announced on Friday at assembly. Badges will be presented to all school leaders at an assembly in the near future. Stay tuned!

**School Assemblies**
Our assembly, which is held each Friday at 3.00pm in the gym, is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students, enjoy presentations and performances and keep up to date with events and news. Parents and extended family members are welcome to come along and join in.

**Student Safety**
It is crucial that we have up to date emergency contact details at all times. Whenever any details change we must be informed. Should an accident occur or if your child is ill we need to be able to contact you. In the event of a serious injury we may need to call an ambulance. It is advisable for all families to have ambulance cover. If we are unable to contact parents, as a first preference, we will call an ambulance.

**School Council Elections**
This process commences next week with nominations being called Monday February 13th. Nominations close at 4 pm on Monday, February 20 and the process will be completed by March 8th. Information for parents is attached to this newsletter and nomination forms may be obtained from the school office. There are four parent member category positions to be filled and one DEECD employee member. I encourage all members of the school community to consider standing for election.

**Student Accident Insurance**
The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

**Term 1 – HATS**
Just a reminder that during Term 1 students are required to wear hats. If you require a new hat they can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Best wishes for a successful year ahead. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you across the school. Please come in and say hello to me when convenient. I appreciate feedback that will assist us to continuously improve our wonderful school.

Have a great week.
Kind regards
Belinda Jones
Principal
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<td>Prep W</td>
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<td>EYLC 3</td>
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<td>1C</td>
<td>Kymberley Redford</td>
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<td>Kerry Marrinon</td>
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<td>Claire Taylor</td>
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<td>Nicole Lee</td>
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<td>Rebecca Kotzur</td>
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<td>Angela Maltezos</td>
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<td>Rick Byron</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>Judy Hoareau</td>
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<td>5H</td>
<td>Lisa Kirton</td>
<td>BER 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Trish Johnston</td>
<td>BER 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6JP</td>
<td>Jane Parry-fielder</td>
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<td>6M</td>
<td>Rebecca Mason</td>
<td>BER 4</td>
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<td>LoTE/ Music</td>
<td>Jenny Lang</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>Melanie Beers</td>
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<td>P.E. / Level 4 Support</td>
<td>Dom McCaffey</td>
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<td>Support</td>
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<td>Levels 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Lyn Danby</td>
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<td>Allison Mastromanno</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Ninette Paolucci</td>
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<td>Jane Adams</td>
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<td>Carol Bjorkman</td>
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<td>Marc Alexander</td>
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<td>Paul Cookson</td>
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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is a prerequisite for improved participation and educational outcomes, and is the responsibility of everyone in the school and wider community.

We know that students with irregular and poor attendance often struggle at school and the value they receive from their education is greatly diminished as a result. This includes students who regularly arrive late at school. Being late for school not only disrupts the learning of the student who is late, but can also disrupt the learning of other students in the class. Being at school on time allows the child a smooth transition into their school day.

What follows is a series of questions frequently asked by parents regarding attendance. Please consider these and ensure your child has regular and high levels of attendance.

What is my responsibility as a parent/caregiver?

Make sure your child:
- attends school on ALL school days is on time every day

Make sure you:
- provide the school with an explanation if your child is away contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
- arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons

Is regular attendance at school important?

- Yes – from the first day.
- If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulties with their learning.
- Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted.
- Regular learning provides building blocks for the future.
- Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication and a healthy self-esteem.

What can I expect from the school?

- Monitoring of student attendance and review progress on a weekly basis.
- Strategies to help you as a parent encourage your child to go to school.

What help can I get if my child refuses to go to school or is truanting?

The school can offer a range of support options:
- teacher working with the student in a supportive, counselling role
- school student welfare co-ordinator working with the student
- provide a mentor for your child
- home visits to identify the problem and help work it through with parents
- identify reasons why your child doesn't want to go to school
- strategies to help you encourage your child to go to school
- develop an incentive program to encourage your child to attend school
- link with community agencies.

Must I send my child to school every day?

Yes, unless:
- your child is too sick or injured to go to school
- your child has an infectious disease
- the principal is provided with any other genuine and acceptable reason for absence.
Severe Food Allergies

This article is a reminder that we have students at this school with severe allergies to particular foods. One of the most common forms of allergies is to nuts, in particular, peanuts. It can be difficult for parents of students who do not suffer from these allergies to appreciate the implications of these circumstances for parents, teachers and the school.

Sometimes these allergies are so severe that even the smallest residue can induce a life threatening reaction, such as breathing vapours of the nut, being touched by a person who has residue on their hands or being kissed by someone who has eaten nuts. The incidence of severe food allergy seems to be on the increase. Nut products are present in a wide range of foods. Students who suffer from these allergies have to learn from a very young age to be vigilant and disciplined.

Some students attending Albany Rise P.S. are highly allergic to peanuts and nut products and are highly likely to have a severe reaction if touched by a person that has had these products. The consequence of this is that these students will stop breathing if they ingest these foods.

Current research shows that school wide blanket bans on peanuts and other allergy causing foods may backfire and put students with allergies at heightened risk. A compulsory ban on nuts could create some animosity within the school community. Our preferred option, in line with current research, is to educate staff, students and the school community and to discourage students from bringing nut products to school, for example, peanut butter and Nutella. A ‘no nut’ policy could be detrimental to the health and well being of particular students.

We ask you to support the health of these students by not sending peanut products to school in your children’s lunches. If your children have peanut butter for breakfast, please ensure that they wash their hands with soap before coming to school. When sending empty boxes for Art activities exclude any which have contained nut products.

We ask parents and students to be sensitive to the feelings of the students who have this allergic reaction. Please do not make comments about them and their inability to eat foods with nuts. Thoughtless comments such as “I wouldn’t have ….. to my place because I wouldn’t know what to feed him” or “you’re the reason others aren’t supposed to bring peanut butter sandwiches to school” are not only insensitive but can severely damage the child’s self-esteem.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Belinda Jones
PRINCIPAL

ALBANY RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Information Evening for all parents and guardians

Please join us for the following sessions on Wednesday 15th February.

Prep - 6.30pm
1/2 - 6.00pm
3/4 - 7.30pm
5/6 - 8.00pm

Sessions will commence promptly at the specified time.
Dear Parents

The Active After Schools Community (AASC) is starting up once again in 2012. This term we will be running NETBALL on Tuesday and BADMINTON on Wednesday after school from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. The Tuesday afternoon session will be open to children from grades 1 and 2, and the Wednesday afternoon sessions will be open for children in grades 3-6.

The AASC program is free and runs for seven weeks with the Tuesday session starting on 14th of February, and the Wednesday session starting on the 25th of February. The children will receive a light snack before they start their session, and the session will be taken by a qualified coach.

If you would like your child to take part in the AASC program please see Mrs. Wilson at the front office for a permission form. The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions are limited to 25 children on each night, so it is a first in best-dressed policy.

If you have any questions of concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school’s front office, or call the school on (9547 - 1146).

Regards

Dominic McCaffrey

Physical Education

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOL OFFICE

Dear Parents,

We have a few requests from the office to ensure all runs smoothly.

- all excursion payments are to be sent to the classroom teacher through your child.
- Parents to drop all correspondence into postbox beside office door.
- Please ensure an absence note is sent to the teacher if your child is away from school for any reason. The note must have student’s name, date absent, reason for absence and signed by a parent/guardian.
- Please have exact money when making payments to the school as banking is done everyday and we do not keep money on site. Excess payments will be credited off your school account.
- All payments to the school must be placed in a sealed envelope with students name, grade, date and reason for payment clearly marked on the front.

Thank You

Martina and Janine

Prep for Parents

Did your child start Prep this year? Would you like tips on how to support your child in their first year at school? Then subscribe to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s new weekly Prep for Parents email.

You will be sent an email every Wednesday during school term that will include tips, advice and information about the day-to-day experiences children have in the classroom and things you can do at home to assist and encourage your child.

To subscribe to Prep for Parents, see:

STUDENTS OF THE WEEKS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amanda</th>
<th>Prep 1</th>
<th>Julie</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gishaan</td>
<td>1 C</td>
<td>Ranmini</td>
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<td>Ethan D-J</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!
Northvale Junior Football Club will be running after school a free football clinic at Albany Rise Primary School on Thursday the 9th of February 2012. The Clinic will be run by accredited coaches from Northvale. The Clinic will start at 3:45pm on the school oval and finish at 4:45pm. Come along meet our coaches, have some fun and a kick of the football. All age children are welcome. If your child would like to play football this season and you are unable to make it to our clinic Northvale have their registration days for 2012 on February 12th and 19th from 10am – 12pm at Wellington Reserve, Mackie Road, Mulgrave. Our teams at Northvale range from U9’s to U16’s as well as Auskick on a Saturday morning. We are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces.

Wellington Tennis Club

OPEN DAY

Sunday, 19th February, 2012
10.30 am - 2.30 pm

FREE coaching
FREE sausage sizzle 12 pm – 2 pm
Discount Membership on the day!

Radar machine to test your serving speed!!
No racquet - no problem!
New players most welcome - all ages

More Info: Andrew Cosham 0419 525 875
Albany Rise Primary School

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

WEDNESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY

Come along and learn about class routines, programs, events and expectations.

Prep—6.30pm
1/2—7.00pm
3/4—7.30pm
5/6—8.00pm

Venue: Function room at the East end of main building.
Sessions will commence promptly at the specified time.
Transform a Child’s Life.
Become a foster carer.

The innovative care and support services provided by Life Without Barriers deliver meaningful outcomes for children, young people, families and communities, promoting rights and valuing relationships.

We are currently seeking compassionate people willing to share their home with children and young people that require their support and care. Carers can be single, living with a partner or have their own children.

To assist you to enhance a child’s quality of life, we offer excellent training, 24-hour support and financial reimbursement.

You need to be able to provide a nurturing home environment and whilst previous experience is highly regarded, it’s not essential. In becoming a carer you undertake a full carer assessment process and engage in ongoing learning and development activities.

For more information about this challenging and rewarding opportunity contact us on:

(03) 5990 3200

www.lwb.org.au
Albany Rise Primary School

PARENT
INFORMATION
EVENING
WEDNESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY

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