

# **The 'ALPS' program.**

Applied Learning ProgramS (ALPS) is an integrated cross-curricular program of teaching and learning for students in Years 7 and 8 in 2009, with expansion planned into Years 9 and 10 in 2010.

The program will operate in Terms 1, 2 and 4 with the SMGS Snowsports Program operating in Term 3.

## **Years 7 & 8**

The program in Years 7/8 is delivered through integrated modules of teaching/learning strategies, focused on particular themes and achieving outcomes from a variety of subject areas.

ALPS activities will take place each Wednesday with no set timetable from 8:55am to 1:25pm. Activities can be based at school or go off-site. The emphasis is on hands-on activities involving students doing rather than just listening. From time to time there will also be full day activities programmed.

There are 4 themes to be covered throughout the 3 terms – Water, Sustainable Systems, Renewable Energy and Community. A brief explanation of each is included below:

### **Water**

- Catchment characteristics
- Water cycle
- Catchment and water quality
- Water flow and velocity
- Power of water

### **Sustainable Systems**

Students are asked to plan, document and operate a working business. This business is focused on the production of marketable food items grown within our own no-dig garden. Over the course of the unit students are required to complete a business plan that will outline how they aim to achieve the running of a successful business. They keep a log showing the amount that each activity costs the group (capital) and then compare it to the amount of money they can take from the business (profit).

### **Renewable Energy**

This theme directs students toward understanding and designing renewable energy systems for use within the school, the community and beyond. Renewable Energy is a focal part of our future.

Key concepts include:

- What is renewable energy?
- Why should we conserve energy?
- How can we make a difference?
- Investigation of systems that incorporate renewable energy

## Community

- Aboriginal Heritage in the Monaro: Importance of the Bogong Moth
- Community Ceremonies, Rituals and Cultural Practices
- SMGS Celebration of Community
- Monaro Multiculturalism – Influence of the Snowy Scheme

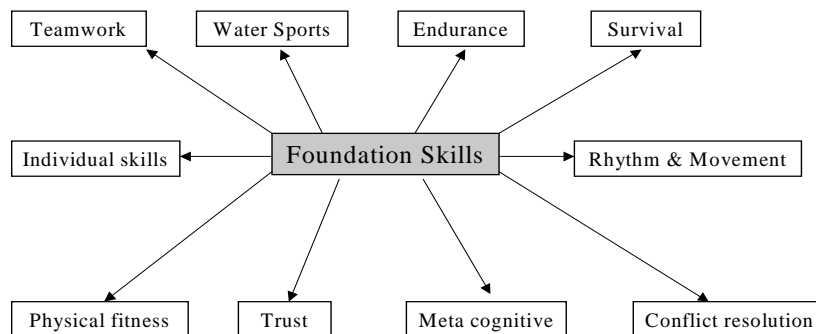
## **Year 9**

In Year 9, students will choose an area of interest (usually) from within one of the themes and develop it further into an extended piece of study. This will replace the 'Tutor task', but will retain the aim of encouraging students to work independently, guided by a mentor, to produce an outcome that is intellectually challenging and personally rewarding

## **Year 7-9 Sport and outdoor skills option**

On Wednesday afternoons, students in Years 7-9 will undertake a program designed to ensure that they gain foundation skills in all the main elements of sport and outdoor pursuits. However, where students have already committed to pursuing the development of high-level skills in one of the specialist options that SMGS offers, they will be able to continue with that program for the majority of Wednesday afternoons.

A sport/outdoor skills structure for Years 7-9



## **Year 10**

Year 10 students, will embark upon a skills-based program in order to prepare them for the world that awaits them. As well as providing courses in life skills, we want the students to gain some understanding of the further education and career opportunities open to them when they leave school. With this in mind, the ALPS program provides the following opportunities in an integrated program for students:

1. an 'employer in-house' program, where on about 8 Wednesdays during the year, 1 or 2 students spend a day with a business organisation (such as SRSC,

- NPWS, a local farm etc.), gaining some understanding of the scope and challenges within that industry;
2. study skills days to provide the students with more effective study habits in their lead up to the School Certificate and Senior School studies;
  3. 3 University days, organised in association with Canberra University, to give the students greater understanding of the opportunities available to them in tertiary study;
  4. pursuit of a specialist choice, such as aviation, equestrian studies or outdoor leadership, which will provide the students with certification that will be of value to them in their careers after school;
  5. work experience, where students spend up to two weeks working with an employer within their area of interest
  6. a business week, where local businesses join together to provide the students with the opportunity to discuss in workshops, the various challenges presented by various sectors of industry.
  7. careers counselling day opportunities

Through this program it is hoped that the barriers created by our geographical isolation can be removed, giving students a much wider perspective of the opportunities available to them.

## Summary

ALPS will deliver an even more meaningful learning experience for students in Years 7-9, with the potential for improved results across all KLA's. 'ALPS' will provide:

- An integrated learning environment, where students use the local natural and cultural heritage to learn by doing and experiencing;
- The opportunity to make an extended study of a particular area of interest;
- The opportunity to follow a specialist field of study, such as aviation, equestrian or outdoor leadership;
- The opportunity to experience a range of future post-school options, enabling students to make more balanced choices when leaving school;
- The opportunity for students to grow as responsible and confident people through learning experiences outside the classroom.