



## Newsletter

Term 3 Week 3

Date 29 July 2013

### Principal Report

Welcome to our first newsletter for term 3. Last term finished with a world-wide of wonderful events including our achievers assemblies and excursions, semester 1 reports and parent teacher meetings and our NAIDOC celebration. We take some time in this newsletter edition to recap some of these achievements.

### His Brilliant Career

After 44 years of teaching and leading Mathematics in NSW public schools Mr Allan Medway, our Head Teacher of Mathematics, retired last week. In a school assembly his students honoured his contribution to their learning with speeches, presents, song and a special mathematics question which pitted Mr Medway against our 2 best Maths students. Fittingly the teacher won the maths challenge. Well done Mr Medway on winning the maths challenge and on your outstanding career.

### More accolades about APCS

It is a one of the great privileges of being the Principal of our school as I am the frequent recipient of communications about our students, staff and programs. Late last term we hosted a senior researcher from the University of NSW who spent a number of days at APCS and undertook some extensive interviews with our students in years 7, 8 and 9. The following is an email communication from Doctor Jung.

*Dear Diane*

*I am just writing a note to thank you for the wonderful experience I had at Alexandria Park Community School this week.*

*The students I had the pleasure of speaking to on Monday, Tuesday and today were some of the most delightful, intelligent and mature that I have ever come across. I have no doubt that these students are the beneficiaries of the very strong learning environment that has been created at your school.*

*I would also like to express my gratitude to the many members of the professional and committed staff at the school who went out of their way to support me during the week, despite their busy schedules.*

*I would very much like to come back to your school in the near future.*

*Jae Yup Jared Jung, PhD*

*Senior Lecturer, School of Education, The University of New South Wales*

### Welcome to our new teachers Ms Thorn and Ms Coles

Julia Thorn is our new TAS teacher. She has taught previously at Bankstown Senior College for 10 years, mainly in Information Technology and Computer Applications. Prior to that, she worked in a variety of jobs related to the printing and graphic industry. She has worked in the UK for the Royal Festival Hall and Selfridges where she designed promotional posters and information. This was the day BC (Before Computers), so she has been on a technology learning curve throughout her career.

At APCS she will be teaching Industrial Technology/Multimedia, Information Software and Technology and Photography, so her past design experience will be of great value to our students. I know that Ms Thorn is really looking forward to leading creative technology rich projects which will challenge and engage her students.

Ms Coles is current replacing Ms Bromfield who has gone onto maternity leave. Ms Coles has a Bachelor of Primary Education. She has most recently taught year 1 at Melrose Park Public School. Most recently she has been relieving for teachers at APCS from Kindergarten to year 7 classes. As of this week she is now the teacher of KB. She has told me that she is excited and happy to be at APCS looking forward to exploring lots of new activities and ideas with her students in KB.

### Preparing for the implementation of new curriculum incorporating the Australian curriculum

Our teachers have been focussing their professional learning on collaborating in cluster and faculty teams to review current curriculum

programs and plan for the implementation of the new Australian curriculum for 2014. The new curriculum to be introduced in K - 6 is English. In years 7 & 9 it is English, Mathematics, Science and History. Teachers have been working with the support materials provided by the NSW Board of Studies and also the NSW DEC on line professional learning courses. This work will continue over a number of years as curriculum across the key learning areas are released for implementation. For more information please visit this BOS link

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/australian-curriculum/>

### **Kindergarten Orientation**

It is very exciting time at APCS as we welcome our future Kindergarten students and their parents via the Kindergarten transition program. Led by Ms Davey and Ms Fletcher, this program support our students on their transition to 'big school', orientating them to our learning spaces, staff and other students. What a wonderful program!

### **HSC Trials**

My thoughts are with our year 12 students in term 3 as they are immersed in their preparations for their HSC Trial examinations in week 6. Year 12 need to develop a study plan and then follow that plan. Teachers are available to support year 12 students with extra help at lunchtimes or at the homework centre on Thursday afternoons

### **Student details and medical forms**

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our student details and medical records to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's contact information and health. If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms and you will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do. The new forms will help us collect your child's important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we'll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child. We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call the school to speak with your child's teacher or year advisor.

### **Attendance & Punctuality to School**

All children between the ages of six and seventeen years are required to attend school regularly. Positive student learning outcomes occur within a stable learning environment.

At Alexandria Park Community School, we aim to improve student attendance, minimise lateness and truancy in order to improve student achievements and outcomes, thus ensuring success in post scholastic life.

Starting in Term 3, roll marking will take place for Years K-4 at 9am and Years 5-12 at 8.50am. If a student is not present at school, an SMS will be sent to parents/caregivers by 9.45am. This new procedure will allow parents/caregivers to be notified as early as possible that their child is not present at school. If a student arrives late to school they are to sign in at the front office and will receive a Late Slip and marked as present at school. The Late Slip is handed to the class teacher.

### **NAIDOC Celebration**

Thank you to all families and community members who attended our NAIDOC celebration last term, we were honoured to have you! It was such a huge success and we were so proud to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. Student MCs Emily Turner and Aaron Simpson ran the proceedings with aplomb, and our very own dance troupe, 'the deadly boys' led by Brendon Kerin brought the house down.

Junior flute and vocal ensembles brought tears to the eye with 'Inanay' and 'Our Home is Our Land' by Lou Bennett and 'Welcome to All People' by Ruby Hunter. The Alex Park Sapphires were a hit with traditional Yorta Yorta song 'Ngarra Burra Ferra'. The senior band show-stopped Yothi Yindi's song 'Written on a Bark' about the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, and rocked the house with weather-appropriate 'Sunshine in a Rainy Day' by Christine Anu.

Thanks go to Aunty Deb Daley, Hilton Donovan, Teresa French and Mrs Faridul Mishra for making our celebration and luncheon such a success!







## K-4 Achievers

The K-4 Achievers' Assembly in Term Two was a celebration which was attended by many parents. Students, who had achieved fifty deadlies in Semester One, were presented with a certificate by Ms Fetherston.

These students were rewarded by an excursion to Sydney Park. The day was excellent with all students and staff enjoying themselves immensely.

Donna Davey  
K-4 Year Advisor



## Middle School Achievers Excursion

We celebrated the achievements of Middle School students during our excursion to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and were very proud to invite a total of fifteen students who achieved at least 50 Deadly Awards.

All students are commended for their exemplary behaviour during their visit to the Gallery, which included viewing many exhibits such as the Contemporary, Australian, and Asian galleries, as well as the photography of Aboriginal artist, Brenda L Croft. For many, this was the first time that they had visited an art gallery, and it was fantastic to see all students engaged in the artworks!

We encourage all Middle School students to continue their high achievement in anticipation of our upcoming Achievers Excursion in Term 4.

## Going Wild & Silly for a Great Cause

As part of our commitment to our community and our dedication to working together, this year Alexandria Park hosted a spectacularly

successful Red Nose Day fundraising event. Orchestrated by the Junior SRC - who were keen to raise awareness for SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) as well as money for this important cause - the students and staff at Alex Park looked outstanding on the day dressed all in red complete with big bright red noses!

Overall, Alex Park raised over eight hundred dollars to donate to the research of SIDS. All students got behind this great cause by purchasing cake and all manner of Red Nose Day merchandise. The Red Nose Day fluffy toys were a particular favourite and the boxes of edible red noses were a hit with students and teachers alike.

A huge thanks to all the staff and students at Alex Park for making Red Nose Day such a spectacular success. It was such a great day that we are hoping to make it an annual fundraising event.

See you next Red Nose Day when we can go wild and silly all over again to support a great cause.

## P&C Reminder

Please come along if you can to our next meeting on: Wednesday 31st July - Junior Campus Staff room 6.30pm start.

Our meetings are very informal, friendly and no pressure to do anything.

Kids are welcome to attend - if you need to leave at a certain time please feel free to do so.

Just come along, meet other parents/carers and be informed on what is happening in and around our fabulous school.

APCS P&C

## News from the library

Some students still have overdue library books from Term 2. If you have received an **overdue notice from APCS school library** during final 2 weeks of June in Term 2, please **either** help your child find & return the books **or** pay the contribution fees indicated in the letter to the school office.

Australian **Children's book week** is in August Term 3. APCS library will hold a **Great Book Swap** activity in first week of September in order to celebrate this occasion. This activity allows students to choose & keep a second hand book for a gold coin (\$1 or \$2) donation. All money raised will be sent to Indigenous Literacy Foundation assisting children from remote areas of Australia accessing reading. So if you have

treasured children's books that you wish to donate to APCS library, please let your child bring them to their teachers at school during **1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of August** so that we can prepare for the great book swap activity in September.

### Term 3 Sports Year 3-6

PSSA sport for Years 3 – 6 has already begun this term. Well done to all those students that took to their prospective fields and courts to represent our school. Students in Term 3 are continuing in their chosen sports of Tennis and Basketball, Oztag, Netball or Soccer. A big thank you to everyone that has already payed their \$28 sport fees for the term. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible. This money is very important in ensuring that we can organise transport to sport, order equipment and provide an extensive range of sporting experiences. Good luck for the rest of term. Play hard and fair. Go Alex Park!!

Amanda McLeod  
Sports Co-ordinator

### YEAR 8 AND 10 SUBJECT SELECTIONS FOR 2014

Years 8 and 10 students are in the process of choosing subject/course selections for 2014 this term. Information booklets have been distributed to students. Parents/caregivers of Year 10 students attended an information evening on Wednesday 24 July 2013 to discuss the NSW Higher School Certificate rules.

Years 8 and 10 students will be counselled extensively and given the opportunity to discuss subject choices with their classroom teachers and the Careers Adviser.

It is important that parents encourage their child to make decisions about subject choices based on:

- student ability
- interests/ motivations
- career aspirations
- academic results achieved in half yearly reports
- advice from subject teachers and careers adviser

Years 8 and 10 students must return their subject choices for 2014 by Thursday 1 August 2013.

If you require more information about subject choices for 2014, please contact Ms Betar

(Careers Adviser) to discuss this matter further or download the Subject Guide 2014 from our school website [www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Ms N Jamal

Relieving Deputy Principal – Mitchell Road Campus

### MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK!

Have a go at answering this week's Problem of the Week for your chance to win! All solutions are to be emailed to Miss Taranto at [joanne.taranto3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:joanne.taranto3@det.nsw.edu.au) with your name and class. The first correct answer will be awarded 5 deadly stamps (yes 5!). Additionally, the winner will be published in the next edition of this newsletter.

#### Kindergarten – Year 4: Problem 1

Carlos was at a picnic. He saw some ants crawling on a hot dog bun. A minute later 4 more ants came, and there were 11 ants on the bun. How many ants did Carlos see before the 4 ants came?

#### Year 5 – Year 12: Problem 1

Anita, Cheri, Miguel, and Jake went bowling one night. For fun, they decided to play girls against the boys, with the highest total score for each team winning.

Anita scored 18 less than Miguel. Cheri's score was 16 less than twice Anita's. Cheri outscored Jake by 21.

If the total scored by all four kids was 529, what was the final score of the match?

### After School Sports Term 3

This is a school program to improve student fitness, coordination and movement skills through play base activities. They may or may not be focused around 1 particular sport or through various games and sports. Students are given an afternoon snack before participating in activities. Parents are required to pick student++ts up at 4pm when it finishes.

### 2013 TERM DATES

#### Term 3

Students' return Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Students' last day Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

#### Term 4

Students' return Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Students' last day Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

