



Newsletter

Term 3 Week 10

Date 16 September 2013

School Calendar

Monday 16th - Year 11 Transition Jnr Hall

Tuesday 17th – 18th

Peer Support Leadership Training Yr 10

Wednesday 18th –

South Cares Health Yrs 11 & 12

Thursday 19th – Year 12 Graduation 12pm

Friday 20th – 100% Attenders pizza lunch,

Term 3 Ends

Term 4 Starts - Students return Tuesday 8th October

PRINCIPAL REPORT

And the Winner is.....Alexandria Park Community School.

It is with excitement and pride I can announce that our great school, Alexandria Park Community School, is the recipient of a 2013 Director General's Award for our project 'Improving Student Learning Outcomes – From Support to Success'.

This is a very prestigious award, and one that is most deserving, to recognise the outstanding improvements in student learning and achievement that have been evidenced over the past 4 years. Such success can be attributed to the increased capacity of our teaching and support staff to work collaboratively, to plan and implement innovative and student focused programs and initiatives which target specific learning needs of our students. Credit must also go to the previous leadership of the school, in particular Mr Robert Bruce, and the Learning Success teachers, Ms Laura Medway and Ms Rochelle Foley, for ensuring that the priorities drove the programs and initiatives resulted in achieving learning targets set. This is a timely honour for our school community, as we are in November celebrating our 10th year of delivering high quality Kindergarten to year 12 education at APCS. Congratulations Alexandria Park Community School.

Farewell Year 12 and we wish you every success

The end of Term 3 is one characterised by mixed emotions. Farewelling our 2013 Year 12 cohort and continuing to support and motivate each student in preparation for their final examinations in October makes staff feel both proud but also somewhat sad to be saying goodbye to a wonderful Year group. I am looking forward to year 12 graduation this week, an important ceremony where the school honours Year 12, recognising their achievement of completing year 12 and attaining their Higher School Certificate. I look forward to seeing many of the student's families at this assembly. For many year 12 students it is a time of excitement, wonder and anxiety – leaving school after 12 years, making a new start, with new opportunities and challenges. At the same time our Year 12 students have to continue to work diligently on revision and examination preparation so they can be well-prepared for their final HSC exams. I have reviewed all HSC marks and read all year 12 reports and I encourage each student to take the advice of their teachers expressed in the comments section. I also advise that year 12 students have met with Ms Betar, our careers advisor, and have worked with her on their exit plans, so that all students have considered their post school pathways and have a number of options to pursue in 2014. I look forward to being able to share some outstanding 2013 HSC results with our school community in December.

Election Day P & C BBQ cake stall and raffle fundraiser a great success.

Much thanks to our dedicated, hardworking P & C, under the leadership of our president Leanne Seddon, for coordinating this fundraising activity. It was great to see so many of our students who came to help on the day wearing their school uniforms, selling raffle tickets, cakes and helping to serve at the BBQ. And a number of our staff

came throughout the day to offer their help at the BBQ and to recognise and support their students. Many more parents and staff took time to make cakes, muffins and cookies which they donated to the cake stall and which were much sort after goodies by visitors to the school. Thanks must go too for those businesses and parents who donated goods for the raffle. All in all a great success...not only as a fundraiser for our school but also as a way for parents, students and staff to meet and establish positive relationships whilst supporting our school. I encourage more parents to become active with our P & C body who meet on the last Wednesday of each month.



A very special thank you to all who donated prizes to the raffle, yummy cakes to the cake stall and those who helped cook the sausage sizzle on election day. The effort raised \$1400 for the school.

Anaphylaxis and Asthma

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction to certain foods such as nuts or shellfish or to insect bites. You must let your child's teacher or year advisor know if your child is allergic to foods or is at risk of anaphylaxis.

We ask members of the school community not to bring nuts and nut products to school eg nut bars, peanut butter, cookies/muffins with nuts etc.

Changes in temperature and the current high levels of pollen can trigger an asthma attack. Please make sure that your child has their asthma puffer with them at all times and are adhering to their asthma prevention strategies. If your child

has asthma you must let your class teacher or year advisor know.

2013 NAPLAN results

The NAPLAN student reports for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were due to be posted home to families from schools this week. Unfortunately this date will have to be delayed as we have been informed that there was some errors in some of the data. This will be corrected and the revised date for the reports is possibly October 13.

ROYA Night

On Thursday 5th September 2013, Andrea Da Silva in 11A went to the ROYA (Recognition of Youth Awards) night at Blacktown Workers Club, hosted by Rotary. This award night was to acknowledge school-aged people who have volunteered their spare time to give something back to community. Andrea received a certificate of recognition for all her hours of volunteering outside of school.



Kindergarten Orientation

The first Kindergarten Orientation and Parent Information session was held on Thursday 5th September. Over forty five parents and more than twenty 2014 kindergarten students attended. This program displayed the expertise and dedication of the Alexandria Park Community staff and how the enthusiastic P and C members support the school. A huge thank you to all involved with positive feedback being given by those who attended.

I look forward to the next Kindergarten

Orientation and Parent Information session which will be held on Thursday 7th November.

Donna Davey (Transition to School Coordinator)

Yarn Up Success

On 30th August, six students from Stage 3 (Aaron Harkins, Elizabeth Cox, Sebastian Wooldridge, Emma Comminos, Nayleen Ballard, Trinity Dixon) proudly represented our school at the 2013 "Yarn Up" public speaking event. Yarn Up is a program which involves Stage 3 Aboriginal students. It aims to encourage them to participate actively in Public Speaking. Students attended several workshops throughout the term which helped them perfect their speaking skills. The final showcase was held at N.S.W Parliament House. Students presented a short speech to their peers, teachers, principals and family members on a range of topics including; "The Indigenous All Stars Rugby League Team", "Honesty is the best policy" and "Wyndradyne". Emma Comminos received third place for her impromptu speech, and Sebastian Wooldridge received a highly commended for his impromptu speech. All students from A.P.C.S confidently presented interesting and well-written speeches. It was a pleasure to see the skills these students had developed, and their courage and determination to speak in front of an audience of around one hundred people. Aaron, Emma, Nayleen, Trinity, Sebastian and Elizabeth are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Miss T. Wilson



APCS vs. ROTARACTS DEBATE

School Website (by William Makarytchev)

On the night of Thursday the 19th of September, a fundraiser will be held by the Interact Club of Alexandria Park Community School. Rotaract members will be challenging and competing against our seasoned team for a night of thrill!

The event will be held at the Junior Campus Hall. Food, snacks and refreshments will be available on the night! Everyone is invited! Entry is a gold coin donation and the event begins at 6pm.

YEAR 11 VET BUSINESS SERVICES BUSINESS INDUSTRY WORKPLACEMENT

Students in Year 11 VET Business Services undertook the mandatory 35 hours of work placement as part of their studies in Week 7, Term 3. Structured work placements provide opportunities for students to gain valuable learning experiences in the workplace while still at school.

Jesse McCubbin, Molly Harrington, Ana Latu, Virginia Latu and Yhanalea Lakua gained valuable business experience with a variety of organisations in our local area. This included the Public Service Association of NSW, LJ Hooker Real Estate, South Sydney Graphics Arts Club and the Aboriginal Health College.



(Photo: Jesse McCubbin at the Aboriginal Health College – Year 11 VET Business Services student)

Ms Jamal, Head Teacher HSIE/ Business Services teacher

School Banking “Catch Up” day Friday 20th Sept only

Haven't joined APCS latest banking craze yet?
Forgot to bring your bankbook in on 1,2 or 3
Fridays?

Then here is your chance to come on board and
start saving and “catch up” with tokens.

Have you forgot to bring your book one or more
weeks?

All you need to do is come along with your
deposit and you will receive the “catch up” tokens
so you are caught up to everyone else so you too
get your 10 token prize along with everyone else.

Haven't started the bank account yet?

Please bring along the child's (and siblings if you
want) birth certificate/s to the P&C room
(opposite Ms Myers office) on Friday between
8.30 and 9.15am and we will sign you up on the
spot – this will allow you to be caught up with
everyone else with allocated tokens.

Will also need to copy photo id to present to the
bank.

Have a Commonwealth account already?

Simply bring your Dollarmite account to us and
we will process and allocate a student number so
you can just use APCS school banking. You can
also join online with Netbank.

**DON'T MISS THIS FIRST AND LAST “CATCH
UP” FRIDAY 20th**

If you have any questions at all please email
apcspandc@gmail.com and we will reply with an
answer.

Commonwealth Bank joining forms can be
collected by your child from the front office if you
do not have the banking forms that were sent
home already.

This is a great way to start your child saving
regularly and a minimum banking amount of 50
cents to bank each Friday at school!

Dress For Success

On Tuesday 9th September I took a couple of
Year 11 girls along to a workshop at a place
called “Dress For Success”. This is a not for
profit organisation devoted to styling women and
giving advice and instruction about interviews
and general presentation skills. The girls learned
a lot about their bodies and what does and
doesn't look good and what is and isn't
appropriate for an interview. The best part of the
day, however, without a doubt, was when the
stylists took our girls and fitted them out with a
whole outfit from shoes to accessories!

Careers Adviser – Trish Betar

Poetry in the Park!

This term, Stage 3 students have been learning all
about poetry. We have studied some famous
poets and we have looked at the techniques
authors use to create a good poem. Here are
some poems 5W students wrote about Alexandria
Park. We hope you like them!

Tractor

The strong mobile beast
Tearing at the grass
Ripping at its flesh
Ripping the roots of life
Turning them into mesh
Big orange destructor beast
Turning revving yearning
Completely unaware
Oil burning gas churning.

By Kailie Giitsidis 5W

Alexandria Park

Soft grass everywhere I look,
Dead leaves, one of which I took,
Pages turning from a relaxing read,
Birds around, munching up some seed,
Flies gathering around dog do-do,
Mums with their babies playing peek-a-boo,
Dogs and their owners playing catch,
They have a lead and a collar to match.

Emma Comninos

The Dogs of Alexandria Park

Moving rapidly across the park,
Zipping past like a shark,
Roaming and protecting,
Where tractors come and go,
It is safe to say that they will stay for another day
or so,

The dogs of Alexandria Park.

By Anson Ge 5W

The Tree

The rough, ringed, notched bark
The gaping, gapped formations on the trunk
The first thick branches, reaching up like arms
outstretched
The thin, vinelike roots running from unlikely
places, hugging the tree
The thinner, longer branches like a child's finger
reaching up to its mother
And the leaves, bursting from threads of timber,
Wreathing the top like the most beautiful of
crowns,

Embracing the sky like lovers long parted
Oh, lady tree!
Most elegant of queens,
The humblest of giants,
The kindest of the oldest,
And the glory of the park.
By Grace Carey 5W

Farewell and thank you Ms Synnott

Ms Synnott, teacher of class 5S, will be leaving the school at the end of this term, to take up full time study. Ms Synnott, in her time at the school, has contributed a great deal. She has provided a rich and challenging learning environment for the students she has taught in 2012 and 2013, as well as supporting the supporting the students socially and emotionally. Ms Synnott has contributed fully to the life of APCS most notable as our junior school SRC coordinator. She is a most valued staff member and we wish her every success. We do welcome to APCS Ms. Marcella Wilkinson, who will teach 6S for Term Four. Ms Wilkinson has been teaching a range of classes, including Opportunity Classes at Summer Hill Public School.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND.

Earlier in the year Stage 5 students took part in a Science Skills day at UTS. Activities on the day included

- analysing a mock murder scene, then learning new forensic skills to build a profile of the attacker / attackers
- determining whether different fish species were meat lovers or vegetarian by dissecting different species and examining their digestive tracts
- taking a close up look at some microorganisms in the lab.

The lab work was especially fun – my old lecturer, Mr James, was somewhat chuffed to find that almost 20 years after I was a student of his, today I am teaching valuable skills to the next generation.

Meeting Mr James once again was great. In addition to our initial pleasantries, he was also generous enough to donate some quality lenses

for the microscopes at our school, and we thank him for it.



This is a mannequin, not a cadaver!



Mr James looks the same 20 years later!



It's amazing what you can discover if you cut open a dead fish!

Sydney East regional Basketball U15 Boys Basketball

After Heathcote withdrew from the competition after hearing about the skill of our Under 15 boys team, we were drawn for a tough game against Endeavour Sports High School. After two disappointing losses to Newtown in our friendly matches earlier in the year the boys weren't confident, individually they knew they had skill but it was whether they could play as a team that would determine the result. The boys were intimidated further after arriving and seeing the facilities that Endeavour had at their disposal. After a quick change, tactical talk from me and a quick pep talk from our team manager, Uncle Hilton, the game was underway. The boys started slowly, giving up an early 8-0 lead to Endeavour inside the first 5 minutes, but the last 15 minutes belonged to us. The passing skill of Kieren Mundine and the height and defensive ability of Chapman Cheung and Amit Maharraset up a 21-20 halftime lead. The second half looked like it was going to start like the first with 4 early points, but the boys settled down with some tricky shooting from Aaron Simpson and Zeke Phillips. The speed and hustle of Mustavi Ali helped the boys set up a 3 point lead with five minutes to go. Unfortunately this is where the one man bench came back to hurt the boys. The opposition started to hit a few shots and combined with our boy's tiredness, Endeavour clinched the match by 5 points. The boys were disappointed; however, it proved to them that if they want to train hard, they can compete with the top sports schools. I'd also like to point out that Endeavour is a school of over one thousand students, many of whom get chosen for the school based on their ability. Our boys showed on the day that this means very little when 5 quality players play as a team.

U15 Girls Basketball

You may remember from earlier newsletters that after victories against Tempe and Caringbah, our girls under 15 team were headed to central venue to play our region's top teams. After arriving full of confidence the girls were drawn to play defending regional champions and state runners up in 2012, Woollooware High. After our traditional slow start, the girls showed Woollooware how much they had improved since last year. After setting

up a 15 point lead with 3 minutes to go, we gave our starters a rest and eventually won by 10. The entire Woollooware contingent was visibly shocked by the result. The girls had a short 45 minute break before our game against Heathcote. Heathcote were a tough team led by a talented centre who was initially too tall and skilful for our girls to stop. We kept pace with them with good offense from Saysha Cummins, Serika Shillingsworth and Meiya Folwell before we released our secret weapon to upset their team leader. Eri Kawada's defence disrupted the top players on each team we played over the course of the day, but it was most important against Heathcote, who ended up second in our pool. A 3 point victory gave us winning results against the two highest ranked teams and cemented our spot in the semi-finals. Our final pool game against Rose Bay allowed our starters to rest for the semi-finals and let our bench players show what they can do. We showed that we have great depth in our team with a 42-32 victory. As top of our pool we faced the second placed team in pool B, Menai. The Menai girls team were tall, their shortest player being the same height as our tallest player. Luckily height doesn't beat skill and will to win in basketball. Our traditional slow start and some lethargy from playing four games in five hours, had us down early, but some quick play from Saysha and Serika led us to a one point deficit at half time. The second half was a tight contest with the teams trading baskets, the highlight being Meiya Folwell's shooting and Matilda's defence. This was the point where our sleeping giant woke up. 40 seconds on the clock, down by one. The Menai defence was watching Serika, Saysha and Meiya very closely, forcing them to take outside shots. Luckily for us they hadn't noticed Saraih had awoken from her slumber. After a big rebound over a girl far taller than her, Saraih showed a spin move that she had been working on with coaching consultant Terry Denzil and hit a lay-up that would seal our victory and lead us to the state tournament in November. After a heart stopping final 30 seconds where we were saved by a timely steal from Saysha, the game was over.

After conversations with Endeavour Sports High we decided to not play a final but rather rely on some fancy maths work from the zone convenor to see who won. After everything had been checked and double checked Alexandria

Park Community School was declared the **Sydney East Regional Champions!** It was a great result that reflected the effort of all 11 players. The girls and I would like to thank coaching consultant Terry Denzil, as well as team manager, Uncle Hilton.

Term 3 Sport

Our sporting program during Term three was the most pleasing in recent memory at Alexandria Park, with our students thoroughly engaged in the various sporting activities offered. The group visiting Fitness First particularly enjoyed their voyage into the Yoga world, creating a Zen like quality in the students' who have experienced the wonderful program they provide. However, the highlight was definitely our Basketball program which saw our Year 7/8 Grade teams taking out the Eastern Suburbs Zone championship and our U/15 Girls team progressing through to the State finals, which will be held in Terrigal in early November. We wish the girls' good luck in the tournament and look forward to the continued success of both our Basketball program and our sport program as a whole.

Term 4 sport options:

Swimming NCIE, Tennis Coaching,
Ten Pin Bowling, Social Basketball,
Basketball Training, Table Tennis, Fitness First,
Social Soccer, Ten Pin Bowling, Touch
Football, Contemporary Dance

Mr Bowman Sports Teacher

Legacy Badge week

It was an excitedly anticipated day when 15 year 9 and 10 students from Alexandria Park including myself, volunteered to sell Legacy merchandise for this year's Legacy week. The money raised contributes to 25% of Legacy's annual funding. We were put in pairs and were dispersed at 9am, Sheetal Singh and I partnered up and set off to Martin Place station where we met our best supporter, Mr Charlie Lynn, who purchased \$150 worth of Legacy merchandise. Little did we know that we'd meet Mr Lynn again, only by that time he'd properly introduce himself as a Legateer and also the senior executive Liberal minister for Veteran affairs in the NSW Parliament house. We met him again on Macquarie Street, where we thanked him for his generous support. He then offered to take us on

a tour around the Parliament house, where we were shown parts of the building which were restricted from public visitors. We also personally met the Premier Mr Barry O'Farrell whom we personally invited to Alexandria Park's 10 year anniversary. It was an incredibly stupendous day, Alex Park were congratulated by Legacy for being the best group of volunteers of the day.

Jennifer Vo (10X)

The School Band

Being in the school band is the most wonderful experience at student in Alexandria Park Community School. It is my favourite time of the week because I could play music all afternoon after tedious lessons which I love and there are a lot of especially cool friends that I love to rock with. You may see us as a small group of people that get together every Tuesday afternoon that makes a lot of music and noise but in the context of it we are like a family. Music creates a strong bond between all of my friends and me. In the band we are all highly involved and there are opportunities for everyone to SHINE.

On the 4th of September the band (Linda Nguyen 12X, David Li 10A, Ebony Nguyen 8A, Alice Clarke 8X and Jainen Mautama 8X) performed to the honourable, Mr. Hoening. He was very delighted with our performance of 'Hall Of Fame' and didn't object to our offer of another song 'Don't Say Lazy'. He declared it was the best high school band that he has ever heard. WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

The next day, we accompanied Linda Nguyen in her music HSC examination. She did tremendously well and both of the examiners gave constant approving nods and even some occasional smiles. She will miss being in the band immensely but she will still come back for the 10 year anniversary, so stay tuned for Linda!!

The Senior School band will be striving to bring out better and stronger performances that our school can both be proud of and enjoy wholeheartedly. Until the next time we see each other on stage; Rock On!

Wendy Sun 8X



Youth Resource Centre

The Come In Youth Resource Centre is a youth resource and counselling service for young people aged 12-25 and their families who live in and move through the inner city and eastern suburbs of Sydney. The Centre provides counseling and specialist support on a wide range of issues. As part of our service we are delivering parenting skills courses aimed at families with teenage children:

Engaging Adolescents

! Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems @ The Come In Youth Resource Centre,

**461-463 Oxford Street, Paddington
Wednesday 8th, Wednesday 15th &
Wednesday 22nd of October 2013
From 6:30 – 8:30pm**

This will be a three-session program aimed at parents and carers, who are interested in developing skills for resolving teenage problem behaviour.

What we cover:

Asking the question – is it serious? What's worth reacting to and what's not.

- How to hold the difficult conversations more successfully.
- Understanding adolescents.
- Understanding your job as a parent of a teenager – observer, advisor, negotiator, director. !

Places are free but limited so contact us quickly to avoid disappointment. To book a place on the course or ask any further questions please call 9331 2691 and ask to speak to Amy.

2013 TERM DATES

Term 3

Students' return Tuesday 16th July

Students' last day Friday 20th September

Term 4

Students' return Tuesday 8th October

Students' last day Wednesday 18th December



**CELEBRATE WITH US! FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
12.00PM-2.30PM**

ASSEMBLY 12.00-1.00PM, FOLLOWED BY A SCHOOL FETE 1.00-2.30PM
ADDRESS ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, JUNIOR CAMPUS
PARK ROAD ALEXANDRIA, 2015

PH: (02) 96981967 (SCHOOL OFFICE)
RSVP FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2013

