Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success in a caring learning environment

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Newsletter

Term 4 Week 3 October 2014

FEATURE STORY

APCS Canteen Open For Business

The Canteen is now open! Every Thursday you can have your canteen made lunch on the Park Rd Campus. Choose from sandwiches, wraps, salads, healthy snacks and a weekly rotating hot item you'll find advertised on the Canteen Blackboard, our Facebook page and on the website. Funds we have raised throughout the year allowed us to purchase a dishwasher, large oven and microwave, along with paint, fabric and other decorative items. We also had a range of items donated by the School Community and a very generous donation of small appliances from the Sunbeam Factory Outlet on Botany Rd in Alexandria. Please drop by and say thanks and check out their range of greatly discounted stock. We couldn't have done this without the huge amount of work done by the Canteen Sub-Committee and their team of volunteer tradies and special thanks to Deb Heggaton-Klenner and Cimone Grayson as the driving force behind the actual canteen operation on a weekly basis.



To keep the canteen viable we also need parents and carers to volunteer to help make orders in the canteen, we are looking for people for 3 hours only on a Thursday (9am -12pm). Even if you can only make it once a term it really helps us to make the canteen sustainable, as it is completely a volunteer operation. Please let us know your availability by emailing apcspandc@gmail.com. Your kids will love to see you at school and it is in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

Please ensure you have your orders in by Tuesday 5pm each week. Orders can be dropped off to the canteen each morning or text your order through and pay before Thursday.

Hot meal items for the coming weeks are:

Thursday 30th October - Lasagne with Garlic Bread

Thursday 6th November - Chicken Strips with Dipping Sauce

Thursday 13th November – Hand Made Pies with Tomato Sauce (courtesy Labancz Patisserie)

Footy Colours Day

Thank you to all the families and students who participated in the Year Six Fundraising Footy Colours Day. It was fantastic to see so many students K-7 wearing their team's colours. There were many Rabbitohs supporters at Footy Colours Day. It must have been a good omen predicting the Souths Grand Final victory!



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Alexandria Park Community School identified as a 'high performing school'

Following from our 2013 Director General's Award for 'Improving Student Learning Outcomes' I was contacted at the end of term 3, by the DEC High Performance Unit to host a visit from high level educational leaders from the Queensland system who want to study high performing schools.

It was a great honour (though no surprise) for Alex Park to be selected as one of the high performing schools in NSW for the delegates to visit and observe. The visitors were met by the school captains and ambassadors and we spoke to the visitors about the history of the school and the transformation journey that the school has been on culminating in our 10 year birthday celebrations in 2013. We shared our NAPLAN data which shows continual improvement in literacy and numeracy and in particular significant growth in student core skills over a number of consecutive years. We toured some of the middle school classes and senior campus classes. We were able to sit in on a Year 10 maths lesson where the class, in groups, were presenting their assessment work. It involved gathering collating presenting and analysing the data about recycling and littering. This work had been undertaken in partnership with our Mathematician in Residence program.

The visit culminated in a wonderful morning tea served by the students who manage the Kickback Café on the senior campus on Tuesdays as part of Programs. During morning tea students talked to the guests about Tuesday afternoon programs and also the leadership program where senior students have been trained as learning support officers and partner with younger children on the Junior Campus to help them learn.

The visiting delegates were highly impressed with our school, the students, staff and programs. They all commented on our inclusive culture, the cultural diversity within our school, and how they got an immediate sense of our culture of togetherness and community.

Richard Huelin, Assistant Regional Director, emailed me and said "Just a brief note of thanks to you and your team for your generosity in hosting us last week. I found the depth of the professional learning community at Alexandria Park to be very impressive, to say the least. It was a pleasure to spend some time in that environment."

Mad Pride Youth Event - Central Park Shopping Centre, Broadway on October 8th 2014

The Waratah group stood proud and strong on the stage and performed their fantastic song 'Shout it Out, Stand Proud' with their heads held high, representing their school, their culture and their community. Sharing the stage with professional artists they did themselves proud and they had everyone in the audience singing along and clapping in support. The Waratah group "owned the stage and the message in their song was perfect for the theme of the event. Basically the girls rocked!! Fantastic performance from Brittney Simpson, Aaliyah Parnell, Tameka Merritt, Shannon Stacey, Diamond Smith & Sarah Riley.



Car Park Safety

Work is being undertaken to improve the safety in the car park on the Junior campus. In consultation with the Community Centre and Wunanbiri Pre-school, we have introduced strategies to minimise the risk of harm to pedestrians and drivers who share this space.

- The speed limit in the car park is 5kms.
- Cars are not allowed to drive past the yellow poles into the school playground
- Pedestrians entering the school from the car park gates must not walk through the car park they must enter into the oval and walk around the play equipment to enter the school
- When travelling between the campuses students staff and parents must use the oval not the car park and the laneway.

Signage will soon be appearing to remind our community of these safety rules.

We have met with engineering and traffic officers from the City of Sydney. We are working with the Council to discuss changes to parking around the school to accommodate the need for drop off and pick up parking during school hours. In this way parents can use the designated parking spaces for school business and not the car park.

I ask for the compliance of all our families in adhering to these safety rules.

POP (Parent Online Payment) IS UP AND RUNNING MAKING PAYMENT EASIER Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting \$ Make a payment

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is

also a category called 'Other', this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, 'Other' can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice. Add a description of the item being paid.

When you access the \$ Make a payment you must enter:

- The student's name, and
- Class and reference number OR
- The student's name, and
- Date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields <u>OR</u> there is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number; these are not used at our school, please leave blank.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed. Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

Did you know that you can make payments to your child's school online?

We have launched a new online payment portal linked to our school's website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

What expenses can be paid online?

- Voluntary School Contributions
- Subject Contributions
- Excursions
- Sport
- Creative and Practical Arts
- Sales to Students
- Other

When?

This payment method is up and running

How?

Log onto School site at www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au Click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

Ms Diane Fetherston Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Learn to Swim Program at NCIE

We went to the pool on Thursday and walked with Ms Micallef, Ms Garay, Sharon, Tamaris and Milena. James met us at the pool. First we did a swimming test and we were put into groups. Next we did different activities with different instructors. Everyone tried their best and we had fun. By KM



How to Make a Volcano!

3/4P, 4/5HT and 5/6S EALD students working with KM 11th September 2014





Ingredients

- 1 large squirt dishwashing detergent
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- 5 drops red food colouring
- 3 cups water

Utensils

- 1 plastic drink bottle
- 1 funnel
- 1 tablespoon
- 1 plastic tub
- 1 large measuring jug

Steps

Using the funnel put the baking soda and detergent into your bottle. Cap your bottle. Bury your bottle in the sand pit, building a volcano shape up around it.









Decorate your volcano with grass, leaves and dinosaurs. Uncap your bottle.







Mix the water, vinegar and food colouring in a jug, carefully pouring the mixture into your volcano.







Watch your volcano erupt!



A New Program - Student Voice (Term 3)

In Term 3 a new program was initiated which was called the Student Voice Program. I had no idea of what it was about so I joined and I was excited to find out the details. Before I joined I wasn't sure what it was and some other students thought it was "The Voice", but only for students, which I found hard to believe, so I went to see for myself. The Student Voice Program's interpretation is the individual and collective perception and action of students within the context of learning and education. In the program, there wasn't anything I found too confusing, but if I did have an issue there was always lots of help. The stuff we had to do was fun activities, discussions, interviews, surveys and collecting data. In the Student Voice Program we learnt how we might make the school better and what students want more of at this school. At one point we studied educational issues which I found interesting and fun. In fact the whole experience was fun for me.

I think this program is important for the school to have so they know what needs to be done in order for us to enjoy school even more. I think student voice holds the answers to developing big changes in our school.

Elliot Anastopoulos

* The Student Voice Program apprentices students as co-researchers and investigates meaningful educational issues. Students looked at the topic "What does it mean to be a part of Alexandria Park Community School? "Community, Opportunity & Success"

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

An ongoing challenge for staff at school is having students take good care of their property. One of our school principles, is *Respect* and we explain to students that taking care of personal property, along with taking responsibility for it, is having self- respect and showing respect to the carers who purchase the items for them. However, items of clothing and other property such as lunch boxes and drink bottles are found on a daily basis around the school. To assist staff to be able to find the owner of lost property, we ask carers to clearly mark all property with the child's name and encourage him/her to take good care of their property by putting it in a safe place if not in use. A reminder also that the school has a "No Hat, No Play" policy and students should be wearing a hat to school every day. Of cause, hats should also be clearly labelled to avoid mix ups.

At present, we have a number of students from local universities doing their practicums at the school. They are proving to be of very high calibre and are most professional. The arrangement works well from both sides - the universities know that students are being placed with teachers whose expertise assist the students in developing their skills, and the students are of great

assistance to teachers in classrooms, particularly at this time of the year when teachers are preparing for report writing and end of year functions. A win-win and great to know that Public Education is in great hands!

Mrs Julie Myers Deputy Principal Park Road Campus

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

A Science Experiment with a Sticky Result

Stage Three are presently engaged in the Science unit "Changes in State". 6W made ice cream to observe the changes that take place from liquid to solid states.

Method: Place ice and salt in a plastic bag (Bag 1). Place milk, sugar, vanilla and chocolate chips in another plastic bag (Bag 2). Seal bag 2 and place it inside bag 1. Shake for five minutes and observe as the combination of ice and salt cause the contents of bag 2 to change from a liquid to a solid state. An instant treat and a learning experience enjoyed by all!

Jo Allouche (relief teacher)













It has been a busy start to the term for all middle school students. All classes are working hard to complete their class programs and teachers are busy creating and marking assessments as we head toward reporting time. Despite this, some students also find the time to compete and succeed in extra-curricular academic activities.

Two such students, Ivan Levkin and Aaron Martano, have been selected as finalists in the Sydney Youth Writing Competition. This year's theme for the competition was 'Drop. Wind. Keep.' Ivan has been recognised for a poem, while Aaron was selected for his short story. There work will be displayed in our middle school area in the coming weeks or you can also check it out when all finalists across Sydney have their works published in the competition's new book, 'Drop. Wind. Keep.' It is an outstanding effort to have two students recognised for their achievement as part of a competition that receives entries from all around Sydney.

Stage 3 English

This term, Stage 3 are learning how different cultures can be represented in texts. In this unit students will be studying books "Mirror" by Jeannie Baker, "Nips 11" by Ruth Starke and :My Girragundji" by Meme McDonald and Boori Pryor.

5/6 S

What is matter? How and why does it change? These are the important scientific questions that Ms Smith and her class are answering this term. With the help of special guest Mr Miller, students are working in the lab with all the science equipment, experimenting to see the changes in various forms of matter. More importantly they are making their own ice cream. I'm looking forward to tasting the finished products and see which flavours are produced.

Middle School Stars

The importance of recognising achievement is an important aspect of our middle school and at our fortnightly assembly we award the Middle School Stars to a member of each class who achieve excellence across all aspects of their schooling. Our latest stars of the week were Justin Nguyen, Arada Thama, Wesley Darmawangsa, Teina Flood, Lawrence Nguyen, Adrian Pasha and Selena Chen. Congratulations to all our stars who have demonstrated their abilities throughout the year.

6W

Stage 3 has been completing a sport program where they have learnt about a range of sports from around the world. Students chose a sport to research, and then had to present a lesson to the class on its origins, rules and the strategies involved. Students then taught their own PE lesson to the class. Some of the games students chose included "Kabadi" which originates from India, "Jianzi" from China and "Whack Bat" which is a game from the Wes Anderson Movie "Fantastic Mr Fox". It was excellent to see the students teaching their lessons with confidence and enthusiasm.

6W are also in the process of completing their film study unit on "March of the Penguins". Students have looked at the features and cinematography of this film, and have examined how documentaries whilst being informative, also have elements of storytelling in them. Students are writing their own dialogue for a 'mini-documentary' on an animal from Antarctica. They will then record their voice speaking the dialogue and match this up with images. It has been fantastic seeing the quality texts students have been composing. We may have some future David Attenboroughs on our hands! *Thea Wilson*





5M

In Science, 5M has been learning all about solids, liquids and gases. They have examined the properties of non-Newtonian fluids (slime) to discover how its consistency can appear to be both liquid and solid. At low stress non-Newtonian fluids can take the shape of a container and can be poured. At high stress the mixture is hard and can break.

YEAR 7

Geographical Musings

This semester, Geography has started with students learning about World Heritage sites around Australia. It has been a surprise for many to find out what sites are and aren't on the list. All students have an assignment due during week 5, with 7X completing an oral task on the 6th of November and 7A and 7L handing in their tourism brochure on the 7th of November.

English

Students also have an assignment due in week 5 for English. Over the past few months students have been reading during DEAR, and at home, as part of their wide reading task. It is now time for tasks to be completed in reference to the novels

MUSIC NEWS

Our big Music event this term is our "Music: Count Us In" concert. This will take place on Thursday October 30th at 12.00 in the Denzil. We would love you to attend!

Music: Count Us In (MCUI) is Australia's biggest school initiative, with more than 500,000 participating students from over 2,100 schools nationwide. Music education has been proven to improve students' literacy, numeracy, school attendance and confidence. Music: Count Us In brings teachers, parents, students and the music industry together in celebration, as more than half a million people unite to sing the same song at the same time, right across the country. To read more about the benefits of Music Education for your child or to listen to the song go to the Music Count Us In website. The concert will feature all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 plus performances by the Middle School Band and Vocal Ensemble. Hope you can share this wonderful event with us.

At our recent Alex Factor Finals Timomatic spoke about the National Songwriting Competition run each year by the Australian Children's Music Foundation. Congratulations to those students from years 5-7 who took up the challenge and submitted entries. Judging will take place in the middle of October - well done and fingers crossed!

RENOVATION RESCUE

On Thursday 18 September, an army of 80 Lend Lease employees (all dressed in blue), descended upon the Alexandria Park Mitchell Rd Campus. Their mission was to improve the physical environment of the Senior Campus. Operation Renovation Rescue was a massive project that took months of planning and preparation in order to develop, coordinate a scope of works to be completed on this day. The Senior Campus was transformed by the 'blue army' which included: the painting of five classrooms, painting of two stairwells, installation of several power points, rubbish removal, extensive landscaping and the construction of a new paved footpath. All labour and materials were provided by Lend Lease free of charge.

Once a year Lend Lease organises a community day. The Lend Lease Community Day was established in 1996 to provide employees the opportunity to give back to the communities in which they live and work. In line with Lend Lease's global focus on sustainability, Community Day projects address social, economic and environmental issues. Lend Lease employees are encouraged to collaborate with a community organisation on projects that have geographic, personal and professional relevance. By matching their skills to a community project, employees can contribute in a way that's both meaningful and rewarding. Lend Lease employees have volunteered over 500,000 hours across many worthwhile community projects around the world, since 1996.



As a result of the Renovation Rescue, the Senior Campus looks amazing both inside and out and many passers-by have commented on the lovely new gardens and landscaping. This has made a major improvement to the street appeal of the school. Students love the new colour scheme and feature walls in the freshly painted classrooms. Many thanks to the Lend Lease Barangaroo South team for their generosity throughout this project.

MR Glen Kingsley Deputy Principal Mitchell Road Campus

SPANISH

On Thursday, 16th October, all of Year 8 Spanish went on an excursion to the Australian Museum to view the Aztec exhibition currently on display. We have started looking at Mesoamerican cultures in class with a special focus on the Aztecs, so the Year 8s were able to view authentic artefacts relating to this pre-Hispanic era. Overall, it was an enjoyable day and the Year 8s conducted themselves exceedingly well, both on public transport and at the museum. ¡Bien hecho for being fantastic school ambassadors, 8 Spanish!







YEAR 10 Photographic and Digital Media News

You may have wondered why parts of the school were covered in bubble wrap or silver foil! It was part of year 10's Installation project work ala the artist Christo. Students brought an enthusiastic and creative aspect to this visually expressive scale of art and produced some interesting results. On the other end of the scale we produced miniature installations using different cardboard layers to produce scenic light and shadows. But by far the most popular was the portrait cube, a 3 dimensional cube enveloped in 6 different portraits.









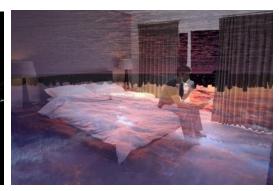
YEAR 9

Photographic and Digital Media News

This term we used our Photoshop skills to emulate a variety of different photographic artists such as Robyn Stacey, Tony Oursler and Rob Dobi.







LIBRARY NEWS

Dear Families.

- 1. APCS library has posted overdue letters to students' homes in week 2 of Term 4. If your child has lost the library books, then please pay the amount indicated in the letter to the school office with the payment slip. If you believe your child has returned the books or there are other reasons, please give a written message on the back of the letter and return the letter to school library so that the librarian can rectify your records. If you have found the books, simply have your child return the books to school library with the letter inside the books. You will not be charged any overdue fines when you return the overdue books.
- 2. Middle school (Yr5-7) homework centre has begun on Wednesday (8/10/14). It is held in APCS library between 2:30pm-5pm every Wednesday during Term 4. If you wish your child to participate, please download a homework centre form from school website and have the form signed & returned to school office.

P&C NEWS:

Our first K-6 Family School Disco has been held this term organized by the P&C Fund Raising Sub-Committee. We hope to make this an annual event going forward and the aim is for it to be a social event for not only children, but to help parents/carers get to know each other. Any funds raised from the night are being directed towards purchasing a fog machine, disco lights and other items to facilitate further discos and for use during other events held in The Denzil.

Pizza Day was held at the end of Term 3 and again raised around \$500 which this time will be spent purchasing lockable drop boxes to make collection of P&C related forms, fund raising moneys and Canteen orders much more streamlined and convenient.

Our new bike racks have arrived at last and will shortly be installed. For K-7 students the bike racks will now be located at the end of the walkway that leads to the Kindy rooms. Enter through the blue doors near The Denzil and head straight down the pathway. 2 racks will also be installed on the Mitchell Rd Campus (location TBA) and further racks for visitors will be located outside the Community Centre. Scooter racks will also be installed as soon as a suitable location is agreed. Many thanks to the City of Sydney for donating these racks and don't forget to always wear your helmet and dismount before entering the school grounds.

As always we are looking to develop a database of people who might be able to help out now and then, do you have a skill you could volunteer, are you an electrician, a plumber or even an artist? Please contact us on apcspandc@gmail.com or via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/apcspandc/

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 November at 6:30pm in the middle school classrooms on Park Rd, we'd love to see you there, children welcome (a film is shown in an adjacent room).



Community School

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Design a new PBL logo for Alex Park!

Alex Park needs a new logo for PBL, and we want you to design it.

The logo should:

- 1. Be simple and easy to read.
- 2. Incorporate the following words and colours:

learning - green

respect - yellow

safety - blue

3. Avoid using pictures or photos



The competition is open to students from Year 5, staff and community members.

First prize is a \$50 Coles-Myer voucher.

Second prize is a \$20 Coles-Myer voucher.

Entries due by Monday 3 November (Week 5).

Hand in to the Junior / Senior Campus office, or email to: alexparkcs-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

KIDS & BLOKES PLAYZONE TRAINING

The Community Centre recently ran a training night for local community workers and men for a program called Kids & Blokes Playzone. The training was to establish some teams to run Playzone events at local schools. Kids & Blokes Playzone is a one off event involving school children and a significant bloke in their life....could be dad, granddad, uncle, stepdad, older brother, cousin, sports coach, etc. The event is facilitated for kids and blokes to enjoy a couple of hours of games, a meal and lots of laughs.

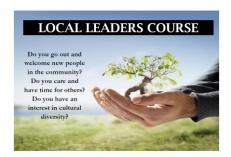






LOCAL LEADERS COURSE HAS STARTED!

The Local Leaders TAFE Course began on Wednesday October 8 with 23 participants! The course will run throughout Term 4. The interest in the course was overwhelming and feedback from the participants has been very positive. The participants have begun group projects.







PAMPER PLAYGROUP

The Multicultural Playgroup had a Pamper Playgroup on Thursday October 16 as part of Mental Health Week activities. Some of the Australasian College of Hair, Beauty & Makeup Broadway students provided hair styling, cuts and make-up for our Playgroup parents and carers, while Mary and Jo also offered hand, shoulder and head massages. It was a very relaxing and an enjoyable time was had by all. The College also provided a \$200 gift pack which was won by Nohoko.









1.2.3... MAGIC & EMOTION COACHING



Fifteen parents have enrolled in the 3 week parenting course called 1.2.3...Magic & Emotion Coaching. The course is being run by Robyn from CatholicCare and began on Tuesday October 21. While the parents are doing the course their children have been cared for onsite.

OUR STRAWBERRIES ARE RIPENING!

The recent rain has been greatly appreciated by the community garden. Everything is flourishing and looking green and lush. The strawberries are ripening, broccoli is growing, there's plenty of lettuce and rocket, broad beans and snow peas are sprouting and the radishes are ready for harvesting. And of course the roses are blooming.













CANTEEN MENU



