



Newsletter

Term 3 Week 5

Date 15 August 2014

NAIDOC DAY 2014



And what a day it was! On Thursday 17th July Alex Park students, parents and community members participated in a festival of activities to celebrate our annual NAIDOC event! The day began with an assembly which reflected the theme of NAIDOC for this year - *Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond*. We were lucky enough to be taken on a journey through the stories and experiences of our guest speaker Uncle Harry Allie who enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in 1966 at Townsville North Queensland and served for 23 years at a number of units throughout Australia, the US, and Malaysia.

The assembly began as Hilton Donovan, our MC for the day, read out the Ode of Remembrance. This was followed by the majestic student trumpeters playing both the Last Post and Rouse as directed by the wonderful Paul Goodchild (from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra). Paul volunteered his time to support and direct our student trumpeters for a number of rehearsals and in the performance itself. Our assembly continued with many performances from various talented musicians and dancers from K-12 and members from our newly formed Community Choir. We were also treated to a performance of Traditional Yidinji Dance from North Queensland which was led by two of our parents Lisa and Steadman Lawrence.



We also had a presentation for inaugural recipients of our student NAIDOC awards. These were presented to students who staff felt had demonstrated excellence at school and in building greater relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, staff and community. The successful winners of the 2014 NAIDOC awards were Sienna Craigie (1/2M), Zac Sabitino (5/6S), Trinity Dixon (Year 7) and Emily Turner (Year 11). These students received a certificate and gift cards, which were donated from the Babana Men's Group and The Master Builders Association.



We were treated to a wonderful BBQ lunch, cooked up by our SRC, where families and students continued to celebrate the day!



This was followed by a number of afternoon activities. Years K-4 participated in traditional games, with trained instruction from Aboriginal students from Years 7-12. Students in Years 5-8 were lucky enough to hear the stories and wisdom of a panel of Aboriginal speakers in a Q and A session. The panel included Terry Denzil, Leon Donovan, Mark Spinks and Belinda French. Years 9-12 watched the informative documentary Utopia, which explores the experiences of indigenous Australians, produced and directed by John Pilger.



Thanks to the many staff, students and parents who all contributed to make it a wonderful day!

Clothing Drive by Interact Club

Recently, the Alexandria Park Community School Interact Club appealed to our school community to donate old children's clothes that they don't use any more. The response was astounding and we had boxes overflowing with donated clothes to give to our local Rotary Club, who also were collecting clothes to take abroad. The Sydney City Roteract Club and Darling Harbour Rotary Club have ties to the Sing Buri Orphanage in Thailand. The Sing Buri Orphanage houses two hundred and eighty children, aged 5-12, from hill tribe villages, providing them with food, clothing and shelter. Children from the Hill Tribes live at this orphanage but are not recognised as Thai citizens because they are a small indigenous minority in Thailand. As a result, the children of these tribes are prone to exploitation by predators who seek to reap inhumane benefits. As a school

community, we were able to provide clothing to these wonderful children in need and do our small part. Thank you, APCS community!

A picture has been provided by The Rotary Club, Darling Harbour during their trip abroad to the orphanage with our parcels of clothing, as well as donated items, such as stationary and toys:

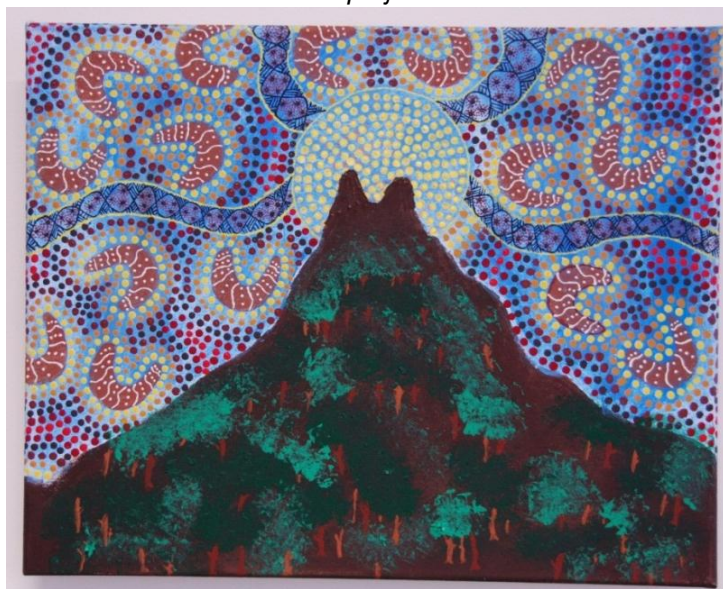


PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I trust that you are enjoying reading about all the wonderful programs and achievements by students, teachers and parents that have been occurring as part of the culture of Alexandria Park Community School.

It was a thrill to have our great school chosen by Dr Michelle Bruniges, The Secretary of the Department of Education and Communities, to visit recently. On the back of our 2013 Director Generals Award, Dr Bruniges booked into her diary at the start of this year a visit to Alex Park. After a tour of our Community Centre and the Middle School our senior Ambassadors greeted Dr Bruniges and led her on a tour of the senior campus. In the hall we were treated to an amazing intimate assembly where guests from Graincorp and the Principal, Deputy Principal and students from Matraville Sports High School joined us. Most impressive was The Waratah Group who performed the song that they have written and recorded called 'Shout it out Stand Proud'. Graincorp representatives gave a presentation of the student art works and we all learnt more about the Alex Park Interact Club.

Emily Turner's painting for the Graincorp Aboriginal Student Art project





Dr Bruniges with 2 members of the Waratah Group, Leena and Brittney above and with Principal Miss Fetherston below



I want to congratulate Nadine Mourad winner of an Australian Vocational Student prize. The Australian Vocational Student Prize recognises students who have demonstrated outstanding skills while completing vocational training in senior secondary years and gives national recognition to the excellent achievements of exceptional students. Nadine Mourad, Year 12 2013, was nominated by our Careers Advisor, Ms Betar for one of these national awards. It is with great pride that our school can announce that we have been recently informed by the Assistant Minister for Education, The Hon Sussan Ley MP that Nadine Mourad has been awarded an Australian Vocational Student prize for 2013. Nadine will be joining us at our year 11 HSC Preparation Day to talk to Year 11 and give them advice on how to succeed in the HSC and beyond.

There is many exciting events and opportunities for learning and engaging with community to look forward to at Alex Park in the next month. Book Week is a major celebration and there are many activities that will engage children and their families in the love of books and reading. I know that

Kindergarten are preparing for 'chicken hatching' and a myriad of associated learning activities. Our year 12 students begin their HSC Trial Examinations. I wish them good luck for these important exams and I spoke with them in a recent meeting advising them to continue to work collaboratively in classes, with their teachers and peers and plan their study and revision. Whilst it is a very exciting time for our year 12 it is not a time for our students to stop working and preparing. I hope to see our year 12 parents and carers at Year 12 Graduation in September.

2013 saw Alexandria Park Community School celebrate its 10th birthday.....and here we are in 2014, experiencing a time of the most significant reforms in Public Education and the K – 10 'Australian' curriculums from which we develop and implement the cycle of teaching, learning, assessment and feedback. The time is right for students, staff, parents, carers and supporters of our school to come together.... to talk and to share..... our dreams and our desires for the students and community of Alex Park now and into the next decade. It is time to inspire and be inspired by each other's beliefs and ideals for laying the foundations for the development of the knowledge, skills and values of our children which will springboard them into and beyond the 21st century.

I invite parents and cares to join me for 'D' day on Wednesday August 27 at 5pm – 6pm in the Denzil.....where we will collaborate in a process which will set free our Dreams our Desires and our Directions.....and ultimately produce our school vision...the vision that we share and that will inspire us to set strategic directions for school excellence.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Report Junior Campus

I'm sure that many of you have always wanted the answer to one of life's big questions- what do teachers actually do on Staff Development Days? I thought I'd dedicate my very first Deputy Principal's report going some way to solving this mystery for you.

Schools are very dynamic places- there is continual striving to make improvements to student learning and school life through a range of initiatives. These initiatives may come about from within the school or from the Department of Education and Communities. Recent examples include our PBL and Growing Respect programs, the introduction of *Every Student Every School*, which ensures that children with disabilities are identified and supported, and the introduction of the NSW Syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum. In primary schools, the new English syllabus was implemented this year, Mathematics and Science and Technology are due for implementation in 2015, and the other KLAs are due for implementation from 2016.

Staff development days allow us time for professional development and planning. Our last staff development day was dedicated to learning about the new Mathematics syllabus and reflecting on how we were going with the implementation of the new English syllabus. We learnt about the increased emphasis on the language and understanding of Mathematical processes, rather than just learning to complete the process. Thea Wilson put together a fantastic presentation on what she had learnt from an inservice course she had attended on the new English syllabus and

we were able to review our teaching and learning over the past two terms in view of what she presented. If you are interested in having a look at the new NSW syllabuses, go to syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au or ask me to show you copies when you are next in the school. Part of Term Four's staff development will be on the new Science and Technology syllabus. We are certainly kept on our toes- it's a busy life!

Health Clinic at Alex Park

Sydney Local Health District, Connect Redfern and Alex Park have organised an initiative which involves a visit from a Local Health's Children's Medical Officer once or twice a term, to see children from prior- to school up to Year 7 on the school premises. This is a free and confidential service is aimed at supporting our local community.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's health or development and would like to have an appointment with the doctor, please ask for a form at the school's front office, or download one from the school's website. The forms should be returned to the front office (Park Rd campus). Appointments will be made on a priority basis as determined by the Learning Support Team, who will inform you of your appointment time.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Myers.

Mrs Julie Myers
Deputy Principal
Park Road Campus

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten 2015

Thank you to everyone who attended our highly successful Kindergarten Parent Information Evening on Monday 21 July. Assistant Principal, Mrs Smith led a busy agenda of presentations from staff and parents which provided important information about preparing for starting school in 2015.

In follow up feedback, the majority of the 25 families and 5 staff in attendance reported that they found the presented information relevant and that they were made feel very welcome. In addition, almost all families advised they were looking forward to attending our upcoming Kindergarten Orientation morning on 4 September. See you then!



Bike Wise for 4/5HT

Temperatures below 18, a wintery sun trying to shine through fast moving clouds, cold wind in our faces, but what a day we had at Sydney Park!!

Bike Wise is a practical bike education programs run by experienced bike riders, supported by the City of Sydney Council. Bikes and helmets were supplied, verbal instructions given and students and adults were off on their bikes.

The instructors were excellent and sang our praises about our bike skills and behaviour.

This is an excellent program for students, especially as more and more people ride their bikes. Bike Education equals Bike Safety for the future.

Junior School has enjoyed a busy start to Term 3. We loved the NAIDOC day assembly and afternoon where the senior students taught us traditional Aboriginal games. Last term the students in Junior School who received more than 50 deadlies were able to go on the Achievers Excursion to Sydney Park. We had a great day at the park, playing on



equipment and playing sport.

In the classroom:

KS has been looking at Reader's Theatre as part of English. We have been doing a theatrical reading of 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. As part of science we experimented with different materials to make instruments that sound like different parts of nature, which are played during the performance.

3/4P studied a book called *A is for Aunty* by Elaine Russell. It is all about the places near where Elaine lived when she was a child. We decided to write our own book like Elaine's called *A is for Alexandria*. Here is an excerpt for you to enjoy!

R is for Redfern

Redfern is a suburb and a park. When I used to live in Redfern I played football with my brother and father. My mum and little brother played in the park. My brother's favourite type of equipment is the bird with the spring underneath that goes forward and back. Every Monday afternoon my brother, some friends and my dad and I go to



Redfern Oval and do laps around the oval and race from the 50 metres. Some Saturdays my Nan and her friend work at a stand selling drinks and long sausages on a roll.

In Term 3 Classes 1/2D and 1/2F are covering the following topics in English, Science and HSIE. English - Students will study the following texts, "Koala Lou" by Mem Fox and "The Gruffalo" by Julia Donaldson. Literacy activities will focus on character analysis and encouraging students to think and express themselves in imaginative and creative ways.



Science - In a unit named "Games and Toys" students will explore the idea that energy must be applied to objects to make them move and that differing degrees of energy will alter speed and distance.

HSIE - The unit this term is "Getting Along". Students will learn about the roles and responsibilities of family members and their class at school.

We wish to thank the continued support from parents and carers in regards to our home reading program, homework and literacy groups.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition A.P.C.S and Zone Finals

Every year students at Alexandria Park Community School have the opportunity to participate in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. This is a fantastic program which helps to promote public speaking skills and multiculturalism in our school community.

This year we held our school final in the Denzil. Ten students from Year Three to Year Six were selected to represent their class at the school final. These students were; Jack Mashman, Mariana Horta-Vieira, Wan Yi Lai, Gregory Kokkinis, Eden Timberry, Angela Yu, Deni Kokkinis, Irene Zhong, Grace Carey and Emma Comninos. They presented excellent and interesting speeches, and are to be congratulated on their ability to speak in front of a large audience.

From this group of students, Grace Carey and Deni Kokkinis were chosen to represent Year 5 and Six at the Zone final. Additionally, Wan Yi Lai and Jack Mashman were selected

to compete in the Years 3 and 4 section of the Zone final. These students walked all the way to Darlington Public School, and presented their speech in front of students and parents from a range of other schools. They were also required to present a short impromptu speech on the topic of "Fairy Tales". The confidence these students displayed whilst presenting was inspiring. It was so fantastic to see the students proudly representing Alexandria Park Community School. They are all to be congratulated on their excellent efforts in the 2014 Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition.



(above) APCS School Final



(above) Deni and Grace at the Zone Final



Year 3 and 4 Zone Final entrants
(Jack Mashman and Wan Yi Lai)

It's been a crazy time of year for all students in the middle school. We've had musicals, holidays, sporting events,

NAIDOC Day, assignments, achievers excursion and there was even some time to do classwork. All students have contributed to a successful couple of months and it is going to be fun seeing them attempt all the new activities this semester.

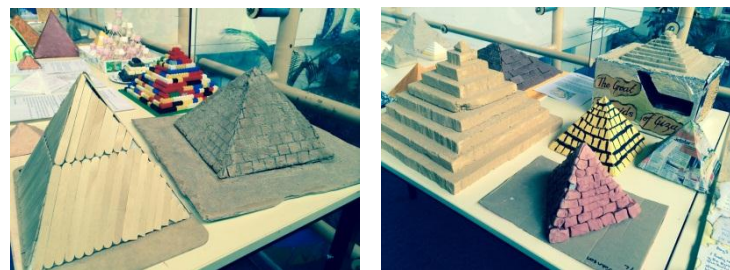
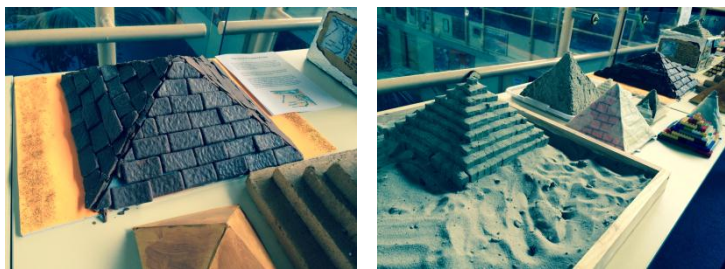
Year 7

We have been keeping year 7 busy with a variety of class and extra-curricular activities. Students have swapped HSIE subjects from History to Geography and all classes are undertaking a wide reading program across all subjects, aimed at improving the literacy of all students.

Cross KLA assignment

Last term saw the introduction of our first cross KLA assignment for all students. The assignment was based around the Egyptian Pyramids and brought together outcomes from all core Key Learning Areas. The response and quality of work from students was phenomenal, as you can see from the pictures below, and we were all proud to display the finished products for all visitors to the school to admire.

This term's cross KLA task is due in week 9 and we are looking forward to seeing how the students manage to better their initial efforts



5M's Gold Rush

In Term 2, students in 5M were learning about the Australian Gold Rush and studied "A Banner Bold," by Nadia Wheatley. We explored life in Ballarat and learnt about the events of the Eureka Stockade. Students created wonderful examples of goldmining towns in the 1850's individually or with partners. Some students made Power Points about the life of a miner during the Gold Rush period. Others decided to make tools that miners commonly used in their job such as the windlass, pickaxe and cradle. Students also made board games explaining the lifestyle of a miner and made maps marking the areas where goldmines rest in Australia. 5M also got to dress up as a goldminer in culmination of this unit and have their projects on display in the Middle School Area. Please come and see what we have created.

By Angela Yu



Middle School World Cup

Over the course of 4 gruelling weeks, 9 talented football (soccer) teams battled to determine who would take home the world cup. The pre-tournament favourites from year 7, 5-0, didn't live up to their name, drawing their first game; however, they managed to make it through to the final. Our other finalists were the surprise packets of the tournament with the team consisting solely of year 5 students. The final was a tense encounter that, like many world cup finals before it, came down to a penalty shootout. After a succession of missed penalties it looked like the favourites would lose the final, but after some impressive goal keeping from the player of the tournament, Mohammed Mourad, the Year 7 students won our APCS World Cup, 5-0. I'd like to thank all students who took part and I look forward to running it again in 4 years.

On the Horizon

We have a number of events coming up for our middle school students.

Term 3

Week 5 – Book Fair (all week) and ICAS Maths Test (Tuesday 12th August) and Yarn Up (Friday 15th August)

Week 6 – Book Parade and Stage 3 cake stall (Wednesday 20th August)

Week 9 – Talent Quest (Thursday 11th September)

Week 10 – Zone Spelling Finals (Thursday 18th September)

Middle School Achievers Excursion



We celebrated the achievements of Middle School students during our excursion to Darling Harbour, and were very proud to invite a total of 31 students who achieved at least 50 Deadly Awards.

All students are commended for their exemplary behaviour throughout the day, which included a visit to The Sydney Aquarium and Madame Tussauds. For many, this was the first time that they had visited an aquarium, and it was fantastic to see all students enjoying the experience.

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

SENIOR SCHOOL

Congratulations to Year 12 student and School Captain, Ridwan Ansary, who was successful in his application for a Cadetship from Price Waterhouse & Coopers Accounting. Ridwan will take up his Cadetship in 2nd year of University,



provided he is accepted into a Degree in Business. Ridwan is well on the way to achieving his goals. Well Done Ridwan.

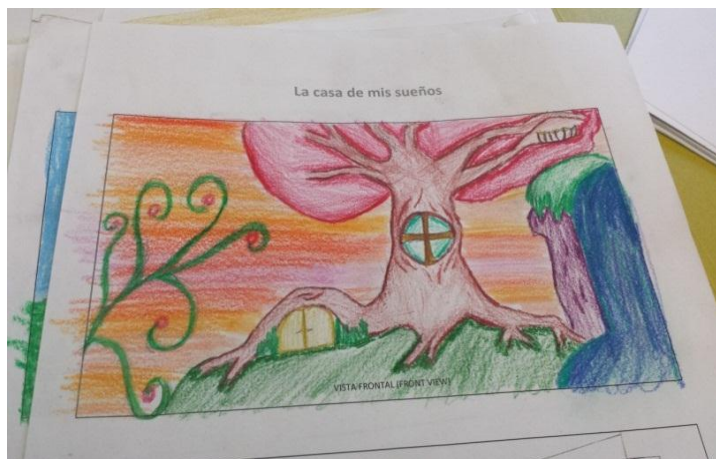
FORMER STUDENT

My name is Maggie Tso. I was in the first selective stream at this school. I was elected school captain in 2009 and graduated as dux in 2010. I am now in my final year of Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Tasmania and at the crossroads of deciding which path to take for my pharmacy internship next year. I have been volunteering at APCS in the last two weeks of Term 2 for an extracurricular activity for uni.

In the four short years since graduating APCS, there has been such great change; both physically in its buildings and in its people. The greatest difference I noticed is in the number of students now at this school. The numbers have grown so much since the years I was at this school. The students make the heart of the school.

It has been a pleasure to come back and see how much the school has evolved. What I personally have gained from my time in this school, uni and from life experiences is that passion, commitment and hard work are key ingredients in life. To be passionate and committed to what you are doing combined with hard work will reap rewards. There are always ways of getting what you want, it just depends how badly you want it.

I would like to wish all the students the very best in their studies and in future endeavours. Keep working hard to achieve those dreams! Thank you again for those who arranged my time here. I have thoroughly enjoyed it.



Stage 4 Spanish

Year 8 has been exploring various topics relating to the language and different cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. These include mi familia, mi casa and performing songs in “Spanglish”.

Below are examples of student work that are currently on display in the Spanish classroom. ¡Bien hecho, Year 8!



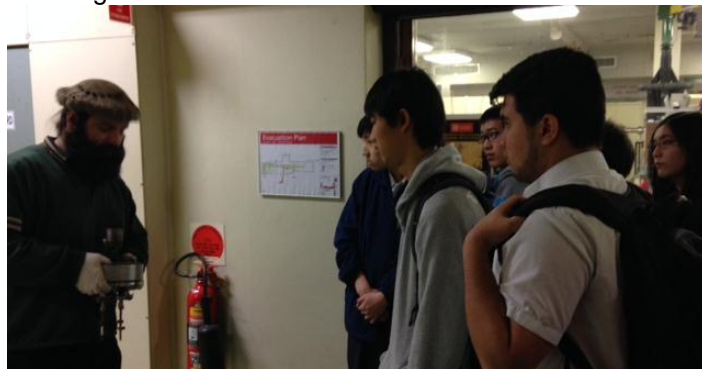
“Mi animal imaginario” was an activity where students had to create an imaginary animal using the body parts of 5 different animals.

“La casa de mis sueños” was an activity where students had to draw their dream houses.

Sydney University Kickstart

Our Year 11 Physics class went on an excursion to Sydney University to participate in the University’s Kickstart Science program for Physics. The day was spent doing a lot of hands on activities and experiments, allowing students to see how labs at universities work. Students were treated and given the opportunity to meet a “real” physics researcher and were able to watch him in action carry out some of his testing, on rocket fuels and propulsion. “It was such a great day, I learnt so much and it was really cool to see some the university and the labs that are used for research and university students.”

Meeting a researcher



Solar cells and voltage



Cathode rays and magnetic fields
Yuyang Xie, Alex Wu, Jordan Lee, Patty Dai
Andy zhu, Will makarytchev, Shayan Mahmud



PDHPE News

On the 23rd of June year 11 PDHPE took part in an interesting lesson where we had the opportunity to dissect a lambs heart and lungs with Miss Rossides. As our class had just learnt about both the circulatory and respiratory (breathing) system, this was a great experience to see the anatomy and function of the organs in the flesh.

Mr Walker also lent us a helping hand by guiding the class through the dissection.

Miss Rossides identified and showed us the inside of the heart where we were able to see the main arteries, veins, valves and chambers of the heart. We also pumped air into the lungs which gave a realistic visual of what the lungs actually look like when we breathe in and out.

We as a class learnt a lot from this lesson and have a better understanding of these amazing body systems and how they work.

On behalf of Yr 11 PDHPE thankyou to Mr Walker for his assistance and expertise during the lesson and a special thankyou to Miss Rossides for organising the lesson and for taking our class during Ms. Strachan's absence.



By Jimmy Yao and Brendon Liu

SCIENCE NEWS

Fun Fact:

"Even if an analog clock is broken, at least it shows the correct time twice a day."

Attending Youth ANZAAS 2014 was an incredible experience for Jennifer Vo of Year 11. Youth ANZAAS is a science camp open to students from years 10-12. You participate in mind blowing workshops and meet some of the most inspirational science demonstrators and communicators from all over Australia.

This year it was held in Melbourne CBD and from this experience I had learnt so much about the scientific industry and community and met some of the most incredible people from all over the country and New Zealand. I highly recommend students from Alex Park to give this opportunity a go. The next session will be held in 2015, I'll be sure to notify you to again when the opportunity arises.

Science week is coming up! Here's an amazing opportunity to learn something new, meet new people and, of course, have monstrous amounts of fun!



Check out the website for special events and volunteering opportunities:

<http://www.scienceweek.net.au/>

Riddle: The answer... will be in the next newsletter. Enjoy!

A man in a restaurant a match, and a lemon wedge. The man poured enough water onto the plate to cover it.

"If you can get the water on the plate into this glass without touching or moving this plate, I will give you \$100," the man said. "You can use the match and lemon to do this." A few minutes later, the waiter walked away with \$100 in his pocket. How did the waiter get the water into the glass?

News From The Senior Art room

Year nine elective visual arts students are showing off! Inspired by their mentor and guru, Pablo Picasso it has been all hands on and plenty of paint in a mash-up of still-life imagery, imagination and expressive splendour. They have successfully completed a painting task where the challenge was to walk in the shoes of the old modern master, Mr Picasso and adapt his inspired style as their own.



The students are midway through the Animals With Attitude animation project where the next stage is to create their own short animation which will be an exciting time learning stop motion and frame by frame techniques on their laptops. So keep watching this space for year nines animation screening late this term on a monitor near you.

Senior Economists meet the Guru.

Yr 12 Economic students attended The UBS Economics Day, where they learnt essential HSC techniques from Economic experts and teachers. The highlight of the day was meeting Australia's Economics guru; Herald journalist Ross Gittens. The 'One Direction' of Economics, as we like to call him, was even happy to pose with our lucky students and their starstruck teacher, Mr Johnson.



English News

Welcome to the first of what we hope will be regular reports from the English Department, which are informative and engaging. There are a total of seven classes in Years 8 – 10 and eight in Years 11 and 12. In the junior years we focus on developing the skills that will not only best prepare our students for the HSC but will also equip them for the ever-changing world of the 21st century. This initial report is therefore focusing on Years 8 – 11 where the students engage in lesson activities that range from individual to collaborative. No longer is English 'just' the study of novels, poetry and plays with comprehension questions and essays. The English curriculum embraces many media beyond the printed texts, such as digital media and film. Most units of work are also connected to the study of concepts (such as identity), values and attitudes (for example cultural experiences) and contemporary issues (such as the environment and sustainability). Lesson experiences in the 21st century classroom aim to strengthen the ability of students to think critically for themselves and to work productively with others. A group task, for example, gives students the opportunity to collaborate and negotiate with others in order to produce a 'product' that is the result of joint effort. At other times students work independently and present their work to others – using technology or plain 'old-fashioned' talk. Extra-curricular experiences include debating which this term is open to six selected Year Ten students. Each Friday night they spend at the Australian International Disputes Centre in Castlereagh Street where they interact with university students, students from other schools and some young lawyers. They are learning the

very useful skills of conflict resolution. For this first newsletter entry we felt that ultimately it is a picture than can speak a thousand words. So, without further ado please enjoy the snapshots of English classroom experiences at Alexandria Park in 2014.

Graincorp Art Competition

We are extremely proud of our students who entered the Graincorp Aboriginal Art Competition. The Awards Ceremony was held in our school on Monday, 4th August, with several students receiving prizes for their outstanding art work. Here are some examples of work from our Year 7 students, Trinity Dixon and Jarad Simon in 7L.



Trinity Dixon, "My country". Acrylic on canvas.
This is Australia which is my country. The red dot in NSW is Forster, along the mid north coast. Green is for the land, blue is the water, yellow is my family and the land. The face on the top-left is me. The footprints represent me when I travel to my country to see me family.



Jarad Simon, "My Land". Acrylic on canvas.
This painting represents my Aboriginal heritage and culture within the land. In my culture, we are one with the land and eat and breathe our culture every day through our connections with the land, animals, people and history. We tell our stories through the stars and through our past, present and future generations.



Technology NEWS

10 IST Excursion



Powerhouse Museum

As part of our Module Software Development and Programming, we all agreed the Game Masters Exhibition would be a valuable learning experience. The exhibition featured many historical games and the story of their development. For example Asteroids, developed in 1979. Acclaimed by players and video game critics for its vector graphics, controls, and addictive

gameplay, Asteroids was one of the first major hits of the golden age of arcade games. The game sold over 70,000 arcade cabinets and proved both popular with players and influential with developers. And Space Invaders, an arcade video game developed by Tomohiro Nishikado and released in 1978. Space Invaders is one of the earliest shooting games and the aim is to defeat waves of aliens with a laser cannon to earn as many points as possible. It was one of the forerunners of modern video gaming and helped expand the video game industry from a novelty to a global industry.

However the favourites were Super Mario, one of the earlier three-dimensional platform games. Sing Star a competitive music video game series for PlayStation consoles, developed by Paulina Bozek, was one of Hassan's favourites, while Usman and Calunn worked up a sweat on Just Dance.



In all a good day had by everyone.

CAREERS NEWS

On 18 June 2014, Daniel Hargraves, James Li, Pearl Tang, Wesley Wintzaw and I (Ali Asghar Ali) from class 12X along with Careers Advisor Ms Betar went on to SpeedX at Australian Innovative Centre for an informative

talk on University options in the field of Nanotechnology and job opportunities. We even got to tour the laboratory and were shown parts of their research material and gained great insight into the processes of genetic engineering and all the legalities behind it. We were later also allowed to have a Q&A session with one of the Research Assistants regarding applying for Universities that provide such courses. It was a great learning experience for all of us and I would like to thank Ms Betar and Ms Fetherston (our School Principal) for organising this informative afternoon and also to SpeedX.

Alexandria Park Community School subscribes to mhscareers, a careers service which allows students and parents to be kept up to date with Careers News and Events.

To access this information go to the website

www.mhscareers.net and then

login with: student or parent and the password: 14cairns

Newsletters are sent weekly.

To register to receive the newsletters use the CONTACT US page on the mhscareers website or send an email to ron@mhscareers.com stating your name, email address, our school/college name, whether you are a student or parent and the state(s) that you are registering for.

On the website, have a look at the News Pages and Events Calendar and the many other useful careers pages.





Scholarships

<http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships/>
Dear students, parents and community members

There are many scholarships available to students attending Public schools and the above link will take you to the Public Education Foundation where you will find a list of available scholarship, the criteria for applying and the application forms. There are a huge variety of scholarships available for all different circumstances so I urge you to go to the website and scroll through the list. If you find a scholarship that you think your student is eligible for, please let me know so I can help in any way I can.

Yours Sincerely
Patricia Betar
Careers Adviser

SPORTS NEWS

K-6 Sport Report

This term has been very busy in sport and students are to be congratulated on their participation and sportsmanship across all their sporting endeavours.

Zone Athletics Carnival

A group of approximately 40 students aged 8-12 will be representing our school at Hensley Oval, Pagewood on Wednesday 13th August to compete against our local schools in our Primary Zone Athletics Carnival. They are excited and have been preparing for the experience for several weeks. This excursion costs \$13. Students will leave school by 8.15 and will return to school at 3.30. We wish all students the best of luck.



3-6 Combined Sports

The sports program in Term 3 is a continuation of Term 2 sports. Students have had the choice to play in various paid sports of oz tag, netball, soccer, tennis and basketball or to elect to do our unpaid sport option at school. Paid sport for this term is \$40 and can be paid through your class teacher or directly to the office.

For students competing in oztag, netball and soccer it is essential that they arrive at school by 8:50 to ensure they are able to get their names marked off before catching a 9:00 bus to Moore Park or Queens Park to compete against other schools. Students in the senior oz tag team can be especially congratulated as comments made from other schools recognise the brilliant way these students compete and conduct themselves on the field. Well done, you make us extremely proud!

The PSSA competition will conclude in week 7 this term and students will round out this term's sport with school activities. Looking ahead to Term 4 students will continue with Term 1 sport choices of cricket, softball, go go, swimming or unpaid at school sport.

Primary / Secondary U15 Boys Basketball

It has been a transition year for our U15 basketball team with year 7 and 8 students dominating the line-up. After a few practice sessions we had a tough road trip to Menai High School to play a tall team full of year 9 students. The boys defence was exceptional throughout the game and it was only the inability to make open shots that let the boys down. Four late 3 pointers for Menai made the final score more flattering to Menai and the final score was 34-13. It was a great debut for AJ, Orryn, Joe and Andrew, while they were led by the Mustavi and especially Callun, who showed why they train with the senior team. Despite the loss it was a great learning experience for the boys and they represented our school with their usual enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Stewart Okell

MUSIC NEWS

In the Music department Term 3 has gotten off to a flying start with an exciting but hectic performance schedule. In week 1 over eighty students performed in a variety of items at our NAIDOC event. Our brass players have had the privilege of being mentored by Mr Paul Goodchild, one of Australia's foremost trumpeters. The sound of Paul and our students playing "The Last Post" was a moving start to our assembly. It was followed by a welcome chant in Dharawal language, the anthem performed by the Middle School Band and Vocal Ensemble, stirring performances by the Senior rock band, Dave Arden's touching song "When Freedom Called" by the Vocal Ensemble and of course, the Alex Park Sapphires singing "My Island Home", supported by stage 2 ukulele players and the Community Choir. The assembly concluded with an amazing dance performance by 40 junior school students.



With little time to catch our breath we swung into final rehearsals for the stage 3 musical, "Rocks to Rap". Mr Olsen's glittering backdrops added the final touch to weeks of rehearsing, sourcing of costumes and props and practising of dance routines. Aply supported by our live band, the students produced a stunning result- a joyous celebration of the history of music from earliest man to the present. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the stage 3 class teachers, Miss McLeod, Miss Smith and Miss Wilson, who gave so much time and effort to produce such an outstanding show.

The demanding performance schedule has continued into August! The Middle School Band and Vocal Ensemble had the honour of performing the anthem for the Director-General, Dr Michelle Bruniges during her visit to Alex Park. The Vocal Ensemble also performed the following day at the Centenary of Baby Health Clinics event held in the Community Centre. They sang "Lullaby" by the Dixie Chicks and "Isn't She Lovely" by Stevie Wonder for an appreciative audience and enjoyed a delicious morning tea as a reward for their efforts!

The next big event will be the Daceyville Big Band Bash on August 28th for our Middle School Band. We have had 4 clarinets donated to the school through the Goodchild family. They are available for students who can play clarinet but who do not currently have their own instrument. Please contact me if you would like one of these instruments for your child to play.

Leanne Winfield

LIBRARY NEWS

News from the library (T3 August 2014)

Overdue slips for outstanding Library books from Term 2 will be issued to K – 7 students in week 6 (18/8/14 – 22/8/14). The librarian will contact parents/guardians via telephone regarding overdue books. There are no fines for late returns. However if books are lost, you need to pay \$6 per book to the school office.

K-9 students should read lots of books listed in NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Please ensure that your child has made online reading log entries at home by Friday (22/8/14) so that they will receive a PRC certificate in Term 4.

August is a big month for APCS library due to annual Book Week promoted by Australian Children's Book Council. We

will celebrate Book Week with the following events. 2014 CBC theme is "Connect to reading".

Scholastic Book fair (11/8/14 – 15/8/14 @Junior Library during lunch 2)

CBC Book Parade (Wednesday 20/8/14 in Denzil Hall @ 10am)

Great Book Swap (25/8/14 – 29/8/14 in JNR library during lunch 2)

ICAS Mathematics test will be held in Denzil Hall between 10am – 11am on Tuesday (12/8/14). Please ensure that your children will be well prepared for the test. Detailed notes regarding equipment and test conditions will be distributed to students on Monday (11/8).

NASCA

As a reward for half a year of hard work and good attendance at school, NASCA took a group of 30 students from Alex Park, Tempe and Marrickville High on an adventure camp to Wisemans Ferry. The three-day, two-night camp was a massive success and all the students had a great time. Each of the schools were picked up bright an early on the Wednesday morning, piled on the bus and made the trek with our comedian bus driver up the coast. When we arrived students were shown to their cabins and given time to unpack before lunch and the first activity. The two groups split after lunch; some went and took a leap of faith off a 6m high tower, while the others enjoyed a leisurely stroll down the river. That night state of origin was on and after some intense sock hockey, we were able to stream it to a projector and watch it on the wall of the hall. The Next day saw orienteering, raft building with races, a bushwalk, flying fox and archery before dinner. After dinner on our last night we had a campfire before heading to bed. On the final day we had some activities and lunch then headed home.



PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C) NEWS Working Bees



Another busy term for the P&C kicked off on Sunday 3 August with our Term 3 Park Rd working bee taking place. Lots of weeding and rubbish collection as usual as well as a big effort re-mulching the lunch area and the start of a refurbishment of the Frog Pond outside the Y1-4 rooms. A big thanks to everyone who turned up on the day with special mention to Kate Baychek for coordinating it all as usual. If you have anything

you'd like to see done at School please email us and we can add it to the list for next time. Our next working bee will be held on the Mitchell Rd Campus on 31 August, a list of jobs to be completed will be circulated prior as we are aiming to allocate jobs in advance to make the most of people's volunteer hours and skills. APCS is a big School across 2 campuses and we really do rely on parental help to get all the jobs that need to be done completed, leaving School funds and resources to be utilised in other areas.

Outdoor Movie Night

We will be holding our inaugural Outdoor Movie Night on Friday 24 October. More details will follow in the next newsletter (including the movie title) but put the date in your diary now to make sure you don't double book. If you own a business that is interested in sponsoring the evening either by monetary or goods/services donation please contact apcspandc@gmail.com

Fund Raising

On the fund raising front we are still selling Entertainment Books each Friday at the Park Rd Canteen. \$70 buys you hundreds of dollars of savings and 15% of sales go towards the School. We are also running a promotion with the personalised labelling site Tiny Me over the month of August. Simply place your order at www.tinyme.com.au and nominate Alexandria Park Community School as your preferred benefactor and 15% of your purchased will be rebated to APCS. We will also be holding another pizza day on the last day of Term to coincide with Footy Colours Mufti Day. Order information will be distributed soon so make sure you get in early to ensure your choice of pizza.

2nd Hand Uniforms

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop is well and truly up and running each Friday morning in the Park Rd Canteen. We

have uniforms from K-12 available for VERY reasonable rates. Some items are in 'as new' condition. We also accept donations in the same area so please drop in any outgrown or unwanted uniforms. Friday morning is also the time lost property is collated for the week and any named items are returned to students wherever possible. During the week, if you are looking for lost property, you'll find it in the Kindy foyer (where After School Care operates) or in the tub outside the Staff Room.

Canteen

The Canteen Working Party are meeting shortly to review information they have collected from site visits to other canteens and from the survey the conducted with parents and teachers. A progress report will be included in the next newsletter.

School Banking Sign Up Day

The school banking programme has been very successful so far at Alex Park, with over 100 registered bankers coming to deposit their money every Friday morning at the Canteen.

The programme is run by the Commonwealth Bank and aims to teach kids the value of saving regularly. Children receive a token each time they bank, and once they reach 10 they can redeem them for exciting prizes.

We will be having another sign-up day for people wishing to join on *Friday 22nd August* in the canteen area from *8:00-09:30 in the morning, and from 2:30-3:15 in the afternoon.*

If you would like to sign your child up, please come along with some photo ID, and our School Banking Rep Melissa Rogers will be on hand to help you with the paperwork and answer questions

We're fundraising with Tinyme! Support our group in 3 easy steps...

1. Shop at tinyme.com.au during the month of August.
2. Enter our group name at the checkout.
3. Our fundraising group earns 15% commission. Yay!

Thank you for your support!

Alexandria Scout Hall

The push to get Alexandria Scout Hall reopened continues full steam ahead. They will be holding a community meeting and information session at the ATP on 23 August. The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and character development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community, all while having fun and being adventurous. Scouts is open to boys and girls from 6 years of age and up and they are currently calling for expressions of interest to join a newly formed local club as a participant or a leader. The meeting will be held at 3-4pm on Saturday 23 August at Australian Technology Park, Bay 8, Room 6b. You can find more information and register at <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=97586>

Please join our campaign to re-open Alexandria Scout Hall at 130 Henderson Road Alexandria NSW
Friends of Alexandria Scouts aims to:
-recruit Cubs and Scouts leaders
-re-establish Alexandria Scouts
-re-open Alexandria Scout Hall

Looking forward to support from the communities of Alexandria and nearby suburbs to help re-open this community asset.

Best wishes, Friends of Alexandria Scouts
c/o Scott Lyall, 0499 773 303,
alexandriascouts@gmail.com

Holiday Care Survey

Finally we are working hard to convince Camp Australia of the need for a Holiday Club at APCS. We need to show them there is a enough support to make this service viable so please take 2 minutes (that is seriously all it takes) to fill out the survey at <https://www.research.net/s/alexandriapark> and also encourage any other local families who may be interested to do the same.

Holiday Care

Alexandria Park Community School
Would a vacation care service benefit you and your family?



Dear Alexandria Park Community School Parent/Guardian, Camp Australia in conjunction with Alexandria Park Community School, is currently conducting a survey to determine the level of interest in offering a Holiday Care service, on the school campus, during the school holidays. We would like to encourage all parents to complete this brief survey to help us determine the viability of running this program.

The survey will take approximately 3 minutes of your time. Please visit <https://www.research.net/s/alexandriapark> To find out more information about our FUN, QUALITY, ENGAGING and SAFE before and after school care programs, please visit our website at www.campaustralia.com.au

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

Regards,

Join Us

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 August and the agenda will be confirmed closer to the date. If you have any questions for the P&C you can email us at apcspandc@gmail.com or you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/apcspandc/>

Before our meeting on Wednesday August 27 we encourage all parents and carers to meet in the Denzil at 5pm where we will be led in a process to construct our vision for APCS which will set the foundation for our next 3 year school plan. We would love to have as many parents and carers involved in this process and participating in the development of our goals and directions for our school over the next 3 – 5 years.

The Hardware Store are offering a special opportunity to the parents & friends of Alexandria Park Community School :

For every purchase you make in their store 5% of the purchase value will be donated back to the School.

Mention you are a parent or friend of Alexandria Park Community School at the time of purchase and they will organise the rest.



the Hardware store

50 McCauley St Alexandria | 50 Evans St Balmain

The Hardware Store is an independent and locally owned Hardware store in Alexandria & Balmain. We pride ourselves on our quality product range, fair prices & friendly knowledgeable staff.

For store opening times or more information please visit our website www.thehardwarestore.com.au

COMMUNITY NEWS PLAYGROUPS IN THE PARK



Last Term we had the biggest Winter “Playgroups in the Park” event with about 1000 parents and children participating. Everyone enjoyed a Winter’s sunny day of fun activities!

Our next “Playgroups in the Park” will be held on Tuesday, September 16 in Redfern Park from 10am to 1.30pm. There will be lots of fun activities for families with young children. Come along and bring a picnic lunch.

PLAYGROUP CELEBRATES NAIDOC



Our Multicultural Playgroup celebrated NAIDOC on Thursday July 17, with craft activities, puzzles, music, songs and stories.

South’s Cares

Last night saw South’s Cares participants attend the Closing The Gap Rugby League game at Homebush Stadium.

Doug, Ethan, Caine, Mikey, Nise, Aaron and Brittney along with Ms Caswell and Ms French, boarded a chartered coach and joined students from six different schools in our area to help bring the Bunnies home in an undisputed victory that now puts the Bunnies at the top of the Rugby League ladder and strong contenders to take out the 2014 Grand Final.

South’s Cares are a division of the South Sydney Rabbitohs football club, devoted to improving the educational and employment opportunities of our Indigenous youth from the South Sydney area. Our students had a great night, thanks to the support of our teachers who volunteered to attend to help make the night a great success.

The Closing the Gap initiative is designed to reduce the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous disadvantage through programs that promote and encourage positive self esteem. Students who attended last night also participated in a musical workshop before forming a guard of honour for the players as they ran onto the field.



School Upcoming Events

Yr 12 HSC Trial examinations commence

Aug 18

Year 10 - B Street Smart Roads Excursion

Aug 19

Book Parade / Picnic & Cake Store

Aug 20 10:00AM

Year 1 / 2 Science excursion

Aug 22

P & C meeting

Aug 27

For more updates go to School website:

www.alexparkcs-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au