

Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success
in a caring learning environment

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Newsletter

Term 3 Week 10

Date 19th September 2014

FEATURE STORY

Book Parade Success!

2014 proved yet again to be another very successful Book Parade. In fact, the Year 7 judges spent much time in consultation deciding on the winners. We were very happy to see a greater involvement with middle school dress up costumes. Thank you to all the parents and carer who supported our parade and also the middle school cake stall during 1st break.

The many costumes were both imaginative and inventive. Class 1/2F came away with the Best Dressed Class award, while Oarcen Seddon received the special prize for an outstanding character as a sea anemone.

The best dressed junior characters were – Arie Seddon 1/2, Marli Major Kinder, Grayce Toohey KM.

The best dressed senior characters were – Eufa Vaewpech 5/6S, Liv Aigner 5/6S and Natalie White 3/4P

Thank you again.

Jann Hanekroot (4/5HT Teacher)



ROCK STARS!

The Educated Rock Surry Hills

Emerging from the music room, where they rehearse in Tuesday Programs, The Educated cut their teeth as a touring rock band when they played in Surry Hills last month. The band loaded up the ute and headed for the K.U. John J Carroll preschool, who were celebrating their 60th anniversary. Parents and students from local schools were more than impressed as The Educated pumped out a tight set of 10 songs. Music floated into the streets where hundreds of community members had gathered to enjoy the fete. It was a great day for our home-grown rock stars and a great showcase for Public Education in the inner city. Keep your eye out for more news on The Educated as they are back in the music room working on new material. Rock On!



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Newsletter September 19 Principal's Report Farewell to Year 12

The end of term 3 is a sad time as the school farewells the class of 2014. Our Year 12 students will graduate from Alex Park and spend the holidays studying and revising for their HSC final examinations. The 2014 Year 12 cohort are a loose knit group of students who have worked collaboratively and supported each other over the senior years of schooling. Having had the opportunity to individually interview Year 12 I am confident about the quality of these young people as hardworking, socially minded, and goal orientated adults who our school is very proud of. Most of the Year 12 completed an exit poll so that we could gather their voice about a number of issues that relate to the culture of our school. This feedback data told us that 100% of Year 12 students surveyed definitely / mostly agreed with the following statements

- My teachers care about me and my learning
- My teachers set high expectations for my learning and motivated me to try my best
- My teachers provided quality instruction in the classroom
- My teachers are fair and just
- Teachers at APCS listen to what I say
- I was given opportunities to achieve

I want to thank the teachers of Year 12 and all of the teachers who have made an impact on their education at Alex Park over the past years. I also want to pay tribute to their parents and carers who have supported their children during this stressful year and also have trusted our school with their HSC education. Good luck Year 12 and we will miss you very much.

Student School Leadership

I am thrilled and very proud to announce to our community that the 2015 School Captains are William Makarytchev and Emily Turner and our Vice Captains are Ethan Broom and Helena Guo.



This year our student welfare and leadership team reviewed the process for the nomination and selection of our School Captains and Vice Captains. A panel was formed, comprising of the Principal, a Year Advisor, an Aboriginal Education Officer and a parent to oversee the nomination and voting processes.

Nominations for school captain were called for from the year 11 cohort and interested students had to submit to the panel an expression of interests in writing. Each student had to address the following criteria....

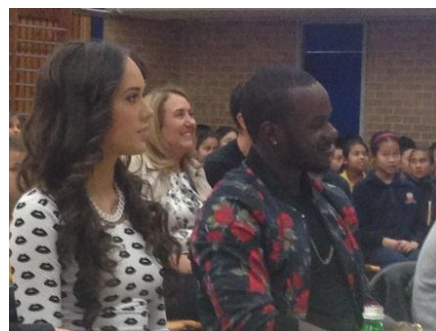
1. Demonstrated commitment to the values of Alexandria Park Community School.
2. Willingness to participate in school events and represent the students, staff, parents and local community with pride at public engagements.
3. Model exemplary behaviour, diligence to school work and compliance with the school's uniform dress code at all times.

The panel was impressed with the calibre of the responses from the nominees and the commitment that each student has shown to the culture of safety, respect and learning at Alex Park.

Thank you to all the nominees for the position for taking the time to express interest in this prestigious school leadership position. Thank you to the panel which included Aunty Deb, Ms Betar and our parent rep Deb Heggaton Klenner. The process was lead expertly by Ms Betar and Ms Arya-Pinatyh.

ALEX FACTOR

Timomatic, (Australia's Got Talent) Latifa, (16 year old recording artist) Don Spencer (Musician and Play School presenter) and Paul Goodchild (Sydney Symphony Orchestra and great friend of APCS) appear as guest judges on the Alex Factor.



The Alex Factor, our primary school talent quest, held the finals on Thursday September 11. Many students had been auditioning their performances during lunchtimes with Ms Winfield and Ms Smith. The variety of performances in the final made for an entertaining program and all the performers are to be congratulated for their talents. This year's talent quest was extra special with the amazing line up of guest judges that our school had the opportunity to secure.....I am always in wonder of the amazing opportunities that present themselves to the students of Alex Park. Much thanks to the special guest judges Timomatic, Latifa, Don and Paul for participating in the finals of Alex factor and sharing their expertise with our students and staff.

Dreams, Desires and Directions - Community Consultation for our school vision and purpose

I thank the many staff, students, parents and members of community who have in term 3 participated in a series of forums to gather a diverse range of dreams desires thoughts and ideas which will drive our school plan 2015 – 2017. The school planning team is currently compiling all the data and we will be presenting this information to the school community early in Term 4.

Thank you for your valued participation in our Vision Focus groups this term. We have collated 756 responses from 152 participants and I am excited about the results. Due to the heavy level of activity in the school community in this last week of term, I will schedule feedback sessions for all participants at the beginning of next term. These sessions will:

- Provide an overview of the response themes from various focus groups
- Identify the major themes for our PURPOSE and VISION as a whole school community
- Present an initial VISION STATEMENT for feedback
- Outline the school planning process for Term 4 and invite participants to join the School Plan 2015-17 Working Party

Make Online Payments

Term 4, Alexandria Park Community School we be starting an 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.

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).

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.

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

Year 10 Debating program

During term 3, under the leadership of Ms Ryan, some of our year 10 students have been travelling into the city on a Friday evening to participate in the inaugural AIDC (Australian International Disputes Centre) School Invitational Debate 2014. Alex Park was one of three schools involved which provided opportunities for high school students to be mentored in debating skills by successful university debaters and also the CEO and other staff of the AIDC. On a recent Friday evening I was in the audience of the final debate, which was hosted by the global law firm, King & Wood Mallesons, on Level 61 of the Governor Phillip Tower. The conference room was very high up with floor to ceiling glass windows and near 360 degree views of Sydney. The view was amazing although I could not look down and had to hang onto the back of a chair to ensure I did not fall down. The Year 10 students who participated in this extra-curricular program were Mehtaj Jahan, Jason Ke, Tariq Ho, Farhan Khan, Christopher Pinter, Usman Zahid. The final debate was that 'The United Nations is irrelevant'. We had 2 students in the final, Jason and Mehtaj. It was a very interesting debate and all the students spoke eloquently. A wonderful honour it was when Mehta was recognised by the judges as the best speaker and given a special award.

(Mehtaj and Jason, our 2 finalists)



Year 7's Kingdom

I am very excited to see the Year 7 integrated task this term. Each term the Year 7 teaching team in the Middle School collaborate to devise an innovative unit of work and an engaging assessment task which draws on curriculum outcomes from English, Maths, Science, HSIE, PDHPE and Visual Arts. This unit and the assessment tasks challenge our students to think creatively and critically, to use knowledge and skills they have learnt across all the KLA areas and to integrate technology into their final products. I look forward the display of their work on the last day of term when they will showcase their Kingdoms, which will include the animals, climate and topography of each Kingdom and also a sporting game that they have invented which is played in their Kingdoms.

Thank you Mr Walker, welcome to Mr Bennett

Term 4 will see the return to Alex Park of Mr Bennett an accredited Maths and Science teacher who has been on extended leave overseas. Mr Bennett has taught at Alex Park and has experience in both the Senior School and the Middle School. He will be taking up his position in the Middle School teaching Maths and Science to Year 7. This year Mr Walker has been engaged as a temporary teacher to replace Mr Bennett. I thank Mr Walker for his service to Year 7, the Middle School and Alex Park.

The School Canteen

I want to thank the team of parents who under the leadership of Jennifer Mar Young have been working diligently to investigate the creation of a healthy school canteen on the Junior Campus. The team have undertaken extensive consultation with the school community about the need for and purpose of the canteen. It is clear that we want a canteen, one that serves healthy food choices at affordable prices. The team have also researched many policies and practices as they relate to P & C managed canteens and healthy food service. This P & C project is an excellent example of our P & C working to make a school a better place for students, staff and families. On the first weekend of the holidays the P & C and canteen team will be renovating the existing canteen. Your monetary contributions to the P & C will be paying for these renovations and the purchase of new equipment to the benefit of all our school members. I thank those families who have paid their P & C contributions, in full or in part which has allowed this project to progress. I encourage all families to support the canteen by buying food from the canteen on the days that it will be open in term 4 on a trial basis.

Community consultation on strengthening the future provision of public secondary education in the inner Sydney area.

The Department of Education and Communities undertook a community consultation on the changing needs of public secondary education in the inner Sydney area. The consultation period was from 16 May - 27 June 2014 and was undertaken by an external consultant Straight Talk. Thank you to all those parents, staff, students and community members who provided feedback as part of the community consultation.

Straight Talk has now finished analysing and collating all the feedback that was collected. Five issues summaries have been produced and a final newsletter, Newsletter No 3 which provides a summary of the community consultation and the outcomes. Attached for your convenience is a copy of Newsletter No 3.

A copy of the five issues summaries, Newsletter No 3, all other materials and full details of the community consultation are available at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/announcements/inner-sydney-high-school-consultation>

The Inner City Schools Working Party is considering the feedback gathered through the community consultation along with all other available information in formulating its recommendations to the Government which will be delivered before the end of the year. Thank you again to all those who have contributed to this important piece of work.

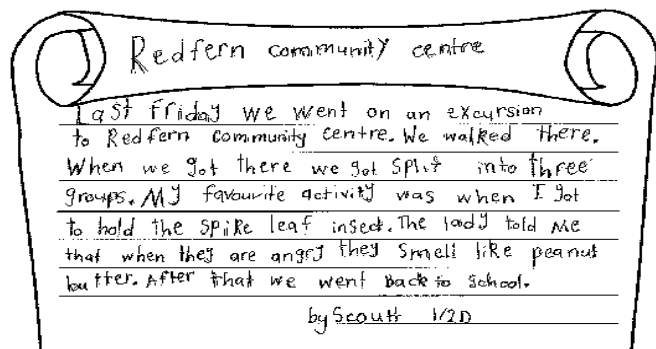
Happy holidays to all our children, staff and families. Be safe, have fun and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

Thank You

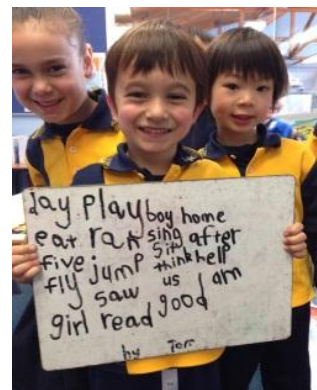
Diane Fetherston, Principal

Indigenous Science Experience

Classes 1/2D and 1/2F were involved in an excursion to Redfern Community Centre. This excursion included an Interactive Science Show led by Indigenous students from regional NSW high schools. There was a Science Expo area where the students could try traditional bush medicine teas from Arnhem Land, be puzzled by Maths, learn about native animals, put customary knowledge into practice such as gathering and utilising resources for food, tool and weapon making. Below is a recount of the day by Scoutt Hizon-Buckley n 1/2D.



IN THE CLASSROOM:



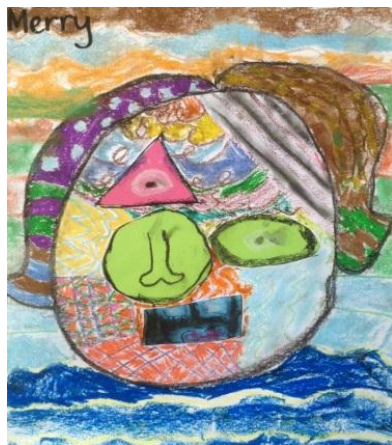
KM are excited about learning and here are some pictures to prove it!

James and Abulrahman (KM) reading with Stage 3 buddies as part of Peer Support. In this activity Stage 3 are offering their practical knowledge of reading strategies such as sounding out, chunking and reading on to help Kindergarten.

Tahnu Hagan (KM) using animal legs to count by 2s. Kindergarten have been learning to count by 2s and 10s as well as counting backwards from 20.

Thomas neatly writing out his PINK words unassisted and reading them to his friends Carlee and Cooper (KM). Kindergarten have learned to recognise, read and write over 120 sight words this year!

In 1/2D and 1/2F students have studied the work of famous artists such as Van Gogh, Picasso and Andy Warhol and examined the techniques that they used to produce their artworks. Students have experimented with various mediums such as, oil pastels, paint, pencil and water colours to further explore these techniques. Below are some examples of students' work.



Abstract portraits inspired by Picasso drawn by Merry Yen and Teearna Williams

A reproduction of Starry Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh drawn by Enerelen Otgonbayar.

3/4P and 4/5HT had a special treat on Monday 15 September when the CSIRO came to visit Alex Park. First we learnt all about simple machines by building things with Lego. We made machines with gears and learnt about work, speed and direction. Then we built turnstiles and ferris wheels and made them spin really fast! In the afternoon, Scott (our CSIRO scientist) did a show all about electricity, magnetism and light. He did some amazing demonstrations, like making ribbons fly with static electricity and making a globe light up through a human circuit! It was a fantastic day!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Stage 4

Geographical Musings

Skills have been the basis of the Geography program this term. All of year 7 has been working diligently to acquire new skills in map design and enhance their knowledge of how the geographical world works. Students have also been working very hard on their term 3 integrated tasks. The task involves the creation of a fantasy kingdom where students must design and explain the various creatures that live in the kingdom, design a map of the kingdom, as well as develop a whole new sport that is popular in their creation.

PDHPE

We have had a lot of fun this term learning new games and skills in practical PE. Many students have had their first introduction to netball, as well as OzTag. We are currently learning the rules and skills of softball. The talent being shown by the students is quite amazing for all sports.

Our theory lessons have also been providing the students with the ability to show off their creative skills. We have been learning about the pitfalls of smoking, taking an in-depth look at the various diseases and other issues that arise from cigarettes. After conducting their research each student was given the task of creating an anti-smoking campaign that consisted of a poster, a poem and a board game. We have some great campaigns being created and I hope to show you some examples in the next newsletter.

Stage 3

Students have been working extremely hard in all subject areas throughout the term with some amazing results. In English, they have been developing a better understanding of how themes are represented in fictional and multi-model texts. In particular students have examined "Fox" Margaret Wild and how each characters point of view is represented in the images and text. Students have been replicating this style and are learning to write using quality adverbs, adjectives and literary devices such as metaphors and similes. For example 5M collectively composed this piece of writing from Fox's point of view.



Fox watches in disgust as Dog and Magpie pad through the scorched dead trees. They look odd together as one, Dog with his goofy blind eye and Magpie helpless in his grasp. As they move to the cave. Fox watches, silent as a mouse. Magpie appears distressed and angry and Dog tries to console her. Magpie is swallowed by the cave. For the next week Fox passes by the cave. Stalking and preparing. Dog waits stupidly for Magpie to awaken and re-emerge from the shadows. His eye blind to what Fox has in store for them.

5/6S has also produced some lovely artwork to accompany their written work.

Farewell Mr Walker

For the past three terms we have been lucky enough to have Mr Peter Walker teaching Maths and Science in the middle school. Unfortunately Mr Walker is leaving us due to the return of Mr Bennett to APCS. It has been great to have Mr Walker as part of the middle school and we all wish him well in the future.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 8 Science Lesson

We celebrated science week (16th -24th August) part of our celebrations involved modelling the experience of mining for different minerals and gems using a fruit cake and the fruits having different values.



Students in year 8 had hands on experience as they discovered the processes involved in mining. Students were given the task to mine only in their given area, and then reconstruct the 'mine' back to how they originally found it. We discussed the pros and cons of mining and what impacts it can have on the ecosystem as well as a community and what things can be done to reduce and prevent the impacts.

MATHS MATTERS!

Australian Mathematics Competition 2014

This year Alexandria Park Community School entered 78 students to compete in this most auspicious Mathematics competition for students of Australia and the Pacific. The results have come back from the Australian Mathematics Trust under whose auspices the competition is conducted.

The results are very pleasing and certainly comparable to those of recent years.

73.1% of students entered earned a credit or higher (3 High Distinctions, 18 Distinctions and 36 credits).

The school community congratulates Henry Hung of Year 5 who had the highest score and percentile rank (of 100!!). Henry also won The Prudence Award, given to the student in the school who answers the most number of consecutive questions correctly. Henry managed 25 in a row!! Well done Henry!

The students who gained High Distinctions were (in performance order according to percentile rank):

High Distinctions

Henry Hung (Year 5), Joseph Shao (Year 6), William Zamany (Year 6),

Distinctions

Tom Jiang (Year 6), Natarsha Sujanto (Year 5), Yuyang Xie (Year 11), Robinson Shi (Year 7), Lesley Yu (Year 6)

Andy Huang (Year 4), Nelson Zhai (Year 6), Labiba Abdul-Quader (Year 9), Antoine Nguyen (Year 5),

Kalaish Stanley (Year 5), Justin Xia (Year 5), Justin Nonis (Year 5), Vicky Song (Year 11), Christopher Ho (Year 5)

Nathan Wong (Year 5), Jessica Chen (Year 6), Chen Xi Huang (Year 6), Adeel Tejani (Year 5)

These high distinction and distinction certificates will be presented at the next school assembly when the school is in receipt of them. Well done to all these students, to the students who won credits (which will be given out in class) and to all students who are doing great things in Mathematics classes!

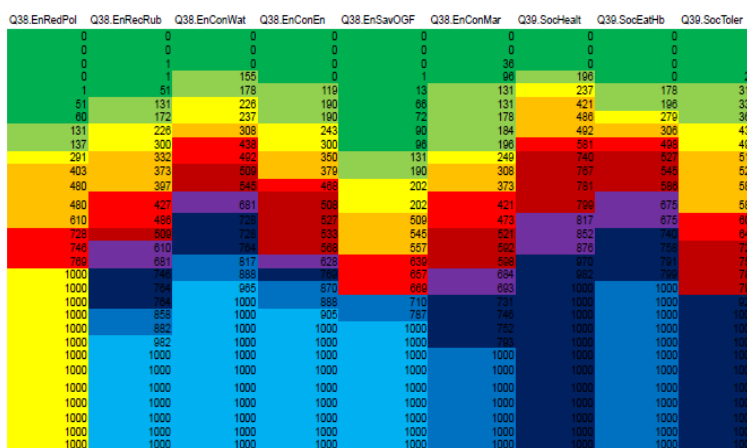
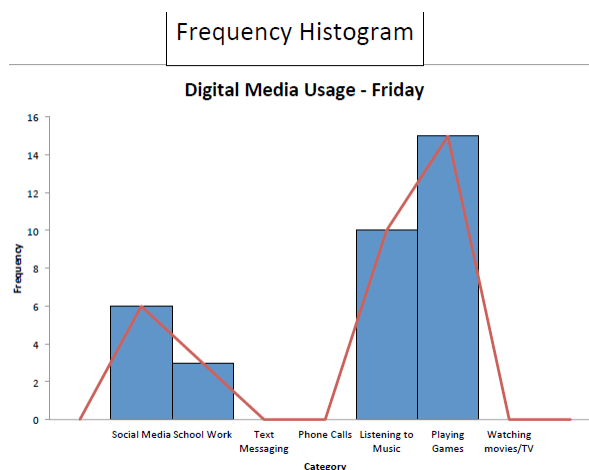
Miss Taranto

Head Teacher Mathematics

Census at School

For the past 4 weeks, students in Years 7-10 have been participating in Problem Based Learning through their study of Statistics. During this time they have participated with other schools in the Australian Bureau of Statistics education program called Census At School. The students have begun with a key inquiry question to investigate a number of relevant problems facing them in the real world. Year 10 are investigating environmental and social issues in Australia,

Year 9 are looking at student uses of digital media in its various forms, Year 8 are investigating the nutritional value of various restaurants and Year 7 students are investigating the multicultural nature of APCS.



Statisticians at work: William Makarytchev and Ebele Iwobi



Statisticians at work: Ibrahim Hoballah and Christoper Cen Mathematicians in Schools – Paul Piperias

Mathematicians in Schools are a national program supporting long-term, professional partnerships between practising mathematicians and teachers across Australia. Recently Alex Park has formed a partnership with a Mathematician, Paul Piperias. Paul is an analyst working in Maritime Capability for Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO). Students from Years 7-10 have had the opportunity to learn from Paul who is an expert Mathematician with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In his job at DSTO he is working with probability and statistics and investigates real world issues using modelling and simulation. Paul excited Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students about statistics, cargo ships, graphs and pirates last Monday. Paul has also been giving his time to provide advice and mentorship to students as they work on their Mathematics projects.

Mathletics

In Mathematics, students have been accessing a range of digital resources both at school and at home such as Geogebra, Excel, Edmodo and Mathletics. Mathletics is a resource that is being used by students from year 7-12. Mathletics is an educational website or e-learning application and on-line learning resource which helps students enjoy mathematics and improve their results through a range of mathematics activities from various topics which cover the full primary and secondary maths curriculum.

Each week, Mathletics publishes a list of students who have earned an award for a significantly high level of participation and achievement. The students below have been recognised for their hard work in term 3.

Week Ending		Points		Arada Thama	5348
6/07/14	Tiffany Nguyen	1926	13/07/14	Tiffany Nguyen	2026
	Igor Andonov	6170	20/07/14	Tiffany Nguyen	1259
	Arnab Bhattacharya	6239		Arnab Bhattacharya	1942
	Joshua Carillo	1491	27/07/14	Tiffany Nguyen	1537

	Andy Huang	1588		Srea Islam	3740
3/08/14	Tiffany Nguyen	2194		Raisa Raihan	2600
	Fuad Ferdous	1075		Elaine Zhong	1125
	Tahliya Sabatino-Morseu	1540	24/08/14	Tiffany Nguyen	1650
10/08/14	Tiffany Nguyen	2246		Arnab Bhattacharya	1042
	Orynn Seddon	1670		Fuad Ferdous	1083
	Arada Thama	1010	31/08/14	Tiffany Nguyen	6017
	AJ Flood	8423	7/09/14	Tiffany Nguyen	7043
17/08/14	Tiffany Nguyen	13047		Arnab Bhattacharya	1012
	Robin Bhetwal	1497		Elliot Anastopoulos	20070

We will be rewarding the top point scorers of each week at Wednesday assemblies. Congratulations to our award winners thus far. If you would like your child to have the opportunity to access Mathletics, please return your signed permission note and payment to the front office so that they can receive their login details.

L	I	E
S	R	V
A	A	B

MATHS FUN!

What maths word can you make with these 9 letters?

Maths Problem of the Week

Have a go at answering this week's Problem of the Week for your chance to win! All solutions are to be emailed to Miss Taranto at joanne.taranto3@det.nsw.edu.au with your name and class. The first correct answer will be awarded 5 deady stamps (yes 5!).

Years K-4

A number of children are standing in a circle. They are evenly spaced and the 7th child is directly opposite the 18th child.

How many children are there altogether?

Years 5-8

Read the little poem and answer its question if you can.

The number of girls who do wear a watch

Is double the number who don't.

But the number of boys who do not wear a watch

Is double the number who do.

If I tell you the number of girls in my class

Is double the number of boys,

Can you tell me the number I teach? Here's a clue:

More than 20; below 32!

Years 9-12

Suppose you're in a hallway lined with 100 closed lockers.

You begin by opening every locker. Then you close every second locker. Then you go to every third locker and open it (if it's closed) or close it (if it's open). Let's call this action toggling a locker. Continue toggling for 100 passes. On the 100th pass you toggle only locker #100, how many lockers are open?

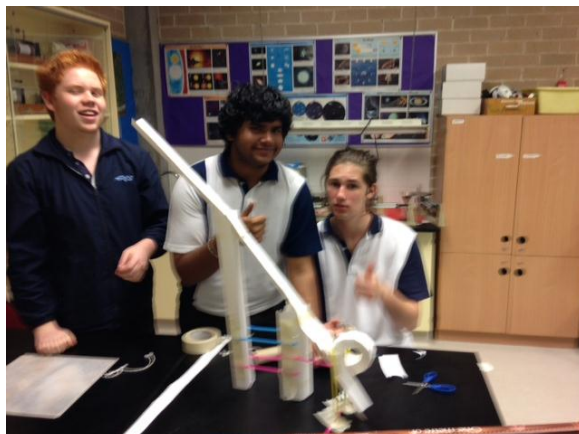
Interesting Maths Fact:

While participating in the Census at School program, some of the students have used, 'The Random Sampler' to access the Bureau's data. However random data isn't actually all that random. In a given list of numbers representing anything from [stock prices](#) to city populations to the heights of buildings to the lengths of rivers, about 30 percent of the numbers will begin with the digit 1. Less of them will begin with 2, even less with 3, and so on, until only one number in twenty will

begin with a 9. The bigger the data set, and the more orders of magnitude it spans, the more strongly this pattern emerges.

SCIENCE NEWS

Year 10 have been studying the topic Physics and in particular learning about Newton's Laws and the application of these laws in real life. Students discussed the physics that is applied to rides in theme parks, in particular roller coasters. Students created a roller coaster using an online simulation and were then given a design brief to create their own roller coaster. Using cardboard and a marble each group was very creative in designing and developing roller coasters with hills, twist and loops. One group built a whopping 1.46m hill equipped with loops and more hills. Students from 8L were then given a show and tell from 10a on their roller coasters and the physics behind a roller coaster.



Leadership program

Twelve of our wonderful Year 10 students have been involved in a leadership program on the junior campus. The program involves our leaders volunteering 3 lunchtimes a week, mentoring our younger students in Kindy, 1 and 2. The students have been running confidence building drama games, teaching drawing techniques and creating amazing Loom Bands.

The program has been a great success with our senior students building on their leadership skills as well as learning so much from their junior counterparts.

The Kindy, 1 & 2 students have been highly engaged, with more and more students wanting to be involved every week.



YEAR 11 WORK STUDIES – ENTERPRISE LEARNING BBQ FUNDRAISER FOR YEAR 12 FORMAL IN 2015

On the last day of Term 2, Friday 27th of June 2014, a small group of Year 11 Work Studies students organised a barbeque to fundraise for our Year 12 Formal in 2015. It was a great success with approximately 50 students and staff turning out to support our fundraising. We managed to raise \$150 with everyone receiving a sausage sandwich, drink and a piece of fresh fruit. We were lucky to be blessed with beautiful weather for the event which was held in the Kick Back Café Courtyard.

A big thank you goes to Uncle Hilton, for helping us cook the barbeque, Miss Mishra for helping with the food orders, Miss Ryde (classroom teacher), Miss Jamal, Ms Fetherston and Mr Kingsley without whom the event would not have been the success it was.

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported this event.

Written by: Shafwan, Roy, Ethan and Allan (Year 11 Work Studies students)



Photo: Year 11 Work Studies students and staff: Roy Anata, Allan Chen, Miss Naomi Ryde, Uncle Hilton, Shafwan Mosharran and Ethan Broom

Year 11 HSC Preparation Day

On Friday our Year 11 students attended a series of lectures and presentations with the focus of preparing them for their final study year ahead.

Thanks to the generosity of the Australia Technology Park, we had a Conference room prepared for us and students arrived promptly at 9:30 to hear our first guest. Lisa Forrest, ex-Olympic and Commonwealth Games athlete, TV Presenter and Author, start the day with an inspiring talk about her life as a swimmer. She showed students that resilience is something we learn from failure and not to be too judgemental about what success looks like.

Our other Presenters from Optus and the BOSTES were informative, educational and fun. The lunch was provided by the school through the Laissez Faire caterers at the ATP and the final session of the day was a Q and A with ex-students. These young people gave up their time to offer their knowledge and experience to our students and it was very much appreciated.

Thanks to the feedback, we will definitely run a similar program next year and work on making it even better.

Thanks to all those involved in its success.

Patricia Betar
Careers Adviser

YEAR 11 WORK STUDIES – VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

EXCURSION TO SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – RANDWICK

In Term 2, our Work Studies class went on an excursion to Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick for the whole day. We learned about the different departments in the children's hospital and the team of people that work on a child's medical case. We were able to choose between several mini tours and a few of the girls went into the chemist department. The rest of the group looked at how medicine was made and shipped to patients, how the tools get sterilized and what medicine is used for. However, Roy went on a mini tour exploring the biotechnology department. During the day we had the opportunity to watch a live surgery over webcam. This surgery involved a little girl having a grommet removed from her ear. We also visited several activity booths from all departments such as nursing, pharmacy, respiratory, radiology, surgery, psychology, music therapy, genealogy and physiotherapy and had a chance to fill in a questionnaire about the different departments to win a prize. We learnt so much about the different professional jobs within a hospital and medical industry and really enjoyed the day.

Written by: Alice Li, Miki Zou, Emily Turner, Mokea Ford and Roy Anata (Year 11 Work Studies students)



Congratulations to our Year 12 student, Natalie Williams, who has completed her School Based traineeship in Hospitality at the Macquarie Park Hotel.

Natalie is seen here with Con Cunningham from Atel Group Training receiving the latest Ipad as the incentive gift for completing her traineeship.

Well Done Natalie!

MUSIC NEWS

The Alex Factor

More than sixty students from years 3-6 participated in the heats of the Alex Factor earlier this month demonstrating an amazing range of talents from singing, dancing and playing instruments to dramatic monologues, gymnastics, comedy and card and magic tricks. It was exciting to see so many students with the confidence to have a go and put their own performances together. It was very difficult to choose only nine acts to go into the Finals Concert.

The finalists all gave astonishingly composed performances in front of our special guest judges Paul Goodchild, Don Spencer, Latifa and Timomatic. The judges were full of praise for all the contestants and struggled to find a winner from such a talented field. Finally Angela Yu was announced as winner with Lesley Yu as runner-up. Kalaish Stanley, Emma Corninos and Jessica Chen were awarded Encouragement Awards.

ACMF National Song Writing Contest

One of the reasons Timomatic, Latifa and Don Spencer attended the Alex Factor concert was to promote the Australian National Children's Song Writing Contest. This is an annual event open to all school-aged students and has wonderful prizes. The Primary School prize is \$600 to be spent on musical equipment or tuition and for the winner of the High School prize there is \$1,500 for the same purpose. Application forms and more information can be found on the ACMF website and entries close in October.

LIBRARY NEWS

APCS library has just completed 2014 Book Week celebration with a book fair; a book parade and a book swap in Term 3. All events have been extremely successful. We've raised \$423 for the school library and \$149 for Indigenous Literacy Foundation. During the celebration, we had a number of competitions. 5/6S has won a surprise prize for being the class that had made most purchases from Scholastic book fair. A jar of 293 jelly beans was won by Ashton Gill of KS. A jar of 57 teeth was won by Lauren Young of 5M. A jar of 73 Haribo mix was won by Tanya Andonov of 4/5HT. The most popular jar of snakes was won by Jada Simpson & Diamond Buchanan from 3/4P. The girls will share the snakes. Congratulations to all winners. Thanks to all parents, students and staff who have helped in our August events. Deepest appreciation from Ms Young (T/L).

SPORTS NEWS

U15 Girls Basketball

1100, 950, 950, 1060, 800, 329. It may seem strange that this report has started with 6 numbers but there is a point to it. The first five numbers represent the student sizes of the schools we played in the U15 girls Sydney East regional tournament, the final number of 329 represents our student population from years 7-12. You will understand the importance of these numbers as you read on.

After a bye in the first round we started the defence of our Sydney East championship in style with a 70-12 victory over Strathfield Girls High School (1100). Our entire playing group of 8 students took control of the game early and led 39-4 at half time. An enormous rebounding effort from Tahliya Sabatino and consistent scoring from the rest of the team led to the big win and we took our place in the final 8.

The final 8 tournament is played at Sutherland basketball stadium and the format involves the girls needing to play four, thirty minute games to make the state finals, I get exhausted just watching. The first game against Engadine High School (950) showcased the skill level of our students. We held them scoreless for the first half and ending up defeating them 56-4. After a quick 20 minute rest the girls were ready for their next game against Rose Bay Secondary College (950). This game was a bit closer and it took some amazing defence from Matilda Folwell and Brittany Simpson, as well as the offensive skills of Serika Shillingsworth, but we took the victory 39-18.

Our final pool game was for top spot in the group. Woollooware High School (1060) has been the powerhouse in Sydney East Girls basketball for 10 of the past 11 years. Our girls were outsized and outnumbered by the locals, however, what we lacked in size, our girls made up for in skill. After leading for the first 27 minutes of the game, the girls ran out of puff and were defeated 31-25. Our 7 player rotation wasn't able to handle the fresh players they managed to consistently put on the court. This defeat unfortunately meant we had to play Endeavour Sports High (800) in the semi-finals.

The semi-final was another example of height and numbers against skill. Our girls had already played three, 30 minute games with little rest and our small team numbers meant that they were exhausted. The exhaustion led to a slow start and we were unable to recover. Despite coming back to within four points late in the game, we eventually lost 42-29.

Our team of Brittany Simpson, Serika Shillingsworth, Matilda Folwell, Tahliya Sabatino, Hilary Lam, Aaliyah Parnell, Kathy Zhou and an injured Esmir Hargreaves were exhausted by the end of the day. Our school size, compared to the student population of our opponents, means that we don't have the same large teams that we can rely on. We do have something they don't have, Terry Denzil. Terry has given up countless hours to train these girls, as well as our boy's teams, up to 3 afternoons a week and our teams wouldn't have the skills to compete at this level without his expertise and commitment. As you can see when you compare student population numbers for schools in the region, Alexandria Park Community School has achieved amazing results for a school of 329 high school students.

APCS FITNESS CLUB:



The alarm goes off at 6am. It's windy, it's raining and it's frightfully cold. But still they come. Tall and small. Athletic and enthusiastic. Young and old (not that old!!!).

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. They come, they play, they laugh and they train. Nothing is ever too hard. This is the mentality of the APCS fitness club. They are so determined, so willing and so fit!

If we want our students to keep skipping, hopping, running and jumping around with the boundless energy they already seem to have, we've got to care for their joints. Recently, the APCS fitness club have incorporated a new flexibility session into their rigorous weekly training schedule. The session involves holding a series of different stretches for 30 seconds each over a 45 minute time period. By participating in a weekly stretching session once a week, children will have a decreased likelihood of injury due to increased flexibility, decreased prevalence of growing pains and will be more inclined to maintain or implement a healthy lifestyle in the future! If this sounds like something you think your child might enjoy, come join us at 7:15am on Wednesday in The Denzil.

Miss Kasz (PDHPE Teacher, Fitness Coordinator)

HOMESTAY FAMILIES

Homestay Network is seeking families to join in the experience of hosting international students who attend Universities and language schools.

We have students who are keen to experience the Australian lifestyle within a family environment. If you think you might enjoy the cultural exchange and would like to know more please apply online to be a host at www.homestaynetwork.com.au. Hosts are paid upwards of \$250 per week for hosting our students.



PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C) NEWS

Yet another busy term for the P&C culminating with our Pizza Day and Cake Stall. Last term we were able to purchase a chest freezer for the Canteen and this term funds raised will be directed to small appliances and other items. A working bee will be held in the Park Rd Canteen on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September in a final push to get the facilities ready to open. If you can spare an hour or 2 of your time please come on down and join in. Details on opening hours will be available soon.

In other news, after a few false starts, we are finally expecting delivery of our new bike and scooter racks for both the Park and Mitchell Rd Campuses courtesy of the City of Sydney. The racks have been approved by the COS Finance Team and have now been ordered so keep watch for them appearing in the playground shortly. Please ensure you follow all road rules when riding/scooting to School and remember it is compulsory to wear a helmet. Bikes should be dismounted before you enter the playground.

The Mitchell Rd Campus is shortly to receive a landscaping makeover from the good people at Lend Lease as part of their annual Staff Community Day. Once complete, we will be looking to assemble a team of parents to help maintain the areas that are being beautified. If you're a keen gardener or perhaps just a terrace or flat dweller lamenting your lack of back yard please contact us.

Finally our planned Outdoor Movie Night has had to be postponed to 2015 due to damage to the screen which had kindly been donated by Redfern Community Centre. A smaller replacement event will be announced in coming weeks.

Our next meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 8 October with a guest speaker to be confirmed. If you can't make the meeting and have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact us at apcspandc@gmail.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/apcspandc>

CANTEEN WORKING BEE

Working bee on the junior campus this weekend (21st & 22nd) to get the canteen ready.

We are going to be cleaning, painting, gurnying.

A couple of hours is all that is needed - the more people to help the easier and quicker the tasks..

If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday or even Sunday PLEASE COME

Will be there from 7am to 12pm Saturday and 9am -12pm Sunday.

If you can advise apcspandc@gmail.com if you are coming so we know to expect you.

Thank you in advance..

Canteen sub committee

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Australians throw away 3.3 million tonnes of food every year – up to a quarter of the country's food supplies - mainly because we purchase too much. Consider planning your meals and only buy what you need. Reduce packaging in your child's lunchbox and use re-usable containers rather than plastic wrap where possible. It also leaves our school grounds much cleaner!

Mobile Maths Games

Channel your child's interest in playing mobile apps into a chance to improve their maths skills and recall. The free School A to Z app has a Maths Monkey game to help test times tables and the follow-up app, Maths Monkey's Quest (\$1.99), challenges kids from Yr 2 to Yr 8 with addition, subtraction, ratios and percentages. Both apps are created by the NSW Department of Education and are available for Apple iPhones and iPads, and Android phones and tablets.

You'll find links to both here: <http://bit.ly/oSREYV>

Selective schools

Are you already thinking about your child's Year 7 placement in a selective school in 2016? Selective high schools are government high schools that cater for highly-achieving, academically talented students by offering an educationally enriched environment. Application for entry to a selective high school in Year 7 in 2016 will be online only, from 14 October, 2014. You'll find more information about selective schools and dates for examinations here:

<http://bit.ly/selectiveHS>

How you can help your child study.

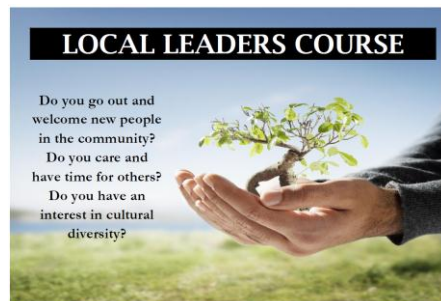
Support your teen through the high school years with School A to Z. This online resource for parents contains study tips and homework help, information on dealing with exam stress, practical advice on health, wellbeing and cybersafety, plus lots more. Watch videos, read articles and listen to podcasts: www.schoolatoz.com.au.

Does your teenager work?

Many teenagers start a weekend or after school job in high school. A helpful guide to how much they should be getting paid and the minimum conditions can be found at: www.fairwork.gov.au. If you have any queries there is a helpline at 13 13 94. You can also lodge an online workplace complaint if you feel your child has been unfairly treated.

LOCAL LEADERS COURSE

Are you interested in training to become a Local Leader who supports new families arriving at our school or Community Centre? In Term 4 the Community Centre, in partnership with Ultimo TAFE, will be running a Local Leaders Course. It is open to any school or community centre parent. The course is FREE and child minding will be available. The course will run for 10 weeks every Wednesday morning during Term 4 starting October 8. If you want further information see Jo in the Community Centre or contact her on 9319 3207.



COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

TRANSITION PLAYGROUP

The Friday morning Transition Playgroup has been busy with lots of families participating. Donna has been taking the Transition kids into the classroom each week and parents have been helping out with the group activities.



BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS" PROGRAM

During August about 13 of our Community Centre parents participated in the "Bringing Up Great Kids" program run by Robyn from CatholicCare. The four weekly sessions were enjoyed by all, especially the kids with the child care minders!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The recent rain has been greatly appreciated by the community garden. Everything has grown and is looking green and lush. At the last working bee garden members worked on the strawberry patch getting ready for the fruit to start appearing. The tomatoes are ripening and our big pumpkin was divided up and shared amongst the gardeners.





APCS CANTEEN WILL BE OPENING TERM 4, 2014

At Alexandria Park Community School we know the importance of nutritious food and the role it plays in the growth and development of our children. APCS canteen is committed to providing our students and staff with a variety of affordable healthy menu options, and we need your help to make it a success.

JOIN OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS TEAM

APCS P&C are calling for volunteers to assist in the running of our canteen. If you are able to spare some of your valuable time during the term please talk to our volunteer canteen managers Deb and Cimone. Together, along with a fantastic team of volunteers, they will create a healthy and thriving canteen. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

MAKE A DONATION - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A CANTEEN REFURBISHMENT FUND has been established by the P&C. Any financial contributions you could generously make, no amount too small, is vital in helping us equip this wonderful canteen. If you wish to donate the account details are
ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL P&C
BSB: 062 112 Account No: 10174930

OR

Are you able to donate to the canteen any kitchen equipment you may have and no longer need?

POTS - UTENSILS - ELECTRICAL - STORAGE CONTAINERS - ETC

All donations welcomed and can be dropped off at the junior campus front office.

The APCS P&C thank you for your support and looks forward to providing our school community with a canteen we can all be proud of.

TRIPLE ZERO *kids' challenge*



Take the triple zero
KIDS' CHALLENGE
and go online at
kids.triplezero.gov.au
for fun ways to teach
kids what to do in
an **EMERGENCY!**



An initiative of the Australian Government
State and Territory Emergency Services

