

Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success
in a caring learning environment

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Newsletter

Term 4 Week 5

2015 Oct/Nov

P&C Paper Planes Fundraiser – An engaged & Connected K-12 Community School



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Achieving and aspiring students.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 2015 Deadly Kids Doing Well Awards, which acknowledges the achievements of Aboriginal students. It was an especially enjoyable event, in that a large number of Alex Park students featured on the day. Year 12 student, Aaron Simpson, was chosen as Master of Ceremony for the day and carried out his duties with confidence and composure. Aaron's performance on the day is testament to the success of public speaking programs such as Yarn Up, Speak Up and the Great Debates, and opportunities to consolidate and practice skills learnt within the school context, such as at NAIDOC and Presentation Night. The Alex Park Sapphires, our Aboriginal girl's vocal ensemble, opened proceedings with a moving rendition of the National Anthem sung in Tharawal Language. This group is going from strength to strength, under the expert tuition of Leanne Winfield. They certainly did

Alex Park proud on the day! And to add to the "Alex Park showcase" on the day, our students Laurienta Cavanagh and Jacob Buchanan (Year 5) and Diamond Smith (Year 10) received Deadly awards. I was certainly a proud principal on the day!



The School Captains for 2016 have been elected, following a strenuous process, which involved the submission, by prospective candidates of an expression of interest in the position to a panel, which comprised the Year 12 Year Adviser, the P&C president and myself. As well, each candidate spoke at the high school assembly as to the reasons they believed that they would be the right person for the role. The process was concluded with staff and students voting. I am pleased to announce that the 2016 School Captains are Sarah Flood and Jason Ke and the Vice Captains are Mehtaj Jahan and Hamzah Alitembokarsan. Congratulations to these four outstanding young people. I have full confidence that they will do an exceptional job as the school's representatives and I am excited to be able to work with these outstanding leaders over 2015 and 2016.



Have you noticed how neat and tidy the Junior Campus gardens are? This is the result of the amazing work carried out by a group of parents and junior and senior students, under the expert supervision of Deputy Principal Glen Kingsley and parent Andrew Levy. All volunteered their time recently to take part in a clean up day at the school. The main job was to mulch the area under the shade cloth on the Junior Campus, which now looks so much better! A big thank you to all who assisted. The area looks so much better for students, parents and community and, most importantly, has made my office outlook much more pleasant!



We have had some very successful fundraisers of late. At the end of last term, the students in the school's Interact club held a "movie and popcorn" event. They raised \$2,200, which was presented to the Salvation Army to assist the Oasis program, which provides educational and social opportunities for youth in crisis situations.



An engaged and connected K - 12 community.



This was followed by another event – the highly successful P&C fair and movie night. The event featured displays by community organisations, competitions, demonstrations and fabulous food, followed by the showing of the movie 'Paper Planes.' A fantastic family event and a big thank you to the P&C for organising it. Please enjoy the photos taken from this great community event on the front page of our newsletter.

Teaching, learning and innovation.

The new Primary Deputy Principal Debra Lade has been appointed. Debra will take up the appointment from 2016. Although still working at Ermington Public School, Debra is ensuring that she is involved in planning for the start of 2016 at Alex Park. Debra recently had a day at the school to take part in a primary executive 2016 planning day. Whilst at the school, as well as planning with executive to ensure a smooth start to 2016, she took the time to meet students and staff and to familiarise herself with the layout of the school. We look forward to Debra starting in 2016. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge, ideas and experiences.

Loving what's happening in our Library – our renovations and update are progressing. Great work Mrs Yong (Librarian), Anna Povey and Leanne Seddon (Library Support Officers)



I would like to finish this report with a reminder to parents of the importance of road safety. Students of all ages need to be reminded regularly by staff and parents of the importance of crossing roads safely, by using pedestrian crossings and only proceeding to cross on green signals, after looking both ways to ensure that cars have stopped. It is most important that students carry out these procedures when moving between the campuses, as well as coming to and from school. There has certainly been an increase in traffic as the area has grown. We must work together to educate students and constantly remind them to keep themselves safe, make good decisions and be vigilant at all times when crossing roads.

Ms Diane Fetherston

Principal

Welcome to our new Deputy Principal



Name: Debra Lade

Academic Qualifications & Institution: University Western Sydney – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Teaching experience (courses, years, schools): I started my teaching career at Winston Hills Public School as a targeted graduate. During my time there I taught on Stage 2 and 3 for a few years before deciding I would like to travel and teach in London. I worked in London for the next few years teaching Years 3, 4 & 5. During this period I was fortunate enough to work at a school using emerging technology (such as IWB) and developed my behaviour management strategies as I was working in a challenging area. Upon returning to Sydney I was placed at West Pennant Hills where I relieved as an Assistant Principal and taught a 2/3 composite class and 3/4 all boys class. I was also able to use my IWB skills to run professional learning for teachers. I led the Aboriginal committee and was fortunate enough to participate in the Cuddie-Cuddie project working with Aboriginal elders through video conferencing. At Ermington Public School, I was appointed as an Assistant Principal leading all stages across the school. I have also had the opportunity to relieve as Principal working collaboratively with students, teachers and our school community.

Other employment experiences: When I first left school I decided I would be a chef working 40+ hours a week close to the city. After a few months I knew this wasn't for me so I started a retail traineeship at Gowings. I completed this before deciding to try my hand as a receptionist at Mulford Plastics. I obtained a promotion as a stock coordinator before deciding to complete my university degree and follow my lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Working in settings outside of education allowed me to see how much I love being a teacher and school leader as you have the opportunity to touch the lives of others.

2016 at Alex Park: I am thrilled to be appointed to Alex Park as Deputy Principal and I am looking forward to working with staff, students and the parent community to improve student outcomes across the school. I have visited the school (minus the students) and am really looking forward to being able to see the students within their classrooms and working with them across all areas of the curriculum.

Areas of passion / interests that you would like to be involved in at Alex Park. As we are living in a world where technology is all around us I would like to support Alex Park students to develop the skills they need to live in the 21st century. I am passionate about students reading and working with quality literature so I look forward to continuing to develop programs across the school in English. I'm sure once I arrive and am settled there will be many more committees I am part of and programs I lead and support across the school.

Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement: I am a passionate educator who believes relationships are the foundation to a positive learning environment and school community. Being a life-long learner and being open to try new things allows individuals to discover what they are passionate about and to continue to grow throughout their life.

First impressions of Alex Park: I'm lucky to be here ☺ though I haven't had the opportunity to meet everyone yet I have been introduced to some students and teachers. Everyone I have spoken to has made me feel welcomed and I am really looking forward to being part of your school community. Students, teachers and parents will always be welcome to discuss their child's education with me.

Any other info you want to share?

Is it 2016 yet? Although I'll be sad to leave Ermington Public School as it is a wonderful community, I am very excited to be on a new adventure and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you all next year. I am happily married and enjoy travelling to countries throughout the world to try new foods and experience the culture. I love yoga and spending time with my family and friends.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Swimming at NCIE by KM



KM and KW are going to swimming lessons every Friday. KM leave school at 11.40 after first lunch and KW leave school at 12.10. Parents and teachers walk with us to NCIE to keep us safe. When we get there we get changed quickly and sit on the long silver seat with a light blue squashy mat underneath. We then split into 4 groups and got into the lovely warm water. Chloe's group held onto and kicked on the kick board. In Ruari's group the instructor throws little rockets that sink down into the water and students swim to the bottom to get them. You need to take a deep breath before you torpedo under the water. Ruby's group hold onto a pool noodle and kick to the black flags and then back to the red platform. Molly's group swim with the instructor and blow bubbles under the water. After our lesson we get dry with our colourful swimming towels and get changed quickly into our school uniform. The fastest person ready with all their belongings packed into their bag gets a Deadly. We feel hungry, tired, and happy after swimming lessons. We are really proud of ourselves after swimming.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Year 7 into Year 8 Transition Program

This term Year 7 has been engaging in a transition program that has been tailored to help the students familiarise themselves with the senior campus. The program is coordinated by Ms Betar, Ms Caswell, Ms Kasz and Mr Jun. The teaching staff has put together a range of activities to help students get to know various aspects of the senior campus such as the classrooms, teachers, and procedures.

Last week, students created 'Guess Who?' game boards featuring the secondary teaching staff of Alexandria Park Community School. After making their boards, the students played the game. The game will help students recognise school teachers on the senior campus and identify their names.



Stage 3 Science and Technology



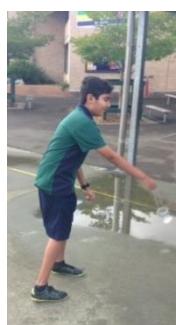
Fizzics Education Lesson

On Thursday, 22nd October, our Stage 3 classes learnt about renewable energy with Nina from Fizzics Education. It was a one-hour session, where we developed our knowledge and understanding of the ways electricity can be generated through wind, solar and hydro power. We also learnt about non-renewable energy sources, such as coal, gas and oil. We were told about how these energies ruin the ozone layer and affect our earth by making it warmer – this is called the *green house effect*. This experience was very interesting and it was great that this lesson was so interactive.

By Savera, Eufa and Nadia (5/6H)

Science Year 7

This term students have been learning about the concept of Force. Students have been using scientific methods to test ideas about force and mass. We have also tested the idea of centripetal force by spinning water in a cup around in a circle. Year 7 will continue to explore practical applications of force, including friction and magnetic force. Students should be preparing for the yearly Science exam which will be held in week 6. Students should revise on all topics covered this year in Science revision worksheets available on edmodo and revision will also be done in class.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Science News

The focus in all Science classes in Term 4 is Scientific Method. The Scientific Method is a way to ask and answer scientific questions by making observations and doing experiments. The Scientific Method is an internationally accepted way to ensure that experiments are reliable, fair and valid.

Year 7 students have been sharing experimental procedures to ensure a fair test, especially in understanding the quality of paper towels.



Year 8 Students are investigating the importance of resources and how we can use them in sustainable ways. Year 9 has researched the Earth's structure and the impact of natural disasters on humans and the environment. Year 10 continues to understand Climate change and the dynamic world that we live in.

All classes will soon be informed of their yearly exams and will be doing revision in class to prepare for this assessment.

Year 11 Science students have started their HSC courses and should establish an effective and balanced study program to prepare them for the HSC – this time next year!



decided to run their own tiendas (*shops*) where they could sell imaginary wares. This activity gave them the opportunity to practise their knowledge of Spanish numbers and items as they tried to bargain as buyers and sellers. Many tiendas made a reasonable profit in the imaginary currency and all students had the chance to converse in our target language, as well as make some impressive buys. Bien hecho, Year 8!



Math's Matters



Students have settled into their work quickly this term and it is surprising that we are already nearly half way through the term.

Year 12 have completed their HSC Mathematics exams and are looking forward to a well-earned rest before setting out on the journey of their life. We wish them all well.

Our new Year 12 students have started well and have already settled into their HSC courses and face their first assessment task in week 9.

All students in years 7-10 Mathematics will sit their yearly exams in week 5.

This is particularly important for the year 10 students as it is the final exam of their junior years.

It will also be used as one of the indicators to guide the mathematics teacher recommendations to students about the level of mathematics that is suitable for them in year 11. In addition the exam

indicates to students, wishing to attempt more advanced mathematics, the areas and concepts they will need to revise during the long holiday.

Students in year 7 have been collecting data on transport and its impact on the environment. They are collecting data on their methods of transport over two weeks. After the exams students will collate, analyse and finally present this data to their class and a special guest panel.

Students in years 8 to 10 will commence their statistics tasks after the exams.

As mentioned in the last newsletter Nathan Wong year 6 and Arpon Sengupta Year 9 both received an outstanding result of High Distinction in the prestigious Australian Mathematics Competition. This result places in the top two percent of the state. However Nathan's result has been so outstanding that he has received an invitation to attend a special mathematics' workshop this month to be held at the University of Sydney. Well done.

The chess club run by Mr. Liang during lunch times on the senior campus continues to be a popular attraction for many students. If you want a challenge there is room for more keen players and if you don't know how to play there are just as many keen teachers.

Problem of the Month

What math's word can you make with these 9 letters?

B	A	C
G	A	E
I	R	L

Solution to the last problem of the month was DODECAGON: this is a twelve-sided polygon.

Year 11 Legal Studies: Mooting Workshop

In Terms 3 and 4, members of Year 11 Legal Studies participated in two mootng workshops run by the University of New South Wales' Mooting Club. Mooting is a simulated court proceeding where student teams are presented with a legal problem, which they argue before a judge. Over the course of the two workshops, students discussed and argued a criminal law matter and a matter involving the tort of negligence. The mootng exercises gave students an insight into the skills required to work in the legal profession and an opportunity to develop an understanding of legal language and courtroom procedures.

The class would like to thank the UNSW Mooting Club for donating their time to run the sessions.

MUSIC NEWS

Our Alex Park musicians have been very busy. Here are some highlights:



Winners of the Alex Factor with adjudicator Paul Goodchild.



Lauren and Milo played in the “Expanding Horizons” Concert



Year 9 Elective Music Students



The Sapphires on their way to perform at ATP



Ella (3rd from left) ready to perform at the Opera House.



Daceyville Big Band Bash



The Alex Park Sapphires performing at the Deadly Kids Awards Ceremony at UTS

SPORTS NEWS

GIRLS NETBALL



Last Friday, the APCS netball U15's team played against Newtown Performing Arts High School at the University of Sydney Sport and Aquatic Centre. The girls played exceptionally well in each quarter and displayed wonderful sportsmanship skills and even though we came off second on the scoreboard, we came first for team work! Big thanks to Kirsty's Mum and Auntie who showed up to give the girls some coaching and support and also to Paige's Mum, Mrs Schellhorn, who kindly bought our girls lovely new netball bibs so we looked super classy on the day!! Well done to the following girls for representing our school:

Zoe Zawetz, Nicola Ross, Elaine Zhong, Grace Pun, Ushante Lancaster, Kalaney Carr, Clare Lin, Paige Schellhorn, Kirsty Shephard-Parker, Lauren Hammond, Matilda Folwell

FEEL GOOD CUP & OZ TAG

Alexandria Park Community School in partnership with Headspace, South Cares, the NRL and other local youth organizations hosted the inaugural 'Feel Good Cup' and Oz Tag competition to promote good mental health. Toni Ottavio Staemen of Headspace writes in an email.....

"Dear Diane, Just wanted to touch base with you to say thank you for supporting the Feel Good Cup and also a huge thank you to your staff who attended. The students were amazing, volunteering to MC the event (Aaliyah Simpson and Aliyah Marquette) and also a big thank you to Brittney Simpson for her preparation and delivery of Acknowledgement to Country.

The league tag was a huge success with the core group of 54 students from your school, 3 young people from The Settlement and 15 young people from Weave.

Another great community event at Alex Park.



LIBRARY NEWS

Please find Term 4 Library Monitors' list below. Congratulations to these students who volunteer to help in our school library.

Class	Monitor 1	Monitor 2
2P	Allysa	Jacob
3/4F	Leena	Thuhid
3/4J	James	Jack
5O	Tahmid	Abrar
5/6HM	Caibe	Vincent
5/6S	Sharlese	Jeffery
6M	Yasir	Adrian

Day	Lunch 1 (11:10am - 11:40am)	Lunch 2 (1:40pm – 2:10pm)
MONDAY	Ethan C. & Alan N.	Jet & Mariam I.
TUESDAY	Harsh & Taeshun	Mia & Sylvie
WEDNESDAY	Antoine & Henry	Tanya A. & Eloise
THURSDAY	Piya & Ayesha	-----
FRIDAY	Will F. & Evan M.	-----

APCS library hosts three book clubs this term. When your child brings a book club brochure home, you may wish to place orders of your choice.

- ❖ **Scholastic Australia:** You can make orders both online or send cash or cheque to school with your child.
- ❖ **Carnival Club:** you can only place orders online via website in the brochure.
- ❖ **Redgum Club:** you can only place orders online via website in the brochure.

SCHOLARSHIPS for students in Public Education

The Public Education Foundation was established to work collaboratively with schools, communities, business and government to help students achieve their full potential while enhancing the value and reputation of public school education.

We do this by providing life-changing scholarships for students and by encouraging research in the field of education.

Our scholarship program means donors can give public school students life changing opportunities as a tax-deductible gift. The PEF ensures that at least 90 per cent of all money donated goes directly to scholarships.

The types of scholarships we provide are constantly evolving to meet the needs of students and donors. They are not just about financial payments, focusing instead on the different kinds of support and encouragement that individual students need. The most important thing is that our programs are developed using expert advice, evidence-based and evaluated and are culturally appropriate and best practice.

We are regularly developing new opportunities to meet both the needs of donors and scholarship recipients. Typically we help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to cover the extra 'costs' of schooling and have the support they need to succeed. We also provide opportunities for hard working students to extend their talents and pursue their aspirations.

<http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships/>

SCHOOL CALENDAR for November – UP & COMING EVENTS

Nov 9

Middle School Story Factory Project
11:40am - 1:40pm

Nov 11

Kindy 2016 In Class Experience 10am - 11am

Nov 12

Macquarie Uni Archaeology Incursion years 5-7
Yr10 Food Technology incursion
Kids and Blokes Playzone 6pm - 9pm

Nov 13

Macquarie Uni Archaeology Incursion years 5-7
Year 7 & 8 AIME day
Kindy Swimming 11:30am - 2pm

Nov 16

Yr. 10 Work Experience
Middle School Story Factory Project 11:40am - 1:40pm

Nov 17

Yr. 10 Work Experience
High School Assembly

Nov 18

Yr. 10 Work Experience
Kindy 2016 in Class Experience 10am - 11am

Nov 19

Yr. 10 Work Experience
5OC 2016 Orientation Morning 9:30am - 11am

Nov 20

Yr. 10 Work Experience
Kindy Swimming 11:30am - 2pm

Nov 23

Middle School Story Factory Project 11:40am - 1:40pm

Nov 24

Microwave Jenny recording session

Nov 25

Kindy 2016 in Class Experience 10am - 11am

Nov 26

Yr. 11 Legal Studies excursion- UTS

Nov 30

Middle School Story Factory Project 11:40am - 1:40pm

