

Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success
in a caring learning environment

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Newsletter

Term 3 Week 10

September 2016

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Captains for 2016 / 2017

Ms Prexl and I could not be more excited to be able to announce to our school community that our new school captains are:-

Rachel LIN, Alex MAKARYTCHEV, Aaliyah PARNELL & Jainen MAUTAMA

**STRATEGIC
DIRECTIONS 1**
Achieving and
aspiring students



Congratulations



Here is some information about each of our captains



Jainen Mautama

I have been at APCS since Year 7 and I'm a very approachable person! I'm always volunteering for things, I've been part of the SRC for three years and I'm always at school events supporting people; I'd say I'm quite a friendly person. I can't wait to spend my last year of school as a leader. Fun fact: I used to have blue hair!



Alex Makarytchev

My name is Alex but, as I've said in my speech, everyone should call me Macca. I've been at APCS for over 10 years now (since Kindergarten) and I look forward to seeing the school adapt and evolve over the course of the next year. My hobbies include gaming, reading and going to the gym. My favourite subject is English.



Rachel Lin

Hi, my name is Rachel. I have been involved in many school activities such as the NAIDOC day barbeque and representing our school at State Athletics. In my spare time I like eating nuggets and long walks on the beach. I aspire to become an approachable leader and make changes to improve the school so thanks for this great opportunity! #LinWins



Aaliyah Parnell

Hi, my name is Aaliyah Parnell, I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman from Cowra and I'm part of a family full of leaders. First of all, I'd like to say thank you to all the people who voted for me, I will make sure to represent you throughout the next year as one of the school captains. Fun fact: I am fun!

The Pop-up High School

Latest information about the Pop-up high school and the re-build of APCS can be found on our school's webpage

From the home page click on the 'Our School' link

On the panel on the left hand side there is a link called 'APCS Re-Build'

Or use this link to get directly to the page on our website

<http://www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/apcs-re-build>

For the Department direct link and all details please click here:

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-the-department/our-reforms/innovative-education-successful-students/school-upgrades/alexandria-park-community-school>

Congratulations to our Year 12 graduates!

Completing Year 12 and the Higher School Certificate is an amazing achievement and we are all very proud of our year 12 class of 2016. Year 12 graduation is always an occasion that fills people with missed emotions – it is exciting to think that our year 12 students will be moving on to the next phase in their lives – some to further studies at University or TAFE, others taking up traineeships or entering the workforce. Many students take some time to themselves to travel and experience the world. WE wish all of our students the best in their HSC exams and know that bright, happy and engaged futures await you all.

FAREWELL YEAR 12



GOOD LUCK!

Holidays – yeah!

Have a fun and fabulous holiday. Term 4 begins for staff and students on Monday October 10.

Date	What's' happening
Monday October 10	School resumes
Tuesday October 11 – Friday October 14	Aboriginal Studies Trip
Thursday October 13	Years 5 – 7 Fizzics excursions
Tuesday October 18	Raise Mentoring graduation ceremony

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

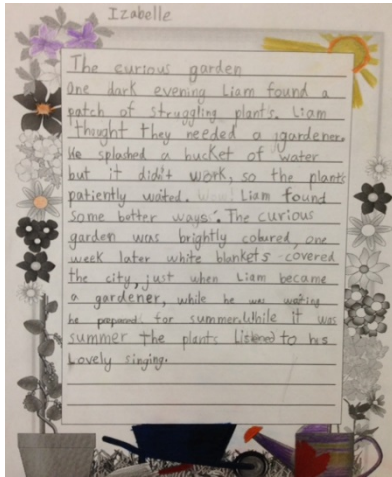
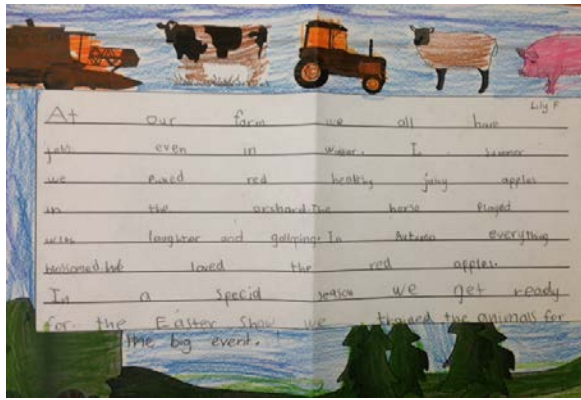
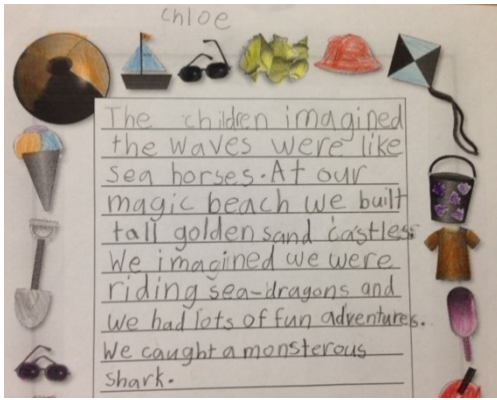
In Kindergarten, we have been learning about how plants grow and what they need to survive. The children predicted what would happen and took regular notes and drew pictures to record their seed's growth and progress. We also planted carrot and strawberry seeds in small pots to learn that food comes from plants (not the shops!).



Stage 1 went on an excursion to Centennial Park. The students studied two different environments in the Parklands, terrestrial and aquatic. Activities included dipnetting, mini habitat construction and a swamp walk where the students heard the story of one of the Parks resident's, Ficus the flying fox. It was fantastic and extremely informative.



Year 1 are involved in the Literacy, Language and Learning program. Here are some of our published works.



The annual Book Parade was excellent. 1D won the best dressed class and here is why!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





A Dreaming poem inspired by the story,

“Why I Love Australia” by Bronwyn Bancroft.

Desert plains-sandy, hot, dry and dusty.

Rainforests-steamy, wet and full of luscious plant life.

Eagles-majestic, soaring, predators of the sky.

Australia-magnificent, awe-inspiring, beautiful, our home.

Mountains-enormous peaks creating a rugged landscape.

I-passionate caretaker of this great land.

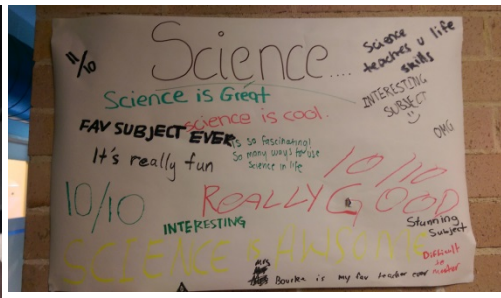
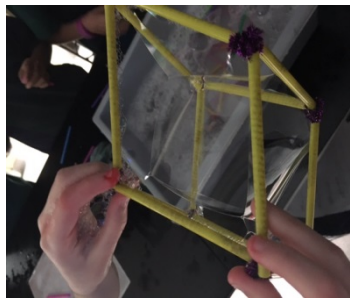
Nature-wonderful, superb, surprising and unpredictable.

Gorges-spectacular, amazing, plummeting to pristine water.



Composed by 1D

Mad Science Day



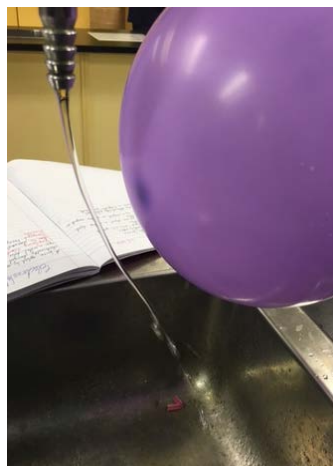
National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of Science and Technology. On Thursday the 17th August, Alexandria Park Community School celebrated National Science Week by hosting a 'Mad Science Day' for Year 5 to Year 7 students.

The theme for this year was Drones, Droids and Robots. Students were given the opportunity to dress up as their favorite Scientist. Students spent the day rotating through a variety of workshops run by their school teachers. These workshops included; Drone technology, using lenses to make an I-phone projector, creating rainbows with light, lava lamps, balloon rockets and cubed bubble in a bubble. We also had an inflatable Planetarium, where students were shown the night sky and star constellations. They were also able to watch a 3D movie on space. Students were given a great opportunity to immerse themselves into the world of Science (and Technology) through hands on learning.



Year 7 Science

We have had a busy term in Science. Students learned about the importance of classification as well as the different types of forces and how they can help us in the 'real world'. Students were able to draw and map the magnetic field lines of a bar magnet as well as use electrostatic force to bend water with a balloon. We tested the aerodynamics of paper planes and how air resistance can impact the plane's flight. Students should start revising the work they have done this year in Science in preparation for Yearly exams in term 4.



MATHS MATTERS

Students in year 8 have been involved in an assessment task called 'The Block'. The task involved students working in groups to create a floor plan & 3D model for a studio apartment or house for a selected suburb. To create the floor plan and 3D model, students used Google Sketch. At the end of the project, students attended a mock auction where they presented the properties using Power point presentations and persuasive language to convince the potential buyers of their property's value. The students were very engaged in the task with many groups producing brochures for their properties. A great atmosphere was created at the auction for both students and buyers.



The Australian Mathematics Competition results were particularly impressive this year with 5 high distinct and 14 distinctions achieved across the school from years 3 to 10. Congratulations to all students who participated. Year 12 students have been working hard in preparation for their HSC exams and we wish them well.

SYDNEY STUDENTS GET CHEESY



Over 74 excited students were recognised at a 'Cows Create Careers – Camembert in the Classroom' presentation day, held on Friday 2nd September 2016 at the Blacktown RSL.

Camembert in the Classroom is an innovative Dairy Australia program designed to encourage secondary school teachers and students to learn about the Australian dairy industry, while introducing students to dairy manufacturing careers and pathways.

Teachers from six schools across the Sydney region will participate in the program including Shoalhaven High School, Albion Park High School, **Alexandria Park Community School**, Vincentia High School, Pittwater High School and Greenpoint Christian College.

Teachers were trained to make camembert cheese by program presenter and Deputy Chief Judge of the Australian Grand Dairy Awards, Russell Smith. They then transferred this knowledge to their students.

Over a term, students made their own camembert cheese in the classroom and completed assessment tasks, including a multimedia advertisement. Upon completion of the program, Russell Smith, along with accredited judges, awarded the region's winning and runner up cheeses.

Camembert in the Classroom program manager, Dr Mani Iyer, believes that the Dairy Australia program is a great hands-on platform to introduce both teachers and secondary students to the Australian dairy industry, dairy processes and dairy products.

"Since its launch in 2011, the Camembert in the Classroom program has grown significantly in its popularity" Dr Iyer said.

"In 2015, over 101 schools from Victoria, South Australia, NSW, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia participated in the program, with all of the schools incorporating the program into their school curriculum."

The Cows Create Careers program is funded and managed by Dairy Australia and conducted by Jaydee Events Pty Ltd.

UNSW Sun Sprint Solar Car Challenge - Saturday 3rd September 2016

APCS entered the sun sprint solar car challenge this year for the first time. This event has been run for 15 years and we were up against some experienced racers. Jerry Sun and Johan Huq from Yr7 represented our school with solar cars they built during Enrichment Programs with Mr Alexopoulos. The boys did really well on the day their cars were very competitive but most importantly they had lots of fun racing against all the other schools. Overall the boys finished 7th out of almost 70 entries. We can walk away proud because the car that went on to win the event was the car that knocked us out of the competition by only a fraction of a second. We have learnt a lot from our experience and will take this knowledge back to school and build a better car for next year. Nick Alexopoulos



Yr 10 excursion to The Rocks 24/8/16

Year 10 Science students enhanced their knowledge of *Space* and were able to explore inside The Sydney Observatory and learn about many interesting features of telescopes and observations of our skies. During the visit, students were able to congregate in a Planetarium to learn more about our constellations and were also able to see features of planets and stars in a specially designed theatre.

Students were able to see refracting and reflecting telescopes, although the inclement weather prevented us from viewing planets on the day.



We visited the Rocks Discovery Centre, where we learnt more about Aboriginal culture and were very proud to see our school display in the centre.

A fun but very wet day was had by all.

Year 11 exams



The Preliminary Examination period for all Year 11 students began on Monday 12th September and finished on Tuesday 20th September, with Extension 1 English and catch-up exams held on Wednesday 21st September. These are the final exams that Year 11 will sit before they commence the HSC year in Term 4. The Yearly exams were held in the PLC on the senior campus and the students all

behaved exceedingly well. The exams allow students to acclimatise to formal test conditions in the lead up to their final year of schooling and their external HSC exams. We wish Year 11 all the best!

MUSIC NEWS

This term in Music, students have been focusing on singing and performing in relation to our Music Count Us In song, 'Let It Play', Feat Variation on 'Canon in D' by Johann Pachelbel. MCUI is an Australian wide music program aimed at promoting and encouraging quality music education within schools. The date for this years song is Thursday the 3rd of November, where over two thousand schools come together to sing the same song, on the same day, at the same time. Through this initiative, students have been focusing on pitch, beat, rhythm and structure, even composing and performing their own songs.

STAGE 3 MUSICAL

Congratulations to all our Stage 3 students on their performance of Roald Dahl's "Jack and the Beanstalk" on September 1st. It was a joyous celebration of song, dance and amazing special effects. Our students were transformed into fabulous characters like brave Jack, his cranky mother, a dancing cow and a host of farmyard animals. There was even a scene celebrating retail therapy! By the end of the show the catchy tunes had the audience on their feet joining in the dance moves. Working with the wonderful Stage 3 staff on the production not only helped the students develop new skills in Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts but also saw them achieve considerable personal growth.

A CAPPELLA GROUP

The Stage 5 A Cappella group gave their first performance outside our school at the Department of Family and Community Services Annual Conference this month. Angela, Anneliese, Kathy, Tabassum and Victoria were exceptional ambassadors for our school, performing in front of hundreds of delegates and the FACS Minister, Brad Hazzard. The girls' performance was very enthusiastically received and the Minister personally congratulated the girls on an outstanding performance. The girls will be participating in a workshop and performance with professional a cappella group "Idea of North" next term.

MUSIC COUNT US IN

APCS junior students will once again be part of this very important national music education initiative this year. We will join over half a million Australian students performing the song "Let It Play". Further details and the song can be found on the Music Count Us In website.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDRENS MUSIC FOUNDATION SONGWRITING COMPETITION

This annual event is open to all school students and encourages students to explore their song-writing potential. There are great prizes! Entries close in October so it's not too late to submit an entry. Entry details and rules are available on the website.

LIBRARY NEWS

1. Thank you very much to Aunty Jayne, Aunty Deb, Ms Joasia Gajda, Anna P. & Leanne S. who have helped APCS library host a book fair in Week 5. We have raised \$350 for our school library. We also held a very successful Book Parade on Tuesday (23/8). Our crayon teachers did a marvellous job at organising the event, and Miss Moore threaded everything together. Check out how happy these winners are below.





2. Homework center students have developed the following codes for studying in the junior campus library on Thursdays. Both tutors and tutees will help each other to achieve learning goals and to perform their personal best.

- Uphold honesty, integrity, diligence and compassion
- Develop leadership skills
- Guide & empathise with others
- Keep focused on tasks
- Maintain low volume of discussion voices



SPORTS NEWS



"Let your body feel as good as it was designed to" is the message of Yoga teacher, Trina Hoy.

The senior enrichment program has been running all year and all students agree about the benefits. Enrolments are now open for Term 4.

Ms K. Greenwood (AERT).

Under 15 Boys Basketball

For the past term I've had the pleasure of coaching the Under 15 boys basketball team. The eclectic group train one afternoon a week with Terry Denzil and I, and I'm pretty sure if they had their way they'd train more often than that. The boys had their first game against Blakehurst on the 8th of September and displayed amazing skill and teamwork to erase an early 12 point deficit to win by 3 in front of a raucous fan base of teachers and students. Due to a clerical error at the home of NSW school sport, it was a quick turnaround and the boys needed to play an 8am game on Monday the 12th in order to play in the central venue later that day. After another slow start, the boys defeated Jannali High to enter the main draw. Games against Port Hacking and Tempe went down to the wire, with a single point victory over Port Hacking, followed by a game tying 3 from Wesley being waived away in a dubious refereeing decision against Tempe. To the boy's credit, there was no complaining to the ref, they just got on with things and prepared for our 4th game of the day, Sydney Boys High. They defeated each school before us by at least 80 points and we were no different. Despite a fighting first half display, highlighted by a few plays from Igor

and Sebastian, as well as AJs cheeky tip off, the boys ran out of legs in their fourth game and we were defeated by a large margin, thus missing out on a semi-final spot. I cannot praise the attitude and effort of the boys enough. They displayed teamwork and sportsmanship despite only playing their first tournament together. If the boys continue with this effort they could be an amazing team in couple of years. Thanks again to local legend Terry Denzil for donating his time for training each week.

Under 15 Girls basketball

It was the start of a new era for our girls basketball team, our golden age of players had either graduated or moved on to our senior teams and our team was made up of 6 year 7 students, 2 year 8s with a few experienced year 9 and 10 students to lead the team around. The girls and I, along with my trusty assistant, Coach Matilda, jumped on the bus heading to Sydney Secondary College at Leichardt. When we saw our opposition were made up of some talented year 9 and 10 students we knew it was going to be a tough game. The girls tried valiantly but the opposition were too strong and too talented, However, the girls definitely showed that with commitment over the next few years we might have another group of talented basketballers coming through.



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Monday 29th August, 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Tell Them From Me parent feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

You may remember that our students participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. This term parents and carers are given the opportunity to participate.

The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 13th August and 21 October. Computer facilities are available on both the Junior and Senior campus offices.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. However, your responses are very much appreciated.

To access the survey type the address below into a search engine. The link is also posted on the school's facebook page. <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/q2syv>

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

AFTER CLASS FRENCH LESSONS

Provided by the Alliance Française de Sydney Teaching French in Sydney since 1895

Native French, qualified and experienced tutors

Alexandria Park Community School Tuesday (from 18/10/16 to 13/12/16)

Kindy to Year 2, 3:15pm to 4:15pm / Year 3 to Year 6, 4:15pm to 5:15pm

Enrolments start on Wednesday 21st September 2016

Please go on our website: www.afsydney.com.au \$180 per Term (\$20 classes for 9 weeks)

Public Health Forum on Anxiety in Adolescence and Youth

Published on: 14-Sep-2016

You are invited to join our panel of experts in a discussion about anxiety in adolescence and youth on Wednesday 12 October in the Medical Education Centre at 7pm. The panellists will discuss how to offer support and foster resilience in young people as they navigate the challenges of adolescence and youth.

Please reserve your place by calling 9767 6919 or email monika.rzeppa@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

[click](#)

Monika Rzeppa

Marketing and Fundraising Co-ordinator

Marketing and Public Relations

Order your Group Photo NOW!

For all enquiries please contact: MSP Photography 9558 3363 or School Front Office



School Captain, Vice Captain with our Depty Principal & Principal



Junior Cricket Team



Vocal Ensemble Group



Senior Girls Basketball Team



Senior Boys Basketball Team



APCS Band



Junior Softball Team



APCS Junior & Senior SRC



Senior Girls Basketball



Interact club

