



# Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success in a caring learning environment

# Newsletter

Park Road, Alexandria NSW 2015 P: 02 9698 1967 F: 02 9319 5007 E: alexparkcs-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 2

May 2017

## FITNESS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT OUR CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Ms Mancell and Ms Butler took a group of students to the Zone Cross Country Carnival on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at Waterworth Oval.

All students ran so well with some students even making it through to the Regional Carnival. Nathan Young came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 10 year old boys race, Gordon Young came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 11 year old race, Harvey De Carvalho came 4<sup>th</sup> and Ren-Shyan Balnave came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 12 and 13 year old race. Well done to everyone!

This is an amazing effort and we wish these children the best of luck at the Regional Carnival.



## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

At Alex Park our children have the greatest opportunity for success when parents and carers work in partnership with the school to ensure students attend school every day, on time and work consistently in classrooms with their teachers and peers to complete classwork, revise learning and submit assessment tasks on time and to the best of their ability. Thank you to all of our fabulous parents and carers who regularly partner with our school in the following events and activities.

### **Parent and teacher meetings**

This term we have had parent teacher meetings earlier than in previous years at the request of parents. Parents have told us they would like the opportunity to meet formally with teachers BEFORE half the year is over. For parents of children in Kindergarten to Year 6 the meetings held in the Denzil were well attended and it was great to see so many parents participating in this partnership process. For high school students 2 parent teacher meeting evenings were held in the Buckland campus. I know that parents valued being able to combine parent teacher meetings with a visit to our new (temporary) classrooms.

### **Regular School Attendance**

Alexandria Park Community School, (APCS), expects all students to attend school regularly and punctually. Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who support us by ensuring their children attend school every day on time and provide the school with a reason if their child is absent from school. School starts at 9am, for primary and high school students.

### **Absences from school**

If your child is absent from school, parents and carers need to provide an explanation for the absence within 7 days. This explanation can be provided in person, or by telephone call, written note, SMS text message or email. The written note can be handed to the administration office on either campus or to the class teacher (for primary students) or period 1 teacher (for high school students). If you have concerns about your child's attendance please contact the Class Teacher (for primary students) or Year Advisor (for high school students) and we can work together to support regular school attendance.

### **Elevate Educate**

Since 2001, Elevate has been transforming the way study skills programs are run across Australia. Drawing upon over 15 years of research into the habits of the country's top students, Elevate's high impact seminars & workshops help students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence, and lift exam performance. Thank you to the parents and carers of years 10, 11 and 12 who have supported our school in implementing the Elevate Educate workshops this year. Read more about them in an article in this newsletter.

### **NAPLAN**

There has been much discussion and debate relating to the changes that the NSW government has made to the Higher School Certificate for 2020 which affects current Year 9 students. These changes require students demonstrate a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC. At APCS our school executive and learning and support teams will be using the 2017 NAPLAN data to identify students who do not attain a *Band 8 or above for Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy*. The teams will implement a targeted strategy to support those students to undertake online reading, writing and numeracy tests of an equivalent standard to NAPLAN in Years 10, 11



and 12. The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has informed schools that there will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC. We are confident that the vast majority of students will achieve the minimum standard in the online tests in time for the commencement of the HSC. If you would like to read more about these changes, please see the following website:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.html>



## BEGINNING TEACHERS

Beginning Teachers now have extra support through the Beginning Teachers program. Our six beginning teachers from Kindergarten to Year 12 receive individualised support from Kadek Arya the Beginning Teachers Coordinator and their mentor, a more experienced teacher in their area. This program provides access to professional development targeted to early career teachers and creates a support network to share experiences with teacher at the

same stage of their career. All beginning teachers are also working towards accreditation at proficient. This a mandatory requirement for all teachers and the beginning teachers program provides practical mentoring through this process. In weeks 7 – 10, beginning teachers will be participating in a lesson study, a collaborative and reflective action learning activity that develops teachers' lesson planning and delivery. It is so important to support beginning teachers to ensure ongoing development of practice and the highest quality of teaching and learning in classrooms.

Date	Important Dates
<b>May</b>	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Reconciliation Week
30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Excursion to Uni of Western Sydney
	Years 7-12 Assembly
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bike Wise Excursion, class 4O
<b>June</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Crossroads Camp for Year 11
	Year 11 Extension English task due
	Bike Wise Excursion, class 3H
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 12 HSC Careers Expo
	Year 9 & 10 AIME Mentoring
5 <sup>th</sup>	P&C Meeting 6:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 & 2 Sydney Park excursion
12 <sup>th</sup>	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

# BEHAVIOUR CODE FOR STUDENTS

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

*In NSW public schools students are expected to:*

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

**Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.**

## KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten have been learning about the farm and being healthy. We went on a trip to the Community garden to take a look at how the vegetables grow on plants and to see what healthy yummy food we could find. We were delighted to find eggplant, strawberry, pineapple, pumpkin and tomato plants as well as a koi fish pond.





## GIANT GAMES A HUGE WINNER



Stage 3 have been the lucky to receive some GIANT GAMES AND TOYS for rainy days. The donation from our P & C is very much appreciated with students saying "THEY ARE FANTASTIC"

### SCIENCE IN STAGE 3 (YEARS 5 AND 6)

Stage 3 is learning about "Living Things" in Science this term. We are learning about Worms in the Wild. Students have made a worm jar to observe how worms compost plant material. Students will then observe the structure and behaviour of worms and reflect about the role of worms in an ecosystem

5/6S have set up 5 worm jars – 3 are kept in complete darkness and 2 in semi darkness. Students will observe and compare both sets of worms and record any differences in habitat, eating, compost, worm activity. We have been able to hold worms – feel how they move, see how they interact, watch how they live – fascinating



## NEW FROM THE BUCKLAND (OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL)

### HSIE FACULTY

HSIE classrooms have been a hub of activity this term. Teachers and students are loving being in The Buckland and are taking full advantage of the state of the art technology and being allowed to write all over the white board tables.

Year 7 have been studying Ancient Egypt and had a practise at turning themselves into mummies as well as creating dioramas. They are about to start learning about Ancient China and the terracotta warriors.



Year 8 have been exploring the concepts, place and liveability. They have been looking at standards of living around the world and coming up with strategies to ensure sustainability in the future. We have some future town planners in the class.

Year 9 have been analysing Australia's role in WWI and challenging ideas around the contestability of the ANZAC Legend. They are getting ready to study WWII and The Holocaust. In Term 3 they will be moving to Geography and will be the first students at APCS to do the new course.

Year 10 are looking at Australia's relationship with PNG and the positive effects of foreign aid and are excited to start on human rights next week. As part of their study they will be looking at the debate surrounding asylum seekers and in the lead up to NAIDOC will be looking at reconciliation.

Students have been learning about Financial Literacy in Commerce as well as being visited by *StartSmart*. This program run by CBA promotes learning about financial literacy through seminars run by experts in the field. Due to popular demand they are returning for another session with year 9 and 10 Commerce students in August.

### YEAR 9 COMPUTER CODING

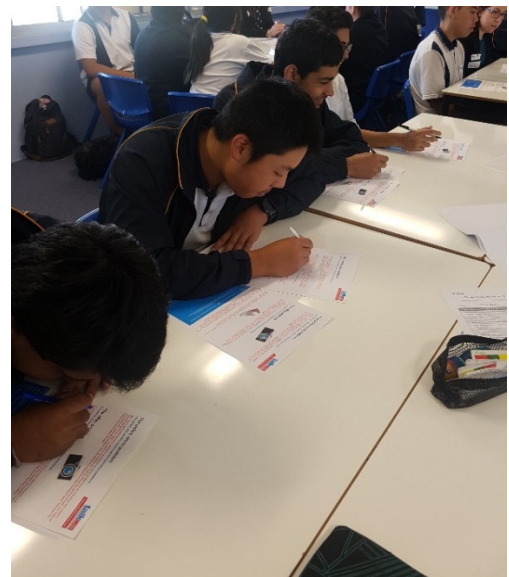
15 year 9 girls have been given the opportunity to participate in a 10 week long Computer Coding course. The students will spend 2 hours a week, learning the language of coding, from professionals in the industry. At the conclusion of the project students will be able to confidently write and create their own website or App. They will brainstorm real world problems and then use the skills they have learnt to build a web page or App to help solve this problem. They will be given the opportunity to visit a technology workplace in the city such as Google, where they can meet with professionals. This is an important emerging area for our students and an area that unfortunately lacks girls. We aim to inspire and encourage girls to consider and take up more opportunities in the STEM area. So far they have been having a great time creating web pages about themselves through the manipulation of coding language and are deeply immersed in the learning.





## YEAR 10 TALKLAW PROGRAM

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Year 10 had the first out of the six monthly session of the TalkLaw program. This is run by the ProBono Partners at King and Wood Mallesons who have selected our school for this wonderful opportunity. The program aims to build knowledge surrounding the legal rights and responsibilities of young people. The first session was a huge success with discussions around consumer law. Students learnt how to seek for refunds, warranties, and their rights surrounding faulty products. The information provided surrounding online purchases from abroad led to an interesting debate. Thank you to King and Wood Mallesons and we can not wait to host the next session which is on intellectual property and employment next month.



Year 10 reflecting on their consumer rights

## ELEVATE EDUCATION

Over the last few weeks our school hosted a series of workshops delivered by Elevate education to students in Years 10 – 12. These workshops are designed to help students understand how to get the most out of their study and learning. These workshops are short, sharp, focused and designed to maximise student attention spans. Not only are the workshops inspiring but resources are available to students after the workshops so students can access some very interesting materials.

Ibrahim Hoballah from Year 12 summed it up for students when he wrote:

" Very appreciative of the school for bringing in Elevate to talk to Years 10, 11 and 12 about the correct and most efficient ways to study. I found their step by step studying guide extremely helpful and will integrate them into my studying routine."

## ALEX PARK AGRICULTURE STUDENTS AT THE 2017 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

While the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter show may seem to have been in the distant past – the smiles on the faces of the students are still gleaming! Success, opportunity and a whole lot of fun! This year a number of opportunities were offered to students to participate in a



variety of events at the Royal Easter Show. Students were involved in Stewarding with the Judges prior to the commencement of the show and the Young Judges competitions run by the Royal Agricultural Society. Year 8 Agriculture and all Year 7 students explored the diverse offerings of the show on the annual excursion. Even Ms Bourke got interviewed by "Macca" from ABC radio!

Nathan Wint Zaw and Stanley Peng competed in the 2017 RAS Horticulture Young Judges Competition. They were awarded third and fourth place ribbons. James Tanzil, Esmir Hargraves and Jia Ying Pang competed in the Dairy Goat Competition with James being awarded third place, James Tanzil and Stanley Peng competed in the Boer Goat Young Judges competition with James winning the competition. This year the Boer goat Young Judges competition was a National Final- so James now holds the Australian title for Boer Goat judging! Year 9 students Emmanuel, Andy, Japhia, Ushante and Kevin represented the school admirably in the poultry showmanship competition.

Mr Miller together with his Year 8 Agriculture class diligently managed and recorded every detail to put together our entry for the Meat Birds and Layers Poultry competition. Massive effort everyone! Preparations now begin for 2018!



**GRAIN STEWARDS** Chris, Stanley, Nathan and James



## RAS Champion

Boer Goat Young Judges competition Awarded to James Tanzil pictured here with Stanley Peng





## RAS POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP



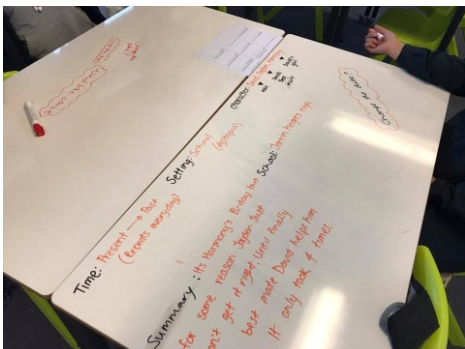
## RAS – OUR SCHOOL CHICKENS ON DISPLAY



## RAS YOUNG JUDES DAIRY GOAT COMPETITION Esmir, James and Jia Ying



## YEAR 8 DIGITAL NARRATIVE



This term, Year 8 English classes are completing a genre study on "Science" Fiction. Our school is fortunate enough to be collaborating with the University of Sydney to create some Science Fiction Digital Stories. Year 8 have

started writing their scripts and drafting their drawings for these stories in class.



## YEAR 8 KOREAN

Year 8 students are currently learning about Hahoe Tal (Traditional Korean Masks). We have been exploring the use of masks for performance and satire. The Yangban Tal (pictured



below on the right), represented the aristocrat class of traditional Korean society. Performers would wear these masks to ridicule the poshness and the elitism of upper class citizens. The Bune Tal (pictured below on the left) represents the 'beautiful maiden' who would often be the object of romantic attention. Students will engage in their own "Masks From Around the World" research task where they explore masks and their significance in cultures from around the world.

## YEAR 10 VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island SOLID GROUND



Students; Aaliyah, Trinity, Sui, Latara and Elizabeth participated in a printmaking art workshop at the National Art School, Darlinghurst on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. It was a fun-filled and creative day where these students had the rare opportunity to have expert tuition from a graduate student from the NAS.

It was a time to meet other Aboriginal and Torres Strait students enthusiastic about art and join in a workshop. Our students excelled in creating fabulous designs that were printed onto canvas shoulder bags.

The whole day was made possible by Charlotte Galleguillos from Carriageworks coordinating with APCS art teacher Ray James and the National Art School. At the end of the day a tired and weary year 10 crew were given up-to-date news about fine art courses and the coming yr11 arts skills 9 day workshop available to them next year.

## THE THEATRE COMES TO THE BUCKLAND

This term, high school students have had the pleasure of having the wonderful theatre company *Poetry In Action* come to the school and perform for selected year groups.



On Thursday 4th May, Year 11 were fortunate enough to watch "Words of War", a spotlight on Wilfred Owen and War poetry, which complemented their Module B study of Siegfried Sassoon.

On Thursday 11th May, Year 8 enjoyed "The Citizenship Test", a performance of Australian poetry that featured Aboriginal, migrant and feminist perspectives.

Thank you to the *Poetry In Action* Company for the entertaining performances and we look forward to having you come visit again next year!



### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD** – Adventurous Journey Report

Last month, twenty fearless adventurers from years 10 and 11 braved the unpredictable and mildly hazardous conditions of the Upper Blue Mountains to complete their second of two Adventurous Journeys – an essential component of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

The party – accompanied by the highly experienced Ms Blundell and the equally optimistic Mr Wilson – were greeted with balmy 12degree temperatures on arrival at Blackheath train station. A short and relatively straightforward stroll through Pope's Glen was temporarily railroaded by Igor 'The Compass' Andonov and his attempts to significantly shorten our adventure by taking us down the wrong path. Thankfully, Angela 'all systems go' Fu regained the trail we made lunch at Govett's Leap shortly afterwards.

Looming clouds necessitated the donning of Raincoats/ponchos/plastic garbage bags as we stepped from the edge of precipitous cliffs and descended steeply into the Grose Valley, at times walking on a path that had been cut into the side of the cliff face! Dropping steeply through lush and abundant ferns, several creek crossings and probably a thousand stairs, we made it safely to Junction Rock for a short break and snack. At this point, Kerry 'The Barracuda' Qian, decided that the aquatic route was the way to go – unceremoniously dumping himself in to the icy Govett's creek and showing the rest of the party how *not* to do stream crossings.

From here the route followed Govett's creek downstream for another hour of pleasant trail walking before arriving at Acacia Flat and the Blue Gum Forest. Given Kerry's moisture levels (extreme), the approaching twilight and falling temperatures, firewood was sourced with assistance from Robinson 'the Mastermind' Shi, Haider 'two steps forward, one step back' Jalal and Taha 'who needs a ground mat' Ahmed, and we were able to sustain our core temperature and toasted marshmallow intake for the evening.

We awoke early the next morning and a prompt breakfast and pack down saw us take the trail while the day was still young. The first half of the day was relatively pleasant, as we back tracked past Junction Rock and then continued upstream toward Rodriguez Pass and ultimately Evans Lookout. From here the trail gradually climbed out of the valley, steepening as it went.

The term 'steps ad infinitum' could accurately describe the feel of the afternoon's walking, and as we turned each successive corner we were greeted with a refreshing vista of multitudes of stone steps climbing beside the creek and up, up out of the valley alongside cascading waterfalls, deep green pools and a great diversity of rainforest ferns and mosses. Stolen glances back over our shoulders revealed that we were gradually making progress out of the valley, as we passed through the abundant greenery and stunning rainforest of the Grand Canyon, underneath sheer cliff faces hundreds of metres in height. After a challenging second day, the group was relieved to make it back to Blackheath in one piece. Congratulations to all of our intrepid adventurers, whose calm and positive attitudes in the face of seemingly endless hours of bushwalking made for a challenging, and very enjoyable 48 hours in the wilderness. A huge thankyou to Ms Blundell for accompanying the expedition also. Top notch!

Mr Lewis Wilson – Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader



Duke of Edinburgh students of 10X enjoying some morning sun before descending into the Grose Valley that afternoon.

## **PDHPE**

The PDHPE department will have some changes this term when Mr Matthew Bowman takes extended leave from Friday of week 6 to pursue other interests.

## **WELCOME OUR NEW TEACHER**



Name: Alexis Gavriel

Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Physical Education at Queensland University of Technology.

Teaching experience (courses, years, schools):  
Glenwood High School NSW, Science/PDHPE 2015-2016  
Sydney Russel Academy United Kingdom, PDHPE 2013-2015  
Bremer State High Brisbane PDHPE 2012-2013

2017 teaching load at Alex Park (courses, years): PDHPE years 8-11



## **Other responsibilities at Alex Park (faculty-based, extra-curricular): OR areas of passion / interests that you would like to be involved in at Alex Park.**

With the inclusion and success of Rugby 7's in the previous Olympics and the rise of the Women's AFL League, I am very passionate about getting the students involved and excited about sports they may not have thought about trying before. Seeing the students enjoy the positive feelings of endorphins from sports & increasing general well-being is a huge factor in my chosen profession as a PDHPE teacher.

## **Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement:**

Having worked as a full time PDHPE teacher as well as taking on casual roles in various subjects, I have had the opportunity to be involved with a wide range of subjects which enables me to have a greater advantage in getting an idea or lesson across to a class. I really enjoy working as a team, and utilising my range of skills from different subjects to increase understanding, and make learning continuous, enjoyable and fun.

To see student's engagement & the joy in the discovery of learning is so important to me.

**First impressions of Alex Park** I had the pleasure of briefly being part of the old campus and seeing the transition to the new campus. The school has a great feel to it and all the staff have made me feel extremely welcomed from the beginning. It is fantastic to see students and teachers getting involved in morning exercise or extra tutoring also. These extra programs are something that I look forward to being part of and contributing to.

## **CAREERS**

The Careers Department has been busy again this Term organising guest speakers, work shops, excursions and Tafe courses for students. The SmartStart financial literacy program offered a workshop to all students in Year 10 and gave them some handy hints on money management, and their rights in the workplace.

The AIME Mentoring program has begun for Indigenous students from Years 8-12 and these students will have the opportunity, at different times of the year, to attend the USyd campus and experience activities designed to engage them in their academic studies.

Selected students from Year 8 are currently participating in a mentoring program where they spend one hour a week with mentors who offer students support, and guidance.

Year 12 interviews have started where we spend time with each student to ascertain their post school interests so we can help them take that step away from school with confidence. Elevate and UTS have both delivered talks to Years 10-12 about controlling stress and anxiety and offering tips to get the most from their study.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May Year 11 will be travelling by bus to UWS to visit for the day and attend sessions based on the students interests. This is a great opportunity for students to see a university from the inside and one I'm sure they will enjoy.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Year 12 will be travelling to Moore Park to attend the annual HSC Careers Expo. This is an event we insist Year 12 attend as it has employers, tertiary providers, NESA representatives, private colleges and representatives from universities from all over the world all under the one roof and all willing to answer students questions. This event continues over the week-end and student passes are valid for each day. I urge anyone interested in post school opportunities to attend this event.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May Indigenous students from Years 9-12 will be attending an event at UTS where they attend sessions based on their chosen interests and find out about opportunities at UTS.

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **Charity Bounce Stand Tall Stars**

During the school holidays, 4 girls from Alex Park had the opportunity to trial and play for the Charity Bounce Women's Stand Tall Stars Team. This involved 2 weeks of training with experienced Australian coaches, culminating in a tournament against private high schools

at Manly basketball Stadium. The coaches were amazing and inspirational women who have played at the top levels of basketball in Australia and around the world. Shannon, Hilary, Anika and I all really enjoyed making new friends from other unique backgrounds and improving our basketball skills. Charity Bounce is a not for profit organisation that exists to inspire positive change for individuals and communities.

-Matilda Folwell

## LIBRARY NEWS

News from the library (May-June)


1. Please find Term 2 Library class Monitors' list below. Congratulations to these students.

Class	Monitor 1	Monitor 2
2B	Chloe C.	Lily J.
2M	Marcelo V.	Molly M.
3H	Ali E.	Louie D.H.
3/4M	Toby H.	Gloria J.
4/5O	Devon S.	Xixi L.
5M	Noa D.	Sabrina F.
5/6S	Secilia M.	Acaysha P.
6J	Houda H.	Jennifer L.

2. K-9 students should read lots of books listed on NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> Please visit your local library during school holidays. You can also help your child make online reading log entries as they complete each book.
3. APCS library is anticipating **stocktake** at the end of Term 2 & beginning of Term 3. Please encourage your child to bring back any overdue library books ASAP. Please write a return message on the back of an overdue slip which might be brought home by your child showing book titles. There are no fines for late returns. However if books are lost, you need to pay \$6 per book to the school office.

**ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
11-13 Park Rd. Alexandria NSW 2015 ph:96981967

**Library**



Alexandria Park  
Community School

Dear Parents,

Your child could not borrow a new book today. Please check at home and help your child return the following overdue books to school library.

Title	Barcode

*Ms O. Young*  
Teacher-librarian



## CALL FOR TENDERS – SCHOOL CANTEEN LICENCE



Tenders are called for the licence of the Alexandria Park Community School canteen commencing in Term 3 2017 and for a term of three years. Annual school enrolments of approximately 720 students and increasing rapidly. General enquiries and requests for a Tender Information Package should be referred to:

Alexander Forbath  
02 9698 1967

[alexander.forbath@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alexander.forbath@det.nsw.edu.au)

Tenders close at 3pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June

A tender visit and briefing session is planned to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

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Dear Parents and Carers

Alexandria Park Community School will transition to the new NSW public schools' finance system and a new bank account on **24 July 2017**.

To ensure a smooth transition, there will be changes to the way we accept parent or carer payments.

1. **EFTPOS payments:** We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between **19 July** and **24 July 2017**. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.
2. **Cash and cheque payments:** Between **19 July 2017** and **24 July 2017**, we will also not be able to accept payments by cash or cheque as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding cash or cheque payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, cash and cheque payments will be accepted as before.
3. **Online payments (POP):** As of **30 June 2017**, payments to our current online payment facility will cease. You will not be able to use the Department of Education's Parent Online Payment (POP) system until **Monday 24 July**.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to our new finance system. If you have any questions, please contact the school on (02) 9698 1967.

