



Alexandria Park Community School

Community Opportunity Success in a caring learning environment

Newsletter

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Term 2

June 2017

NAIDOC WEEK FLAG RASING CEREMONY



2017 NAIDOC Week – Our Languages Matter

Language is important to everyone. It is how we communicate and connect. This year, the NAIDOC theme recognises the importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The theme aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.



Our Languages Matter

2-9 JULY 2017

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait languages are not just a means of communication, they express knowledge about everything: law, geography, history, family and human relationships, philosophy, religion, anatomy, childcare, health, caring for country, astronomy, biology and food. Each language is associated with an area of land and has a deep spiritual significance and it is through their own languages, that Indigenous nations maintain their connection with their ancestors, land and law," – Anne Martin, National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chair.

"There is currently a wave of activity, with people in many communities working to learn more about their language, and to ensure they are passed on to the next generation before it is too late. Nationally, many place names for our suburbs, rivers, mountains and parks are Indigenous language words. Noticing and paying attention to these words will generate greater appreciation and respect for the significance of language among all Australians. The preservation and revitalisation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages - the original languages of this nation - is the preservation of priceless treasure, not just for Indigenous peoples, but for everyone." – Benjamin Mitchell, National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chair



NAIDOC Week is always a very special time at Alexandria Park Community School and this year is going to be no different. We began the week with a flag raising ceremony on the Park Road site with all students and staff from K – 12 attending as well as many parents and community members.

The week concluded with our famous assembly in The Denzil where a series of outstanding musical items were performed and the annual NAIDOC awards were presented to our outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Whilst NAIDOC week shines a light on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, we must remember to acknowledge the richness of their histories and cultures and their never-ending contribution to our society all year round.



RELIEVING PRINCIPAL REPORT

It's been a wonderful Term 2 for the students at Alexandria Park Community School. Students continue to demonstrate the core values of Safe, Respectful Learning in all areas of the classroom, playground, during assemblies and within the community. Our school continues to be a school setting where quality learning takes place. All students are encouraged to set goals and high standards and to work hard in order to achieve these goals.

COMMUNICATION

Knowing what is going on in the school can be both informative and critical. As well as the newsletter each month, information is communicated frequently through the school's website, Facebook page, sms messaging system, a hard copy note, parent information evenings and P&C meetings. A simple phone call or coming into the school for a visit are also available options. We want to keep you informed, knowledgeable and up-to-date.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Student attendance at school is monitored very closely and we appreciate that our parents and carers value the importance of regular and punctual attendance. When students are absent from school, an explanation in writing should be given to the roll call teacher on the day of their return to school or within 7 days of their return. Parents / carers can contact the front office and leave a message about their child's absence as well. There are times when families plan to travel during the school term. If a student's time away from school is for more than 10 consecutive school days, approval for leave must be sought. An *Application for Extended Leave* must be filled in and submitted. Once this is approved, a certificate of extended leave will be issued. The application forms for extended leave can be picked one up from the front office.

LMBR

Our school is currently implementing a new administration and finance system called LMBR (Learning Management and Business Reform). Due to the changeover of systems, parents will not be able to make any payments on line or at the school office until Term 3 week 3- Monday 31st July. Please do not attempt to make any payments via our school website during the school holidays as this service will be temporarily unavailable.

RETURN TO SCHOOL- TERM 3

Monday 17th July- 7-12 students return to school.

Tuesday 18th July- K-6 students return to school.

I would like to acknowledge our hard working and dedicated staff for their professionalism and determination to provide quality learning experiences for all of our students. I would like to wish our school community a very happy and safe school holidays.

Glen Kingsley
Relieving Principal

KINDERGARTEN

As part of our unit about farms, Kindergarten have been growing seeds and making scientific observations of their plants. We have also done lots of wonderful writing about our seeds to describe their features and their needs and and to explain why they are growing. We also put some seeds in plain water, salty water and oil and made predictions about which seed would grow best. Can you see which plant did grow best?





Year 2 Excursion to the State Library of NSW

Students in Year Two were invited to visit The State Library of NSW to celebrate National Simultaneous Story time. Students read the story, 'The Cow Tripped Over the Moon' by Tony Wilson and Laura Wood and had fun making cow masks. They were also taken on a tour of the library and finished off the day eating a delicious morning tea.



In Geography this term, Stage One learnt about remnants of the past found in the present. All students visited Sydney Park to learn about the old Brickworks and the Wetlands. Students are developing their understanding of the significance of historical sights and their preservation. Using the iPads, students created a story about Sydney Park using the Book Creator App. They put pictures of Sydney Park in the story and wrote descriptions about buildings from the past.





Jeremy Coward and Dylan Neville from Yadhya Mayi Aboriginal Cultural Services held a performance and dance workshop for all K-6 students. They performed the actions of different animals such as a kangaroo, an echidna and an emu and danced to the beat of the clapping sticks. Even some of the teachers joined in on the dancing. It was lots of fun!



DEBATING

It is debating season for students in Years 5 & 6. Alexandria Park Community School is fielding teams in two competitions, the Sydney Region Debating Competition and the Premier's Debating Competition.

In the Sydney Region Competition, debaters competed against two teams from Fern Court PS and a team from Darlington. They argued over proposals that included: that we should ban computer games, that Saturday sport should be compulsory for all students and that debating should be compulsory for all primary school students. There are 12 team from Year 5 & 6.

The Premiers Debating Competition is much tougher with students given the relatively complicated topics an hour before the debate starts, and then they have to draft, plan and rehearse what they will say in that hour. The Premiers Team members are Annabelle (6J), Houda (6J), Jean (6J), Rozanna (5M), Shafin(6J) and Susanna (6J).

Both teams have been competitive against the other excellent teams from schools in our area. The Sydney region team recorded a win in their debate against Ferncourt PS "A" and the Premier's team won against Erskinville PS. The Premier's team still has one debate that will be completed in Term 3. Best of luck.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Each year, Alexandria Park Community School participates in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. Students in years 3 to 6 prepare speeches relating to our culturally diverse nation that ranged from "Advance Australia Fair" to "Boo to Racism in Sport", and then delivered those speeches in front of their peers.

The most expressively engaging and well-structured speeches were chosen by teachers, and those selected students then competed in the school-level competition. While all students spoke eloquently and passionately, Susanna and Annabelle (6J) were the winners of the Year 5 & 6 competition and Xixi (4/5O) and Andrew (3/4M) were the winners of the Year 3 & 4 competition.

Those 4 students then went on to represent the school at the regional finals held at Tempe PS on 23/6. The most formidable and confident 28 speakers from the schools around the area competed, and our students put on a formidable performance.



UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT

Stage Three have been learning about government as part of the HSIE unit "Australia as a nation". They have been exploring the three levels of government; local, state and federal, and their respective responsibilities. They have also been learning about the two houses of parliament, the House of Representatives and the Senate, and how a bill becomes a law. In preparation for their excursion to Canberra and their visit to Parliament House next term, 5/6S students participated in a role play of a bill being introduced, debated and passed in the House of Representatives. It was a lot of fun!



WELCOME OUR NEW TEACHER



Name: Leigh Pyman

Academic Qualifications & Institution:

Bachelor of Arts / Education (Secondary) at University of New South Wales

(Currently Undertaking) Advanced Diploma of Radio Essentials at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

Teaching experience:

Randwick Girls' High School, English / Drama 2012 - 2016

2017 teaching load at Alex Park: English Year 8 -12

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: In Term 3, I will have the pleasure to accompany a small group of dedicated Year 10 students to the Australian Disputes Centre, School Invitational Debate of 2017. These students will be attending an after school debating program to develop skills in debating / public speaking, peer-networking, and to think critically about the nature of conflict and how it may be resolved.

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

As a teacher, I like working with students and nurturing their development of new skills. I really enjoy seeing student's engaged, asking questions, and importantly 'having a go.' My guiding belief is that students of all ages learn better when they can see, do, and interact. What might you see when walking past the classroom? An active room with people reading, writing, and thinking.

I also really enjoy making learning resources.

As a student myself, I aim to learn new skills in story-telling and content delivery. Although, my Year 2 Primary School teacher did comment that... "At times Leigh has to be reminded to listen attentively to instructions. Leigh always enjoys talking to the class." I still enjoy talking to the class, but I have developed a better appreciation of listening attentively. I really enjoy hearing other people's ideas as I am inspired by their creativity.

First impressions of Alex ParK: I would say that Alexandria Park is truly a community that cares. I personally have been warmly welcome by students and staff alike. It is fantastic seeing fellow staff members genuinely helping and taking an interest in students as a whole person. I also really enjoy greeting students as we all move about our day, however, I mostly like how students are welcoming with a friendly wave and greeting.

VALID 2016 REPORT

The *Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development* (VALID) program is an end-of-stage diagnostic assessment for the Science KLA. In 2016, three assessments were delivered: VALID Science and Technology 6, VALID Science 8 and VALID Science 10.

VALID Science 8 is mandatory for Year 8 students in NSW government schools. While VALID Science & Technology 6 and VALID Science 10 are optional, APCS chooses to have our Year 6 and 10 students undertake the assessment. All three VALID tests are interactive multimedia diagnostic assessments that are completed online.

Year 9 students (Year 8 2016) had their VALID results sent home this week.

VALID 6

The VALID 6 results were significantly above State Average with 70% of students achieving a Level 6, 5 or 4 compared with the State Average of 49%. Only 30% of APCS Students achieved lower levels compared with the State Average of 51%.

VALID 8

The VALID 8 results were significantly above State Average with 76% of students achieving a Level 6, 5 or 4 compared with the State Average of 60%. Only 24% of APCS Students achieved lower bands compared with the State Average of 40%. Pleasingly, no APCS Students achieved a Level 1.

VALID 10

The VALID 10 results were slightly above State Average with 74% of students achieving a Level 6, 5 or 4 compared with the State Average of 68%. Only 26% of APCS Students achieved lower levels compared with the State Average of 32%. Pleasingly, no APCS Students achieved a Level 1.

The trend analysis for VALID 10 demonstrated that the majority of Year 10 students (30 out of 46) achieved an actual growth significantly greater than the expected growth between their Years 8 and Year 10 assessment. An additional 13 students achieved growth in line with their expected growth.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The Student Survey results for Years 6, 8 and 10 all demonstrated an overwhelmingly positive attitude to Science which was well above the State Average. Students responded that they were interested in science, intended to study science in Years 11 and 12 and understood the career options available. Students also advised that science impacts their everyday life, helps them with decision making and helps them understand the world around them.

YEAR 9 GIRLS CODING EXCURSION

On Thursday the 22nd of June selected year 9 girl students, travelled into the city to visit two computer technology companies, those being Atlassian and LinkedIn. Students have been participating in an 8 week coding program which will conclude next term.

Students were given a guided tour of each company, including the perks (the lunch room, games room and gym). They were given explanations of roles within each company in a panel style forum, where students could ask questions about the company and roles within. It is important for students to understand that working in a Computer company doesn't

always mean just typing and coding. There is a wide scope and range of jobs available and evolving in this up and coming industry.

Students have been learning the language of computer code.

They have been using a program called Ruby to write applications that mimic an ATM, a menu order app and a social media style app. students will then be asked to come up with a problem they see in the school and use the skills they have learnt to write a app to solve the problem. We are so excited to see what they come up with.



YEAR 12 ENGLISH

On Wednesday the 14th of June Year 12 students attended an HSC English Modules Workshop Day at The University of Sydney hosted by the English Teachers Association. Ms Prexl, Mr Forbath, Ms Sanders and Mr Jun took students down to USYD and were given insightful advice on how to study for English HSC Modules. The students were given an authentic USYD experience; they attended lectures delivered by experts in their field, they feasted on affordable campus food and were given an opportunity to explore the campus. Thank you to all students and teachers involved in organising and participating in this event!



SPORTS

On Friday, 26th May, Miss Butler and Miss Mancell took a group of students down to Waterworth Park for the Zone Cross Country. Gordon Young, Harvey De Carvalho, Ren-Shyan Balnave and Nathan Young received places for regionals, Nathan receiving Junior Boy Champion on the day. The boys then attended the Sydney East Primary Cross Country at Miranda Park on Wednesday, 14th June and represented Alex Park with pride. Well done boys.

Our -U16s and -U14s represented APCS at the Sydney Central All Schools NRL Tournament. U16 team was victorious playing a couple of big win games. South Sydney and Marsden High School others teams v's Hunters Hills and South Sydney. Our -U14 team came away with their heads held high and learnt a lot about teamwork. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and everyone really enjoyed themselves lots of laughs had by all. Big thanks to Mr McEwan and Mr Cookson (Pre-service teacher) for coaching the boys. WELL DONE EVERYONE

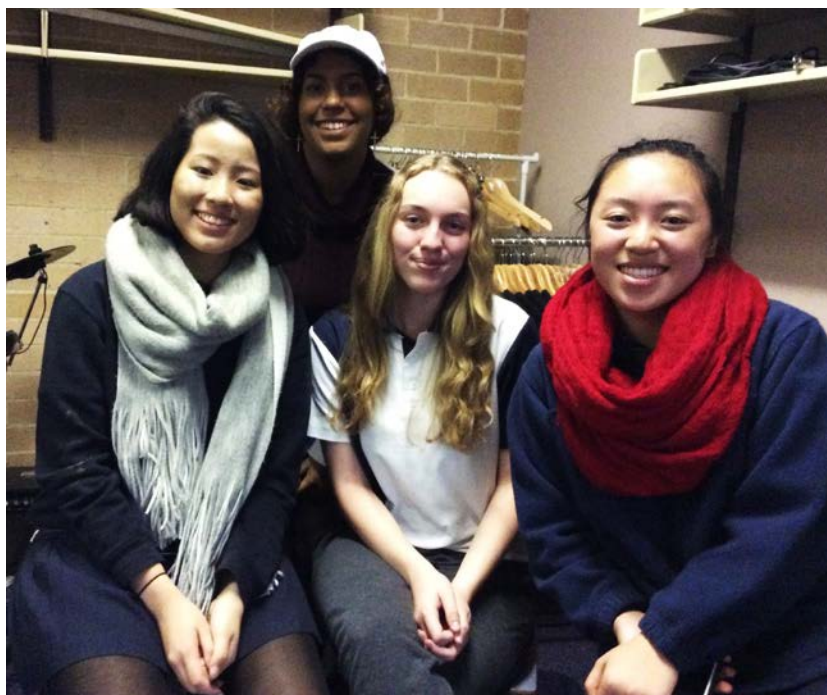


MUSIC NEWS

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS



We have started a new series of lunchtime concerts in order to provide more performance experience for our Elective Music students. The concerts are on Wednesdays of Week B during Lunch 1 and have attracted a big crowd each time.



SYRENNE ANU

Our year 10 elective class was very lucky to have a visit from Syrenne Anu. Syrenne generously came to APCS to help the students with the lyrics of their song for NAIDOC. The song written by Syrenne's aunt, Christine Anu, are in Kalaw Kawaw Ya.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE



The Vocal Ensemble were given a \$500 donation towards new choir music after their Harmony Day performance at Alexandria Town Hall. We have had lots of fun choosing some new songs from this amazing new song collection!

THE PREATURES



On June 1st fourteen of our primary school singers had the amazing experience of singing at the Sydney Opera House. They were part of a Vivid Live performance Sydney band The Preatures. They girls sang in Daruk language in the world premiere of a song called 'Yanada'.

NAIDOC DAY

Students from across primary and high school recorded a spoken word song for NAIDOC titled 'Our Languages Matter' and took photos with beautiful banners made by the staff. The final product is a short video that looks and sounds amazing.



3H 'Guess the sound eBooks'

This term 3H worked with Mr Whipp to design and create their own music eBooks!

The students recorded instrument sounds, took pictures of the different sound sources and wrote information for clues so that the reader may guess the sound. They then showed KW the eBooks, who had a great time reading them!



Parent presentation - Online Safety

Our children engage with the internet on a day to day basis. It is highly important that schools and parents/carers work together to support our children to use the internet in a safe and secure manner.

During Term 3, Alexandria Park Community School will start our 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (PBL) Online Safety campaign which aims to inform students, parents/carers and staff on how to engage with the internet in a safe manner.

For Parents/Carers (Kindergarten to Year 12):

We invite you to attend an Online Safety presentation delivered by Detective Senior Constable Darren Cairnes, School Liaison Police, Redfern Local Area Command. Officer Cairnes will be delivering an hour information session and will cover a wide range of topics. These presentations will also include a question and answer section at the end.

Please choose ONE session from the list below;

Dates:

Monday 24th of July 6pm

Wednesday 2nd of August 6pm

Thursday 17th of August 6pm

Tuesday 22nd of August 6pm

Thursday 7th of September 6pm

Location: APCS - Buckland Street 'Future Learning Space (FLS)' – enter from Buckland Street

Topics:

Being a good bystander

Posting Photos

Sexting

Gaming

Safe Social Networking

Cyber Bullying

Please RSVP your attendance by phoning the school on 9698 1967. Please ask to speak to Leanne Turner and inform her of the date you wish to attend and the number of adults attending.

Fact sheet: Active Kids Rebate

What is the Active Kids Rebate?

The NSW Government will provide a rebate through a voucher system to parents/guardians of school enrolled children. The \$100 voucher can be used for registration and participation costs for sport and fitness activities.

The initiative will reduce the barriers to participation and help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

The majority of children and adolescents in NSW are not meeting the daily recommended levels of physical activity. In 2015, more than 1 in 5 children in NSW was overweight or obese.

Who is eligible to claim the voucher?

Every family in NSW with a child enrolled in school from Kindergarten to year 12 will be eligible for the Active Kids Voucher.

It will not be means tested and one voucher will be available for every child in the family annually over the next four years.

There will be no limits on the number of applications per family, **as long as every child is enrolled in school.**

What can the voucher be used for?

The voucher can be used for registration or membership fees for after-school, weekend sport and structured physical activity programs, including swimming lessons, from a wide range of providers.

The vouchers will be redeemable through approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers upon registration.

Who will administer the program?

The Office of Sport will work in partnership with Treasury and Service NSW to implement the systems required to enable families to access their voucher through an on-line process.

The Office of Sport will work closely with approved sport, fitness and physical activity providers to support the largely volunteer workforce in implementing streamlined systems to allow users to redeem their vouchers upon registration.

When will the program be introduced?

From January 2018 families will be able to claim their voucher/s online from the NSW Government.

Where can I find more information?

Applications will be facilitated by the Office of Sport. More information will be available on the website as the program details are further developed www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids

qwertykids

Coding Classes
CREATIVE COMPUTING
GAMES, APPS & MORE

Learn to code in fun and exciting ways. After-school code workshops, Term 3.

MONDAYS (24/07 to 18/09)

YEARS 3-4: 3:05-4:05PM

YEARS 5-6: 4:05-5:05PM

9 WEEK TERM \$225 inc GST

ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
After-school Coding - We organise pick-up and return to after-school care.

"It was epic mum. This is the best day of my life!" - Samuel, 9

ENROL qwertykids.com.au/apcs/ MORE INFO 0405 950 850 fun@qwertykids.com.au

