

Alexandria Park Community School

newsletter

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April 2022



Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



Principal's Report

Happy end of Term 1 2022 and happy happy holidays

Last day of school for students and staff is Friday 8th April. Students return to school on Wednesday 27th April. It's been an exciting and hectic first Term, many students, staff and families were impacted by COVID and isolations. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported our school this Term. Staff who are doing extra duties and teaching extra students and classes, students who are being so resilient and flexible at school with changes to their teachers on some days, and parents and carers who continue to understand the context of what is happening in schools and workplaces. At times this month, we have had to ask for assistance from some of our teachers who work in the Corporate Sector of Public Education. We were very fortunate to meet Gemma Haig (pictured below) who came to Alex Park and taught our classes for a few days. Gemma sent us this message...



"I spent three wonderful days teaching at APCS – on 1S and KS – as part of the Department's COVID staff support. I've been a primary school teacher for 30 years (including class teacher, teacher librarian, language teacher and deputy principal) and for the past three years I've worked in the role of a Support Officer for Metropolitan South Directorate. My days are usually spent writing briefings for the Minister; supporting the Metropolitan South Directors with queries and correspondence; and supporting the Executive Director, Mr Martin Graham. Teaching is one of the best jobs and I left APCS each day happy and proud to be part of the teaching profession. The school has a strong energy – the staff are dedicated and supportive and friendly; and the students are keen and interested and happy to be there. This is a very special thing and I feel

privileged to have had the opportunity to work at such a fabulous school for a short time. A huge thank you to the staff and students for their hospitality. I'm already missing Kinder but I have my umbrella artwork on my office wall. ☺"

Congratulations Bella Williams



Bella Williams has been awarded a Soroptimist International of Sydney Education Grant.

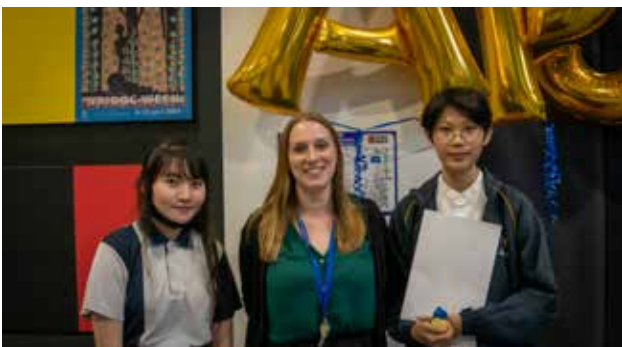
Soroptimist International is the largest classified service organisation for women. Soroptimists are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice.

Selection Criteria includes potential to do well at school, positive attitude towards school and high attendance rates and participation in school life, community and/or in extracurricular activities. It was a prodigious and wonderful presentation ceremony at Parliament House in March.



Year 12 Graduation 2021

It took a while to get there but we recently invited back to school the Year 12 class of 2021 with their families for a Graduation assembly. Academic, sporting, leadership and community engagement awards were announced along with each Year 12 student who received their Graduation certificates. It was wonderful to see our ex-students and catch up with all that they are doing post school.



Denzil morning tea

We had a lovely morning tea in the Denzil with community, staff and students, past and current. Named in honour of Uncle Terry Denzil and his family, lots of memories and much excitement for the future at Alexandria Park Community School was shared.



Continuing to stay vigilant about COVID safety

If a student or staff member is unwell and has any **symptoms** they should always test for COVID-19, either with a rapid antigen test (RAT) or PCR (nose and throat swab) test. **Remember to keep sick children home from childcare and school.**

If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student or staff member should still not return to school until either:

- the student no longer has any symptoms, or
- a medical certificate is provided to the school confirming that symptoms are explained by another diagnosis (such as hay fever).

It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they test negative for COVID-19. RATs can produce false negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs. Health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover and avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.

Many viruses have similar symptoms, including gastro and COVID-19. If your child is unwell you must keep them home and get them to take a rapid antigen or PCR test to make sure they don't have COVID-19. More info: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../viral-gastroenteritis.aspx>

Stay protected against new variants: With rising numbers of COVID-19 in the community, NSW Health would like to remind everyone that the best way to reduce your risk of serious illness and stay protected against new variants of COVID-19, including the Omicron BA.2 subvariant, is to keep up to date with your vaccinations.

Registering a positive Rapid Antigen Test (RAT): Remember that it is a requirement to register a positive RAT result with Service NSW as soon as possible and immediately self-isolate for 7 days.

Self-isolation requirements for close and household contacts

If a person in your household tests positive to COVID-19, they must self-isolate away from everyone else in the house for 7 days from the date of their positive test. They must follow the advice for **people testing positive to COVID-19** which includes, how to self-isolate effectively. If the person is unable to safely self-isolate by themselves (e.g. due to their young age), a parent or carer should self-isolate with them.

The entire household must also self-isolate for 7 days from the date of the positive person's test. They should follow the advice for **people exposed to COVID-19** and **take a test** as soon as possible, have another test on Day 6 and at any time COVID-19 symptoms appear.

If another person in your household tests positive to COVID-19, that person must restart their 7 day self-isolation period from the date of their positive test, even if they don't have any symptoms. Other household members who test negative, do not need to re-start their 7 day self-isolation period. They also do not have to self-isolate again anytime in the following **14 days** unless they test positive.

People who test positive to COVID-19 and complete their 7-day self-isolation period do not have to test or self-isolate as any type of contact for 12 weeks after their release.

Self-isolation means staying at home or at your accommodation. This means you cannot drive your children to school or day care; you must ask someone else to do this. You must only leave self-isolation to get medical care or in an emergency. For more information, read the **self-isolation rules**.

Remember to please refer parents and carers to the **NSW Government's COVID-19 pages** if they have questions or concerns about testing and isolation requirements as this information can change.





Fresh and yummy food at our school canteen!

Much thanks to manager Jan, Kelly and Kelley who prepare fresh food daily ensuring our canteen is the best for tasty snack and meals.

The canteen is run by Skool Snaks and it complies with the Health Schools Canteen Strategy.

Online pre-ordering is available through the FlexiSchools website:

www.flexischools.com.au



School Calendar

Date	What's Happening
8 th April	The last day of Term 1
26 th April	School Development Day
27 th April	First day of Term 2 for students K - 12
2 nd May	APCS P&C Meeting - 6:30 PM
10 th - 20 th May	NAPLAN 2022 - For Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 Only
11 th May	Primary Parent Teacher Interviews 2022
13 th May	Movie night Years 4 - 6
26 th May	National Sorry Day
30 th May - 3 rd June	National Reconciliation Week

APCS News

High School Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club has continued to grow, with up to 30 students attending on Wednesday and Friday mornings before school.

We are lucky to have so many talented attendees who come each morning, such as Tristan who puts on a dance show twice a week, Seven showcasing his card tricks and Adam who brought in his bass guitar and amplifier to play a few covers for the crowd.

In Term 2, The Breakfast Club will be providing school lunch packs for students to take with them for the day ahead and we will also be cooking pancakes every Wednesday.





HARMONY WEEK



Harmony Week

Did someone say cupcakes?



#Harmony Day at APCS 2022 • #Celebrating Harmony • #Everybody Belongs

Your student leaders had a great time baking in the new state of the art APCS kitchen for Harmony Day. The profits made from the cupcakes were donated to the APCS Pantry.



In class students participated in subject specific workshops which ranged from creating videos to learning about people seeking asylum. One of the other fun activities was to recreate the APCS logo with students, pictured on the front page of this Newsletter.

The APCS student leaders also planned an assembly that will happen early next Term.





LOVE BITES

NAPCAN

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

On Wednesday 30th March, Year 10 students participated in the Love Bites program coordinated by Relationships Australia. Students spent the majority of the day in small group workshops, where they learned about respectful relationships, through engaging in meaningful discussions and collaborative activities with their peers. The day ended with students doing a creative workshop where they either created an artwork or a rap to represent their learning from the day. The canvases will be displayed around the school to continue the positive messaging surrounding respectful relationships. Year 10 are commended on their mature engagement with this program.



Aboriginal Legal Service



**ABORIGINAL
LEGAL SERVICE**
NSW/ACT Ltd

James Clifford were the two lawyers who came to speak to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Lauren and James provided scenarios and examples from their experience within the legal system and the students shared their own experiences and stories regarding law enforcement and the legal system. The two information sessions were highly informative, and we appreciate ALS for taking the time to work with our students.

On Monday 28th March, the Aboriginal Legal Service came to the school to speak to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students about how best to keep themselves, their friends and family safe by being better informed of their rights within the legal system. Lauren Steffanou and



Primary DP News



Over the past fortnight, all Stages have worked together in their collaborative planning conference to prepare for Term 2. Our classroom teachers are already very excited about the wonderful learning opportunities our students will have. When walking in our learning hubs, the artwork and writing samples our students are producing have been of a wonderful standard.

At our last P&C meeting, we had a psychologist from the "Got It" program come to share information with our parents. As part of this program, classroom teachers are running lessons throughout the year and working with students to develop their emotional resilience and coping strategies. Specialists from "Got It" will also be

running workshops with the parent community during Term 2. Please send me an email at **debra.lade@det.nsw.edu.au** if you would like to know more about this.

Tuesday and Wednesday of the last week of Term are exciting days for our students as we take our annual school photos. If your child has been unable to attend due to illness, we will be holding a back up photo day later in the year so students can get individual portraits.

Our Sports Coordinators for K-2 are beginning to organise our Cross-Country event which will be held in the first half of Term 2. We have also been looking at enhancing our fitness and physical activity programs and have developed a wish-list for equipment which our P&C will help to fund. We look forward to sharing some pictures of students enjoying the new equipment and getting fit!

K-6 Parent-Teacher interviews will be held in Week 3 of Term 2, and more information will be provided in our first week back from holidays. After what has been a busy and exciting Term 1, we are all looking forward to Easter and our Autumn school holidays (hopefully with some sunny days to enjoy).

Debra Lade
Deputy Principal K-2



What a Term we have experienced. With seemingly endless rain, we have watched school after school across the State close from the flooding.

I was born and raised in Lismore (located in Bundjalung country) and it has been harrowing to witness the devastation mother nature has dealt the communities up in the Far North Coast of NSW.

Secondly, with ongoing COVID-19 cases across schools we as a staff and community have had to find creative ways for staff to teach and students to learn and play.

We have been so blessed at having remained fully operational throughout. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone in our school community for the extra effort this has taken. Students have not had an easy time constantly being indoors. Teachers have kept persevering even when their plans and programs have been altered.

Parents, getting your child to school across the conditions and hurdles we have all experienced is not an easy task. It has taken a huge effort from all involved. On the positive side, our students have been able to enjoy an uninterrupted stretch of at school teaching and learning which is something I am sure thousands of students and parents across the State would wish for.

We wish all our students, staff and families a safe and restful break over the Easter holidays and look forward to a busy and engaging Term 2.

Reminder: Students return to Alexandria Park Community School on Wednesday 27th April.

Paul Keevers
Deputy Principal 3-6



PRIMARY News

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten students had an amazing Harmony Day! They loved wearing orange or showing off their amazing cultural clothes. They enjoyed looking at dolls from different countries and completing fun craft activities about friendship and respect.



Kindergarten students have also been working hard in Maths to learn about numbers, patterns and shapes. They have been using hands-on materials like blocks, counters, toys and even pompoms to build their knowledge. Look at the clever patterns they can make!



Stage 1 News

Harmony Day in Stage One



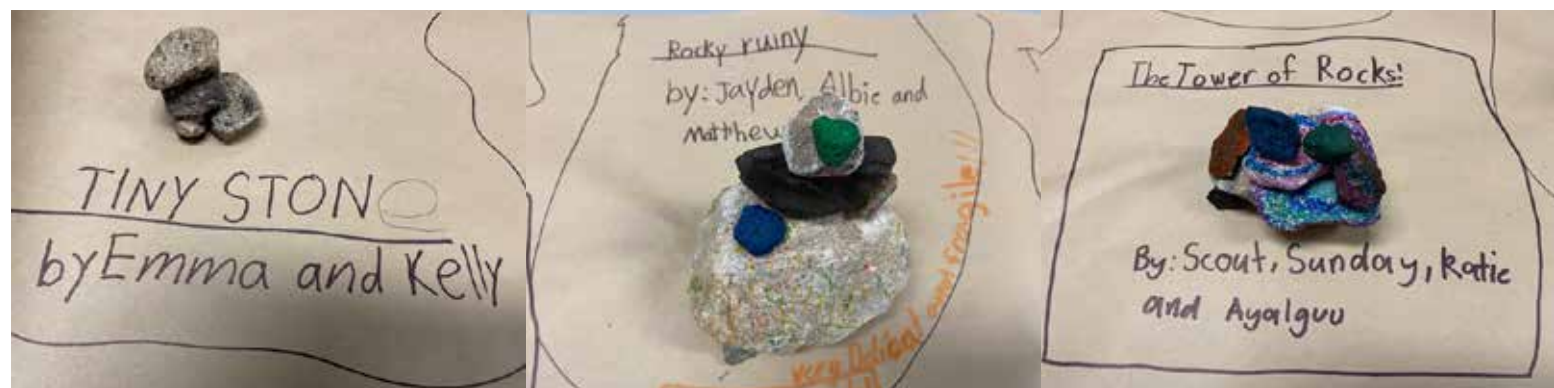
This year for Harmony Day Stage One celebrated by engaging is a variety of activities based on embracing diversity, cultural customs and celebrations. Students and teachers also had the opportunity to share their own cultural background with their Year Groups. At Alex Park we pride ourselves on our cultural diversity and inclusion.

Everyone Belongs!



Stage 2 News

3/4S made art works inspired by Indigenous rock art. They made them out of our rocks found around the school. In groups of three, they gave them titles like 'Tiny Stone' and 'Rocky Bridge'. They also designed possum skin cloaks based on Aboriginal art.



3/4O are also studying Indigenous art styles. They designed some Wandjina-inspired art works using a range of media including paint, pencil and pens.

3/4H are studying planets in our Solar System. They used some red and yellow paint to recreate the planet's surface. This group studied Saturn. Saturn has 53 known moons and is not solid.





3/4A is studying planets too. They used pens, markers and pencils to represent the Solar System. They used their research skills to also include some facts about the planets.



3/4M is growing lettuce in their classroom and using our food scraps to help make their worm farm big and healthy. They are learning about how to respect our environment.



Stage 3 News

Hello from Stage 3.

Stage 3 had a very enjoyable Harmony Day, rotating between classes and engaging in activities from cultures around the world.

They can be seen here making a hei matau (fish hook) out of clay after learning the Māori legend of how Māui fished up Aotearoa (New Zealand).





Stage 3 had a very special talk from Mr Nathan McEwan (APCS high school Aboriginal studies teacher) and Aunty Deb to learn about the impact of colonialism on Indigenous People to support our History unit of learning.

The students listened intently and had so many inciteful questions to ask.

Students have been getting hands on in Maths, measuring the area of triangles and estimating and measuring different lengths and distances.



New Staff

Name: Alyssa Worthington

Academic Qualifications: Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences, Sydney University & Master of Teaching, Sydney University.

Teaching experience: I have been teaching for 6 years and have previously worked as a Year 4, Year 5 and Year 5 OC classroom teacher, and as STEM and Enrichment specialist teacher.

Other employment experiences: I have taught coding to children aged 5-15 at school holiday coding events since 2016.

2022 teaching load at Alex Park: Year 6 OC.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: Debating, public speaking, Maths Olympiad, & ICAS. My other extracurricular interests are sport and music.

Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement: I believe quality learning occurs when students have clear, individualised learning goals and authentic, engaging opportunities to develop their skills. Building relationships with my students as individuals and supporting their social and emotional wellbeing at school is integral to supporting their academic growth and achievement.

First impressions of Alex Park: I have loved working with the wonderful Stage 3 staff, students and facilities over my first term at Alex Park. I'm looking forward to getting to know more members of the wider school community throughout the school year.



Primary Music News

Artist in Residence Program with Marcus Corowa

Aboriginal students in Stages 2 and 3 have been loving working with our Artist in Residence – **Marcus Corowa**.

Marcus is an award-winning First Nations artist. Marcus is an accomplished singer/songwriter, actor and mentor. In this special learning time, students have been talking about this year's NAIDOC theme and what it means to them. The theme this year is "Get up, Stand Up, Show Up!". We are also preparing some songs for this year's Naidoc celebrations at APCS, including a very special original song using Gomberee language. Uncle Shane Beckham has given permission to Marcus, who has written a song especially for us!



Primary Music classes

In Music classes students are developing their drumming and composition skills. We have been loving participating in drumming circle games, singing and playing our "Che Che Kule" and "Funge Alafia" songs from Ghana and creating our own rhythmic pieces using both formal and graphic notation.



Stage 3 Choir Performance

On Thursday 31st March, part of the Stage 3 Choir went with Ms Campisi to perform at the Cliff Noble Community Centre as a part of Seniors Week. Alex Park Community School has a long-standing connection to the Seniors program at the Centre and were invited to perform for a special picnic for the local community. This year's theme for Seniors Week is "Reconnecting" so it was lovely to make that reconnection after 2 years of being unable to perform for the community. Unfortunately, due to the rain, the picnic was moved inside however, the audience were suitably impressed with the beautiful voices of our students who were excellent representatives of our school. We can't wait to visit the Seniors Centre again.





Primary Library News - K-6 Yakka Taka

It's been a very busy Term in the K-6 Yakka Taka! In amongst our regular lessons of learning how to research, develop our Digital Literacy and foster our love of reading... we've also been in a bit of a construction zone! We have been making a few changes to our physical space so that we can better support the learning needs of all students and teachers as they engage with the curriculum. Check out some of our progress below!



Junior Fiction:

To further support our existing colour-coded system in Junior Fiction, we have been adding large, colourful letters to the front of each book, to assist students in locating and returning books to the correct place. Along with this, we have purchased some new shelving that matches the colours located through this section of our collection. This assists all students who are learning different library location skills; however, it particularly aides our new Kindy students and some of our EAL/D students who may recognise colours but could still be learning the English alphabet.



Non-Fiction:

By updating the shelving in our Junior Fiction area, we have been able to add much needed shelf space to our Non-Fiction section! This has provided the space to clearly display our collection, as well as a deeper ability to develop, update and expand NF topics that most relate to K-6 readers. Students have been excited to discover that we have sections on Dinosaurs (567.9), Puzzles and Magic (797), Stage Performance (792), Sea Creatures (597) and even some brand new sections, including New Guinea/Polynesia (997) and New Zealand (993)!



Fiction:

Our Fiction collection is where the most changes have been happening, as we have been sorting all of these books into genres! We have eleven different genres now available. These are colour-coded (we love a colourful library space!) and all have their own logo:



Genrefying this section of the collection will be beneficial as it will:

- Support reluctant readers (who may only enjoy one or two story types) to locate more novels they will enjoy.
- Assist students to discover novels that may have been in our collection for a while but remained unnoticed.



- Support younger readers as they begin to transition between Junior Fiction and Fiction.
- Assist all readers to discover genres they may not have heard of before!

We are very excited about all of the new things happening in the K-6 Yakka Taka! Stay tuned for pictures of the finished product!

A few quick reminders:

- Don't forget that we are currently participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students in Year 3-6 must read and log 20 books independently. Well done to those students that have already completed this! Students in Years K-2 do not need to log their own books, as they have their 30 challenge books read to them at school. **The challenge will close Friday 19th August 2022.**
- Issue 3 of Book Club will be available for orders next Term. Thank you to those families who continue to support our school through these purchases! Don't forget that all orders must be placed online, and the link will be sent home with the Issue 3 information note at the beginning of Term 2.

Happy reading!
Miss Ruschen

Primary Sport News

TJ and Angus, as part of the Zone rep basketball team, competed in the regional championships - their team came runners-up. TJ made it through to the next selection trial. They had a great day and did Alex Park proud.





High School DP News



As we come to the end of the Term it is a good time to remind us all about some important school policies and procedures.

Procedures for signing in and signing out of school

If High School students arrive late to school they are to sign in at the Jenla. If they have a legitimate reason such as an appointment, could you please give your child a note so their absence will be recorded as "explained".

Students are not to leave the school grounds during the day without permission. They must bring a note to the Jenla and sign out. If they do not have a note but need to leave school, parents/ carers will be contacted.

School Uniform

All students are to wear full school uniform every school day. This presents a positive school image outside of the school and contributes to a shared school identity within. As the weather will start to cool down, now is the time to stock up on your winter school uniform.

High School Uniform - Years 7 to Year 12:

- APCS white with blue sleeve polo shirt OR a white school shirt and tie.
- Navy or black shorts, pants, skirt or skort – shorts and skirts are to be worn to a modest and reasonable length for school attire.
- Navy blue Jumper or jacket with school logo.
- School Tie (optional).
- Black school shoes.
- Navy socks or stockings.

The High School Sport uniform:

- APCS red polo shirt with logo.
- Navy blue or black shorts or track pants.
- Sport shoes and socks.

These items are NOT school uniform:

- Hoodies.
- Tights.
- Jeans.
- Non-APCS jumpers, cardigans & pullovers.
- Non-navy pants or shorts.
- Tops or pants with random logos.

The Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop is located in the Bunin.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

= 4 weeks



= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week

= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au





Sentral Parent Portal

The Sentral Parent Portal is an important means of communication. Through the Portal you can access your child's personalised information such as their timetable, school reports and attendance data. Students and parents have been sent an email with instructions on how to join the Portal along with their personalised access code. Next Term we will have our Parent Teacher Nights, bookings will be made via the Portal. Parents will be emailed instructions on how to book for Parent Teacher Night early next Term. If you do not have access to the Portal please email me at:

louise.hawkins1@det.nsw.edu.au

Curriculum Booklets

All students from Years 7 to 10 have been issued with a Curriculum Booklet. The Booklet contains important information about the curriculum structure, communicating with the school, course information and assessment information. The Booklet is also available on the schools' website:

<https://alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment.html>

Support for students from the Jenla Team

We are very lucky to have incredible support staff in our school. They are known as the Jenla Team.

This Team includes Uncle Nathan McEwan our Aboriginal Pedagogical Mentor. Nathan works with our teachers and students in the classroom and strengthens our links with community.

Uncle Hilton and Uncle Desi are our Aboriginal Education Officers and work closely with our students and teachers in the classroom.

Uncle Nathan and Uncle Desi have started an Aboriginal Boys Program with the Year 8 boys, teaching them about cultural practices, values, beliefs and expressions.

Anna Nicholls and Roe Schroeder are our Learning and Support Teachers. Anna works with Years 7, 9 and 11 and Roe works with Years 8, 10 and 12. Anna and Roe work with students in the classroom and teachers to differentiate programs and assessment tasks to best support the learning needs of all our students.

Anna and Roe have been talking to all students from Years 7 to 12 about disability provisions for assessment tasks and examinations. This is especially important for Year 12 students, as they need to complete an application that is approved by NESA for disability provisions in the Higher School Certificate. Information regarding eligibility and applications can be found on the NESA website.

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/disability-provisions/introduction-to-applying-for-provisions>

We have three English as an Additional Language or Dialect teachers to support our students - Hayley Meadow, Robert Egglestone and Harry Jun.

We also have an amazing group of School Learning Support Officers who assist our students in their classes - Sharon, Tammy, Costa, Charlotte, Alex, Chris and Nick.

Louise Hawkins
Deputy Principal High School





High School News

Humans of APCS

In 2022, your Student Leaders will be interviewing members of the school community as part of a **Humans of APCS project**.

In Part 2, this month Aoife Sutherland interviews English and Aboriginal Studies teacher, the super bubbly and fun Year 10 Advisor, Ms Thomson.

Where do you expect yourself to be in 5 years?

Well I'm currently pregnant, so in 5 years I'll have a 5 year old. I expect to still be in teaching, I still love what I do. There's lots of challenges in the profession but I hope that I will continue to find ways to be excited about school and excited about my job. I think that's really important. I think with the growth of Alex Park I may still be here and maybe having different roles and possibly doing different things at the school, that's the beauty of APCS cause there's so many opportunities for growth and for development and for change. I feel like I'm at all schools in one school because we are so dynamic and so diverse, but who knows five years is a long time so anything could happen in 5 years.



What's something that has changed your perspective of teaching?

I think connecting with community always changes your perspective, and by community I mean students, I mean parents, I mean carers, I mean community members, I think that getting different perspectives on what education could look like or should look like always gives really diverse perspectives and it's really beneficial, that's really beautiful. I also think experience, the more you get to know different things, the more you experience different ways of learning and ways of teaching really helps you to change the way you do things.

What is one of your biggest achievements or something you are most proud of so far?

I am really proud of my students, I've had some students achieve some amazing things. One of my students, who won a few years ago, got first in the state for Aboriginal Studies and that was a really proud moment for her, shout out to Jaida Conway. That was a really proud moment for me for her to have that success because I knew how hard she worked and I knew how much she deserved. I think I'm also really proud of the fact that I'm still learning in my job and that I feel open to stuff and I really love what I do. I'm really proud of the school I work at and the profession I'm in, even on the hard days which I think is the biggest challenge.

What are the types of things in a school environment that make your day?

The students are the highlight, the interactions with the students, seeing them when they get a win, when something clicks or when they understand something or just when they really enjoy being here. For me my core educational philosophy is that students see themselves as learners and see themselves as valued and respected members of our school community so when I feel like kids feel that and feel valued here, and feel like they belong here, that's really important to me.

What's something people wouldn't expect to know about you?

I don't know I'm such an open book. Maybe that I actually like a lot of time to myself and a lot of quiet time. I think my work persona, while it's the same person, I'm very extroverted, I'm very loud, I'm very on. Which I love and I think is very important in my job but it does mean that I also like to have a lot of down time and a lot of quiet time and so therefore that's probably the main difference. Like people that know me at school don't necessarily think that I have quieter moments but I definitely do have quieter moments. I do like to relax and take time to myself to refresh.



Dun-Galung Yian-Ru Update

Year 7 have had a busy few weeks in their learning hub working on their first big High School assessment task. Students created a website in small groups that explores this Term's value of identity.

All students are creating a piece of work for each subject to represent how identity is explored in their four core subjects (English, Geography, Maths and Science).

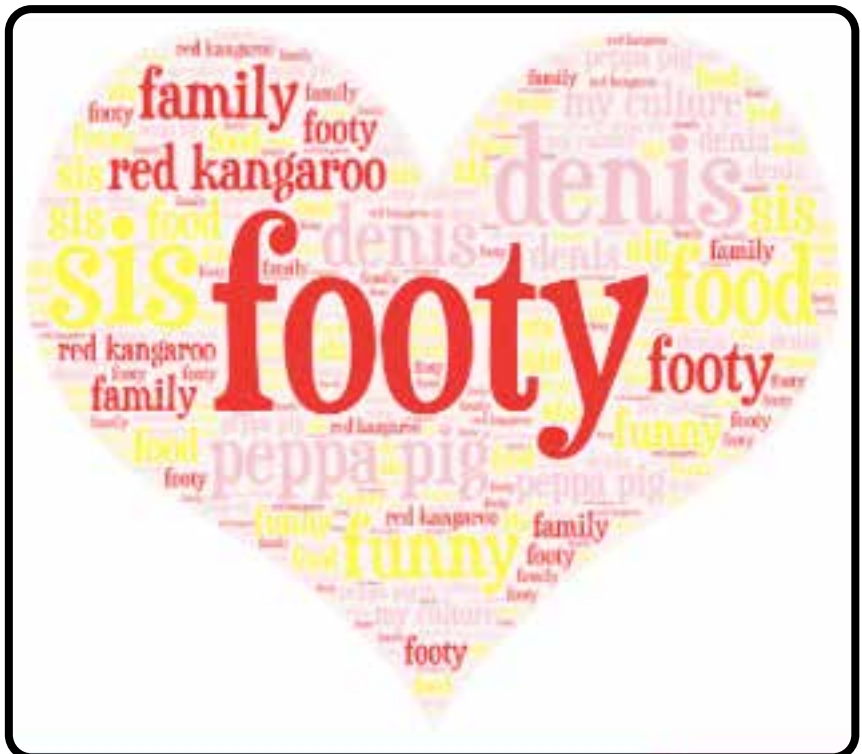
From infographics, to identifying yourself in numbers, students have been able to develop their own understanding of identity in a variety of meaningful ways throughout the Term.

Below is a selection of some sample work. Once the websites are complete, we will be sure to share a variety of them on our school website so you can take a closer look at the wonderful work of our Year 7 students.



Observing

I am observing as I am
looking inside a
microscope.



My sixth number is 6 (six) (VI) ((ra-
wol)because it is the first perfect
number. Perfect numbers are
numbers that are sum of all of its
divisors.

My seventh number is 890,156 (eight
hundred ninety thousand one
hundred fifty-six)because that is
how many people have the name
Sara in the world.



Analysing is the utmost important part in science, because you can look for a meaning that can serve as your evidence for your hypothesis to see how related your answer was.

Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadijal Land



High School English News

English News

Writers Group



Writers Group have been meeting on Thursday afternoons to develop and share their writing. They are a phenomenal team of writers with big ambitions on the publishing world and the talent to match. Students have been able to not only learn about plotting and planning, but also read samples of their work and get invaluable peer feedback. This feedback not only helps the receiver but everyone in the room as they think deeply about techniques and their effects to get to the root of what makes someone's work great, and what areas could be improved.

This kind of deep think nurtures and enriches all in the group and helps them be critical readers, writers, and self-editors.

"A word after a word after a word is power." – Margaret Atwood

7X Stream

7X have continued to bring their positive attitudes to English classes. They've been working so hard that they have even been rewarded with a 'class pet.' They have now progressed from examining Identity in picture books to exploring Identity in advertising.

Students have shown great insight into persuasive techniques such as rhetorical questions, unique benefits, and colour theory. One of their favourite activities so far has been the Slogan Generator. We put 7X into the Generator and it came up with - 7X, where success is at home. We couldn't agree more. Good luck to all 7X with their first Year 7 English Assessment Task due April 4th. It is an annotated, print advertisement.

Year 8: English Spotlight

Year 8 continues its adventures into the world of Science Fiction, and they have encountered robots. Unfortunately, not all these robots have been friendly, and many don't follow Issac Asimov's First Law of Robotics. Thankfully, with the help of Mr Jun, students have been developing an Apocalypse Survival Guide of appropriate goods to whack in a backpack on short notice.

Students have also been flexing their imagination with some creative writing. Read this fabulous example by Evie Dicker. The prompt was that a robot had been sucked into the world of Jumanji, and students were only given five minutes to write.

Your robot has been sucked into the world of Jumanji, what will happen to them? The dice fell out of 23 silver metal hands and rolled on to the board.

"NOOOOOOO!" 23 shouted, holding out her hands to grab the dice, but she was held back by rough human hands. The dice spun till they stopped, a 4 and a 2. "No, no, no, no".

23 tried to pull away but she was not strong enough. The dice had rolled a six, 23 was a goner, a dead goner. 23 tried to shut herself down, but as soon as she did she felt a sharp zap through her metal body. 23 tries to shoot the humans with the gun installed in her side, but it is against the rules to hurt a human being.

Before she knew it her silver hands were gone, then her arms, legs, torso and with one last scream her head disappeared and 23 was gone, she had gone into the game, JUMANJI.



8A and 8L have used the conventions of Science Fiction to embark upon a discovery mission, pretending that they are aliens exploring Earth. Students had a great time wondering what aliens would make of common things in Alexandria Park Community School. They ultimately decided that bikes were so dangerous that they had to be chained up, and dogs were the rulers of Earth.



Year 9

PSA: Year 9 is awesome!

In English, Year 9 have been working on how to create meaningful Public Service Announcement (PSA). PSAs are messages disseminated by the media that are in the public interest. Unlike an advertisement this is without charge and not for a business's personal gain. Over the past couple of years with COVID, and now with flooding, students have been saturated with PSAs, now it's their turn to analyse them and make their own.

Year 10

Year 10 are in the Writer's Room. They have just finished with persuasive writing, have moved on to Ms Gary's favourite – discursive, and will finish off with some reflective writing. Students are thoroughly enjoying the more personal nature of discursive literature. Discursive focuses on texts whose primary focus is to explore an idea or variety of topics. These texts involve the discussion of an idea(s) or opinion(s) without the direct intention of persuading the reader, listener, or viewer to adopt any single point of view. Discursive texts can be humorous or serious in tone and can have a formal or informal register. They include texts such as feature articles, creative nonfiction, blogs, personal essays, documentaries, and speeches. Ask your Year 10 student about their favourite discursive text.

Year 11

Year 11 Standard have been using various versions of Little Red Riding Hood as a focus to learn all about narrative structure and literary techniques. Students have been focusing on moving from basic descriptions to utilising sensual imagery and metaphors. In their analysis they are likewise moving from basic phrasing such as touch, taste, smell – to tactile, gustatory, olfactory. If you have a Year 11 Standard student, ask them to read you their fairy tale, but be warned, some are quite gruesome.



Their first Assessment Task of the year is due April 4. It is a narrative plus a reflection statement. Please remind your Year 11 student to submit their task on the due date. Year 11 Advanced are studying the Common Module: Reading to Write. They have been engaging with texts of literary value in a variety of modes and media. In engaging in this rich reading experience, they are also able to reflect on their own practice and improve their skills in not only analysis of other people's work, but also enhance their own writing skills. They are working on exploring their own distinctive voice for purpose.

Year 12

Year 12 Advanced are branching out on their metaphysical journey to encounter wit. Quite literally. They are examining the poetry of John Donne and comparing it with the Pulitzer Prize winning play Wit. Wit is sometimes written as W;t. This semicolon has inspired a whole movement dedicated to persevering and continuing on even after thinking one's life is over. Ask your child what their favourite John Donne poem is.

Year 12 Standard are focusing on Scott Rankin's play Namatjira for Module B. Module B is a close study of text and allows students to gain a deep understanding and appreciation of a substantial literary text. Year 12 Standard have been debating the nature of story, who should tell stories, and appropriation. They've had the chance to link Namatjira to a wider context and reflect on how it relates to them personally.

Year 12 English Studies are well and truly on the road to learning all about the language of tourism. They know what techniques Instagrammers use and have started discussing things such as budgeting, planning, and preparing. Their next step is to create their own tourism website. This will be their second HSC assessment task for English Studies and is due April 1. Please remind your English Studies student to submit their website on the due date. Assessment tasks are a mandatory part of HSC studies, and all assessment tasks must be submitted.

High School Maths News

Maths Matters

The Mathematics Faculty at APCS is continuing to work towards deepening students' knowledge and understanding of Mathematics, both as a reasoning and creative activity. Such knowledge and understanding aids in the recognition and communication of patterns in the world and the development of problem-solving strategies.

In developing their understanding of concepts students' engage with practical activities that facilitate discussion about the underlying concepts and the applicability of mathematics to real world situations.



The students are encouraged to develop their ability in approaching and contributing to teamwork and collaboration as well as the development of skills in logical thinking and reasoning.

The Faculty also aims that students in developing their skills have a realisation that these skills are not only applicable across the curriculum but to life in general.

Maths Faculty members use technology in their classrooms and various online resources such as Desmos and Geogebra. Students have free access to the online platforms, Education Perfect, Google classroom and One Note. Students can access Education Perfect to achieve fluency in Mathematical skills and the consolidation of their understanding of concepts.



Students in Year 8 this Term have been busy building on their learning in Year 7 in the areas of Number and Algebra, and Measurement and Geometry. The topics covered are computations with fractions, decimals and percentages, rates and ratios and Pythagoras.

Year 9 is an important year for students, depending on their substage, in consolidating and developing their previous knowledge of Mathematics and laying the foundation for more advanced Mathematics. This Term they have engaged in the areas of Number and Algebra, and Measurement and Geometry. Topics, at the appropriate substage level have included, Financial Mathematics (earning money and taxation), Statistics and Probability.

Year 10 is a particularly important year for students as it is the time when they begin to explore topics more deeply in preparation for senior studies in Mathematics. This Term they have explored Scientific Notation, Area, Surface Area, Volume, Pythagoras in 3D Problems, Indices and Surds and Probability.

Much of Year 11 study this Term has been consolidation and/or deeper investigation of Stage 5 topics that are required for success in Mathematics at the HSC.

Year 12 are midway through their HSC year courses. Mathematics Standard students have investigated the application networks. While students in Mathematics Advanced have just completed their investigation into the use of Trigonometric Functions in Periodic Phenomena.

Some Mathematics Extension 2 students are investigating the application of course topics in fields such as engineering while others are undertaking joint Extension 2 and software design projects. Extension 1 students will undertake their investigative tasks next Term.





High School Science News - Agriculture

Here is a sample of the APCS Easter Show entry powerpoint.

Year 8 students are visiting the Show on Friday of Week 11 and both Year 7 and Year 8 have been busy preparing their entry in addition to maintaining the Maani and all that thrive within it.

Thanks to Ms Ward for managing the Maani and Stage 4 Agriculture, and for leading the excursion to Olympic Park.



Meet 7Tech4

We have 15 students in our class.

Our heritage is Aboriginal, Germany, Torres Strait, Tonga, Solomon Islands, China, Thailand, England, Scotland, Mongolia, Russia, India, Australia.

Our favourite thing about Agriculture is:

"Taking care of our garden and feeding our chickens" - Aaron

"How you have some freedom out in the Maani. And cuddling the chickens" - Denis

"Going out to the Maani and feeding the chickens. Pulling out plants and putting in the new ones" - Preston



School Garden - Produce growth early stages

- First, we need to take a seed that we wanted to plant. Then, we dig a hole to put the seed inside the hole that you digged. Next, we bury the seed in the hole and get a water and pour the water into the roots. Finally, we wait and watch the plants grow with the warming sun.



School Garden - Sustainability - Chickens

- There are 8 chickens in the chicken coop.
- The chickens eat plants from The Maani
- They lay eggs which we can eat while their poop can act like fertilizer
- These actions done from chickens and us makes it more sustainable
- They enable cycling of nutrients
- Chickens eat insects, snails, and slugs which protects the plants from damage or harm
- Otherwise, they are just fun to play with and to feed to (they are quite friendly and aren't harmful)





High School TAS News

Robotics Winner!

Mikhail in Year 12 was part of the software team for the Drop Bears – a team of High School students who built robot 4774 with the help of mentors to compete in the First Robotics Competition.



The software team is in charge of controlling the robot and making it intelligent. The software team allows students of different skill levels to learn how the robot is controlled:

- Vision, using cameras to provide the robot with useful information.
- Autonomous, giving the robot predetermined actions.
- Dashboard, provide the robot drivers with useful information about the robot.



The First Robotics Competitions are called the ultimate "Sport for the Mind"™, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules and limited time and resources, teams of high school students are challenged to build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams, while also fundraising to meet their goals, designing a team "brand," and advancing respect and appreciation for STEM within the local community.

Mikhail's Drop Bears team won a silver medal in the competition held in Wollongong in March with their robot 4774. Well done Mikhail!



High School Creative Arts News

Music News

Year 7 students have begun a unit called "Music of Aboriginal Australia". They are learning about both traditional and contemporary music by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians. They are also learning to play the guitar in preparation for their assessment task next Term - a performance of "My Island Home".



Year 7 students developing a graphic score performance for "Tiddalick the Frog".

Stages 5 and 6 (Years 9, 10, 11 & 12) elective music students have been enjoying working in the new larger music room. It provides greater opportunity for students to explore music theory in a practical way and to develop performance and composition skills.

The keyboards can also be connected to ipads to allow for greater integration of technology in the music classroom.

Year 10 students are studying an "Australian Music" topic this Term. This includes a variety of genres including music for children. The students are writing a song based on the popular book "Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas". They are exploring a range of music technology in the recording of the song.

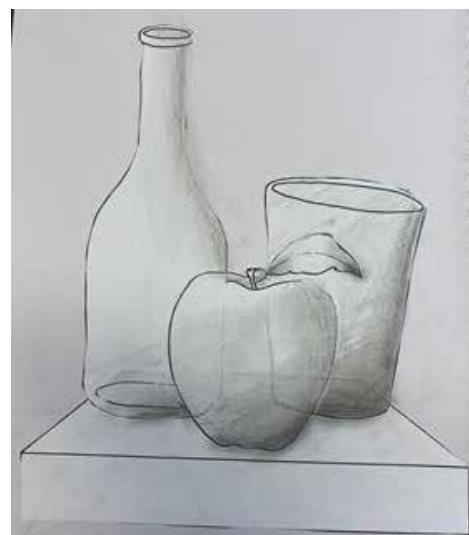
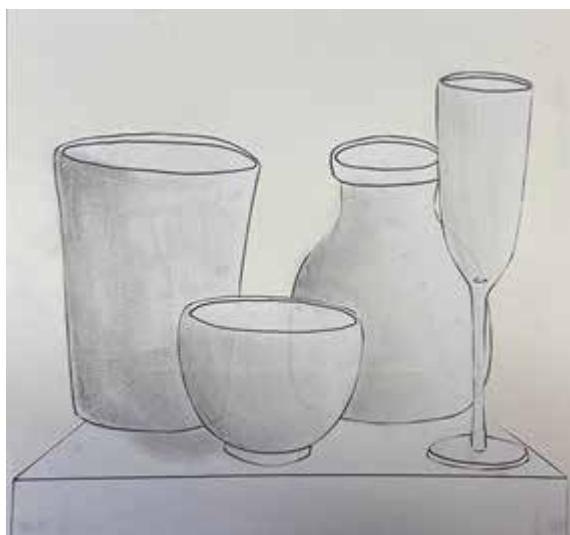


Art News

Year 7 students have been learning about different approaches to drawing in preparation for creating their own observational still lifes next term.

They have completed a number of different activities to become familiar with the elements of art, and are currently practising applying tone and value to different object drawings. They have also been learning to use a grid to carefully observe and draw objects using shape and negative space.

Student work from 7ART4:





Works by Eve S, Kali-Ann W, and Tyrone S:



Year 8 are in the middle of their Hermannsburg Potters-inspired unit, and have mostly finished creating lids and pots with traditional hand-coil techniques. The next steps involve making a sculpture to sit on top of the lid, firing the clay in our brand new kiln, and painting everything with bright colours just like the Arrernte artworks they've been studying in class.

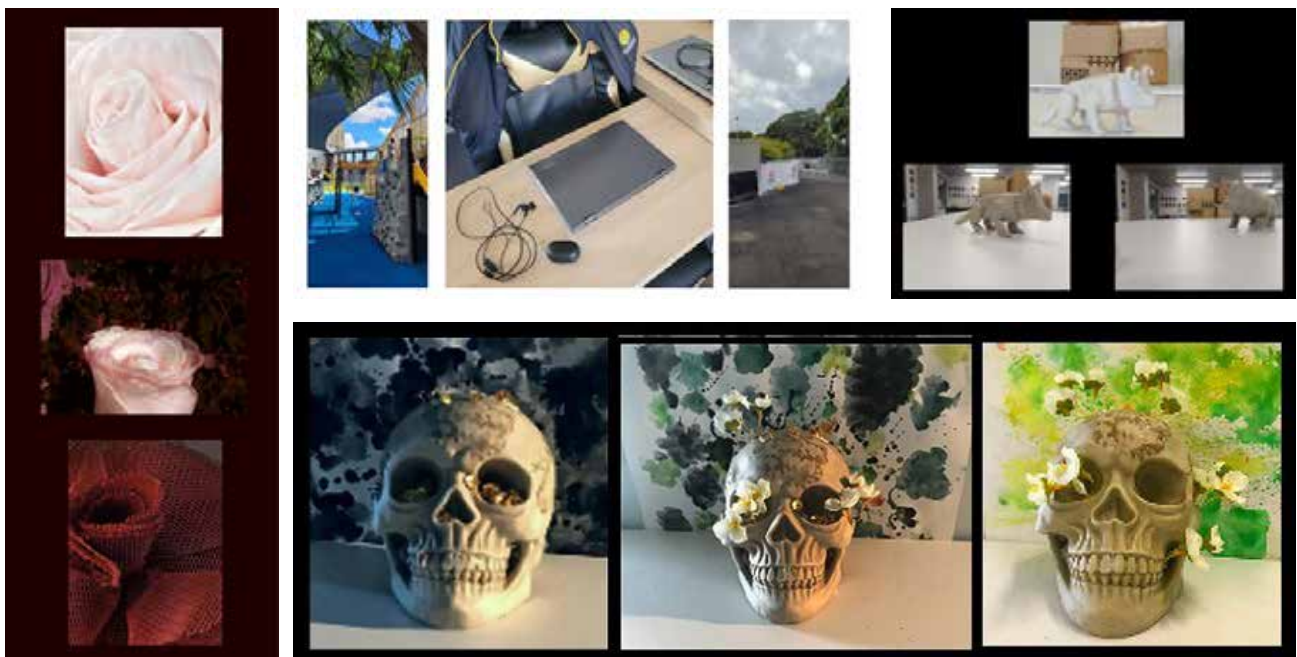
Works in progress from 8A and 8L:



Year 9 are finalising their bodies of work representing the 'uncanny,' and have developed some impressive skills in working independently and evaluating their own artmaking practice.

Year 10, meanwhile, have just completed their photography portfolio - a series of triptychs representing how time has changed them and their world.

Works by: Chloe T, Merry Y, Eseroma D, Aalia B, Theo W, Latoya L., Jumanah H:





Each year our **Stage 6** (Years 11 and 12) Visual Arts students have the opportunity to visit the two premier art galleries in the city - the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The main focus of the excursion was to view the Art Express exhibition of last year's best HSC bodies of work, but this year's visit conveniently coincided with the 23rd Biennale of Sydney - *rivus*. Students in the Year 11 and 12 Art classes were accompanied by Alex Park teachers Miss Sutcliffe and Ms O'Toole along with Ms Philp from CSIEC, and enjoyed and experienced an action-packed day full of art and culture.

Year 11 and 12 visual arts students at the Art Gallery of New South Wales:





Grace, Dexter, Mam and Molly (year 12) at the MCA:



Year 11 and 12 visual arts students at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Circular Quay:





Drama News

Our purpose-built Drama room has hosted many visitors this Term. Not only have our Drama students been working hard on creating short plays around themes, Authority Sucks does seem to be the most popular, but 7X and 8 Sport have also come to visit.

7X were divided into teams of advertising executives and given a product to sell, and a select group of lucky Year 8 students have been doing circuit training while the wet weather keeps us indoors. But of course, our beautiful Drama students know that sharing is caring and have warmly welcomed the visitors.



They have worked hard to use the unique elements of our space to add extra dimensions to their performances and have even delved into some gripping Horror and Tragedy pieces.

Raymond Parnell, Anabelle Batista-Vasconcelos and Pasha Davidov delivered an unnerving performance that captivated the whole class. Well done Team Drama. Their first assessment task of the year is due April 6.

Sport News



Our Open Girls Basketball team have represented the community proudly, defeating South Sydney High School to go on to the central venue in Sutherland.

The day was a significant challenge as it included facing off against three separate schools. Our girls triumphantly powered on throughout the day, playing through and winning the first game against a very well organized Sydney Girls' High School team followed by two of the closest games of the whole event. Our second game was quite a defensively

orientated struggle where our girls finally overcame Menai High School 24-21. The final game against Caringbah ended 36-34 as our girls showed their class to secure the win. They will now move forward to the next phase of the competition representing Sydney East.

The girls showed their true grit and determination supporting and encouraging each other throughout the tournament. We will be sure to keep you all posted on their progress in the coming months. Go Alex Park!





SETTLEMENT KIDS TERM 1 2022 PROGRAMS

MONDAY

CLOSED

TUESDAY

**Boy's Group
(9-12s)**

+

**Kids in the
Kitchen
(5-8s)**

WEDNESDAY

**Tennis
Lessons @
Alexandria
Park Tennis
Courts
(All ages
5-12s)**

THURSDAY

**Girl's Group
(9-12s)**

+

**Kindy Kids
(Kindergarten)**

FRIDAY

**Children &
Youth
Programs
BBQ
@ The
Settlement
(All ages
5-12s)**



Program Times: 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Program Mobile - 0473 235 591

Healthy fruit, snacks and water is provided every afternoon

The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre is a small community organisation that has supported the community in Darlington, Redfern, Waterloo and surrounds for 130 years.

We work to create opportunities through social connections, community led programs, access to housing and an open door for everyone. We support and provide programs for children, young people, families and the wider community.



Settlement Kids

Children's Programs



**The
Settlement**



CONTACT US



02 9698 3087



17 Edward Street Darlington



clare@thesettlement.org.au
www.thesettlement.org.au



Kindy Kids

A program just for new Kindergarten kids to help them settle in to after-school programs and get to know each other and staff, whilst exploring all the different fun things to do at The Settlement!



The

We currently provide a pick-up service for children at Alexandria Park Community School and Darlington Public School. At the moment we are unable to pick-up from other schools, however we welcome kids from other schools if they are able to be dropped to the program. We provide a drop-home service to local addresses in Redfern, Waterloo and Alexandria (limited spaces available). Family Food Hampers are also available (subject to availability).



Activities

Arts & Crafts

Sensory Play

Games

Cooking



**WHEN: THURSDAYS
3-5PM AT THE
SETTLEMENT**

**Pick-up available from
Alexandria Park and Darlington
Primary Schools**

**FOR ENROLMENTS
CONTACT US:**

02 9698 3087

clare@thesettlement.org.au

www.thesettlement.org.au

OUR PROGRAMS

Settlement Kids After-School Programs

Our After-School Programs are separate programs each afternoon that provide a different activity, including:

- Creative Writing Program
- Kid's Cooking Program
- Tennis Program
- Boys & Girls Groups Programs
- Transition Support Programs (Kindergarten and Year 6)

Programs run from 3pm-5pm.

Settlement Kids School Holiday Programs

Our School Holiday Program includes fun activity days at our centre and excursions to different places for fun and new experiences. Programs run from 10am-3pm. All children must be dropped off & picked up from our centre.

ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMS

Our Programs are designed to be an accessible option for children and families in the community. This includes children and families who face barriers to accessing other mainstream programs for children.