

APCS

JULY
2023

Yarramundi

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THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

CHILDREN'S
BOOK WEEK®

#CBCA2023

READ
GROW
Inspire

19 to 25 AUGUST



Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land

Yarramundi

Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land. We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the **Cadigal** people of the **Eora** nation, the traditional owners of the land on which we teach and learn. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region. We would also like to pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging.

In **Gomberee**, the language of the **Cadigal** people, the word **Yarramundi** (yarra'-mu-ndi) means flowing mouth which is an analogy for story telling or a story teller. We name our newsletter **Yarramundi** as it tells the stories of Alex Park as we progress through each school year.



Yarramundi also means amphitheater or a place where stories are told. This is why we have named the gathering space in the primary playground **Yarramundi**.

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Principal's Report



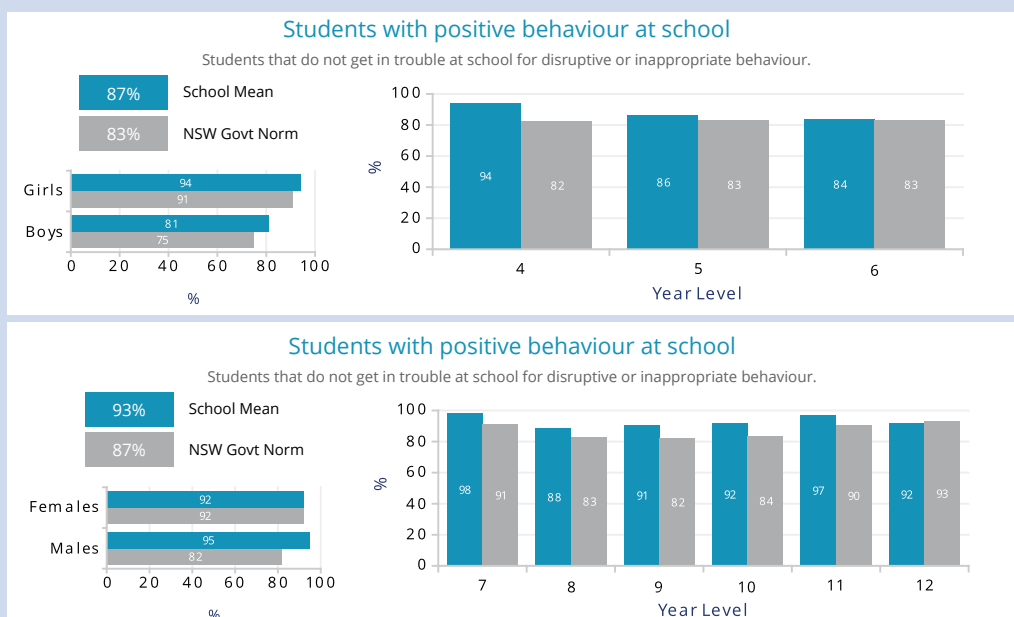
I would like to welcome all of our families back to Term 3. This week is Education Week and we are recognising 175 years since the establishment of Public Schools in NSW. Alexandria Park Community School is a proud and inclusive community and we continually strive for success in all that we do. Most recently, this has been evidenced in our achievements in basketball in both our Primary and High Schools. We are opening our Primary classrooms this Thursday and I hope to see many families attend, as I know our students will be proud to share their work.

Our Year 12 students will begin their Trial HSC exams next Wednesday. They will be attending regular classes on Monday and Tuesday. The examination timetable has been finalised and distributed to students, along with information regarding appropriate exam procedures and protocols. It is important that students become familiar with the timetable and continue their preparation for these exams to ensure they are feeling confident.

At our School Development Day our staff participated in workshops listening to feedback from our Primary and High School students about our school. Last Term over 200 students were interviewed across K-12 promoting the importance of student voice. During these interviews our students discussed the strengths and areas of improvement relating to our well-being programs. Our teachers and executive teams will analyse this information to continue to support students learning and well-being as well as their academic success.

NAPLAN results were sent home last week to Years 3, 5, 7 & 9. If you did not receive your child's results can you please contact the school. Both executive teams are starting to analyse our school's results to make sure we are catering for each child's needs.

We also received our Tell Them From Me (TTFM) results with pleasing feedback in areas of "student with positive behaviour at school". Please see the graphs below:



I wish everyone a wonderful next few weeks. Please take time to enjoy the sunshine.

**Debra Lade
Principal**



School Calendar

Date	What's Happening
1 st August	Primary School Tour.
1 st August	Years 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Night.
2 nd August	Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival at Erskineville Oval.
3 rd August	Years K-6 Education Week Open Day.
4 th August	Wear It Green Day - Primary School.
7 th -28 th August	ICAS Tests. Every Monday 7 th -28 th August
7 th August	ICAS Test - Writing.
7 th August	P&C Meeting.
8 th August	High School Tour.
9 th -18 th August	HSC Trial Exams.
9 th August	Years K-2 Athletics Carnival.
14 th -16 th August	Stage 3 Canberra Camp.
14 th August	ICAS Test - English.
15 th August	Years 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Night.
21 st August	ICAS Test - Science.
22 nd August	Primary School Tour.
28 th August	ICAS Test - Mathematics.
29 th August	Catch up Vaccinations for Years 7 & 10.
29 th August	Years 8 & 10 Subject Selection Evening.
30 th August	Kindergarten 2024 Information Evening.



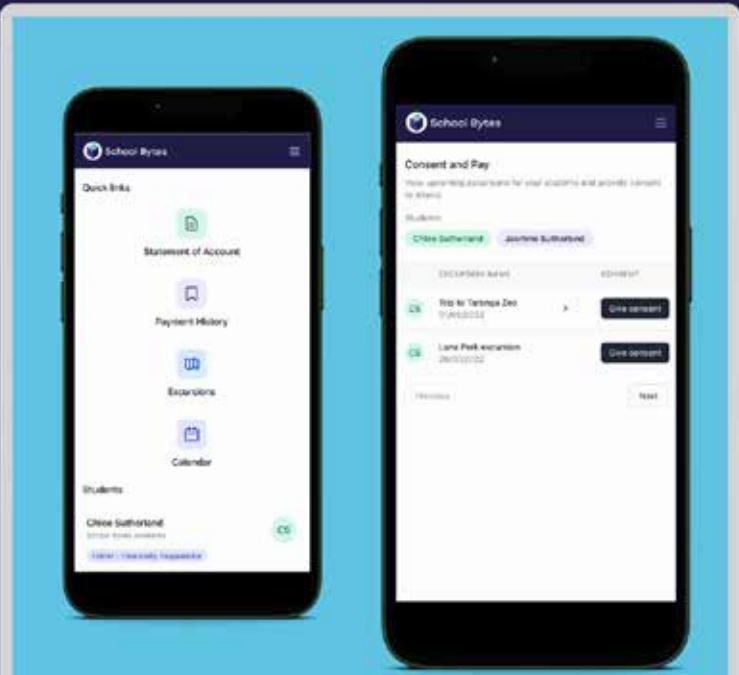
APCS News

SchoolBytes Parent Portal

Register for SchoolBytes Parent Portal NOW!!


AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school offers a flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments




The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund

 **School Bytes**

Register for the Parent Portal via the QR Code or visit
<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



If you need further help, a full list of all of parent guides is available at:

<https://support.schoolbytes.education/hc/en-us/categories/4414087688847-PARENT-GUIDES>





Compulsory school attendance

| Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)



Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.



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
 (M ~~W~~ T F)
 (M T W T F)
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
 (M ~~W~~ T F)
 (M T W ~~F~~)
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed





Road Safety and Traffic

Dear Parents and Carers,

A reminder that when dropping off and collecting students from school that we respect our neighbourhood businesses, homes and road rules.



Please refrain from parking/stopping in driveways and apartment block car parks. These are for residents and their visitors only.

Local businesses have nominated parking spots for their employees and customers, please respect this by not parking in their allocated spaces and parking bays.

Areas of NO STOPPING/NO STANDING are marked clearly by signs. You risk a significant fine and loss of demerit points for parking in these spaces.

Pedestrians should use the crossing on Park Road and avoid crossing the road at other unsafe locations.

We ask that we all work together to be road and pedestrian safe and respect our local community when accessing the school.

DRIVING OFFENCES IN SCHOOL ZONES

Disobey 'No Parking' Sign

Fine = \$191 & Lose 2 Points

'KISS & DROP' ZONE

ONLY stop to drop off or pick up
Stay within **3 meters** of your car
Stay less than **2 minutes**

Disobey 'No Stopping' Sign

Fine = \$344 & Lose 2 Points

DO NOT STOP for ANY reason

Child or Passenger Not Restrained

Fine = \$344 & Lose 3 Points

Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law

Fine = \$457 & Lose 5 Points

For more information see: **Road Rules 2014** <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/index.html>
*Fines are current as of July 2019. Fine amounts change regularly. For up-to-date fine amounts see: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/demerits-offences/index.html>

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- Stay less than **2 minutes**

Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law

Fine = \$457 & Lose 5 Points

DO NOT talk, text or view your phone while driving.

Child or Passenger Not Restrained

Fine = \$344 & Lose 3 Points

NO STOPPING

Fine = \$457 & Lose 2 Points

DO NOT STOP for ANY reason

For more information see: **Road Rules 2014** <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/index.html>
*Fines are current as of July 2019. Fine amounts change regularly. For up-to-date fine amounts see: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/demerits-offences/index.html>



ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Kindergarten Transition

Alexandria Park Community School is a vibrant and unique Kindergarten to Year 12 school located in heart of Sydney, right opposite Alexandria Park. We provide an outstanding transition to Kindergarten program in partnership with our Community Centre. Families with children starting school in 2024 are invited to join us at the following transition events.

Information Morning and Tour

Learn about Alex Park and the special features of our Kindergarten program. View the primary school learning spaces on a student-led tour. **Wednesday 31st May 9:30am.**

Information Evening

Discover more about the Kindergarten curriculum, teaching programs and school readiness. **Wednesday 30th August 5:30pm.**

Starting School Information Session

For families of enrolled students, this session will provide specific information about the first days and weeks of Kindergarten. **Wednesday 22nd November 5:00pm.**

School Readiness Playgroup

The Alex Park Community Centre in conjunction with the school coordinates our school readiness playgroup for enrolled children and their families. Contact Jo Fletcher for more information 0419 119 390. **Wednesday mornings during term time, starting Term 3.**

Kindergarten Orientation Sessions

Orientation is a special opportunity for children to visit our school, meet some teachers and explore their new learning environment. **Wednesday 1st November, Wednesday 8th November, Wednesday 15th November 9:30am.**

To find out more about our Kindergarten programs and enrolment for 2024, visit our website:

<https://alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.gov.au/enrolling-at-apcs.html>



Follow our Facebook page to see regular updates about life at our dynamic, diverse and engaging school.

<https://www.facebook.com/alexandriaparkcommunityschool>

Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



Primary DP News

Our 2024 Kindergarten Playgroup started this Term in our Community Centre, run by Jo Fletcher and assisted by our teaching team. This important program supports student transition to school and enables incoming students to familiarise themselves with the environment. The next important date for Kindergarten Transition is Wednesday 30th August at 5:30 pm for the second Parent Information Evening. For more information and other key dates, please visit our school website.



Also this Term, we are running some initiatives to support students learning about caring for the environment. On Thursday 3rd August we have **'Wear it Green Day'** in conjunction with National Tree Planting Day. Students are invited to wear green and bring a gold coin donation to donate to Planet Ark. Our kitchen garden teacher has also made links with the Council for contributions. Students have also been invited to take part in the 'Red Room - Poem Forest' competition. They are writing poems about the environment and for every poem entered, the organisation will plant a tree. There's a range of K-6 students that have taken up the opportunity and their work is published on the Red Room website.

These are just a couple of the wonderful initiatives taking place in Term 3. It's always a busy Term and we're off to a great start.

David Olsen
Relieving Deputy Principal K-2

I would like to start by welcoming all students and families back to Term 3. I hope the students have recharged and are ready for a wonderful term of learning, fun and achievement.

The calendar is already looking busy as we plan events for Term 3. Some events to look forward to include: Open Day in Education Week, Stage 3 Canberra excursion, senior Primary debates and band performances abroad. I urge you to keep an eye on the APCS website 'Events' page and respond to Sentral Parent Portal notifications for more information as they are relayed.



We have been successful in our application for Sporting Schools funding and have been fortunate to secure taekwondo coordinators to train Stage Two and Three students in martial arts as part of our Friday sports program. Thank you, Ms O'Sullivan and Mr Ansell, for their work in securing the grant.

If you have a child starting Kindergarten at APCS in 2024 please get in touch with our administration staff to begin the enrolment process. Our Orientation program kicks off this term with parent information sessions, followed by orientation sessions for children in Term 4.

Exciting times are ahead! Please remember how important attendance at school is and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in your child's education.

Paul Keevers
Deputy Principal 3-6



Primary News

Kindergarten News

KC and KP read the classic Australian picture book 'Wombat Stew'. They used this engaging, fictional text to learn about recipes and how instructional texts tell the reader how to do or make something.



The students made a classic children's party snack, fairy bread, and discussed the ingredients and steps needed to make it.



Afterwards, they wrote the instructions in their books, using their phonic knowledge to help them spell.





Kindergarten have also started Music Con with Miss Ritchie.

She taught the students songs with the /sh/ phoneme.

Miss Ritchie will be coming each week to help us improve our phonic knowledge and our singing too! So much fun!

We have also started dance lessons with Mia in the Denzil.



Mia will come each week on Mondays to help us learn hip hop dance steps. There's lots of stomping, turning, bouncing, waving and jumping.

This term's Explore and Learn topic is 'Storytelling.' KG have been busy designing and building their storytelling theatre.



They've used recycled materials to make curtains, lights and even a popcorn box!

They will learn to retell traditional Western tales, as well as stories from other cultures.

Stage 1 News

During Term 2, Stage 1 participated in gymnastics classes run by the wonderful Coach Nicole.



During these sessions they learnt new skills including acrobatics, strength and flexibility.



The students loved using the different apparatuses, especially the bars and vault, and rhythmic gymnastic equipment, such as ribbons and balls.





Another fun program that Stage 1 loved in Term 2 was the visits from Happy Healthy Harold!



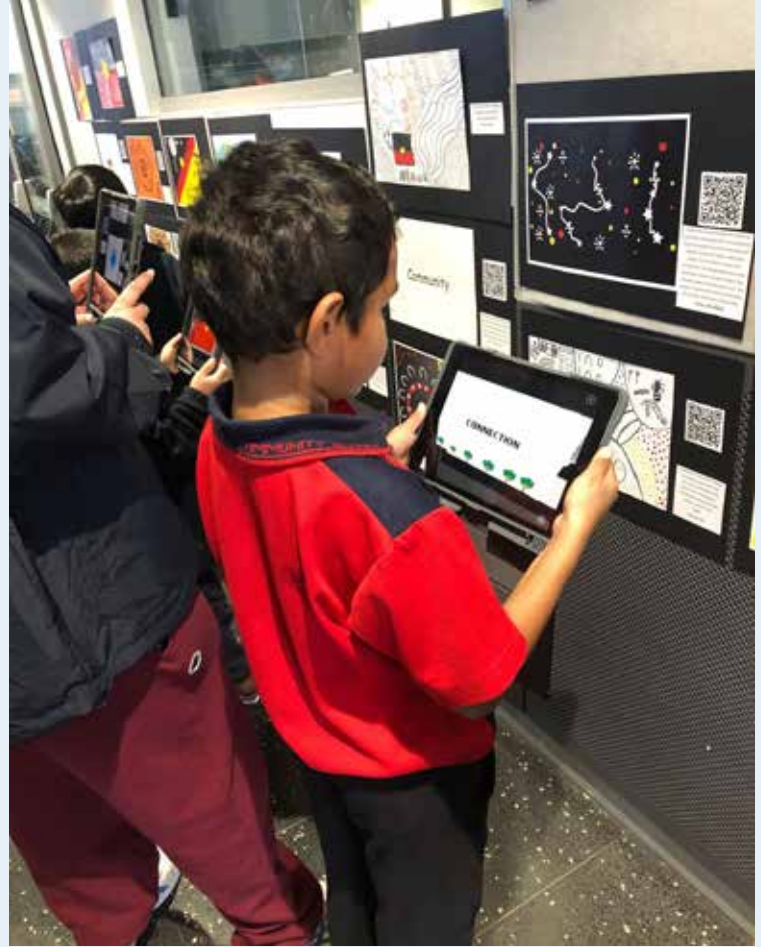
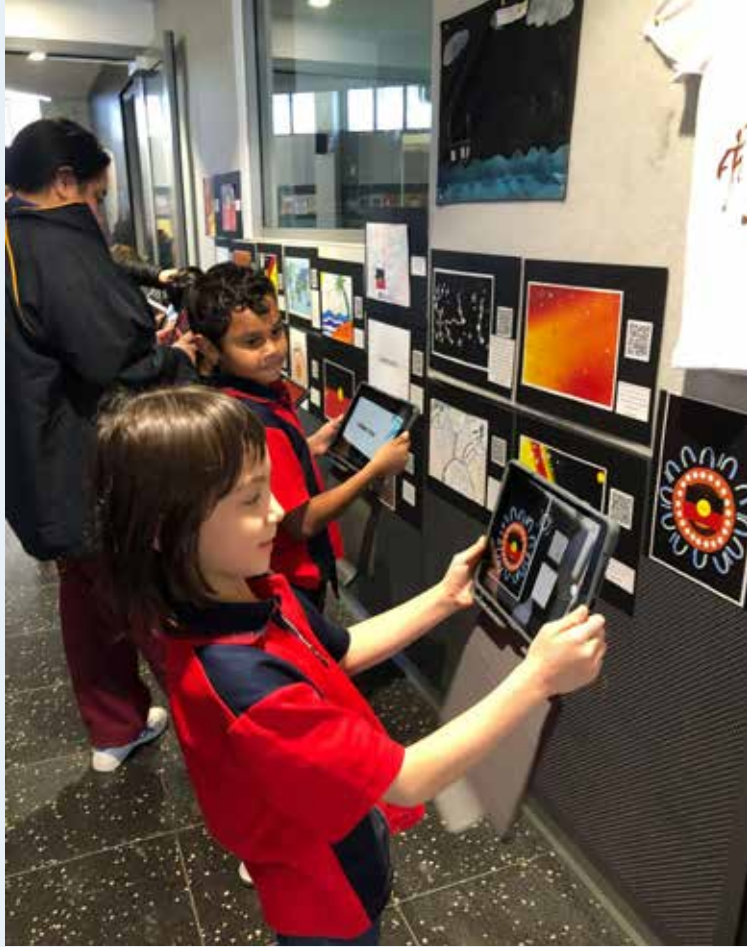
Harold and his assistants discussed safety outside of school, trusted adults and safe people for children in the community, like police officers.



At the end of Term 2, Stage 1 took part in Alex Park's amazing NAIDOC Week celebrations.



They learnt so much about the NAIDOC theme 'For Our Elders' and participated in different activities exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands cultures - sharing Dreamtime stories, Aboriginal games and painting.





Stage 2 News

Stage Two classes went on an excursion to Taronga Zoo as part of their curriculum lessons in Science around the Term Three unit "Life Cycles".



The excursion helped students consolidate and extend what they are learning in the classroom and allowed them to explore their curiosity and have some fun!

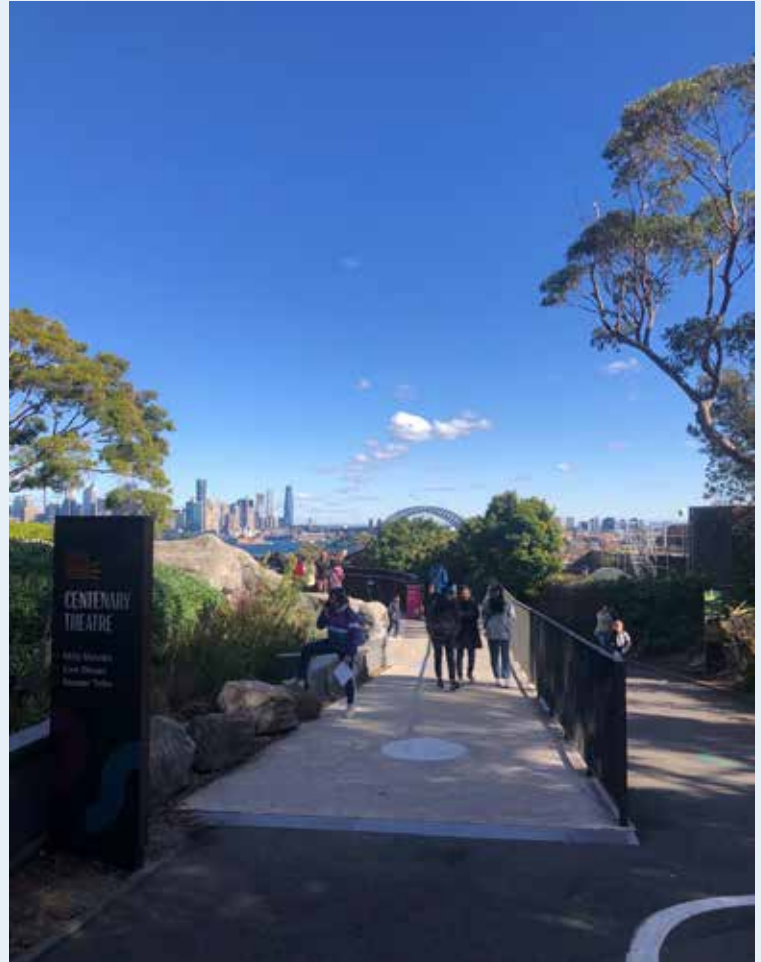


Students met some animals up close in a lesson led by one of Taronga's teachers and learned about life cycles of rainforest animals.



Stage 3 News

On Thursday 29th June, Stage 3 went on an excursion to the wonderful Taronga Zoo. Students had the chance to visit many varieties of wildlife, with the stunning Sydney Harbour as the backdrop.



The students had the chance to participate in an educational workshop, where they observed a variety of animal adaptations and got to closely interact with real life animals.



We all had a fun and exciting day and we are all looking forward to visiting Taronga Zoo again soon.



Primary Music News

News from the Primary Music Hub

This term students from K-6 are learning about the Instruments of the Orchestra.



Kindy have started exploring the Carnival of the Animals. We have particularly enjoyed the Lion's Theme, stomping and roaring around the learning space in our King of the Jungle Crowns!



Stage 1 are learning about Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf". Students are enjoying learning about the various instruments that play each animal's theme.

Stage 2 is also discovering the various themes from Carnival of the Animals and Stage 3 is learning how to play Beethoven's Symphony No.9, more commonly known as "Ode to Joy".

Busking for Change

All students are also preparing for our fundraising event in Week 8 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation called "Busking for Change".

What is "Busking For Change"?

Busking For Change is the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's (ILF) newest fundraising event developed by ILF Ambassador Josh Pyke to engage Primary School students in a multi literacy activity incorporating song, music, movement and language.



The idea is simple. Each year:

1. Students commit to learning to play, sing, or dance to a song with the chorus sung in an Aboriginal First Language. The song, charts and lyrics and translations are provided by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation;
2. Students gather support/donations from their friends and family; and
3. Students 'busk' or perform their rendition to their friends, family, school.

Busking For Change is a fun and educational activity that acknowledges and promotes the rich diversity of Indigenous languages and cultures while raising funds to help create more books in languages that Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children speak at home.

Alex Park Primary will be having our big singalong performance on Wednesday 8th September in Week 8 on Indigenous Literacy Day. Stay tuned for more details about this but in the meantime let's start fundraising.

You can make a donation at this link:

<https://buskingforchange.ilf.org.au/alexandria-park-community-school>



The 2023 Goal is to recruit at least 100 schools and raise \$100,000 to support more remote communities access and create books in languages they speak at home.

Let's help the Indigenous Literacy Foundation reach that goal!



Artist in Residence Program

Our Solid Ground A.I.R Program returns this Term with the support and guidance from our resident Rap & Hip Hop extraordinaire Monks.

Aboriginal students in Years 7 & 8 are working on writing their own songs focusing on themes they identified that were important to them.

These include:

Identity

Truth Telling

Aboriginal Voice

Cultural Pride

Mental Health

These students value this time to learn in a culturally safe space that allows them to showcase their incredible talent and insightful lyrics.



Primary Sport News

Sports Update!

Stages Two and Three Friday sports programs have begun with the exciting inclusion of Taekwondo.

Students had their first taste of the sport, which is being delivered at our school with the assistance of The Australian Martial Arts Academy and sporting schools funding. We hope the students will be kicking targets soon enough.

The Primary athletics carnival is just around the corner on 2nd August. Students will be participating for their sports houses and a chance to participate at the Zone Carnival on Wednesday 16th August. We wish all students on the day the best of luck.

Primary Library News - K-6 Yakka Taka

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge for 2023 has begun!

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature.

It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (**PRC**) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.



2023 Challenge dates

Students can include any books read from the end of the 2022 challenge on their 2023 reading record. Key dates for the 2023 challenge are:

- 27th February 2023 - challenge opens for student entries
- Friday 18th August 2023 - challenge closes for student entries
- Friday 1st September 2023 - final date for coordinator validations of completed reading records.

Students in Years K-2 are busy ticking off 30 books together with their classes and teachers; while students in Years 3-6 are working hard to independently read 20 books and log them in the **PRC** portal.

All classes and students have until 11th August to complete the challenge.

As long as books are from the reading list applicable to their age, or older, Years 3-6 students may:

- Read and log books they borrow from the library.
- Read and log books they already have at home.
- Read and log books borrowed from a different library.
- Listen to an audiobook or e-book format.

As with previous years, students in Years 3-6 will be participating in a competition to see which class will have the most completed logs by the cut-off date. Don't forget to tell Miss Ruschen when you have finished!

Additionally, this year students in Years K-2 will also be competing in a competition to see which class will finish their 30 books first... and there will be a PRIZE! Good luck, everyone!

If you or your child has any questions relating to this event, please feel free to contact the library.

Happy Reading!



High School DP News



We welcome Term 3, this Term is an important one as we see our Year 11 and 12 students head towards the completion of their courses. We wish them all good luck. Our English staff will be providing extra support to our students with staff making themselves available beyond their regular timetabled sessions. If your child would like some support please ask them to approach the Relieving Head Teacher of English, Ms Gray.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 11 student, Aliyah J Miles for being the recipient of the Acacia Program Scholarship, which recognises students who are identified as high potential. Congratulations and I look forward to hearing of further success.



Our roll call introduction has been without issues so far in Term 3. We will continue to monitor its success and improve its purpose. Roll call teachers go through a list of daily, 'to do's' as well as Deputy Principal's, Head Teachers and Year Advisers, make their way around to students to communicate important information every morning. I also want to share with you all our school expectations with the following:

School Attendance and Arrival to School on Time

- Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school.

Arriving at School and Class on Time

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day.
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine.
- Give students time to greet their friends before class.
- Reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents. For more information about compulsory School attendance please scan the qr code:



Behaviour Code and Expectations for Students

At APCS we are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students, and we expect nothing less than respectful communication between staff and students. Any profanity or inappropriate gestures directed towards Teachers carry consequences which include, formal cautions and / or suspensions.

We would like to work closely with our parent, carers and community members to promote positive relationships with between all. For more information on the NSW Department of Education Behaviour Code for Students, please scan the qr code:



Youth Liason Officer, Constable Patrick Worsfold

Officer Worsfold is a good friend of the school and works closely with some of our students engaging them in many programs. He will be spending some time with our students during their break, eating, sharing stories or playing a game of touch footy. If you see him please say hello.

Wishing you all a great Term 3.

Steven Marcos
Act. Deputy Principal



Trial Examinations

Trial Examinations are the final in-school assessment task for our Year 12 students. All the in-school assessments together account for 50% of a student's HSC result, with the remaining 50% being the HSC exam. In order to give the Year 12 students realistic experience of the structure and requirements of HSC exams, trial examinations are located in the same space in which HSC exams will be held, and each exam is the same duration.

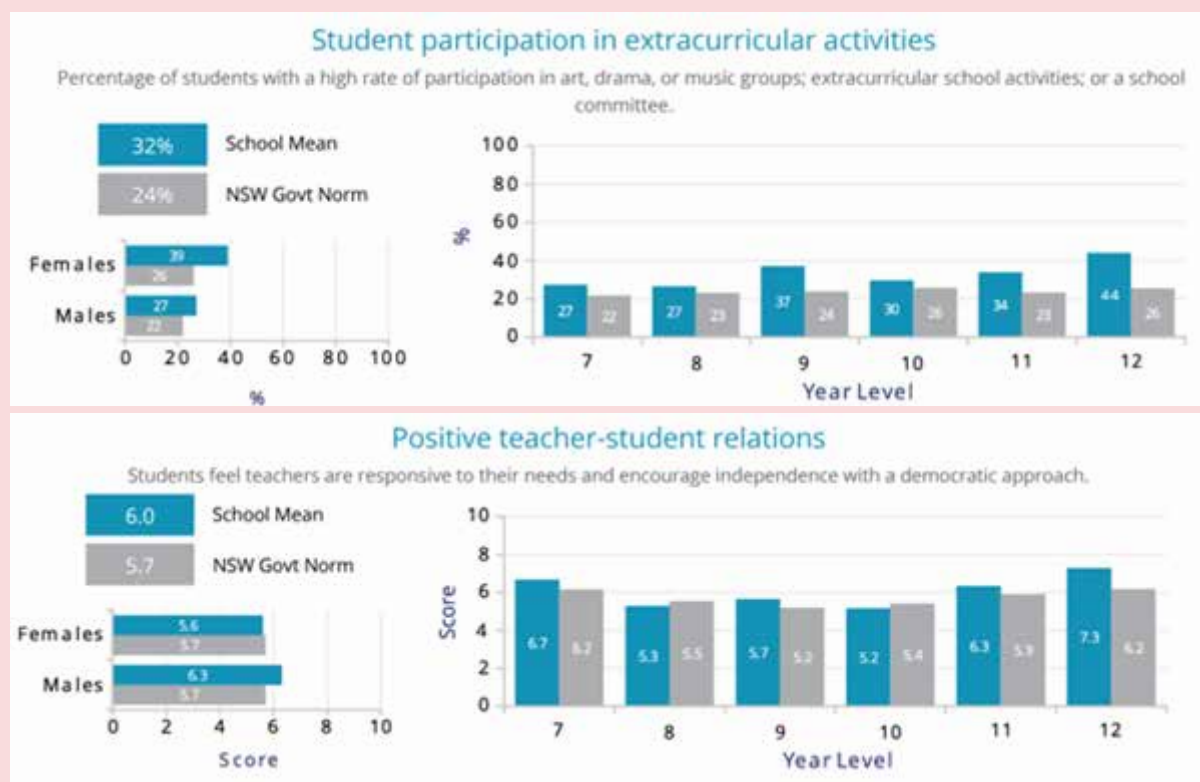
Parent Teacher Interviews

Last week high school teachers had a chance to meet the parents and carers of Year 7 and Year 9 students on Tuesday night for the

Parent Teacher Interviews. Parents and Carers are the first teachers of their children, and teachers enjoy discussing the progress of their students with them. This week it is the chance for parents and carers of Year 8 and 10 students to meet the teachers. Parents and Carers have been booking interviews through the Sentral Parent Portal and using Zoom links to meet virtually with teachers. Look out next week for a survey asking for feedback on the format of the Parent Teacher Interviews, and whether we will continue with Zoom or revert to face-to-face meetings held at school.

Tell Them From Me data

We surveyed all high school students at the end of Term 2 about a number of aspects of their school life. These indicate to us the effectiveness of the drivers of student outcomes and highlight issues that we need to work on to improve student experience and outcomes at school. Overall, we were really pleased by the way many students feel they are being extended beyond the classroom with extracurricular enrichment opportunities, and the supportive relationships that students have with their teachers.



Kylie Biddle
Rel. Deputy Principal High School



High School News

School Based Traineeships

Many of our senior students are completing School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships (**SBATs**). This involves paid work, training and school. Students attend their traineeship once a week and they finish with important workplace skills, a qualification and the opportunity to start their career early.



Four of our Year 11 students are completing their SBAT at Taronga Zoo. They are enjoying the experience of working with animals, learning about different parts of the Zoo operations and the ferry ride in the morning isn't bad either. Here you can see Maddie B, in her work uniform, learning how to calmly hold and care for reptiles.

Ms Betar, HT Wellbeing and Careers Advisor, is currently working with our Year 10 students to plan their pattern of study for next year. If your child is in Year 10 and is interested in doing an SBAT next year, make sure they speak to Ms. Betar about it.

APCS Student Leadership

Saleha Baqir and Vincent Daly proudly represented APCS at the Parliament of NSW Student Leadership initiative.



They were two of 60 representatives from across the State to have the opportunity to meet and question parliamentarians including the Hon. Ron Hoenig, get access to both the Lower and Upper Houses during question time, and have a personal tour of Government House. To end the day off, they got to have afternoon tea with the acting Governor of NSW, Mr Dennis Wilson.



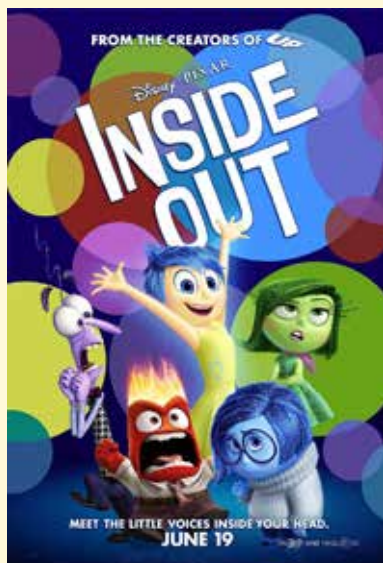


High School English News

English

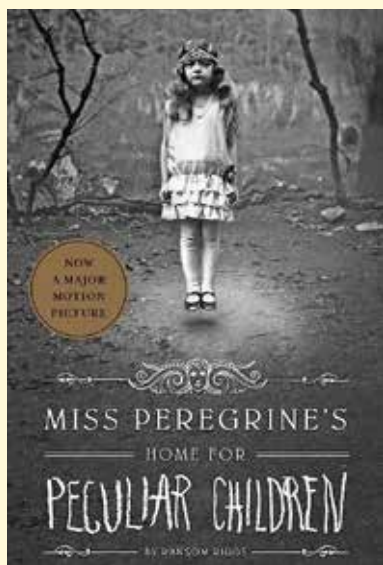
English had a fun filled close of Term 2 and are looking forward to more learning in Term 3.

This term students in Year 8 will be exploring the film Inside Out and creating a website.



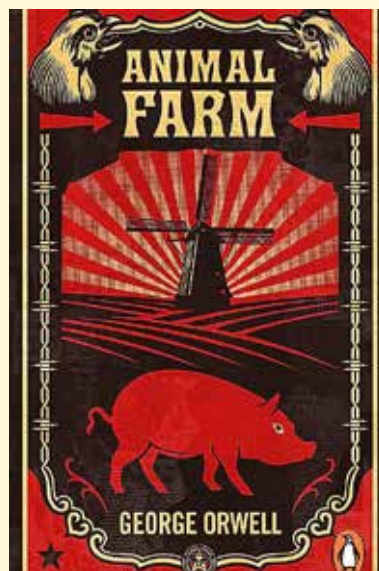
Their teachers are excited to see how students express themselves with technology.

Year 9 are studying the novel Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children and learning all about coming-of-age fantasy novels.

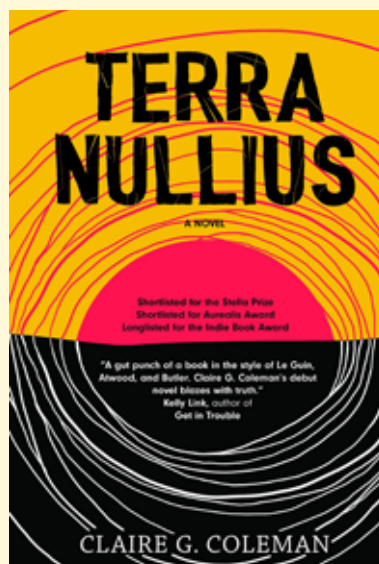


Students will develop their writing skills and compose an imaginative piece.

Year 10 are exploring all things writing. They will practice various writing types such as discursive and persuasive.



Year 11 are studying various texts, from Animal Farm in English Advanced to the modern Australian novel Terra Nullius by Claire G Coleman in English Standard. They will be looking at how these novels convey meaning and worlds.



Year 12 are prepping for their Trials. This will give them practice for their upcoming HSC exams. Good luck beautiful Year 12.

Year 9 Drama are now studying all things mime and pantomime. They are making bold shapes and working on their expressions.



High School Science & TAS News

Taronga Zoo

On 20th July, Year 11 Biology, along with Ms Zhang and Ms Ward, travelled to Taronga Zoo to learn about biological diversity.



We participated in an informative session with Zoo staff where we got to interact with some different animals (including Peril the Tortoise and Minh the Python) and learn about their adaptations.



We also explored the many exhibits around the Zoo and observed animals including the Capybaras, Elephants, Seals, and Chimpanzees.



Other highlights of the day included taking in the beautiful views of the city and enjoying the ferry ride to and from Mosman.



It was a great day out with many opportunities to learn and grow in our understanding of the amazing complexity of life on Earth.

Cicada x Tech23

On 26th July, four senior students were lucky enough to be able to attend Cicada x Tech23.

This was a professional conference held just across the road from APCS, where 23 of the best new science and technology start-ups are invited to share their ideas with other scientists, governments, and investors.

Throughout the day we heard keynote speakers, interviews, and panels on topics such as time dilation and quantum computing, and a special mollusc known by the Cabrogal people as a powerful medicine.



Some of the technologies that we learnt about included a plastic product replacement grown by bacteria, a thunderstorm machine that helps mushrooms grow faster, and a nanoparticle gold toothpaste that protects from gum disease.

Hopefully the day was inspiring to students about the diversity of STEM careers available to school leavers. Thank you very much to Cicada Innovations for the generous donation of the tickets.



High School Food Technology News

Food Technology

Year 7

Students enjoying their chicken sandwich they prepared in class:



Year 8

The techniques used in the final design process involved embroidery and stencilling:



Year 9

Students created this pizza on a stick in class. Don't they look yummy?

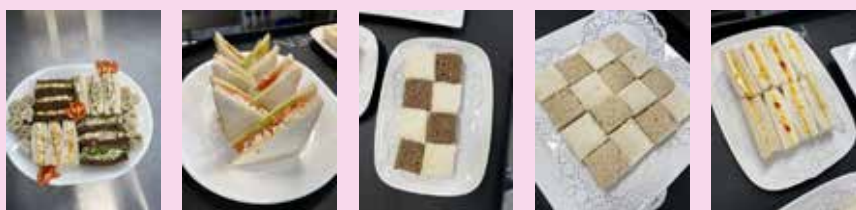


Year 9 - Food Technology end of Term 2 assessments - great presentation:



Year 11

Hospitality students created and served these sandwich platters to staff. Great presentation:





Hospitality students end of term assessments:



Year 12

Hospitality students are practicing hard to serve a perfect cup of coffee. Keep up the great work Year 12.



High School Maths News

NAIDOC Maths Activity 2023

For this year's NAIDOC Day activities the Mathematics Faculty focused on the topic of Aboriginal Astronomy.

Through a series of discussions around three videos, students learned about how deep and far-reaching Aboriginal astronomy is.

This included how the twinkling of stars (e.g. colour, fuzziness and speed of twinkling) can inform about weather, the changing of seasons, incoming rains and when to plant crops.

The students also learned about the Wurda-Youang Stone arrangement, possibly the world's oldest known astronomical site, which likely was used to mark key parts of the year.

All groups were engaged and took away some valuable experiences from the workshop.

Australian Mathematics Competition

On Thursday 3rd August some of our students will be participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

I look forward to reporting later in the year on our students achievements in this competition.

Year 12 Mathematics

Currently all our Year 12 classes are preparing for the upcoming Trial HSC examination.

All courses are revising course content to prepare our students for these examinations.



High School Sport News

The Family That Kicks Together, Sticks Together!

Jarvis HeggatonKlenner: ISKA Winter Open - 1st Xtreme Weapons & 3rd Traditional Forms. Next Goal: ISKA World Cup in October 2023 in Sydney.

Tate HeggatonKlenner: 3rd Dan level 3. Next Goal: 4th Dan in December 2023.

Deb HeggatonKlenner: Black belt in Taekwondo. Next Goal: 1st Dan in December 2023



U15's Girls Basketball - Port Hacking Game

Last Wednesday the Alex Park Under 15's Girls Basketball took on Port Hacking High School as an away game for Round 2 of the CHS Knock-out.

The girls dominated the game throughout with strong offence and even stronger defence including many steals and rebounds.



Our scoring was lead by Talita, AJ and Lucy with Kali-Ann also contributing well. The half time score was 29-4 and Alex Park ended up winning with a score of 71-8.

A strong effort from all the Alex Park girls: Talita Haumono, Lucy Newell, Kali-Ann Williams, Chloe Choi, AJ de Leon, Lara Wliiamson and Jessica Parker.

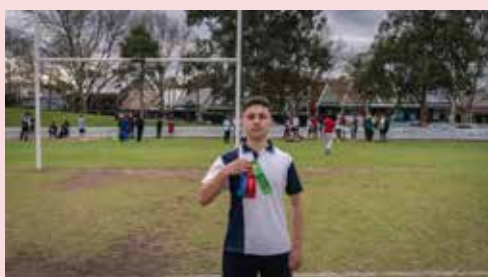
Big thanks go to Sharon (our SLSO) for joining us and to Solomon (from RYC) for driving us to and from Port Hacking. Round 3 should be a home game vs Sylvania High School.

High School Athletics Carnival

The final carnival for the High School calendar is now complete.



The High School Athletics Carnival was a wonderful day at Erskineville Oval, where we saw high levels of student engagement and positive behaviour as students supported their sporting houses with cheers and colorful outfits.



From the school carnival, we had 71 students successfully qualify for the Zone Athletics Carnival, which was held on Friday 21st July, Week 1 of Term 3 at the Hensley Athletic Field, East gardens.



Congratulations to all the competitors that attended the Zone Carnival: Supervising teachers reported that student behaviour was excellent and that students represented APCS with pride.



A special congratulations goes to the following students who qualified for the Regional Athletics Carnival in the following events:

- Zachariah Luu: Boys 12 Yrs Long Jump.
- Lara Williamson: Girls 12-15 Yrs Triple Jump.
- Anika Gill: Girls 13 Yrs 100m Dash & Girls 13 Yrs 200m Dash.
- Leilah Moa: Girls 14 Yrs Long Jump.
- Kelly Clifton: Girls 14 Yrs Shot Put & Girls 12 Yrs Discus.
- Sacha Bond: Boys 16 Yrs 1500m Run.
- Joseph Zhou: Boys 16 Yrs 800m Run.



A big congratulations also goes to our Girls 13 Yrs 4x100 Relay Team, who will be racing at Regionals: Anika Gill, Jenna Togo, Lara Williamson and Poppy McPherson.



The Sydney East Regional Athletics Carnival is a 2-day event which takes place on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd of July, Week 3, Term 3.

To all our representative students, we wish you the best of luck at the Regional Carnival.

Year 8 Gala Day Term 3

As part of an annual program, the Eastern Suburbs Secondary School Sport Association provides opportunities for Year 8 students to participate in a range of sports through a friendly inter-school competition.

This is a compulsory school day for all students which will take place later this term.

The focus of this event is to bring students together across all schools to promote maximum participation and sportspersonship within the Zone.

To prepare for the upcoming event, Year 8 students will use their Integrated Sport Sessions, which run every Wednesday afternoon Period 4 and Period 5, to train in their teams and prepare for the upcoming event.

The sport options, which were appointed by the Eastern Suburbs Zone include:

- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Oz-tag
- Boys Oz-tag
- Mixed Ultimate Vortex
- Mixed Netball

Year 8 students have now completed sport registrations to sign-up to the sport of their choice.

However, due to the high level of student interest for Mixed Netball, trials took place in Week 2.

More information about the event as well as Netball Team selections, will be announced later in the Term, so stay tuned.

Girls Open NRL Training Program, Term 3

Due to student interest in NRL, the PDHPE Faculty will be introducing a new sporting program this Term.

Dale Johnson who is currently the U19s South Sydney Female NRL Team Coach, will be coming to APCS every Tuesday during lunchtime to run training sessions for interested students.

Training sessions will run 1:10 pm - 1:50 pm. We are aiming to develop an Open Girls NRL Team to then represent APCS at a future Gala Day Tournament in Term 3 with local schools.

Currently, we accept 30 students to attend the training session, for spots to be offered to female students in Years 9-12 first.

If there is still availability, spots can then be offered to students in Years 7 and 8.

If you are interested in joining the program, please see Ms Baker in the PDHPE staffroom to register your interest.

Veni Vidi Vici

In Round 2 of the Boys U15 knockout boys basketball, the team ventured to Leichhardt to play a combined Sydney Secondary College team.

Our boys have been training hard and were looking forward to the challenge.

The boys played with amazing intensity; Batbold and Bruce Kenny somehow played all 40 minutes, with Frank Clarke and Buyundi racking up 38 minutes of tough basketball.

By the end of the game the boys had only trailed for about 2 minutes of game time and secured a 34-28 victory, with Bruce sealing it with some clutch free throws in the final 30 seconds.

In the words of the Roman Army, "Veni Vidi Vici", we came, we saw, we conquered.





High School Library News

Book Week

Book Week 2023 (19/8/23 - 25/8/23) is fast approaching. The Book Week poster was chosen by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBC) in support of the Book Week theme:

Read, Grow, Inspire.

You can borrow below CBC shortlisted books from the Yakka Taka. The CBC judges will announce the winners during book week.

You can receive a positive comment on Sentral if you vote for a book by sending a message to the library email apcslibrary@gmail.com explaining your reasons.

Please indicate your name, class & the title of your chosen book. If your pick matches the winner in the CBC August announcement, you will receive 10 positive comments on Sentral.





THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

CHILDREN'S
BOOK WEEK®

#CBCA2023

READ
GROW
Inspire



ARTWORK BY MATT OTTLEY

Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



Extra Curricular Activities (Term 3)

The APCS Library will continue to host a knitting club & a book club at lunchtimes (1:10 - 1:50 pm) in the High School Yakka Taka during Term 3, 2023.

The knitting club will be on Wednesdays & the book club will be on Thursdays. You can still join either of the clubs by completing the forms via QR codes below.



Day-Loan Laptop Procedure

If you wish to borrow a day-loan laptop from the Yakka Taka, you can only access it at the IT desk prior to your roll call class (8:10 - 8:40am).

You must also return your day-loan laptop at the end of each day by 2:50 pm to the green-house box located at the IT desk.

You should never leave your day-loan laptop unattended on the IT desk counter.

If you fail in returning school laptops to the green-house box, you could be suspended from further laptop loan.



2023 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

APCS students have participated in NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) for over a decade. There are currently 260 students who have taken up the reading challenge in 2023 PRC. 156 students have completed their PRC reading log online.

The closing date for PRC online reading log entry is Friday 18 August 2023.

If you have finished reading 20 books during the past 12 months (1/9/2022 -10/8/2023), please complete your online reading log by the closing date.



- APCS Teacher- librarians will enter the reading log for K-2 students.
- Yr7-10 students should make personal reading logs online by accessing PRC website <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> via DoE student portal.
- Years 11-12 students can also participate by submitting a word document reading log to Ms Young (HS teacher-librarian) via email apcslibrary@gmail.com.

New Staff



Name:

Ian Meggitt.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Education: Primary CSU, currently completing postgraduate studies in Inclusive and Special Education at Macquarie University.

Teaching Experience:

MUSEC (Macquarie University Special Education Centre) 2022, PLC Sydney Transition Program 2020-2021, various blocks, part-time, and casual roles at DoE schools in Sydney's Inner West.

Other Employment Experiences:

I re-skilled as a teacher after a decades plus long career in restaurant's and café's: Blancmange in Petersham and Hopscotch Café in Annandale.

As you can see, I am still working with children! (boom...tish).

At APCS, my role is:

Terms 3 and 4 in the Inclusive/Support Unit.

Goals:

As I complete my postgraduate studies in Inclusive and Special Education I seek to work in a school community that values and see strength in diversity.

Specifically the diversity that neurodivergent and special needs students bring to that community.

First Impressions of Alex Park:

My first impressions of Alex Park were very favourable; friendly, welcoming, staff; a diverse community, including a visible, proud, and strong Indigenous community.

Other info:

I love backcountry skiing and snow-camping, as well as cooking, the arts, and Sydney's vibrant and creative LGBTIQ+ communities



Name:

Christos Tofa.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Education (Secondary) and Arts (Specialising in English and History) at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

Teaching Experience:

As a requirement of my degree, I taught English for two terms and History for one term.

Other Employment Experiences:

I worked as a manager of both staff and inventory for three years. This gave me the skills to communicate well with everyone involved in a



situation and required impeccable organisation to ensure everything ran smoothly.

At APCS, my role is:

Year 7-11 English, Year 11 SLR, and Year 9 Sport.

Areas that you would like to be involved in at Alex Park:

I teach Year 8 PBL once a fortnight and my 8X English class is very excited when that period comes around.

Goals:

Each student is a unique individual that should have the opportunity to achieve their own version of success as they grow into autonomous adults.

First Impressions of Alex Park:

The students are super friendly and I enjoy having a chat with them.

The staff are very supportive of each other and it has been great getting to meet so many dedicated teachers.

Other info:

I feel very fortunate and grateful to have joined such a wonderful community of students and teachers.

I look forward to settling in at Alex Park and getting to know everyone better.



Name:

Harry Burgess.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Music Composition, Graduate Diploma English Studies, Master of Teaching (University of Sydney).

Teaching Experience:

Alex Park is my first school! (Though I taught Music and English classes for practicum at Carlingford HS during 2022.).

Other Employment Experiences:

I worked for 8 years in that most riveting of industries: superannuation.

At APCS, my role is:

I'm currently taking two year 8 English classes and co-teaching Year 11 Advanced with the indefatigable Mrs Riedstra.

Areas that you would like to be involved in at Alex Park:

I'm looking forward to finding out more about, and getting involved in, the debating club.

Music ensembles are also on my radar!

Goals:

Building rapport and trust with students is central; creating learning opportunities that are insightful, inclusive, and imaginative is key.

Engaging students where they are at, but encouraging them to go further and aim higher-achieving goals they thought impossible to begin with.

First Impressions of Alex Park:

As a casual teacher at Alex Park during the first half of 2023, I kept coming back! This speaks volumes.

The staff are super friendly and knowledgeable, and the students come to class brimming with energy.

It's a wonderful school.

Or, as Seamus Heaney might put it: 'verb, pure verb' (English teacher here, can't help it).

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CAKE COMPETITION OF THE YEAR

Visit the "Art of Cake" competition co-hosted by ACDN, where you can view amazing works of art crafted from cake. We have categories ranging from fairy-tale, fantasy & folklore to Is It Cake where we try to fool you. Kids are encouraged to enter the cake decorating competition in our Bakemania categories.

So many exhibitors with yummy treats, exciting goods and new product launches.

Kids Zone brought to you by Bake Me Up and Cake Angels packed with face painting, fairy floss, cupcake make and take, and non-stop fun! Join us here for fun and to support an amazing charity.

Watch competitors battle it out in the Kitchen Arena to be named 'Australian Food Champion' in the Australian Qualifying Rounds of the World Food Champion.

For discounted tickets, visit www.cakebakeandsweets.com and enter the code **MELEDU23** at checkout.

