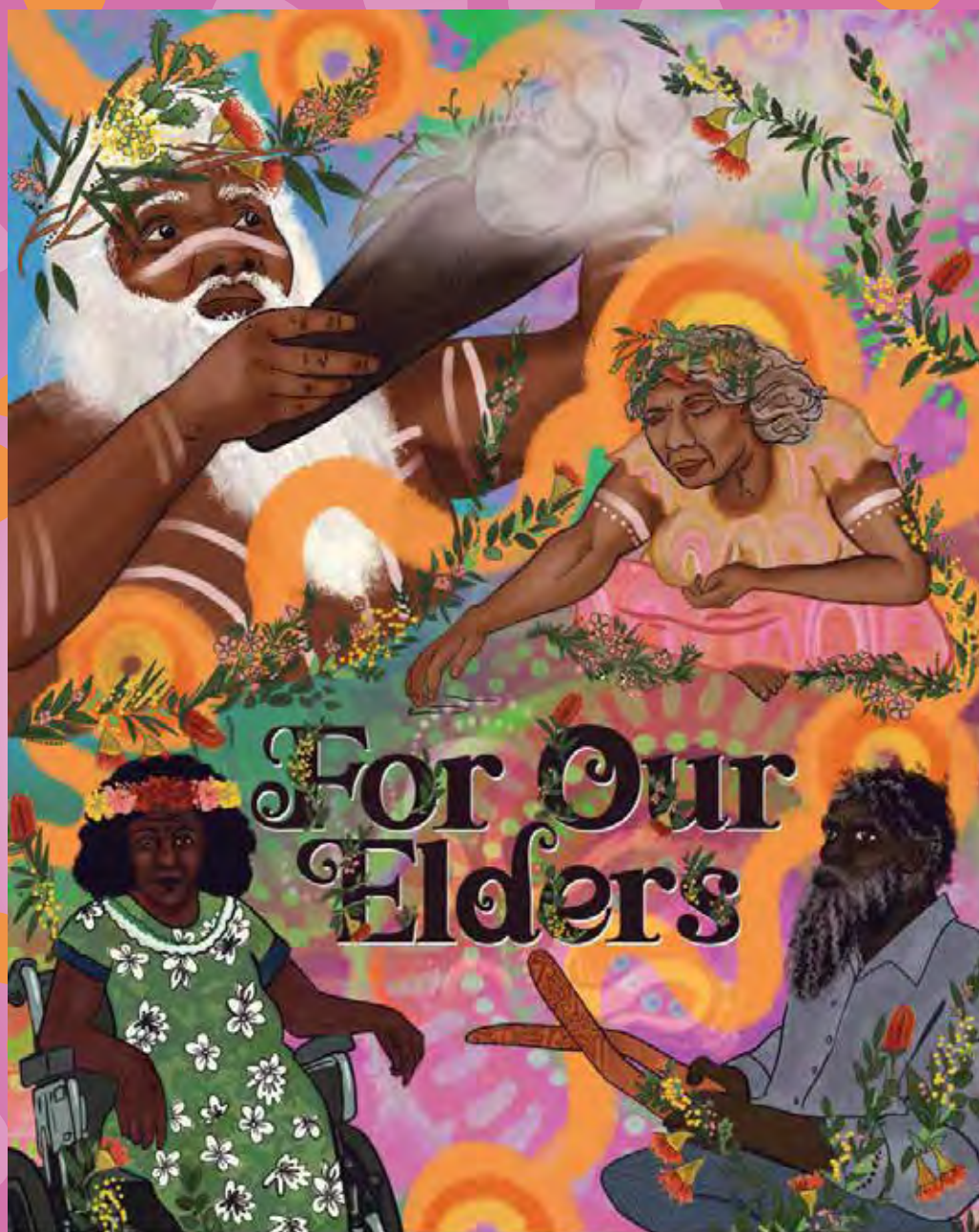


# Yarramundi

Address: 9-13 Park Rd, Alexandria NSW 2015 • Phone: 02 96981967 • Fax: 02 9319 5007  
Website: alexparkcs-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au



## NAIDOC Week

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

@naidocweek @naidocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC

For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

Illustration designed by Bobbi Lockyer. Text and artwork reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Islander Council, designed by the late Mr. Michael Morris.



naidoc.org.au



# 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



Alexandria Park Community School celebrated our 2023 NAIDOC day today.

In honour of this year's NAIDOC theme "For Our Elders", the students and staff of Alexandria Park Community School welcomed their Parents, Carers, Guardians and Elders for the event.

We are very proud of all the students and staff who put in such hard work, preparing for the day.

Their presentations and performances were amazing!

Thank you to Ms Campisi and Ms Thomson as well as the many teachers on our NAIDOC Committee.

Thank you to everyone who came to our school to celebrate with us.

This week our Semester One reports were sent home.

Teachers have worked collectively to teach, assess, collate and consider your child's learning progress and future learning goals.

Please take the time to reflect with your child on their individual highlights and achievements. Reporting is part of communicating with parents and building the school-parent partnership to improve student learning.

Our reports outline - the student's achievement against expected standards; how well the student is engaging with the expected learning and focus on the next steps.

Having a discussion with your child about their report is a powerful way to celebrate success, identify challenges and have a conversation in relation to setting personal goals for next Semester.

As part of the school's commitment to Positive Behaviour for Learning and improving our students' sense of belonging and attendance, we are going to introduce Roll Call to start each school day.

This change will be implemented from the beginning of Term 3, 2023.

The Roll Call will be 10 minutes long and led by Classroom Teachers with support from Year Advisers.

This will add 10 minutes to our School day, 8:40 am to 2:50 pm.

Congratulations to all Staff, Students, Parents, Carers and the whole School Community on reaching the half way point of the year!

I hope everyone has a restful and rejuvenating break so they can ready their mind, body and spirit for the push through to the end of the year.

Debra Lade  
Rel. Principal

# School Calendar

Date	What's Happening
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Last Day of Term 2.
1 <sup>st</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> July	Winter School Holidays.
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff Development Day - no students at school
18 <sup>th</sup> July	First Day of Term 3.
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Night.
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Opportunity Class Placement Test.
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Save the date for P&C Working Bee.
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Primary School Tour.
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Years 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Night.
7 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> August	ICAS Tests. Every Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> August
7 <sup>th</sup> August	ICAS Test - Writing.
7 <sup>th</sup> August	P&C Meeting.
8 <sup>th</sup> August	High School Tour.
14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> August	Stage 3 Canberra Camp.
14 <sup>th</sup> August	ICAS Test - English.
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Years 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Night.
21 <sup>st</sup> August	ICAS Test - Science.
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Primary School Tour.
28 <sup>th</sup> August	ICAS Test - Mathematics.
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Catch up Vaccinations for Years 7 & 10.
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Years 8 & 10 Subject Selection Evening.
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Kindergarten 2024 Information Evening.





# APCS News

## Share the Care With Your School

Changes in your child's physical or mental health can affect their schooling and relationships.

Support is available for Alexandria Park Community School students experiencing either mental health or physical health concerns.

We understand that this may be a challenging time for you and your family, and our aim is to support and work with you as well as to respect your privacy.

Please let us know here at APCS if your child has presented at or been admitted to hospital or an emergency service for any physical or mental health concern so that we can discuss further support with you.



You and/or a support person can speak with the Principal, Deputy/Assistant Principal, Year Advisor/Year Coordinator, Head Teacher Welfare/Pastoral Care Coordinator or School Counsellor/School Psychologist, Aboriginal Education Support Worker to develop a plan together.

Ask us for help with:

- Keeping your child safe;
- Returning to school following a physical or mental health incident;
- Identifying school staff your child can talk to;
- Developing an agreed plan to help stay connected with school during tough times. This might include flexibility around school hours, homework or catching up with schoolwork; and
- Accessing support from the school and outside agencies.

We know that looking after your children is your number one priority - and it's ours, too.

We value and welcome your help and input.

Let's work on it together.

NSW Department of Education

# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills



## Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

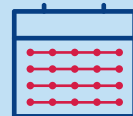
they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight

M	<del>X</del>	W	T	F
M	T	W	T	F

= **4** weeks

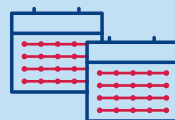


= Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week

M	<del>X</del>	W	T	F
M	T	W	<del>X</del>	F

= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed



# Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

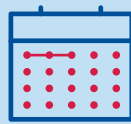
they miss days per year

**5** mins  
per day

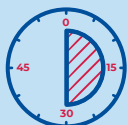


=

**3** days

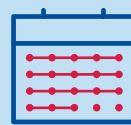


**30** mins  
per day



=

**18** days



**Patterns of lateness  
can have a serious  
impact on your child's  
education.**

## A Compliment to Students of Alex Park

The school received a wonderful email from a member of the public. The mention of uniform and behaviour is very pleasing to hear.



Hi,

This afternoon I was on a 355 bus from Marrickville to Bondi Junction at about 2:40 pm. Five of your students boarded.

I would like to say how well behaved they were - no bad language or loud offensive music and they were well presented in their uniforms.

People are so quick to criticise today's youth, but these students were a real credit to the school!

Regards,

Michelle.



## 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.



With your help, a safer community.


### 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**



Section 168 Road Rules 2014

#### Disobey 'No Stopping' Sign



**Fine = \$344**  
& Lose 2 Points

**DO NOT STOP** for ANY reason



Section 167 Road Rules 2014

#### Child or Passenger Not Restrained



**Fine = \$344**  
& Lose 3 Points

Sections 265, 266, 267 Road Rules 2014

#### Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law



**Fine = \$457**  
& Lose 5 Points

Section 300 Road Rules 2014

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>



With your help, a safer community.

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- Stay within **3 meters** of your car
- Stay less than **2 minutes**

**Fine = \$191**  
& Lose 2 Points

**'KISS & DROP' ZONE**



Section 168 Road Rules 2014

#### Child or Passenger Not Restrained



**Fine = \$344**  
& Lose 3 Points

**Child or Passenger Not Restrained**  
(Not wearing a seat belt or not in a child seat)

Sections 265, 266, 267 Road Rules 2014

#### Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law



**Fine = \$457**  
& Lose 5 Points

**Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law**  
**DO NOT** talk, text or view your phone while driving.

Section 300 Road Rules 2014

#### Disobey 'No Stopping' Sign



**Fine = \$457**  
& Lose 2 Points

**DO NOT STOP** for ANY reason

Section 167 Road Rules 2014

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 31<sup>st</sup> May 9:30am.**

## Information Evening

Discover more about the Kindergarten curriculum, teaching programs and school readiness. **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> November, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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

As we come to the end of the Semester, this is good time for students (and everyone) to reflect on their achievements and make some goals for the remainder of the year. It's been a massive year so far and we continue to be a proud school community.

One of my highlights has been the opening of our Inclusive Education Unit (IEU) this Term. Under the strong leadership of Assistant Principal, Ms Sharyn Casey, the team of teachers and SLSOs has transformed the learning hub to make it suitable for our new students. This has included the renovation of outdoor play areas, modifications of classroom spaces and the inclusion of two sensory rooms. We have enrolled three students to date and have another seven students commencing in Term 3.



Our IEU is also open to mainstream students to play in during break times, as is the mainstream play spaces for our IEU students when they are comfortable to do so. As we refine our systems and processes, we will grow our Unit into three classes with a total cohort of 24 students. We look forward to more students making the transition to Alex Park's IEU in the coming Semester.

I wish everyone a relaxing break and will see you all again next Term.

**David Olsen**  
Relieving Deputy Principal K-2

As we reach the end of the Semester we pause to consider all that has happened over the last 20 weeks since the start of the school year. This week our Semester One reports will be sent home.

Teachers have worked collectively to teach, assess, collate and consider your child's learning progress and future learning goals. Please take the time to reflect with your child on their individual highlights and achievements. Reporting is part of communicating with parents and building the school-parent partnership to improve student learning. Our reports outline:

- the student's achievement against expected standards;
- how well the student is engaging with the expected learning; and
- focus on the next steps.



Having a discussion with your child about their report is a powerful way to celebrate success, identify challenges and have a conversation in relation to setting personal goals for next Semester.

I would like to congratulate the students on their commitment to learning throughout the Term and for being so responsive to feedback to support their learning and engagement. I would like to wish you all a relaxing winter break. On Monday 17 July, staff at APCS will be participating in professional learning and Term 3 will commence for students on Tuesday 18 July.

**Paul Keevers**  
Deputy Principal 3-6





# Primary News

## Primary Public Speaking & Debating

### Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking

This Term, students in Years 3-6 prepared and delivered a speech for the Department of Education Arts Unit's Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. For 28 years this competition has been encouraging Primary School students to explore ideas of multiculturalism in Australia while they practise their public speaking skills and improve their confidence.



Finals for our classes were held in the Denzil. In Stage 2, Lucien (3/4F), Daisy (3/4M), Tselmeg (3/4J), Elsie (3/4A) and Obie (3/4P) represented their classes. In Stage 3, Henry (5/6A), Darren (5/6P), Sienna (5W), Emily (6O), Ciara (5/6S) and Theodora (5/6M) represented their classes. Teachers and students from the Stages loved listening to the excellent speeches.



Lucien, Obie, Emily and Theodora were selected to progress to the next level. They competed in the local area finals on 19<sup>th</sup> June. All the students did wonderfully, and Emily received a Highly Commended Award. Representing our school at this level is a tremendous achievement - well done students!

## Premier's Debating Competition

The Premier's Debating Challenge is open to all NSW government schools with the aim of developing the reasoning and public speaking skills of students from Years 5 to 12. APCS has two teams in this competition. These teams meet weekly to discuss topics and refine their skills.



Both teams won their first external debate, defeating Paddington Public School in debates about media and screens. In the second round against Crown St, the Alex Parkians lost in a close debate about chores at home and the AP Smarties were victorious in their debate about compulsory charity work for students.

Congratulations to Lalibela, Emily, Shaily, Isabella, Sarah, Phoebe, Aiden, Hamish, Theodora & Matteo on your successes so far. We wish you all the best in future debates!







## Kindergarten News

In our English lessons, Kindergarten students have been learning to describe characters with adjectives. We know that size and colour are very descriptive and make our writing interesting.



We have learnt nearly all of the single sounds in our phonics lessons. During the exploration of the /v/ and /w/ sounds, KC loved making their own volcanoes and water worlds. KC has really enjoyed having the Sydney University Prac students, Miss Khayat and Miss Howard, in their class. It has been really great for the students to see these young educators learning and growing with them.



KG and KH were able to utilise the Bush School and engage in a meaningful Reconciliation Week activity.

We investigated what the word 'sorry' means and how we are all learning together on Cadigal land. We constructed our own Acknowledgement of Country and enjoyed singing it in the sun.







Kindergarten have welcomed some new members into our classes. KG has been so kind to Penelope the Pig and we have been learning about her needs. We have built Penelope a shelter, made sure she has water, plenty of food to help her grow and we even built her a friend out of Lego so she won't be lonely.



In Mathematics, KP has been using playdough to explore halves.

Using physical materials lets us make mistakes, compare and discuss our findings. And who doesn't love playdough?

KG is learning to tell the time.

Our favourite times of day are 9 O'Clock when we get to start learning together and 3 O'Clock when we get to see our families.





## Stage 1 News

Stage One thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to Sydney Park.



They learnt about the changes to the area and investigated the wetland.



In class they have shown learning through historical narratives and dioramas.







In gymnastics students have been learning lots about fundamental movement, while having lots of fun.



Pyjama Day was a great success with all the students having a great time and they enjoyed seeing their teachers in pyjamas.





## Stage 2 News

In our Community and Remembrance Unit in History, we have been looking at different celebrations and events in Australia, and around the world.



This week we have had our 'Celebration Rotations', where classes moved throughout the hubs to learn about Lunar New Year, Diwali, Carnival, St Patrick's Day and Día de los Muertos.

We have also enjoyed creating our stage artwork to be displayed in the NAIDOC Gallery. Students selected their favourite gumleaves from Alexandria Oval, and decorated them with their own patterns, symbols and designs.







## Stage 3 News

Stage 3 have been working on various curriculum projects.

### Science

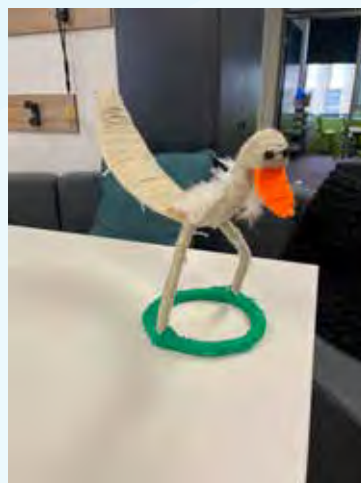
Students learnt about The Living World exploring living things and their needs.



They then made a diorama with an animal and its adaptations - they needed to show how their animal has adapted, what its new habitat looks like and its new diet.

### Creative Arts

Students have been learning weaving and about other cultures.



They made through simple weaving an Australian bird based on the style of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers - these women are from NPY Lands working with women in the remote Central and Western deserts who explore weaving with contemporary fibre art. For more information please visit their website - <https://tjanpi.com.au/>



"A MOVEMENT THAT CELEBRATES LIFE,  
CREATIVITY AND COUNTRY."

### Tjanpi Desert Weavers

We're a social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council, working with women in the remote Central and Western deserts who earn an income from contemporary fibre art.

[tjanpi.com.au](http://tjanpi.com.au)




**LifeEd.**  
Every child deserves to thrive

### Happy Healthy Harold

Stage 3 recently received a visit from Harold.

Students investigated nicotine delivery products (cigarettes and e-cigarettes) and the health and social impacts.

Students understand that society norms do change in line with new health research.





## Inclusive Education Unit News

The Inclusive Education Unit officially welcomed its first few students this Term in Week 7.

Students have been busy exploring their new spaces in the Unit and around the school.



They've enjoyed learning in their new classroom and playing outside in the Inclusive Education Unit playground.

Students from mainstream are also welcome and enjoy playing in our playground.

It is great to see inclusion at its best, students playing together and learning how we are all the same and different at the same time.





Students also enjoyed using the new sensory rooms.

Students from Kindergarten and other Grades joined us as well and were mesmerised by the new lights and bubble machine.



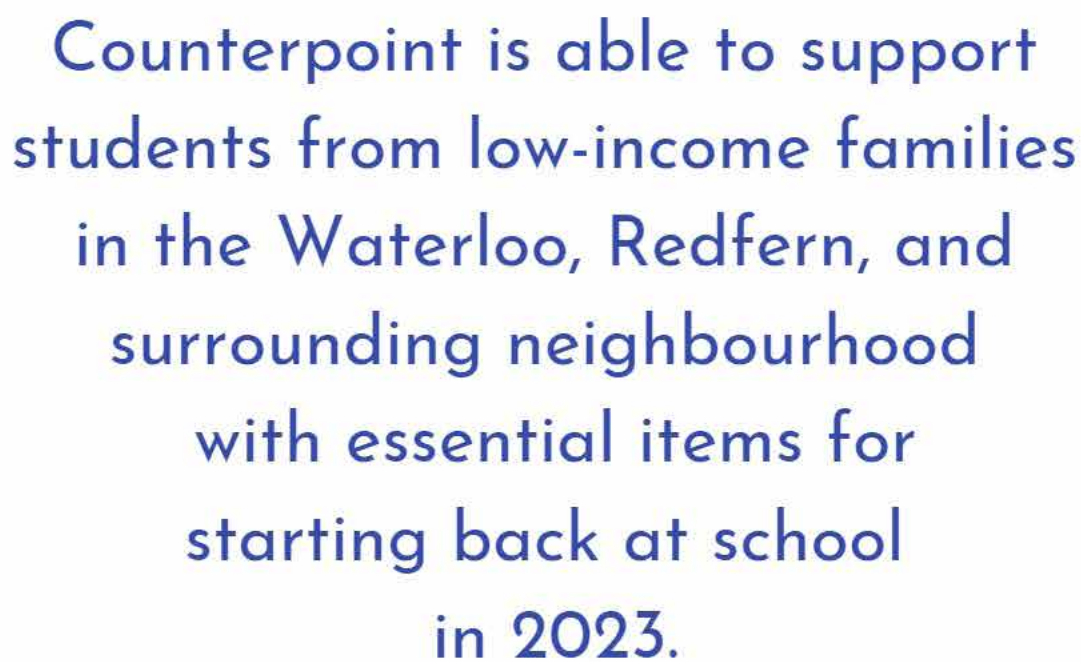
We had fun with Kindergarten by organising play and disco time in our space.

In turn, we joined Kindergarten for assemblies, their music lessons and the Healthy Harold incursion.

Students in the Inclusive Education Unit visited the chickens and the herbs garden.

They enjoyed learning about living things such as plants and the chickens, and their needs to survive, such as food, water and shelter.





**For more info, please contact Elle  
02 9698 9569 OR  
info@counterpointcs.org.au**



# Primary Sport News

## Basketball Stars

Year 6 students Kymeesha Shillingsworth and TJ Sili-Mapusua were recently selected in the Sydney East PSSA State Championships played in Tamworth.

Both Kymeesha and TJ in local competitions at Comets Stadium in Alexandria.

Other areas of the State participated in this Championships representing their areas e.g. Northwest, Riverina and competitors from the Catholic systems of Polding and MacKillop.

Kymeesha and TJ won individual MVP awards for their respective teams.

Congratulations.



## Basketball Stars - Alex Park Stage 3

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June our Stage 3 Alexandria Park basketball team played Petersham in the Denzil.

It was an exciting match and at half time we were down by 6 points. Showing their fighting spirit and team commitment, our team came back to win the match 40 - 36.

Thank you to all the families who came to watch, our students who played and Ms Smith our wonderful coach.







# 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:

- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - challenge opens for student entries
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - challenge closes for student entries
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Miss Ruschen.

**Happy Reading!**



NSW Department of Education

# 2023 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Artwork by Elise Hurst

[www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au)



**Key dates  
for students  
in K-10:**

Challenge opens  
Monday 27 February

Challenge closes  
for student entries  
Friday 18 August







# High School DP News



Semester 1 2023 has been action packed with carnivals, activities, excursions and of course day-to-day quality teaching and learning in class.

There is a big change coming next Term as a result of our new Attendance Policy review.

## Roll Call and Change in Finish Time

As part of the school's commitment to Positive Behaviour for Learning and improving our students' sense of belonging and attendance, we are going to introduce Roll Call to start each school day for our students.

This change will be implemented from the beginning of Term 3, 2023.

I surveyed parents about the change, and more than three quarters of respondents agreed with the introduction of Roll Call.

The Roll Call will be 10 minutes long and led by Classroom Teachers with support by Year Advisers.

The 10 minutes will be used to share daily notices, monitor uniform and attendance, and provide a daily check-in to welcome students and prepare them to achieve the best out of their academic day.

To accommodate the Roll Call period, the school day will need to be extended by 10 minutes until 2.50pm.

This way there will be no impact on students accessing their learning in class, and they will still be able to collect siblings from Primary School if necessary.

**Kylie Biddle**  
Rel. Deputy Principal High School



## Teaching and Learning Data and student learning outcomes

As we close in on Semester 1 for 2023, we are in a better position to address some key areas of our students teaching and learning components.

All High School staff took part of a professional learning session which upskilled their ability to access and interpret data to inform teaching practice designed to provide further opportunities for students to achieve learning outcomes.

This training is well timed with the release of NAPLAN results to schools in late June.

In addition, the school will also look to analyse the check in assessment results which will provide a platform for modified teaching practice to address some of the data presented to us.



As you know, the Check-in assessments are an online assessment for students in Years 3 to 9. They are mapped to the NSW Syllabuses and National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions. There are two assessments; reading and numeracy.

This assessment can identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

I am happy to share that our 2023 Term 2 data indicates that, 94 students were assessed in reading and 86 students were assessed in numeracy with 56.6% of our students answering correctly in the reading component which is above the state average percentage of 51.5%.

64.3% of our students answered correctly in numeracy component which also was above the state average of 52%.

This data will be used in Semester 2 to improve teaching practice and cater to some of our student's improvement areas.

## Uniform

I am pleased to say that our uniform rates have improved, and I thank the support of parents, carers and our community in general for supporting the consistent message of being in uniform.



We will continue with our uniform blitzes to ensure our standards and expectations are kept high for our students.

Please note that disciplinary action will be followed through for students who persist on disobeying uniform expectations despite the support and warning system the School will continue to practice.

## Attendance of classes and Truancy

This is an area we continue to address.

The school has a clear policy, and we encourage the support of parents and carers at home to assist us in emphasising the message that students need to be at School on time (8:40am) and attend all classes.

For more information in this area, please feel free to reach out.

Information on this will be sent out to parents and carers throughout Semester 2.

**Steven Marcos**  
Act. Deputy Principal



# YOUTH IN THE CITY



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Monday 3 July to Friday 14 July 2023

FOR AGES 13 – 18 (or under 13 if in High School)

WEEK 1: MONDAY 3 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$5</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm NAIDOC EVENT Indigenous cooking BYO snack and dinks

WEEK 1: TUESDAY 4 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$8</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Movies on George Movie to be decided on the day by group. BYO lunch, snacks and drink

WEEK 1: WEDNESDAY 5 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$5</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Basketball Clinic Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear BYO lunch, snacks and drink

WEEK 1: THURSDAY 6 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$5</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm NAIDOC EVENT Indigenous jewellery making workshop BYO lunch, snack and dinks

WEEK 1: FRIDAY 7 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$20</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Bowling and Lazer Tag Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear BYO lunch, snacks and drink or money to buy

WEEK 2: MONDAY 10 July	
<b>COST</b> <b>\$20</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Escape rooms Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. BYO lunch, snacks and drink

WEEK 2: TUESDAY 11 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$10</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Fencing Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear BYO lunch, snacks and drink

WEEK 2: WEDNESDAY 12 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$30</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm VR Quest BYO lunch, snacks and drink. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes

WEEK 2: THURSDAY 13 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$15</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Ninja Parc Parkour Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear BYO lunch, snacks and drink

WEEK 2: FRIDAY 14 July	
<b>COST:</b> <b>\$30</b>	<b>TIME:</b> 10am—4pm Fortress Sydney Lunch included. BYO snacks and drink. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes

TO BOOK ONLINE : [WWW.CITYOFSYDNEY.NSW.GOV.AU](http://WWW.CITYOFSYDNEY.NSW.GOV.AU): FOLLOW THE LINKS: COMMUNITY/YOUNG PEOPLE/SCHOOL HOLIDAYS  
<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/school-holidays>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 0460 838 847

One convenient pick up and drop off locations for the school holiday program  
Sydney Town Hall—456 Kent street, Sydney



## High School News



### IDAHOBIT Day

On May 17, 1990 - the World Health Organisation (**WHO**) removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases.

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (**IDAHOBIT**) commemorates this day of great significance.

In Term 2, the High School held a special assembly to educate staff and students about this milestone and to send a strong message of acceptance and respect.

This presentation featured Daisy and Katie from Twenty10 who spoke about the day and what services and support Twenty10 offers the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies.





## NSW Training Awards

### Pat Snaea - NSW Training Awards

The NSW Training Awards are conducted annually by Training Services NSW within the NSW Department of Education to recognise outstanding achievement in the vocational education and training sector.

The Awards honour and reward the achievements of students, Trainers/Teachers, Registered Training Organisations, large and medium Employers.

This year, Patrick Snaea from Year 12 was nominated for an award!

Pat attended the awards with his mother Elenoa, here is what she had to say about the evening.

Hi Dee,

Once again, thankyou very much for the tickets to Pat's Awards evening.

He walked away with the Highly Commended Award in his School Based Apprentice/ Trainee of the Year Category.

Pat's direct Manager and 2 other colleagues from Reece Glebe also came along to support him on the night which was nice.

There were professional photographers there on the night and they said that the photos would be on line soon – In the meantime, I have attached a photo with Him and his 2 awards.

Thanks again for your support.

Regards, El.







## Artist In Residence

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Aboriginal students from Years 7 and 8 attended a special event at Blacktown Arts Centre as part of Reconciliation Week celebrations.



The students, accompanied by Aunty Deb and Ms Campisi, witnessed an incredible Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by Uncle Wes Marne.

He is an Aboriginal Elder from the Western Sydney area who is 105 years old!

He has written a poetry book about his life and shared some stories from his childhood and the significance of smoking ceremonies in Aboriginal culture.

The students proudly represented their school, families and Community.

They gave an impromptu performance of their original song "Blak and Deadly" for the audience out there which included well known Aboriginal rapper and producer Dobby.

They did an amazing job, and we are very proud of their accomplishments and bravery.





## Mudgin-gal Women's Group

During Term 2, a group of Years 10 and 11 Aboriginal women have been participating in a weekly workshop run by the Mudgin-gal Women's Centre.

They have learned about a variety of issues.

These issues including lateral violence and domestic violence and gained important skills relating to positive thinking, employment and the law.

Each week the women have also been developing their weaving skills as part of creating an artwork to recognise their participation in the program.



## A Pat on the Back

Dylan Cosgrave's 9ITT class have been working hard in the Inclusive Education Unit, using their skills and knowledge to construct equipment and design two new sensory rooms.

The students worked as a team to construct the new bubble tube and install LED light strips on the ceiling in one of the rooms.



They brainstormed ideas to design the second sensory room, taking into consideration the sensory needs of the students and safety regulations.

It was great to have the High Schoolers play such an active role in helping to establish spaces in our new Inclusive Education Unit. Our first three students, who started in Week 7, were completely in awe when they visited our new sensory spaces.



# High School English News

## English

Students have been working on a range of tasks in English, from writing play excerpts to critical response essays. We are looking forward to reading all of their finalised work and seeing how much progress they have made.

HSC English students went on an excursion to Sydney University hosted by the English Teachers Association. They listened to expert speakers on Modules A, B and C. It's hard to say who had a better time, the teachers or the students. Students will be able to use all of this knowledge for not only their HSC but also their Trials in Term 3.



## Drama

Drama have been having a fabulous time learning with Mr Cignarella. They have engaged in learning about the history of theatre, positive communication and set design.





## HSC Workshops

The Term 2 HSC English Workshops have gone well. Students now feel much more confident and have had fun learning all about the various HSC papers. Well done to all participants. Best of luck with your trials in English. You have worked hard.



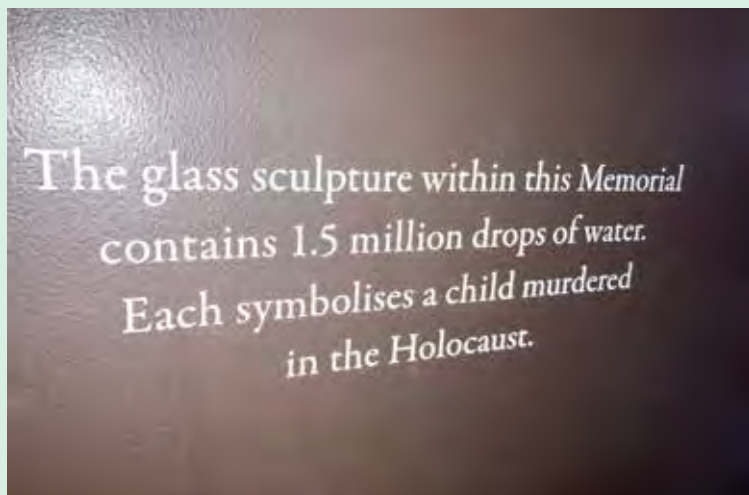




# High School HSIE News

## SJM Excursion

The Year 11 Modern History students went to the Sydney Jewish Museum on 25<sup>th</sup> May.



This excursion had a dual purpose: to immerse the students in the stories of the Holocaust and to see the effect and impact that the Museum Curator has on the experience of the viewer.



This will allow the students to participate as Curators in their Historical Investigation Project later this year.





This year, students from other schools such as Fort Street and Baulkham Hills also attended this session, learning about the value of the skills of a Curator as well as being given a tour around the Museum.



The vast array of personal artefacts within the exhibition represents less than ten percent of the Museum's artefacts but showed the depth of detail that can be displayed with the right display.



The last event of the day was a meeting with a Holocaust survivor, Mark Spigelman who recounted his wartime experience and hiding from the German forces.

This was a revealing and human account of an unbelievable experience.

All of the APCS students acted with respect and interest throughout the entire day and represented our school in the community.

An amazing experience for all involved.



## HSIE News

First Semester is coming to an end with HSIE teachers feverishly marking assessment tasks and writing reports for our Years 7-10 classes but it doesn't stop us from taking students on quality educational excursions that give students real life experiences in what we are studying



### Year 12 Society and Culture - Nan Tien Temple

Our Society and Culture students have been studying Buddhism this Term as part of their belief systems topic. To further our learning we jumped on a train to head down south of Wollongong to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple. At the Temple, our guide showed us around the grounds, explaining the beliefs, symbols and practices at the Temple, leading us in Tai Chi and demonstrating the basics in calligraphy. We even got a delicious vegetarian lunch.

Apparently, it was the best excursion the students had been on with the terms amazing and fantastic being used as we were leaving.



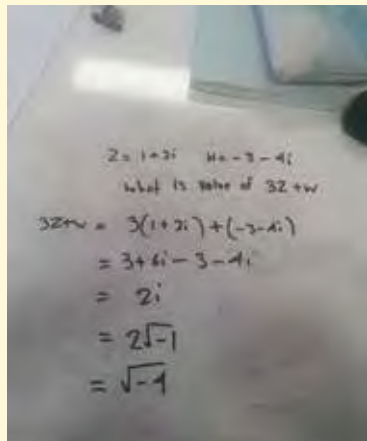
### Year 10 Aboriginal Studies

On Tuesday Mr Cutts, Miss Baumann and Uncle Desi took the Year 10 Aboriginal Studies class to Sandy Point to look at a number of cultural sites. Luckily it was a nice day as the students needed to work their way through the bush to have a look at the sites and understand the significance of the area.



# High School Maths News

## Story of a Girl Overcoming Her Anxiety

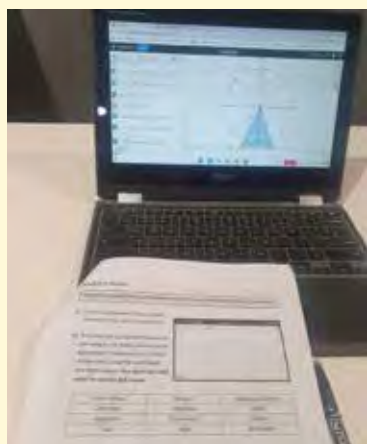


Raisha battles through one emotional rollercoaster after another... So many practice tests and high-stakes assessment tasks to prepare for and do in such a short time! However, she's gotten used to the paralysing sense of anxiousness – heart racing, stomach clenching, brain freezing – that seized her when she faces obstacles in school. She's gained the belief that if she works hard enough and keeps on trying, she'll eventually persevere.

Raisha is currently studying the Year 11 Mathematics Extension 1 course to prove to herself and those around her that she can do Maths at the highest difficulty level. As her mentor, I've tried to persuade her to take the easier path and to prioritise on her mental wellbeing. She's proven me wrong again and again. For her, advice like that ended up making

her cry even more. A year ago, she's been told by a boy that she simply can't do Maths. That moment changed her, and she's been trying so hard, harder than any student that I've taught in my 11 years of teaching experience. It's impressive that such simple source of motivation can make such a large impact on a person.

I'm trying to remember that girl's journey. Covid and other medical conditions did a number on Raisha's confidence, study routine, academic achievements, and mental wellbeing in the past. I remember that she missed a lot of school and schoolwork before Year 11. I once called home to check-up on her during learning-from-home period and I distinctively remember hearing her shouting behind a closed door telling her guardian to go away refusing to speak to me over the phone. When schooling returned to normal, she struggled to fit in with her peers as she learns to understand and deal with her many emotional stats. Ms Barnett and I became her mentor as she frequently asked us for advice. She was also addicted to the popular mobile game Genshin Impact. Gaming gave her sense of purpose, instant gratification, and achievements. She's spent countless number of hours on it as well as real world money.



Helping her move on from her gaming addiction which lead her to pursue academic achievements instead to fulfill her emotional needs was my proudest moment in my teaching career. She enjoys the feeling of overcoming challenges in Maths as well as her anxiety for Maths. Most importantly, she enjoys proving to those who did not believe in her wrong. Raisha decided to study ahead in course contents to push herself. It's especially challenging for her due to the number of concepts that she missed over the years. She's even asked my Year 12 Mathematics Extension 2 students to teach her Extension 2 concepts when she was taking a break. Shout out to Mark Xu for sacrificing his own time teaching her Ext2 Complex Numbers. She was determined to catch up on everything she's missed and become the best Maths student in her cohort.

At the time of writing this article, I'm proud to share with you readers that she's done it! I hope you enjoy reading this success story.



## Stage 5 Maths Awards

During assembly, the Mathematics Faculty celebrated the wonderful achievements of the Years 9 and 10 cohort. Students were awarded certificates by our new Head Teacher of Mathematics and current Relieving Deputy Principal Michael Lucas for Academic Excellence and Application.



## Tarsia

There's a popular app called Tarsia that allows educators to create, print out customised jigsaw puzzles. Children of the digital age are hard to please. However, this hands-on activity has proven again and again to engage students.



This group of Year 8 students are learning to solve algebraic equations. There are equations and solutions on the sides of each jigsaw piece. They need to match the edges of the jigsaw pieces to form a big hexagon.

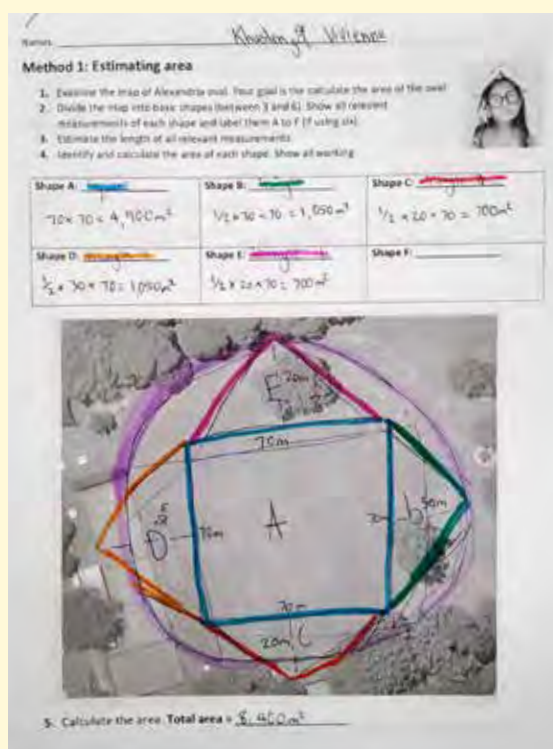
Anika and Dhya drew the short straw and had to complete the puzzle as a group of two. They were the first to finish the puzzle! Way to go girls!



## 7AL Maths – Finding the Area of Alexandria Oval

In Term 2, Classes 7A and 7L have been exploring areas of basic shapes, which they used in an investigative task that required them to utilise 3 different methods to find the area of Alexandria Oval. The first involved estimating lengths, the second involved measuring these lengths using their stride length, and the third involved using an online tool.

This task involved many elements, such as: estimation, converting units, finding the area of composite shapes in parts. To Ms Barnett's surprise, some groups found totals for the first two methods only differed slightly, which made for interesting discussion in class. By the end, students were asked to compare their results and reflect on the methods used. Congratulations to all the students in 7AL who did an excellent job in completing this task!



Khuslen and Vivienne's work using estimates.



Emma and Alannah on Alexandria Oval.



# High School Creative Arts News

## Year 10 Photography and Digital Media

Year 10 Photography discovered the wonders of a slide projector after Ms Robles found a 1971 model in the art storeroom this week, with a few slides in it!



While looking at the slides left in the projector the class discussed traditional wet photography, the process of developing film and photographs, as well as the chemical processes involved in developing film and photographs before digital cameras were invented.





## MUSIC NEWS

### Calling All Composers

This year the Schools Spectacular is running a competition for High School students to compose a piece which will be showcased in this year's performances. The composition can be a song or instrumental piece in any genre of maximum five minutes' duration. The closing date for entries is July 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, use this link:



<https://www.schoolsspectacular.com.au/schools-spectacular-2023-original-composition/>

### PlantWave Composition Group

A small group of Year 7 students has been exploring making music with the PlantWave app.

We have recorded various Australian native plants around the school and are now mixing a track which can hopefully be used as part of our NAIDOC celebration.



### Stage 5 and 6 Assessment Time

All Stages 5 and 6 Music students have been busy preparing performances for their assessments over the last couple of weeks.



Stage 5 students were competing in a Battle of the Bands for their Australian Music topic assessment and also performed in assembly. Stage 6 presented their Elective 1 and 2 options in the topics "An Instrument and Its Repertoire" and "Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries".





# High School Sport News

## OzTag



Recently students went to Marrickville to compete in an OzTag competition between Tempe, Marrickville, Dulwich Hill and Alex Park Indigenous students. I am incredibly proud of both of the teams we submitted, they absolutely represented themselves and the school amazingly!

Our APCS Senior team took home the trophy which is being proudly displayed in the NASCA room as we speak. The team was captained by David who did an amazing job leading the group.



I'm also proud to inform you all that Cooper McGrath was recognised as Man of the Tournament by the Elders and community members present on the day. Everyone was very impressed by Cooper on and off the field.

Our senior team also organised, amongst themselves, a war cry that they performed when they got into the grand final, an amazing sight for everyone watching. Despite our junior team not making it into the semi finals, they were up in the front cheering on our seniors the whole time, Lakeisha made sure that the waters were always filled for the students to have!

We were also very fortunate to be joined by Alex and Lydia from PDHPE, the kids really responded well to having their teachers be there and support them. A big shout out to them for coming as well as providing the deadly jerseys that the students wore on the day.

Overall it was a really great day! Corinne Smith is looking into organising a basketball competition next term to try and keep the momentum going for this. I look forward to bringing a team of kids that are going to take home that trophy too!





## New Staff


**Name:**

Kate Holland-Selling.

**Qualifications:**

Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Sydney.

**Teaching Experience:**

Coming from a social work background I've predominantly worked in community organisations.

For the last six years I've worked at The Settlement, as the Child, Youth and Family Programs worker.

A large part of my role was the development and facilitation of child and youth focused programs.

One of which was creating the Breakfast Club here at Alex Park.

But also included a range of mentorship, leadership, living skills and wellbeing programs.

Another key aspect of my role was providing individual case management, offering mostly mental health and cultural support to a number of young people.

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

I'm coming on board at Alex Park as the new Student Support Officer, working collaboratively with the wellbeing team to enhance student wellbeing and outcomes.

I will be working with students individually as well as working on School programs to achieve these outcomes.

One of my first projects will be supporting the K-12 breakfast club running Monday through Friday, as well as getting a lunch program for high school students up and running in the Bistro.

**Goals:**

I am very passionate about working with young people and in that giving back to community.

I believe understanding how a young person is connected through family, community and culture is extremely important.

Furthermore, I believe fostering connections and building safe support networks is what gives the largest advantage to any young person and enhances their overall wellbeing.

**First Impressions of Alex Park:**

Having worked in the local area I've engaged with a number of Alex Park students before so it's been great to see some familiar faces but also get to know some new ones!


**Name:**

Romica-Iulia Ioan.

**Qualifications:**

Master of Education - Special Education Studies with Macquarie University (2021).

Master of Teaching Primary with The University of Sydney (2018).

Bachelor of Special Psychopedagogy with Ovidius University in Romania (2009).

**Teaching Experience:**

Before joining the beautiful community at Alexandria Park, I worked at Rainbow Street Public School in Randwick where I taught students diagnosed with Autism and Moderate Intellectual Disability.

One of my key learnings was the importance of building positive relationships with students, their carers and parents and my colleagues to support teaching and learning.

Between 2018 and 2020 while I was completing my studies in Special Education, I worked at Leichhardt Public School, teaching Kindergarten



and students diagnosed with Moderate Intellectual Disability.

I have also worked as a casual teacher in my local area, and I enjoyed making connections with my local community while expanding my professional practice.

### **Other Employment Experiences:**

I grew up and went to school in Romania.

I had odd jobs during my university years including working at a gas station, in a real estate office, working in sales and volunteering in youth centres for people with disabilities.

After finishing my Bachelor studies and establishing my family, we decided to move to the United Kingdom where we lived for almost four years.

During this time, I worked in a primary school as a Teaching Assistant (SLSO), supporting students with diverse learning needs and/or diverse behaviours.

I value all the experience I accumulated before moving to Australia in 2016, as it gave me the opportunity to understand and appreciate diverse cultures and educational systems.

### **At APCS, my role is:**

I am lucky to have recently joined the beautiful team in the Inclusive Education Unit at Alex Park, where I will be teaching one of the three Autism or Moderate Intellectual Disability classes.

Looking forward to meeting our new students and families and finding new connections with them.

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

I am still learning about all the events and activities that Alex Park provides for their students and families.

I have varied interests such as: the Kitchen and Cooking program, organising excursions, choir, exploring learning through technology, organising events to educate and advocate for students with disabilities.

I look forward to exploring some of these areas together.

### **Goals:**

As a teacher I strongly believe in building close and supportive relationships with students and parents/carers so that meaningful learning can happen.

I strive to develop an effective, safe and welcoming learning community in my classroom - built on mutual respect and fairness, where students feel comfortable to learn, make mistakes, grow and achieve their goals.

I also strongly believe in equity in education, where each individual students' needs are met at their level as opposed to equality where all students receive the same resources and level of support.

I recognise that all students are different and hope to work with them and their families/community to provide the best personalised learning and support experience.

### **First Impressions of Alex Park:**

There are not enough words to describe the warmth and friendliness I felt in just a few weeks since joining Alex Park.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Inclusive Education Unit team that first welcomed me and showed me around the school - what an amazing school and grounds by the way.

I would also like to thank everyone else who greeted me with a smile on their face from students, to other staff and parents.

### **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:**

Rani Kashyap.

### **Qualifications:**

Certificate 3 in Education Support - TAFE, Bankstown.



Bachelor of Education - Meerut University, India.

Certificate 3 in Executive Assistant Organisational Skills - TAFE.

### **SLSO Experience:**

Qualified, passionate, enthusiastic & dedicated SLSO with 3 years' work experience working with support unit and mainstream students in Primary and High Schools.

I have also worked in SSP Schools.

### **Other Employment Experiences:**

Previously I have more than 6 years' great working experience as a primary teacher in India.

My teaching subject was Hindi.

### **At APCS, my role is:**

I am a full-time SLSO in an Inclusive Unit.

My key role is to assist the classroom teacher in preparing classroom for lessons such as setting up equipment, photocopying, rearranging the furniture for a particular activity etc.

I supervise students inside and outside of the classroom.

Student's personal care also involves in my role such as toileting, assisting in feeding etc.

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

I would like to be involved in Sports and other co-curricular activities.

### **Goals:**

My goal is to prepare students for the future world.

I believe that students are like small plants and they grow under the guidance of all teachers and SLSOs who provides them all the basic elements of life.

### **First Impressions of Alex Park:**

I was attracted by the word 'Community' in the school name.

'Community' word itself defines a feeling of living together in a group with a common interest.

**Other info:** I am a stage performer. I take part in different cultural activities.



### **Name:**

Dina Dimmock.

### **SLSO Experience:**

I have been an SLSO for 16 years.

I have previously worked at RPA Hospital School, and Australia Street Infants School.

I joined the Inclusive Education Unit at APCS in January 2023.

### **Other Employment Experiences:**

I was a teacher at Victory Institute private college, and at Meadowbank TAFE.

I have also worked in a Childcare centre, and I am a qualified Hairdresser (Cert 4).

### **At APCS, my role is:**

I am an SLSO in the Inclusive Education Unit.

I assist the teachers and support the students in classroom activities

I provide care and management to students with disability and additional learning requirements.

### **Goals:**

My passion is bringing out the best in all our children, and ensuring no child falls behind.

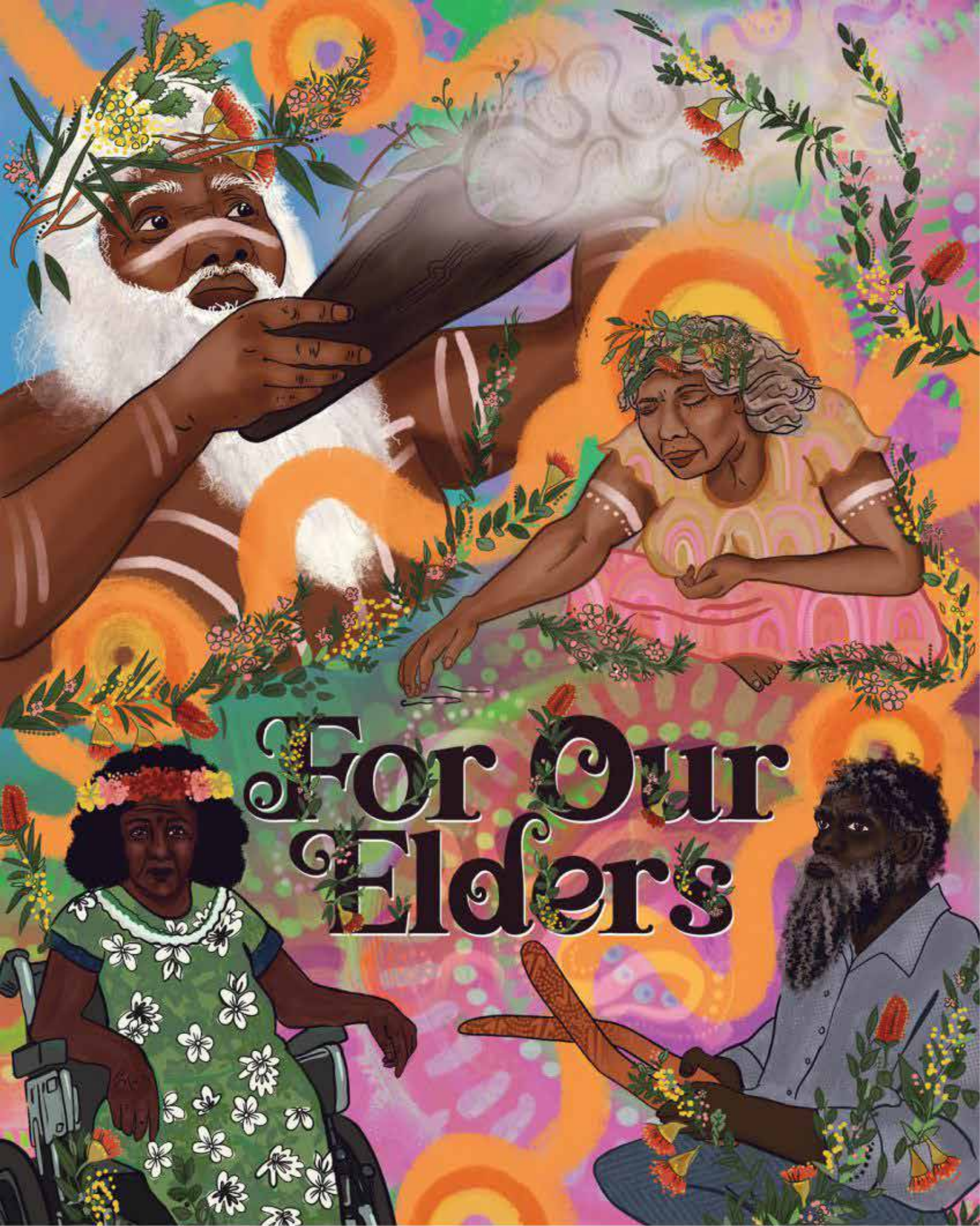
### **First Impressions of Alex Park:**

I love this school!

I was impressed by the friendliness of staff, and how supportive everyone is.

I love working with infants and primary school children.








# NAIDOC Week

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

 @naldocweek  @naldocweek  facebook.com/NAIDOC

## For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.



[naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

