ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Community Opportunity Success





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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School Calendar

3rd JulyP&C Meeting
4th July Years K-2 Assembly
5th July Last Day of Term 2
22nd July Staff Development Day
23rd July First Day Term 3
24th JulyParent Teacher Night
Years 7 & 9
29th July Field Events Gala Day
Years 5 & 6
29th July High School Assembly
Years 10 11 & 12

30th July	High School Tour
30th July	Vaccinations
	Year 10
31st July	Athletics Carnival
	Years 3-6



Principal's Report



We hope you enjoy our **new look Yarramundi Newsletter**. We are constantly working with our community to instil and promote a sense of pride in Alexandria Park Community School. The colour theme of the new-look Yarramundi Newsletter represents the amalgamation of 4 schools – Alexandria Public School, Waterloo Public School, Redfern Public School, and Cleveland Street High School.

The last week of Term 2 was full of events and celebrations. We celebrated **2024 NAIDOC** week through honouring this year's NAIDOC theme "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud", the students and staff 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.

We started our NAIDOC 2024 celebrations with a 7-10 High School assembly and panel interview. A special thank you to Aunty Julie, Uncle John, Uncle Desi, Brooklyn from NASCA and Casey-Lee Smith (Year 3/4 teacher) for being a part of the panel. The panel then enjoyed

morning tea, set up by Mrs Mishra and Anna, as well as our senior students who made coffee. We then held our Indigenous Leaders, Elders and families' morning tea. Congratulations to Ms Smith and our students and thank you to the many parents and carers who attended the morning. Thank you to Ms Campisi, the many teachers on our NAIDOC Committee and to everyone who celebrated with us during the week.

Semester One Reports were also 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. 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 Semester 2, 2024.

Desi, Brooklyn from NASCA and Casey-Lee Smith (Year 3/4 teacher) for being a part of the panel. The panel then enjoyed All Year 10 students and their families attended a **Subject Selection Evening** in the Denzil. The dedication shown by the

many teachers was outstanding. The support for our students was evident by the many meaningful conversations our staff were having to support our students and families making the correct subject choices for their final stage of learning at Alexandria Park. Thank you to everyone who attended and put thought and time into this evening.

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 Principal



Alexandria Park Community School celebrated 2024 NAIDOC week.



We are very proud of all the students and their amazing artwork.





Primary Deputy Principal News





Students in Years K-6 have had a fantastic time celebrating NAIDOC Week. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the Stage 3 morning tea. Our Student Indigenous leaders shared with me how much they valued and enjoyed the experience. Stage 2 and 3 students also enjoyed a NAIDOC TIG gala day run by the high school, adding to the excitement and learning.

We are all eagerly looking forward to our official NAIDOC ceremony and celebrations on Friday. Having experienced Alex Park's NAIDOC celebrations for the past 20 years, we are excited to see what this year has in store for us.

In addition to our NAIDOC Week activities, our dedicated teachers are busy fine-tuning reports that will be distributed later this week. These reports reflect the hard work and progress our students have made throughout this semester.

As we approach the upcoming holidays, I hope everyone has a safe and restful break. Enjoy the time with your families and recharge for the term ahead.

David Olsen, K-2 Deputy Principal

Leanne Toia, Relieving 3-6 Deputy Principal



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AND PKUUI 7-14 JULY 2024

2024 NAIDOC Ceremony



Early Stage 1

Well done to all Kindergarten students for making it through to the end of Term 2!

This month, Kindergarten have been learning about how fire was and is used to care for country by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

They have been learning a song about cool burning and have been making some fire art. Kindergarten students are

excited to showcase their fire art during NAIDOC week.

In Maths we have been learning about position, we went to bush school and found objects to create a maze. They then had to direct their friends through the maze. Learning outdoors is always so much fun!



The Inclusive Education Unit had a busy and fun Term 2. We participated in Gymnastics, Tennis, kitchen and garden lessons. We ran our assembly in Week 8 and had a visit from the High School Visual Arts class.

We really enjoyed building on our social skills and life skills this Term and making memories with our class mates.







The Inclusive Education Unit had a busy and fun Term 2.



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Stage 1

In preparation for NAIDOC, Stage One students have been making a collaborative artwork of the Aboriginal nations map of NSW. They used sand to give the map some texture and coloured it with food colouring. It was wonderful to see the students exploring the shapes, sizes and names of the different places.

As part of our Physical Education unit this Term, students have been taking part in weekly gymnastic classes, where they are actively working on developing their gross motor skills and enhancing their coordination.

Students have been thoroughly enjoying getting creative in Art lessons this Term, while exploring different ways artists represent celebrations around the world.

One of the many highlights so far was making a dragon fan garland using coloured paper and concertina folding. These vibrant dragons can be seen in spectacular parades during the Chinese New Year's celebrations.





Stage 2

It has been a very busy month in Stage 2! We have had lots of exciting events as well as our amazing Kitchen Garden lessons with Ms Ward, deadly Dharawal sessions with Kasey from the Gujaga Foundation and of course all our regular learning as well.

One of our highlights has been our ceramics sessions with an artist from Raw Art. Each student made a ceramic tile featuring an Australian animal and then painted it with special ceramics glaze. We are looking forward to getting them back from the kiln and hopefully turning them into a mural to decorate our school.

In Week 8, some Year 10 students led us in tabloid sports carnivals. We loved doing all kinds of different sport activities, and our teachers thought watching us do tug-of-war was pretty funny! The Year 10 students planned the activities, taught us how to do them, and gave us coaching tips. They were very well organised and it was great to join with the High School students to celebrate our K-12 school community.

Finally, all our students have loved a traditional Stage 2 highlight – STEAM rotations! STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. This year in STEAM we learnt about connections between the Earth, Sun and Moon to finish off our Earth and Space unit. Students used torches to make eclipses, explored shadows and learnt about how the Earth and Moon move by making models. They all had a great time!

Coco Page, Stage 2 Assistant Principal







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Stage 3

Leadership Parent Morning Tea Stage 3 hosts an Indigenous student Leadership group. Year 7 students also attend to help with leadership and mentoring of stage 3 students. Stage 3 students compared the event. When completed they joined

their parents in a morning tea.

Our guest speaker was local

singer Mi-KAISHA MASELLA,

who has just returned from New

York where she completed her university undergraduate degree.

NAIDOC Indigenous Student

Night at the Museum

Students visited the display by Year 11 Ancient History students and Year 9 Modern history students. We looked at the displays and research created by the High School students. Stage 3 students also used this opportunity to talk to High School students about History subjects.

Paralympian Visits APCS

Stage 3 students have been undertaking a project through the Australian Institute of Sport, which encourages outside-the-box thinking and aims to teach students about what it takes to create a healthy, supportive and sustainable village of people through unpacking a challenge within Australian sport. In Week 8, students chose to show off their designs to Paralympian Victoria Prendergast who was very impressed by the Alex Park ideas!



Library

We hope students have enjoyed exploring new and exciting books throughout the year.

All NSW Premier's Reading Challenge student reading records must be completed by 11:59pm on Friday 23 August, 2024 so that validation can occur. Only

students who have a completed and validated reading record will receive a PRC certificate.

Students in Years K-2 are busy ticking off 30 books together in their library lessons. Mrs Soo will complete student reading records for all students Years K-2.

Students in Years 3-6 are working hard to independently read 20 books and log them in the PRC portal. Students in Years 3-6 must log their own student reading records.

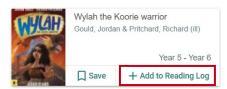
Quick guide for logging books:

- 1. Log into the Home Page: NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (<u>det.nsw.edu.au</u>) or <u>https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/student Experience.html#/</u> using your DoE student username and password.
- 2. Use the blue search bar to search for books you have read.



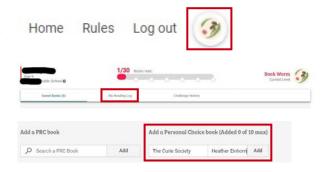
2a. If the title appears, click "Add to Reading Log" to add it as a PRC book

2b. If the title does not appear, you will need to enter it as a personal choice book.



To enter a personal choice book:

- 1. Click on the icon in the top right hand corner
- 2. Click on "My reading log"
- 3. Fill in the book details under the "Add a Personal Choice book" field and click "add"



If you have any issues with logging books, please speak to Mrs Soo before Friday 6 September 2024.



Artwork by Sami Bayly

NSW Department of Education

2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



Challenge opens Monday 26 February

Challenge closes for student entries Friday 23 August









High School Deputy Principal News





While we close on Semester 1 2024, we look back on the achievements and successes of Term 2.

Congratulations to all High School staff and a special mention to the PDHPE Department, especially sports coordinator, Mr Max Brenner for organizing our weekly integrated sport program across the school. Miss Baker, Mr Brenner, and the rest of the PDHPE staff worked hard to ensure our students learnt and participated in a variety of sports for the whole school as well as our gala days.

We would also like to congratulate Mr Okell and his girls and boys Basketball squads on their recent successes. We are behind our girls and boys and hope that they advance in their competitions.

We would also like to congratulate Keala Mealey-Walker in Year 12, as she has been chosen as one of the 20 students to attend Garma. The Garma Festival is Australia's largest Indigenous gathering – a 4-day celebration of Yolngu life and culture held in remote northeast Arnhem Land and hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation. Together with five NASCA staff, Keala will travel to Arhnem Land for five days to

attend this event. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Congratulations.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Miss Katrina Koutoulas, our Student & Community Advisor for her wellbeing work with our students, from interviewing students about a range of school areas, to driving the school's review of the Student Behaviour Policy.

From that, we have recently reviewed our Student Behaviour Policy to ensure that responses are clear and consistent across the school community. Three categories were identified, which will be a focus of the school, that is, uniform, truancy, and mobile phone breaches.

As you are aware, in 2023 the NSW Government issued a ban to students using mobile phones at school. In addition, with regard to uniform, the NSW Department of Education supports the wearing of school uniforms, which promote a sense of belonging for students and contribute to a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing for easier recognition of students, both at school and in

the wider community.

We would like to share our Student Behaviour Policy Flow Charts with our parent and carer community and call for your support in promoting a proud and positive learning environment for your children. Please visit our website to view flow charts.

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

Students at Alexandria Park Community School are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- Show respect to other students, their teachers, school staff and community members.
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers.
- Strive for the highest standards in learning.
- Act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included, and supported.
- Resolve conflict respectfully,



calmly, and fairly.

- Meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code.
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property.
- Be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools.
- Not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

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

- All students have a right to:
- Safety at school
- Access and fully participate in their learning.
- Be treated with respect by other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these

expectations. The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

For more information, please contact the school.

Steven Marcos & Louise Hawkins, Deputy Principals

High School News

If you are still uncertain about what Stage 6 English course is suitable for you, please ask your current English teacher or the English Head Teacher.

English

2025 Stage6 Subject Selection: Selecting the Appropriate ATAR English Course

Advanced English v English Standard

The decision carries immense weight, as it holds the potential to significantly influence your ATAR and university admissions. When faced with the choice between Standard and Advanced, several factors warrant consideration:

- <u>University prerequisites</u>
 Does your desired university program need a completion of Advanced English?
- · Course particulars

Are there commonalities in content between your desired university course and English Advanced? If so, choosing English Advanced may be to your advantage in the future.

- <u>Depth of literary comprehension</u> Can you critically analyse a text to unveil its deeper layers of meaning, or do you merely interpret it at surface level?
- · Investment of study time

Are you able to dedicate substantial time and effort to mastering Advanced English and crafting essays? If not, Standard English might be a more suitable option.

English Standard v English Studies Examination

The decision carries immense weight, as it holds the potential to significantly influence your ATAR and university admissions. When faced with the choice between Standard and English Studies, several factors warrant consideration:

- <u>University prerequisites</u>
 Does your desired university program need a completion of Standard English?
- Course particulars

Are there commonalities in content between your desired university course and English Standard? If not, then English Studies Examination might be for you.

- <u>Depth of literary comprehension</u> Can you interpret texts or do you require more support in the development of your understanding?
- Investment of study time

Are you able to dedicate time and effort for wide reading in Standard English and composing evaluative essays? If not, English Studies Examination might be a more suitable option.

Please note:

If you are still uncertain about what Stage 6 English course is suitable for you, please ask your current English teacher or the English Head Teacher.

There is a short grace period at the start of Year 11 for students to move courses.





Course	Prelim Y11	HSC Y12	ATAR	HSC Exam	HSC Requirements
English Standard	*	*	*	2	 Prescribed lists of texts: at least 5 Additional texts: at least 1 Wide reading expected
English Studies Examination English Studies	*	**	*	1	 Prescribed lists of texts: 1 Additional texts: at least 1 Teacher selected texts appropriate for modules
English EAL/D	*	*	*	3	 ELIGIBILITY: must be educated in English for five years or less Prescribed lists of texts: at least 3 Additional texts: at least 1 engage in speaking and listening components in each module.
Advanced English	*	*	*	2	 Prescribed lists of texts: at least 6 (including Shakespeare) Additional texts: at least 1 Extended wide reading expected
Extension 1	*	*	*	1	 Enrolled in Advanced English Prescribed lists of texts: 3 Additional texts: at least 2 Academic reading expected
Extension 2		*	*	0	 Ext 2-Enrolled in Extension 1 & Advanced English Major Work project Extensive academic reading expected



Our talented Year 7 students have crafted beautiful timber boomerangs, now proudly displayed in the Denzil Foyer.

High School News

TAS

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, our talented Year 7 students have crafted beautiful timber boomerangs, now proudly displayed in the Denzil Foyer.

This showcase not only highlights the students' craftsmanship but also honours and recognizes the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Indigenous Australians. Be sure to visit the display and appreciate the hard work and creativity of our students!

CAPA

The Art Mentoring Program involves Visual Arts and Photography students volunteering their time to do creative activities with the Primary School Support Unit students. By doing this we hope to foster bonds, work on the student's social skills, as well as their hand eye coordination.

It was a great success and fantastic feedback given. The High School students showed tremendous leadership and community spirit.

Well done!

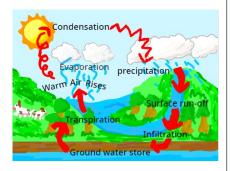
High School News

Science

It's been a month full of exciting new activities and tasks in Science classrooms this month.

Year 7: Learning about the Water Cycle

Our Year 7 students have been diving into the fascinating journey of the water cycle. They've explored how water evaporates, condenses, precipitates, and then collects, emphasizing its vital role in our ecosystem. Students have had the opportunity to showcase their creativity by making animations to present the water cycle and presenting them to their peers in class.



Year 8: What are Chemical and Physical Changes?

Year 8 students have been investigating the differences between chemical and physical changes. Thev've conducted various experiments to observe substances react Bv distinguishing between reversible physical changes irreversible and chemical reactions, students have enhanced their comprehension of everyday phenomena and the science behind them.

Year 9: Exploring Waves

In Year 9, students are exploring wave models through a fun and hands-on activity. Using candy and skewers, they've constructed models to demonstrate how waves propagate and interact. This creative approach not only makes learning about waves engaging but also provides a clear visual representation of wave properties such as amplitude and wavelength.

Year 10: Diving into Evolution and Natural Selection

Year 10 students are delving into the world of evolution and natural selection. They've been conducting experiments explore how beak size affects birds' ability to access food, simulating the process natural selection. Additionally. students have engaged with online simulations to study the peppered moths, observing how environmental changes influence survival and reproduction. Through these practical activities. students are gaining a deeper understanding of evolutionary principles and the dynamics of natural selection.

> Students have enhanced their comprehension of everyday phenomena and the science behind them.

High School News

HSIE

Sydney Jewish Museum Excursion

Year 10 supplemented their learning about the holocaust with a visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum. At the museum they were given an in depth understanding of the events and experiences of people during WW2. The highlight for staff and students was the talk from a 93 -year-old survivor who detailed his experience in Germany and his journey to escape through Europe. It was an emotional experience for many students.

Legal Studies Excursion

Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies visited Parliament to take a closer look at how democracy works and its effects on the legal system. They were lucky enough to get a tour and lesson from a couple of our former teachers, Mr Craig and Mr Waterworth, who are now delivering Parliamentary excursions. The students also got to meet and ask questions of the Local Member, Mr Ron Hoenig, who outlined his role in the process. Thank you to Ms Er for organising.

A Night at the Museum

Every year, our Stage 6 Modern and Ancient History classes complete a major investigation into an event or person of their choice. The result of this hard work is then put on show for staff, students and family members to visit and ask questions about what the students have found out. This year our very first Year 9 Elective History class joined the senior students in presenting their findings of the '100 objects that explain history.' It was great to see the families support the students and see what they have been working on in class. Thank you to the hard work of Ms Luo and Mr Brenner who put together a seamless afternoon.



High School News

SPORTS



Basketball Beat

It has been an exceptionally busy term of basketball with great results for our open Girls knockout team, as well as both our U15s boys and girls teams in the Basketball NSW all schools tournament.

The past few weeks saw our open boys participate in the Basketball NSW tournament. They achieved 2nd place in the region, before accepting a wildcard invitation to the state finals. Here they went undefeated in the group stage

winners, the same team we lost to in the regional tournament.

It was an exceptional effort by the boys, with a special shout out to Zayne Williams who had a number of skilled players scared to go near him, finishing with 8 blocks in the semi-final.

U15 girls knockout basketball

Our busy term culminated this week by kicking off the regional U15 knockout tournament. Thanks to our NASCA bus driver Harry. we had a quick trip down the before losing to the eventual Princes Hwy to Blakehurst High School where we defeated the home team 43-22.

Outstanding performances from the whole team and particular congratulations to our new players who scored their first points for the school team. We play Beverley Hills Girls in the next round.



Our goal remains to support every student by equipping them with the skills necessary to improve their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing and learning outcomes.

High School News

WELLBEING

This Semester has been very busy and productive at Alexandria Park Community School. We have successfully implemented a range of wellbeing programs to support our students socially, emotionally, and academically.

Year 7 participated in the Big Fish Little Fish Program, which provided crucial support during their transition to High School and aimed to connect students with their peers. Additionally, Year 7 attended an exciting camp that facilitated positive connections and taught essential teamwork and time management skills.

For Years 11 and 12, we organised the Getting Your Head Right for the HSC workshop, which was incredibly beneficial in helping students develop effective study habits and routines to reach their full potential. Meanwhile, Years 9 and 10 students engaged in the No Limits Boxing Program, designed help learners recognise exercise as a healthy outlet for emotions. Participants were trained by an Olympian trainer. focusing on building self-esteem, confidence, and resilience. We also welcomed special guest Johnny Lewis, who spoke to students about the power of goal setting, determination, and hard

The Raise Program is currently in place for some of our Year 8 students and has proved highly beneficial in connecting them with a mentor who can guide

them in achieving their academic and social goals. All students also attended Y Safe and other cyber safety and anti-bullying-based incursions to equip students with the knowledge to engage in safe behaviors at school and beyond.

Our Wellbeing and Learning and Support Teams comprise of a dedicated group of teachers and staff who prioritise student welfare. Our goal remains to support every student by equipping them with the skills necessary to improve their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing and learning outcomes. I would like to thank the teams for their continuous support and dedication in providing opportunities for all learners from Years 7 to 12.

We wish our students a restful break and look forward to supporting them further in Semester 2.

Ms Garcia, Head Teacher Wellbeing (Relieving)



Other School News

Primary School Debating

Our awesome Primary Debating Teams A.P.C.S. Greats and A.P.C.S. Legends faced Burke Street and Glenmore Road P.S. in the Round 1 & 2 Debates of the Premiers Debating Challenge.

The Debate teams had one loss and took home one win in both rounds. Our Debate teams were incredibly committed and skilled throughout their debates, owing to the hard work done by the entire debating group in the weeks leading up.

In the photo below a small contingent of students travelled off site to Glenmore Road P.S. with Mrs. Eriksen, who is A.P.C.S. debating coordinator for the competition.

A big Congratulations to ALL debating students on your hard work.

Next, they have two more Debating Rounds coming up and they are warmed up! Stay tuned.

Reminder - student drop off and pick up

We kindly remind parents to use the main entrance for dropping off and picking up students when driving. Vehicles have been blocking residents' driveways and the turning near the back gate. This poses a risk to our students. Please note that the council has been notified, and parking rangers may be present to enforce these restrictions. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to ensure the safety of everyone.

High School Homework Centre

The Homework Centre (Years 7-12) has commenced in the Yakka Taka Library every Wednesday between 3-5pm. An online parent permission form was sent to families via email on School Bytes in April. Please complete & return the form online if you wish your child to attend the Homework Centre. You can ask for a paper copy of the form from the High School Library if you did not receive an online form.



Congratulations to our Stage 3
Students

2024
Woolworths
Junior Landcare
Grant Winner





JULY 2024

ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Community Opportunity Success

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