

APCS

MARCH
2024

Yarramundi

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



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



It has been pleasing to see so many students start the school year with such an engaged and positive attitude and a firm focus on being successful this year. We have held many school-wide events to celebrate diversity and inclusion as well as set high expectations and goals for our future. I would like to thank our executive and wellbeing teams for organising many of these learning experiences as well as our committed teachers who run projects and programs within the school.

As you are aware our three school expectations mean students are ready to be safe respectful learners. This means arriving at school on time, being in full school uniform, being prepared for learning and fully engaging in the content of the lesson in a thoughtful and mature way and to the best of their ability.

We continue to focus on attendance, in particular explaining absences when students are away. Families are sent text messages from our admin team each day (notifying them when students are marked absent). Please reply to this message when your child is on leave to explain their absence, or you can call or email the school. If your child is absent due to sickness please provide a medical certificate. When planning family holidays for five days or more you need to complete an **Extended Leave Application** please follow this link.

<https://alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/a/alexparkcs-c/about-our-school/2024/ApplicationforExtendedLeave.pdf>



Our **School Leadership Team** is finalising our new **Strategic Improvement Plan (2024–2027)**. We look forward to sharing our school's vision and strategic directions with all members of the school community. We will be presenting the plan at the P&C meeting next Term and always welcome feedback when we run events to further improve our systems and processes. I will continue to provide updates on initiatives we are leading in education.

With less than two weeks remaining of Term 1, I wish everyone well for the next school holiday break and look forward to a busy and productive Term 2. A reminder the first day of Term 2 is for teachers and staff only. Students return on Tuesday 30th April.

Principal
Debra Lade



School Calendar

Date	What's Happening
3 rd April	P&C Meeting.
3 rd April	Year 7 Gala Day.
4 th April	Years K-6 Assembly.
8 th April	Primary School Cross-Country Carnival.
9 th April	Primary School Tour.
12 th April	Last Day of Term 1.
13 th April	Autumn School Holidays.
29 th April	Staff Development Day.
30 th April	First Day of Term 2.
1 st May	P&C Meeting.
2 nd May	Years K-6 Assembly.
9 th May	Year 7 2025 Selective School Placement Test.
9 th May	Years K-2 Assembly.
13 th May	Year 7 Camp.
14 th May	Primary School Tour.
14 th May	High School Tour.



Primary DP News

As we approach the end of the Term, we reflect on the achievement of our students, staff and wider community. Our excellent **Harmony Day** assembly featured outstanding performances with a spirit of inclusion and collaboration. It was great to see so many students celebrating their culture by creating flags and wearing their national dress. It was certainly one of those days where Alex Park shines. Congratulations to all who attended and shared the experience with us.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of healthy eating in a child's growth and development. Children should limit their intake of foods that contain saturated fat, added salt or added sugar, and should also be encouraged to choose water to drink. It would be helpful if parents ensured that students were provided with a range of food and snacks, including 'crunch-and-sip' items and snacks for afternoon tea. **Australian Dietary Guidelines** recommend the following:

- **4 to 8 years:** 1½ serves of fruit; 4½ serves of vegetables; 4 serves of grains; 1 ½ serves of meat/poultry; 1½ to 2 serves of dairy.
- **9 to 11 years:** 2 serves of fruit; 5 serves of vegetables; 4 to 5 serves of grains; 2½ serves of meat/poultry; 2½ to 3 serves of dairy.

Thank you for your ongoing support and wishing you a restful break.

David Olsen
Deputy Principal K-2

Term 1 has kicked off with incredible energy and enthusiasm, with our students diving into their learning with focus, energy and smiles. Students are settled into their classes and already some insightful and creative works have been celebrated and achieved.



We wish to congratulate all our Year 3 and 5 students who have completed their **NAPLAN** tests recently (Year 3 for the first time).

This significant milestone marks a commitment to learning and a commitment to achieving your personal best. The purpose of these tests is to provide an assessment of students' literacy and numeracy skills and provide valuable insights into their academic progress for both parents and our teachers.

The hard work and perseverance throughout this testing period have been commendable. We recognise the effort students have put forth and the wonderful insights they give to their teachers' post-test.

Remember, **NAPLAN** is only one measure of student abilities, and they do not define a student's worth. Their diverse talents, creativity, empathy, respect and character are what truly make a quality lifelong learner. Results are due around August to schools, and we will keep you informed.

With so much already accomplished, it's remarkable how swiftly this Term is progressing. Here's to many more enriching experiences and discoveries in the coming weeks.

Paul Keevers
Deputy Principal 3-6

Primary News



Kindergarten News

March has been a busy month for our Kindergarten students and it is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first Term! They have done a spectacular job learning the classroom routines and have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in their learning.

In Mathematics, students have learnt the different ways to represent numbers and explored the smaller numbers inside them. They have also been busy learning about the various ways to compare and measure objects, such as length, volume and area.



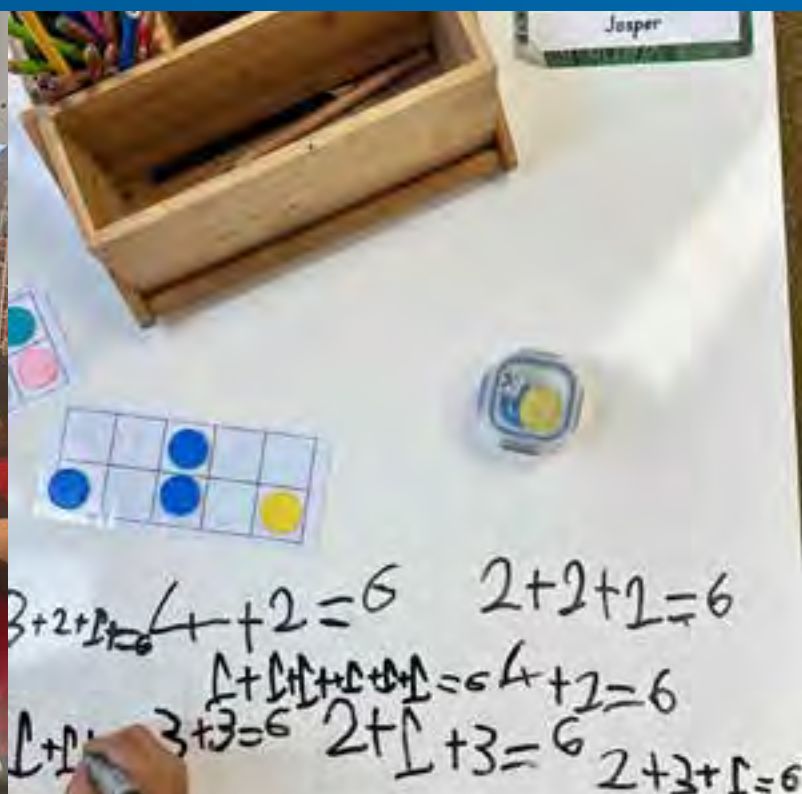


In English, students have begun learning the sounds for:

s a t p i n m d

And some of the tricky words they will encounter in the texts that they read.

Students love learning how to read and spell new words using the engaging, practical resources that we have available in our Kindy classrooms. They have also been enjoying listening and responding to a variety of high quality texts to improve their vocabulary, comprehension and writing skills.





As part of The Student Wellbeing Boost supported by the Federal Government, Kindergarten students were captivated while exploring the world of 'Junkyard Beats'.

Students transformed ordinary household items and recycled materials into musical instruments, creating vibrant rhythms to get up and groove to.





We learnt how to move our bodies, make music and have fun, all while Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.



Parents were thrilled to see the students' joy at pickup as they played their very own 'Balloon Bassoons' made at the workshop.

The fun doesn't stop there as we now have our very own Junkyard Beats Music Wall permanently installed in Bush school, made completely of recycled materials!





Stage 1 News

2CS has been exploring patterns during our Maths lessons this month. We have looked at a wide range of patterns, including patterns found in nature! Students created beautiful zentangle insects with different repeating patterns inside the different sections of their insects.

1P and 1T have been learning about how classrooms function and how to optimise our spaces for learning. We came up with our own ideas for a perfect classroom and built it out of LEGO. Partners then came together to join our ideas to make a functional school model. We are very proud of our work!

In 1/2K students were using coloured rods to look for smaller numbers found hiding inside of bigger numbers. They compared different coloured rods to work out what number each represented.





Stage 2 News

This Term in Stage 2 we have been learning about different cultures. Ms Kennefick taught us some Irish dancing and some Irish sports during Friday Sport. We also celebrated Harmony Day wearing different clothes which represented our cultural backgrounds. We even made a beautiful mural to celebrate. It was wonderful to learn about different countries and cultures.





Stage 3 News

Harmony Day

In Stage 3 we were lucky to celebrate Harmony Day by sharing plates of cultural food.

At Alex Park we love celebrating diversity and Stage 3 definitely developed an appreciation for all of the different flavours and connection to culture that food and cultural dress offers.



All of the students and teachers loved being able to share the stories of why their food was important to them through their cultural and familial links.

We most enjoyed being able to sample all the deliciousness!



Kitchen Garden

Stage 3 have loved spending time with Ms Ward. They have been working hard at Kitchen Garden in Term 1.

We have weeded and replanted several garden beds in the Maani, learnt about different ways of thinking about seasons, and designed our own creative gardens.





This week students cooked a delicious Tuscan Tomato Bruschetta using some of the basil grown right here at APCS. Students observed a demonstration of the recipe, and then worked in small groups to prepare and cook their own food.

Students were able practice safe knife skills, using an oven, following written instructions, and of course - cleaning up at the end. Some of us have even been practicing cooking at home.



Primary Sport News

Cricket NSW Foundation Youth Program

On Friday 8th March, 21 students across Years 3-6 jumped on a bus heading towards Cricket Central, Silverwater.



Our Years 3-6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were invited by Cricket NSW to a day about coming together to have fun, enjoy high quality cricket coaching and mentoring with a holistic educational focus on connection to heritage and mob.



Here's Emilie from 6E's review:

I was invited to the Indigenous cricket day and I thought that it was very exciting and energetic.

On the day I liked all the rotations playing different cricket-based games with different people who are experienced in cricket.

I found it very interesting and I thought everything was very well organised and everyone knew what to do.

The cricket day was definitely very well organised and fun to do.

It was very enjoyable and I learned lots of rules and skills of Cricket.



Primary IEU News



The students from the Inclusive Unit had a great time joining their mainstream peers for the Junkyard Beats incursion.

They listened to different sounds, had fun making sounds and used recycled materials to make their very own musical instrument.





Primary Music News

Primary students have been learning about the Concepts of Music this Term.

We have been trying hard to expand our Music vocabulary, using terms like duration, tempo, texture and tone colour.

We have also been exploring the drums and untuned percussion, composing our own rhythmic ostinatos and performing these to our friends.

We have used bucket drums, djembes, claves as well as cups and rocks to perform circle songs and music games from around the world.



We are enjoying using the outdoor space on sunny days and will soon have some seating to use on our back balcony area. We can't wait!

In Term 2 we will start our Aboriginal Music theme.





Pulse Alive 2024

Ken Rosewall Arena, Sydney Olympic Park
Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March 2024

Pulse Alive 2024

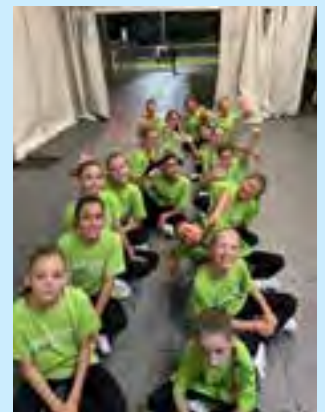
18 students from Years 4 & 6 represented APCS at the Pulse Alive Concert Series on Thursday 14th March.

Students spent all term preparing for this HUGE performance at Ken Rosewall Arena at Sydney Olympic Park. APCS was part of a massed Dance group that performed a routine to "Life is Highway" .



It was quite difficult choreography but the students worked very hard to master this along with 2 other routines for a big finale.

All the student and families who came to watch thoroughly enjoyed the performance that showcased the Arts in Public Education ranging from a full piece orchestra, a marching band, acrobatics and circus skills, drama groups, dancers and singers.



We are very proud of all the students who represented the school at this outstanding performance.



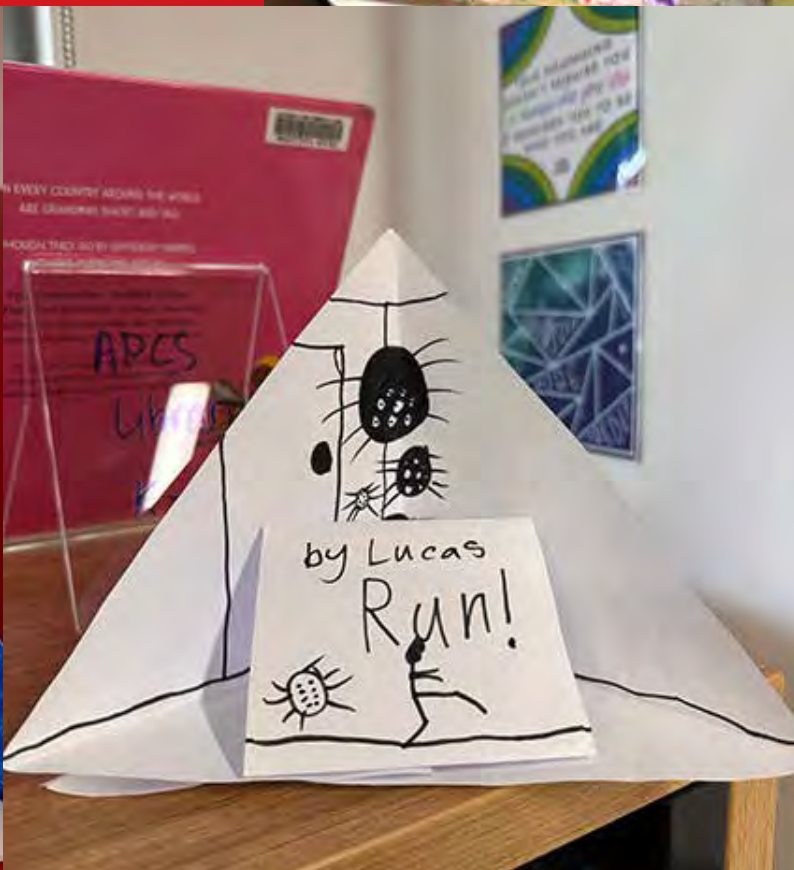
Primary Library News

Our Library has been a magical cauldron brewing up a potion of Social, Literate, Innovative, Critical, and Ethical skills through exciting adventures like brainstorming, creative play, and plunging into captivating stories.

Check out these recent mini-scenes where students chatted up a storm, tuned in intently, cracked open texts, and swapped mind-bending ideas!

During their exploration of fears and ways to conquer them, Kindergarten students delved into "Lottie and Walter" by Anna Walker.

They then poured their creativity into crafting a breath-taking diorama of an underwater wonderland, teeming with whimsical sea creatures and vibrant plant life.



In Years 1 and 2, students dived into the whimsical world of "Jetty Jumping" with the amazing Andrea Rowe and artistically illustrated by Hannah Sommerville.

Years 3 and 4 students explored the intriguing tale of "Egg" by Clare Atkins and Harrison Vial.

To add a cherry on top, these learners got crafty, creating tiny dioramas that reveal their secret to finding calm amidst chaos.



The Great Bear
 Author: Libby Gleeson
 Illustrator: Armin Greder

- neglect
- Revenge
- A circus bear
- No rights
- Speaking up for yourself
- Animal abuse
- Abuse
- Fed up-limits
- Resilience

Micah 6S | 19/3/24

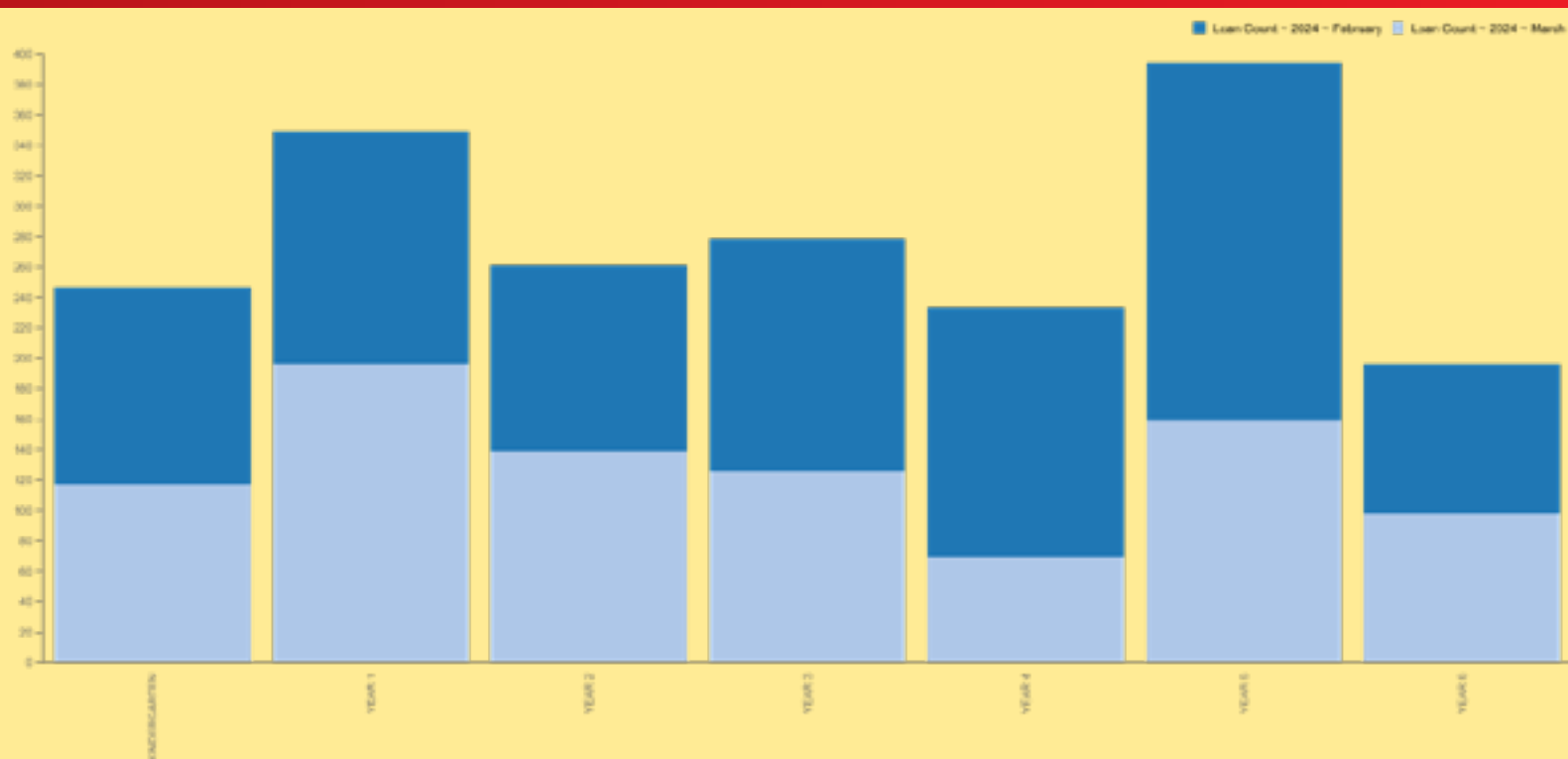
In Years 5 and 6, we ventured into the enchanting cosmos of "The Great Bear" crafted by the magical hands of Libby Gleeson and Armin Greder.

Unravelling the intricately woven text and its captivating illustrations, we embarked on a quest to decode hidden symbols and metaphors.

Our mission? To dissect the complex characters of the bear, the crowd, and the circus crew, all while brewing up a storm of thematic ideas!

Students are making progress in the borrower badge system, moving through the bronze, silver, gold, and diamond levels. Our aim is to offer quality books to as many children as possible.

Grab any ol' bag - a grocery bag, a pillowcase, or even an envelope pouch - and join the borrowing bonanza! Let's crank up our borrowing stats to the max!





“Our school library, the **Yakka Taka** means ‘learning together’ in Gomberee language.”

The Yakka Taka strives to motivate students and encourage them to revisit, serving as a space that effectively aids their learning activities.

To be an optimal learning environment, it aims to showcase highly active and engaging communal areas, interactive spaces for individual research and group collaboration, quieter zones for reflection, and contemplative spots away from the hustle and bustle.

Our very own dedicated teacher, Mr. Ablitt, has contributed a unique addition to our Yakka Taka’s space this Term, eliciting enthusiastic responses from students who saw themselves reflected in it.

It’s amazing to witness children identifying with the act of reading and the empowerment and joy that reading brings.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Ablitt for this invaluable enhancement to our Yakka Taka.



High School DP News

“As we close in on the end of Term 1 of 2024, we reflect on our achievements so far this year.”

Good luck to our Year 12 students who will be receiving their half yearly reports in the first week back of Term 2, most courses have already completed two assessments counting towards their HSC. I want to encourage our students to keep seeking feedback from their teachers and strive for further improvement.

Congratulations to Years 7 and 9 on their participation of NAPLAN, they underwent these assessments in exam conditions which will give them a good taster of what to expect in their senior years.

We have enjoyed a very successful term in sport with our Girls and Boys Basketball squads defeating several schools comfortably to continue to advance in the competition, let's hope they continue to experience success, we are proud of their achievements. Wishing our Girls and Boys Basketball coach, Mr. Okell, all the best.

Well done to Miss Barnett on her amazing efforts guiding and coaching our girls' soccer squad, while they couldn't advance past a few strong opponents, the girls made us all proud.

A special mention to our Buckley shield Rugby League side which have been training every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am. Our boys played a very tough game against a strong South Sydney High School team, while they narrowly lost, there were a lot of positives to take from this experience, including a strong bond working together, solid discipline and good sportsmanship. Well done, Mr. Waterworth, Mr. Gold, and Mr. Cutts. I also want to mention the girls who have been training with the boys every Wednesday, their scheduled games will be played later in the year.

We would also like to acknowledge our many extracurricular activities happening around the school, these activities promote a sense of pride and builds strong confidence in our students. Well done to our, Boys cricket team, girls' lunchtime social Basketball group and our volleyball squads who continue to show their commitment attending regular training sessions.

Year 10 PDHPE Job Interview Assessment Task

In Week 10, the PDHPE faculty have organized a mock job interview to support students learning in PDHPE 'The Next Chapter' unit of work. Students will be applying for a job advert, complete a cover letter and resume, as well as sit a mock job interview in their most professional attire. Interviews will be conducted by external experts, so our students gain a real-life experience.

Students will attend class as per normal throughout the day. Each student will be provided with a job interview slip indicating their interview time.

A great initiative by our PDHPE staff. Well done.



Year 11 and 12 Academic Reviews

Throughout the year Miss Hawkins and I as the Deputy Principals of Years 11 and 12 will be meeting with students and their parents/carers in relation to their academic progress, this is extremely important that we support and guide students to be meeting the minimum requirements to receive the award of a HSC. These requirements are perused by the NSW Department of Education together with the NSW Education Standards Authority.

Students who do not meet the minimum requirements in relation to their school attendance and / or their assessment tasks submission are subject to review and therefore potentially place themselves in a position where they may not be able to complete the HSC.

For more information about compulsory school attendance scan the QR code:



Behaviour Code & 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, scan the QR code:



School Uniform

The NSW department of Education requires that schools set local school uniform requirements. The NSW department of Education supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community.

School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community. NSW Department of Education Schools expect students to wear the uniform during school hours, during school sport and the practical component of the PDHPE course (sport uniform), while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

What is the APCS Uniform?

- APCS navy blue and white polo shirt - everyday uniform.
- Plain white collared shirt & APCS Tie - optional everyday uniform.
- APCS navy blue and red polo shirt - sport uniform.
- Navy or black long pants, shorts, skirt - **No Logo**.
- Plain navy-blue bottoms may **ONLY** be worn on sport days or days where your child is participating in the practical component of the PDHPE subject - **No Logo**.
- Plain navy or black shoes.



Crocs - Footwear

Please note that crocs are not permitted to be worn at school under any circumstances, it is a health and safety concern as outlined by the NSW Department of Education. If students are wearing crocs to School, parents/carers will be called and requested to bring in shoes. Students will not be permitted to participate in regular school activities if wearing crocs.



Behaviour Expectations on Excursions and Off-Site School Activities

At all excursions and off-site activities, we encourage students model the School PBL values

You will notice on each excursion or activity permission note there will be a set of expectations outlined, we encourage Parents and Carers to support the school by having these discussions at home with your children when they plan to attend any School event.

The expectations are explained together with a reason as well as an expected consequence if students are in breach of them. An example is shown below:

Expectation	Consequence	Reason
Students must be in FULL School uniform unless given permission or an exemption from a Deputy Principal or the Principal.	Failure to be in full uniform will result in being excluded from the excursion, in this event, Parents / carers will be notified, and the student will remain at School. (For assistance or support with uniform please see DPs)	The department supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community.
Students must follow staff instructions at all times.	Students may receive 1, 2 or 3 warnings depending on the circumstances. (Teacher discretion). If defiance is persistent beyond the warnings, then the DP or Principal is notified, a Phone call home is made requesting for the student to be picked up from the excursion / event, beyond that point.	NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviors we value in our students. Staff will always issue instructions in the best interest of the students, most importantly to be safe and make safe choices that do not expose risk to themselves or others.
Students must adhere to rules of the venue.	Venue management may advise the school and / or student of consequence which could include removal from the venue. If this occurs, DP or Principal is notified, a phone call home is made requesting for the student to be picked up from beyond that point.	Venue management has the right to determine their own rules and regulations to ensure systematic elimination or minimization of potential effects or harm of a hazard.
Student must not engage in risky or dangerous behavior which may be in breach of laws. Example, violence, consumption of any illegal substance, verbal abuse, theft.	DP or Principal is notified, and a Phone call home is made requesting for the student to be picked up and excluded from the excursion / event, beyond that point.	Laws are designed to keep people safe and ensure society can work effectively.

Wishing you all a safe Easter holiday break.



Louise Hawkins
Deputy Principal
Years 7, 9 & 11



Steven Marcos
Deputy Principal
Years 8, 10 & 12



High School News



International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, the APCS boys got together to celebrate the women we know and love, discuss the power of language and to commit to being allies to women all the time. Here are some photos of the pledges that were made.



Stage 6 Dive into HSC Workshop: Getting Your Head Right for the HSC

Stage 6 students embarked on an exciting journey towards academic excellence while participating in our 'Getting Your Head Right for HSC' workshop.

This workshop aimed to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their upcoming examinations.

Led by Natalie Vella from Human Connections, the workshop covered a wide range of topics tailored to meet the specific needs of Stage 6 students.

From effective study techniques to exam strategies and stress management, participants can expect to gain valuable insights and practical tools to enhance their HSC preparation.

The primary message that Natalie conveyed was that students should focus on character strengths and the development of their character as their major goal. Specifically the strengths of excellence, persistence, discipline and courage.

She emphasised the importance of developing their character, instead of specific marks, their salary bracket, or social status, which epitomises the APCS wellbeing goal of a growth mindset.



Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Over the last 6 months, 33 students in Years 9 and 10 have been completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The Award consists of students choosing three activities to complete for one hour each week (out of school time) that relates to the themes of Volunteering, Sport and Recreation, and Skill Development.



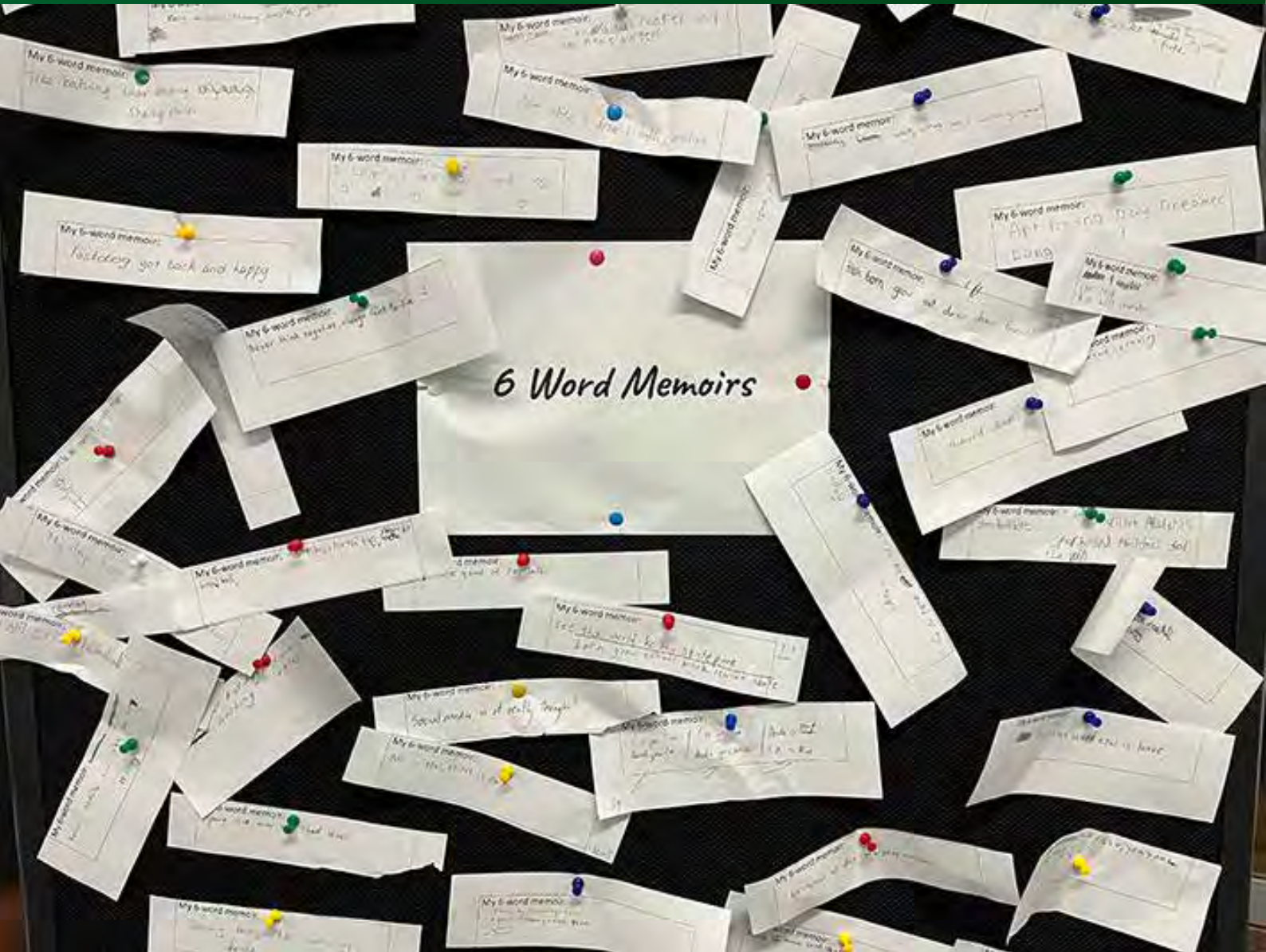
We have students volunteering weekly on maintaining and improving the school gardens, helping out at a local aged care facility, and working the kitchen at a homeless shelter. For sport students are working on their fitness in Alex Park's before-school gym, running and walking, along with a range of participation in weekend team sports. For the skills section they have been upskilling in areas such as learning foreign languages, cooking, photography, crocheting, and writing, to name a few. The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award culminates in a series of overnight hikes where our students will work in teams to plan and execute difficult overnight treks. We recently enjoyed practicing for these hikes by hitting the local Coogee to Bondi walk. I look forward to updating Yarramundi in the near future with lots of photos of our Adventurous Journey's that will take place in the Blue Mountains and North Shore early in Term 2.



High School English News

School Tours

There was a fantastic turnout for our first school tour of the year.



For the English session, prospective students and their families composed a collection of 6-word-memoirs, revealing insightful and imaginative budding authors.

New Curriculum Successes

Years 7 and 9 have completed their first units of the new curriculum.

Year 7 English classes were exploring what building resilience looks like across texts with a focus on writing persuasively.

Year 9 was all about the hard sell - investigating the elements of storytelling in advertising and having a crack at delivering a compelling product pitch to their peers.



Reading for Enjoyment

As part of the new Years 7-10 English syllabus, there is a whole new outcome point related to the enjoyment of reading.

Students will have the opportunity within English class time to travel to new literary worlds, be introduced to colourful characters and be inspired by wonderful and whimsical adventures.

Please encourage your child to continue reading at home.



HSC Workshops

English teachers are running HSC workshops every Friday afternoon in the Yakka Taka from 3:00-4:00 pm.

This is specifically designed to prepare students for writing their HSC short and extended written responses.

High School Visual Art News

A beautiful day on the harbour greeted senior Art students on the Wednesday before the Easter break as the Faculty made its annual pilgrimage to Sydney's most iconic art museums. There was a fervour in the air and the keen students were instructed to approach the day with an open mind; to let the artworks wash over them.

First stop was the MCA and it didn't disappoint. We looked at pieces from some of Australia's greats: Moffat, Gilbert, Alick Tipoti. As part of the Biennale 'Ten Thousand Suns' we bore witness to some of the world's foremost contemporary artists' works. Numerous students asked if they could change the concept of their major works based on their experience. This idea was rebuffed.

After a wander through the Botanical Gardens, we were welcomed to the Art Gallery of NSW by a massive Louis Bourgeois spider who Miss Sutcliffe took umbrage with. Art Express, a showcase of the best HSC major works, demonstrated the extreme talent that exists within our schools and was an invaluable study of exemplars for our students. An afternoon of wandering through priceless renaissance art capped off a wonderful day that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Some reflections from the students:

"What an amazing day, I'm entirely inspired" - Chloe Tijoe

"Australia has a serious art scene, as good as any in Europe" - Liam Keller

"10/10 would recommend" - Aalia Badawi





High School Language News

After School Activity - Chinese Dance Group

We are looking for girls in Years 7 to 9 to join our dance group. Lessons will be held after school every Thursday between 3:00 - 3:45 pm. This Term we will be doing a "Red Scarf Dance". This is a popular dance for happy occasions.



Fill in the form if you are interested and submit it as soon as possible because we can only take 10 students this term:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfV37vu3I9p2D2x7EBsXxeKVi6iLo1g7PyZ5pf_YI3P6t7YTtw/viewform

High School Music News

The school got a little taste of what our music students are up to recently, with some phenomenal performances from the cohort. Kicking the assembly off was the new APCS band playing 'Don't Stop Believing', and from that time we didn't.





Chloe Tjoe (Year 12) soon wowed everyone with her considered interpretation of classic blues ballad Cry Me a River and Sam O' Driscoll kicked out the jams with his best John Bonham impersonation on Whole Lotta Love. Lew Dellicastelli was brilliant on the sax, doing jazz standard 'Take Five' plenty of justice.

There was more jazz to come and our Year 11 students were not to be outdone at all. Yu Man Yan strummed Django Reinhardt and Nikita Cheng tickled the ivory on her rendition of 'Misty'. Thu Dinh demonstrated her serious proficiency playing a piece from the video game Omori on piano. Closing the show was perennial crowd favourite Lizzy Kenny, who brought the house down with Etta James's 'At Last' and it indeed felt like lonely days were over.

The assembly was a brilliant display of the music program here at APCS and testament to the dedication of Leanne Winfield. Thanks too must go to Cameron Craig who brought all his roadie knowledge to the set up.





High School Sport News

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you and your children have enjoyed the start of the year filled with excitement and opportunities in sport! Term 1 has been a busy start as we have seen the introduction of our CHS Open teams playing their first rounds of competition in the Regional draws to hosting our first High School sports carnival of the year.

Also this Term, we have focused on fostering a holistic approach to Sports education. Beyond simply developing athletic skills, we also aim to instill values such as teamwork, discipline, resilience, and sportsmanship in our students. These are qualities that will serve them well both on and off the field throughout their lives.

Swimming Carnival Update

I'm thrilled to share with you the fantastic success of our recent High School swimming carnival!

It was a day filled with exhilarating races, enthusiastic participation, and an undeniable display of school spirit.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this year's swimming carnival was the increased participation from our students.

It was heartening to see more students than ever before diving into the pool, eager to showcase their swimming skills and represent their respective sport houses.

Whether they were seasoned swimmers or first-time competitors, each participant demonstrated courage, determination, and a true passion for their sport.





But the excitement didn't end with the races. What truly made this event memorable was the incredible spirit displayed by our students for their sport houses.



From vibrant costumes to spirited chants and cheers, the atmosphere at the poolside was electric with energy and camaraderie.



It was a true testament to the sense of belonging and pride that our students feel towards their sport houses.





This year we saw 35 students qualify for the Eastern Suburbs Zone Carnival:

- Mia Jarick
- Shaily Hochberg
- Kymeesha Shillingsworth
- Sienna Marshall-Hall
- Anika Gill
- Chloe Sholkoff
- Emilia Thow
- Emma Jazayeri
- Leilah Moa
- Liz De Nil
- Stella Lagan
- Jonathan Scott Kicuroski
- Harrison Ephraums
- Louis Mariette
- Anton Delevski
- Phoenix Pendleton
- Hamish Saunders
- Zachariah Luu
- Justin Wang
- Zak Rusznyak
- Dante Alexander
- Michael Dulson
- Noah Lassman
- Zephyr Long
- Temuulel Boldbaatar
- Ryan Do
- Gabriel McVeigh
- Thomas Wood
- Philip Yaroshchyk
- Pendleton Kyler
- Yuki Takahashi
- Otto Donnan
- Sacha Bond
- Yuhao Lin
- David Castrianni

From this the following students and relay continued on to the Sydney East Regional Swimming Carnival:

Boys 4x4 50m Freestyle relay for 17-19 YRS:	
Pendleton Kyler Yuki Takahashi	Sacha Bond David Castrianni
Boys 6x 50m Freestyle relay for ALL YRS:	
Harrison Ephraums Hamish Saunders Noah Lassman	Ryan Do Pendleton Kyler Sacha Bond
Hamish Saunders:	
Boys 13 Year Olds 100m Butterfly	
Yuki Takahashi:	
Boys 16 Year Olds 50M Freestyle	
Pendleton, Kyler:	
Boys 16 Year Olds 100M Butterfly	
Sacha Bond:	
17-19 Year old 100m Breaststroke Boys 17-19 200m Freestyle	

In particular, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to:

Kyler Pendleton & Sacha Bond

Kyler and Sacha who have qualified to swim at the NSW Combine High School State Swimming Championships, which will be held in Week 3, Term 2 13th to 15th of May.

As we reflect on the success of the swimming carnival, let us carry forward the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship into future sporting events.

Together, we can continue to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels empowered to participate, excel, and enjoy the thrill of Sports.



Year 7 Zone Gala Day Reminder

On Wednesday 3rd April, Week 10, all Year 7 students have the opportunity to participate in the Zone Gala Day.

This event is a day where all the schools in the local area come together for a fun day of Sport and to compete against other schools.

To prepare for the event, students have been training all term in their teams:

- Mixed Netball
- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Touch Football
- Boys Touch Football
- Mixed T-Ball



Details for the day:

Students attend school wearing their red sports polo red polo and appropriate footwear for sport. Students participating in soccer can bring their own shin pads, but no football boots will be allowed to be worn on the day.

Students complete Roll Call and board buses to travel to Heffron Park. Please be mindful that this is a compulsory school day and event, no Year 7 will operate on the day.

Students compete in round robin style competitions and travel by bus back to school at 2:00 pm for a 2:50 pm finish.

APCS wishes all Year 7 students the very best whilst they are showcasing their skills and teamwork in a competitive environment.

Year 9 PDHPE Update

In addition to Sport, the PDHPE Faculty are also committed to promoting a culture of health and well-being among our APCS students.

In the current Year 9 PDHPE theoretical unit of work titled 'Celebrating Diversity', students have been learning about why diversity (ways we can be different) and inclusivity (including different groups in society) are important for an individual's, and communities positive wellbeing.

I am delighted to share with you the remarkable success of a recent Year 9 assessment task that truly brought the entire High School community together – the Harmony Day stall project.



Students worked in groups of 3 to plan, design and present a stall. Stalls needed to focus on one of the following options:

- Cultural value (e.g. importance of time, views on gender roles and equality, respect for hierarchy, and perceptions of work ethics and success).
- Cultural practice (e.g. food, dance, clothing, crafts and pastimes, or anything else important to a particular culture, such as red envelopes for Lunar New Year).
- Cultural icon/leader.

Year 9 classes took turns each lunchtime to present their stalls throughout Week 8. What made this project particularly impactful was its ability to engage the entire High School community. Students from various Year levels eagerly participated in visiting the Harmony Day stalls to learn about different cultures, traditions, and customs.

The atmosphere was vibrant with excitement and curiosity as students explored the diverse array of foods, music, art, and cultural displays presented by their classmates.

Moreover, the Harmony Day stall project provided an invaluable opportunity for students to engage in meaningful conversations about diversity, inclusion, and acceptance. It encouraged open dialogue and promoted mutual respect and understanding among students from different backgrounds.

Through this project, students not only learned about the richness and diversity of cultures but also developed empathy, tolerance, and appreciation for others' perspectives. Check out some of the amazing stall that were presented at APCS!





Open Boys Basketball

After defeating Newtown in the first round of Sydney East Knockout Basketball the boys travelled to Sutherland to play our traditional foe Endeavour Sports High School.

After a slow start, our boys took the lead by 2 with 10 minutes to go, before eventually losing by 5. It was an outstanding performance by all the players and they should be proud of their effort in training and on the day.

Open Girls Basketball

Our Open Girls Basketball have defeated all before them so far this year. After a crushing victory against Inner Sydney, the girls beat Sylvania High by 20 and last Friday, after a 31-2 first half, the girls beat Menai High School by 25 points to reach the Sydney East finals against Endeavour, as well as booking their spot in the State tournament.

There is more to come for these girls and they are looking forward to the challenges.

Good luck to AJ De Leon and Kymeeshia Shillingsworth who will be representing APCS as part of the Sydney East girls basketball team.





A New Era for APCS Cricket

A sunny and crisp Moore Park morning met the Alexandria Park Community School boys cricket team, as they became the school's first side in a post-COVID era to enter the Alan Davidson Shield competition, a knock out tournament as old as public education itself.

It was the old versus the new; Sydney Boys High school, a team of seniors representing a school with a firm focus on tradition up against the youth of APCS, future-focused in their mentality. On paper, it appeared David and Goliath, but the hosts cared not for the outcome of that particular biblical tale.

Aggressive captain James Bradley-Bouzianis won the toss and sent SBHS in. He shared the new ball with Connor McLaren and both shaped the ball nicely, producing some deliveries that asked serious questions of the High opening pair. However, dropped catches hurt the fielding side and a lightning outfield allowed the home team to capitalise on any loose deliveries. Bowling changes were regular and it was the young off spinner Zak Rusznyak who jagged the initial breakthrough when he snuck one through a lazy defence. Rusznyak had a hand in the only other wicket to fall when he took a sharp catch at slip.

In response, our red headed opening batting pair McLaren and Thomas Scott Kicuroski looked solid defensively and were able to turn the strike over against some fearsome quick bowling. McLaren in particular looks a mainstay at the top of the order and was unlucky to smoke one straight to point. Zak Rusznyak capped off an outstanding all round debut with some decent hitting and Faiz Falak entertained all with his batting eccentricities but wickets fell regularly to an attack laced with quality seam and spin options. In the end, the young side scraped together 46, but did so with a grin on their face and pride intact.

It should be noted that our lads showed extreme resilience with both bat and ball when under attack from a classy outfit that will surely go far in the tournament. The young side was well led by a vocal JBB and will be back in a year's time with more experience, more strength and more of the same APCS grit.

Cheers boys and thanks to Mr Waterworth for his scoring and keeping the raucous home crowd in check.

SBHS 2/374 (40 overs) def APCS 46



High School Aboriginal Studies News



Cultural Arts

This year Aboriginal students from Years 11 and 12 have the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts.



They will be studying various units throughout the year, led by a professional artist who will work with students across a range of mediums.

The purpose of the course is for students to develop creative and technical skills that underpin Arts practice in an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural context.

It is early days but the students are loving the class and already producing some amazing work!





National Centre of Indigenous Excellence AAF Open Day

Recently a group of very lucky students from Years 7-11 were invited to attend the Australian Airforce's open day at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern.

Students attended a workshop, then a talk by young Airforce recruits, then a Q&A from senior officers on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pathways into Australia's armed forces.

They then had the opportunity to fly virtual planes using the VR equipment. This was very high tech stuff and our students all had a great time.

Lots of thanks to all of the great AAF staff who attended and the NCIE staff for hosting. Our students were super excited throughout and really grateful for the experience.





High School Science News



Year 8 Science Water Filter Project

Year 8 students recently embarked on a project merging science with social consciousness, crafting water filters to demonstrate clean water's life-changing potential.

Guided by their teachers, they explored filtration principles, experimenting with upcycled materials like felt scraps, sand, cork and gauze to see which materials purify water effectively.

Through hands-on experimentation, students not only grasped scientific concepts but also recognized the global significance of clean water access.

They discovered how millions worldwide suffer due to waterborne diseases, highlighting the urgency of equitable access to clean water.

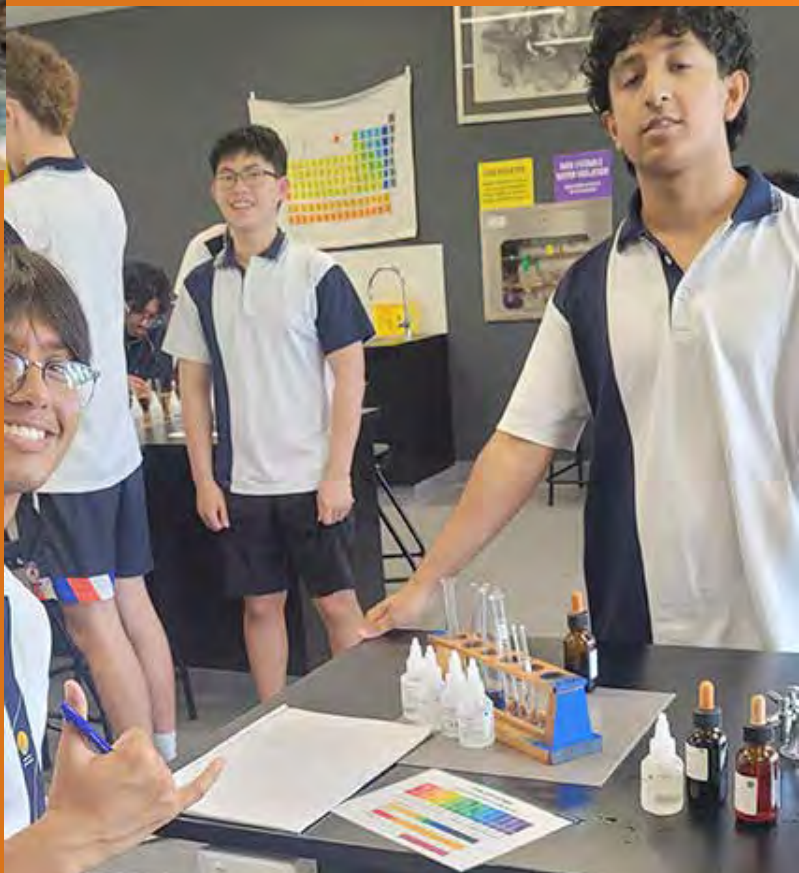
Presenting their prototypes, students showcased how clean water enhances sanitation, prevents illness, and elevates overall well-being.

This project instilled a sense of responsibility, urging students to advocate for global water equity.

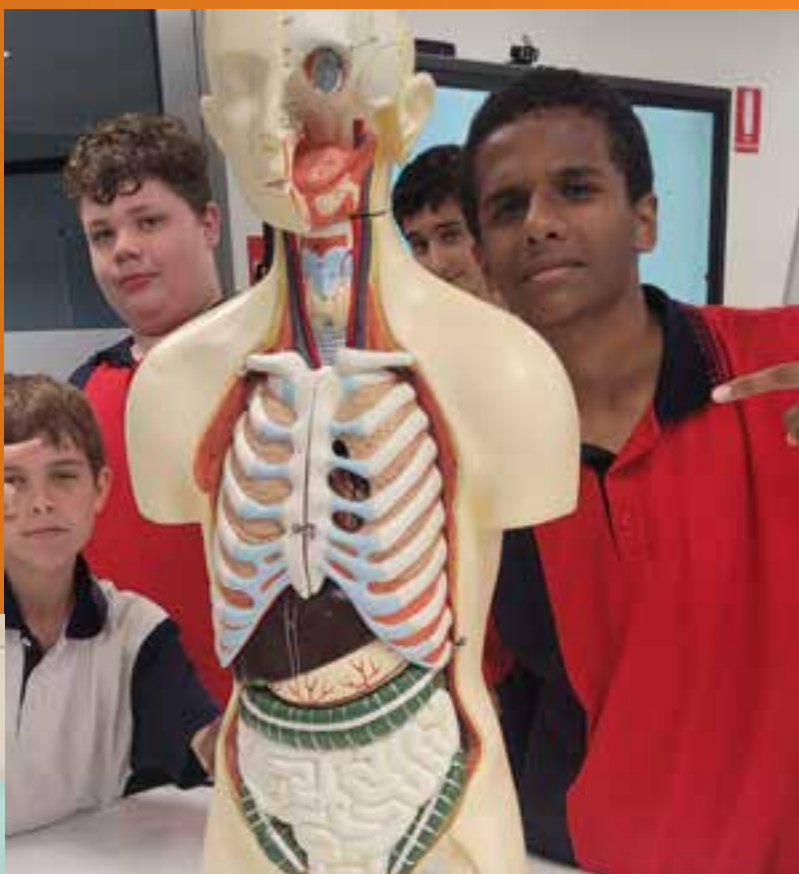
Their experience underscored the transformative power of science and empathy, empowering them to catalyze positive change in their communities and beyond.



Year 12 Chemistry students in the Science laboratory carrying out practical investigation.



Year 8P Science students learning about the organ systems with Mr. Bashir





Year 9 Plate Tectonics

In Science classes this year, Year 9 have been learning about the powerful forces that shape our planet and produce global events like earthquakes and tsunamis.



To model some of the processes occurring under our feet in the mantle of the earth, students created a convection current using potassium permanganate crystals, and observed a wax "lava flow" emerging from a sand crust.

These two examples show the power of models to excite and engage students and allow scientists to explain phenomena and predict future changes.





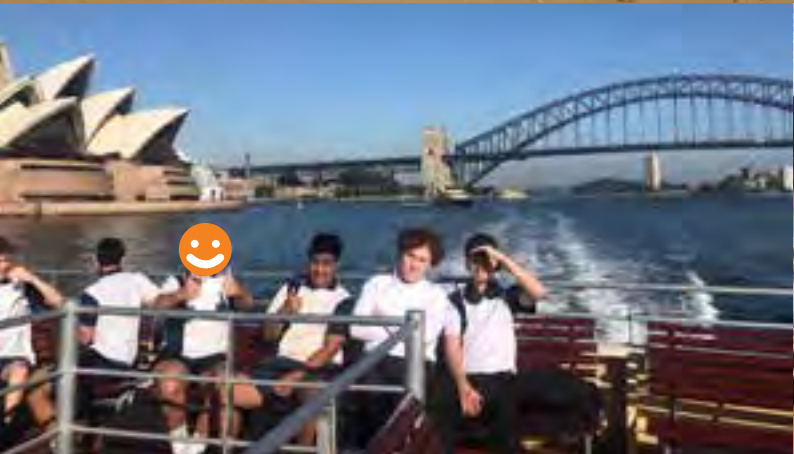
Exploring Biological Diversity: Year 11 Biology Class Visits Taronga Zoo

The Year 11 Biology class recently embarked on an enriching educational trip to Taronga Zoo, immersing themselves in the study of biological diversity and adaptations. Led by their teachers, students caught the ferry from Circular Quay to Taronga Zoo, where they eagerly participated in a Biological Diversity workshop guided by Taronga Zoo staff member, Ash.

During the workshop, students actively engaged in discussions and demonstrations, gaining insights into the various adaptations observed in different species. Ash's expertise illuminated the class about the intricate ways in which animals have evolved to thrive in their environments.

A highlight of the visit was the hands-on experience with a tortoise and a snake. Students had the opportunity to observe these creatures up close, witnessing firsthand the adaptations that enable their survival. This direct encounter with wildlife provided a tangible connection to the theoretical concepts studied in class.

Departing Taronga Zoo, students left with a deeper understanding of biological diversity and a heightened appreciation for the complexities of adaptation in the natural world. The trip served a wonderful opportunity to connect with their peers as they explored the various animal enclosures and habitats. Upon their return, students are applying this knowledge and understanding to their Depth Studies Assessment Tasks, looking at how a species' evolutionary adaptations enable it to survive.



High School Mathematics News

We are thrilled to announce some exciting updates from the Mathematics Faculty at Alexandria Park Community School! First and foremost, we extend a warm welcome to our newest member of staff, Mr. James Rutner. With a wealth of experience in teaching university-level Mathematics, Mr. Rutner brings a unique perspective and expertise to our team. We are confident that his passion for the subject and dedication to student success will greatly enrich the learning experience of our students.

We are also welcoming Ms. Siobhan O'Kane, joining us all the way from the United Kingdom. She has spent a few years teaching there and is bringing that unique classroom experience and knowledge to our school. We are very appreciative and excited to have Ms. O'Kane joining the Mathematics Faculty this Term.



In addition to welcoming Mr. Rutner and Ms. O'Kane, the Mathematics Faculty has been diligently working on implementing the new Curriculum in Stages 4 and 5. The new curriculum has a focus on working mathematically.

Through collaborative efforts and innovative teaching methods, our Faculty members are dedicated to fostering a supportive and stimulating learning environment where every student can thrive.



Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



New Staff

Hi I'm Mr Brooks!

I studied a Bachelor of Education & Arts where I majored in Political Economy and minored in History.

The subject areas I teach are Geography, History, Commerce & Economics. This year I am teaching Years 7-10 History, Geography & Commerce.

You may know me as your son's Soccer coach. I'm a huge Arsenal fan with a passion for coaching and tactics with the goal of building an advanced Soccer culture at Alex Park.

My approach to teaching is believing in the youth and inspiring the next generation. To give all students the ability to learn through a variety of learning and teaching methods. My teaching philosophy is that learning should be enjoyable, and community based.

Alex Park is a beautiful community where I have enjoyed the inviting spirit and the warmth of the schools' culture. I look forward to future teaching endeavours at Alex Park.



Autumn School Holidays Program

Monday 15 th April	Tuesday 16 th April	Wed 17 th April	Thursday 18 th April	Friday 19 th April	Saturday 20 th April
BBQ and games @ Fact Tree from 2pm 	Oz Tag @ Waterloo Oval Leaving Fact Tree at 2 pm 	GO Karting @ Eastern Creek Leaving Fact Tree at 2 pm 	Swim @ Manly Cove Tidal Pool Leaving Fact Tree at 12 pm 	Ghost Tour @ Botanic Gardens Leaving Fact Tree at 5pm 	Jenga Night @ Fact Tree from 4pm 
Monday 22 nd April	Tuesday 23 rd April	Wed 24 th April	Thursday 25 th April	Friday 26 th April	Saturday 27 th April
Tie-Dye Tees @ Fact Tree from 12pm 	Ice Skating @ Ice Zoo Leaving Fact Tree at 1:30pm 	South East Block Party @ Maroubra Leaving Fact Tree at 2:30 	CLOSED FOR PUBLIC HOLIDAY 	Prince Alfred Pool Leaving Fact Tree at 1:30pm 	Pool Comp @ Fact Tree from 7pm *Prize to be won* 



703 Elizabeth st Waterloo
Opening Hours: Mon – Wed 12pm – 6pm
Thurs 12pm-8pm Fri 12pm-10pm Sat 4pm-10pm



+ 02 9319 2708
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Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land



FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 7 - 18 YEARS

Unique holiday experience for both boys and girls looking to improve their skills, independence, self-esteem, fitness level and gain confidence while making lifelong friends in a safe and supportive environment. Whether you have never played volleyball before or are looking to develop your skills, you are welcome to join us this holiday and please feel free to bring a friend along.

DATE, TIME & LOCATION
Perry Park Recreation Centre
 Time: 8:45 - 15:45
DEVELOPMENT CAMPS: 15 April & 22-24 April 2024
HIGH-PERFORMANCE CAMPS: 22-23 April 2024
Pymble Ladies College Jeanette Buckham Stadium/Gym (enter via Gate 3 on Avon Road).
 Time: 8:45 - 15:45
DEVELOPMENT & HIGH-PERFORMANCE CAMPS:
 15 April, 17-18 April & 22-24 April 2024

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- Structured coaching from experienced coaches.
- Coaching overall ratio - up to 1:12
- ProVolley t-shirt for every attendee

SCHEDULE

8:30 Check-in
 8:45 Welcome & Court Allocation
 9:00 - 9:45 Warm-Up and Strength & Conditioning
 9:45 - 12:00 Session 1, Skills Development
 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch Break
 12:30 - 13:00 Education
 13:00 - 15:30 Session 2, Game Development
 15:30 - 15:45 Cool down & Giveaway Collection
 15:45 - 16:00 Check-Out

Three-day camp including a ProVolley gift **\$295**
 Two-day camp including a ProVolley gift **\$210**
 One-day camp including a ProVolley gift **\$110**
 Half-day camp **\$60**

*Possibility for an earlier check-in and check-out. **REGISTER:** [WWW.PROVOLLEY.COM.AU/CAMPS](http://www.provolley.com.au/camps)

ZENYOGIS.CLUB AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Check website for available classes running each term



MOVE & MEDITATE
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
 3 - 4:30 PM | Ages: K - Y6

Our signature class since 2017. We learn how to mindfully move and create a joyful life. Yoga poses, mobility, group games, partner stretch, relaxation, breathwork, reflection worksheets, mandala colouring, and many more fun activities! Exploring a different theme every term.

ZEN-WARRIORS
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
 3 - 4:30 PM | Ages: Y1 - Y6

Exploring fundamental movement skills necessary for long-term vitality and confidence. Focusing on coordination, balance and stability through fun, active games and challenges! Growing fit, agile and peaceful warriors.



ZEN-EXPLORERS
MONDAYS
 3-4:30 PM | Ages: K - Y2

An introduction to yoga with simple, creative and practical tools to create peace from within and be a kind, caring, joyful presence. Re-establishing connection to nature with park visits. Fun and mindful activities curated for growing bodies and minds.

BOOK A FREE TRIAL : www.zenyogis.club | hi@zenyogis.club

SOUTH EAST BLOCK PARTY BIDJIGAL LAND



WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024
 3 - 7PM CORAL SEA PARK MAROUBRA
BIDJIGAL LAND

featuring headline performance from Maroubra's own
KOBIE DEE

To celebrate Youth Week 2024, Weave, Randwick Council and Kobie Dee, are throwing the fourth annual South East Block Party on Bidjigal Land.

This is a free, all ages community event, showcasing local talent, bringing young people together and celebrating community. Join us for an afternoon of food, music, performances, games and cultural activities.

For more information please contact Imogen at Weave | imogen@weave.org.au
THIS IS A DRUG + ALCOHOL FREE EVENT



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