

ALEXANDRIA PARK
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Community Opportunity Success

TERM 1 2025

Yarramundi



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

12 - 24 March	NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7, 9
18 March	Primary School Tour Enrolments 2026
19 March	Harmony Day
20 March	Pulse Active Performance
21 March	Ride2School Day
24 March	School Photo Catch up Day
28th March	P&C Movie Event K-4
1st April	Year 7 Vaccination
1st-2nd April	K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
7th April	Primary School Cross Country
7th-8th April	HS CHS Swim Carnival
9th-11th April	Year 6 Camp Canberra
11th April	Last Day of School
30th April	First Day Back Term 2



Principal's Report

We have had a productive start to the new year and looking forward to many great events and initiatives in the coming year.



This year we have 590 Primary School enrolments (including PSU) and 714 in High School. We welcomed 68 new Kindergarten students, 150 Year 7 students, 30 OC students in Year 5 and 40 new enrolments across High School and Primary. We are also proud to have opened our HS Support Unit with two full classes of students. We are continuing to enrol students from Central Sydney intensive English Centre each term and will hold a transition week later in the term.

CELEBRATING THE HSC 2024

In the 2024 HSC cohort

APCS had the following achievements:

- 71 students who sat for the HSC
- 41 students received ATAR and all 41 were offered university entry

We would like to recognise and celebrate the following:

- 22 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students graduated. This is by far our highest number of students who have completed their HSC 2024
- 6 students on the distinguished achievers list
- 2 students nominated for Art Express
- Salvyn Syed our Dux

with a 92.9 ATAR who is doing Engineering Hons (Chemical and Molecular) at the University of Sydney

- 21 out of 30 original X class students who all desired, submitted and received university offers.

NAPLAN has started for Years in 3, 5, 7 & 9. While this is a one off, the assessment does provide us with useful data in terms of our student progress. It also allows for intervention including extension of our high achieving students.

Artist in Residence. Our school has a continued



relationship with Carriageworks and Solid Ground 2025 initiative. This year the artist is Akala Newman and is working with our Year 7 students facilitating workshops throughout this term. Our newly appointed Music Teacher Mr Schuel is coordinating this program with Aunty Deb our Aboriginal Engagement Officer.

This year our cover for our **Yarramundi Newsletter** is inspired by an artwork created in collaboration with our elder, Uncle Bruce Shillingsworth working with myself, Aunty Deb and our school community

to design a painting that represents Alexandria Park Community School. The artwork features Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designs. Uncle Bruce designed a personalised cultural artwork to honor and represent the Gadigal land on which Alexandria Park Community School stands. The design incorporates our school colors, reflecting the rich history of the four schools that have united to become the community we are today.

Thank you to our Year 7-12 families who have expressed interest in purchasing our new Hoodie

uniform. We are hoping to have this item available for the cooler months.

Thank you for supporting our school to continue to be such a wonderful place to work and learn. Alexandria Park Community School strives for excellence in its educational and wellbeing programs for both our students and staff.

Debra Lade
Principal



Aboriginal Education Officers



Aunty Deb Daley



Uncle Hilton Donovan

The Aboriginal Education Officers provides support for Aboriginal students, parents and their teachers in developing student outcomes. They are also a point of contact between the school Aboriginal community and the wider community.

Uncle Hilton and Aunty Deb have been longstanding members of our school community at APCS. They are an integral part of our school and share extensive knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal histories, culture and experiences of Aboriginal

people ensuring that school leaders, staff, students and parents have access to high quality cultural awareness and learning opportunities.

Primary Deputy Principal News



It's been quite the term so far! We were pleased to see so many parents and carers at our **'Meet the Teacher'** event, fostering connections between our dedicated teachers and the families of our students. The event was a great opportunity to learn more about our school's programs, meet class teachers, and gain insights into the curriculum and expectations for the year ahead. We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are crucial for student success and we thank everyone who was able to attend. There will be communication in the coming days via SchoolBytes in regards to our **Parent Teacher interviews** which will be held later this term.

We are also thrilled to report that our recent **Swimming Carnival** was a resounding success, with many students going on to

represent the school at the Zone Carnival! Held on 17th February, the event brought together students, staff, and families for a day filled with excitement, competition, and school spirit. The atmosphere was electric as classmates cheered on their peers, fostering a strong sense of community and sportsmanship. Congratulations to our outstanding swimmers who demonstrated remarkable skill and determination.

Additionally, as we approach the **NAPLAN** testing period, we want to ensure that you are well-informed about what to expect and how you can support your child during this time. This year, NAPLAN will take place during Week 7 and Week 8 for Year 3 and Year 5 students. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school if you have any questions or concerns about the tests. We'd like to share some ways that parents and

carers can help:

Preparation: Encourage your child to do their best but reassure them that NAPLAN is just one measure of their learning.

Daily Routine: Ensure your child maintains a regular sleep schedule leading up to the assessments and has a healthy breakfast on testing days.

Support: Talk to your child about the importance of doing their best and remind them that it's okay to feel a little nervous.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to help our students succeed.

David Olsen,
Primary Deputy Principal

Paul Keevers,
Primary Deputy Principal

Primary News

Early Stage 1

Kindergarten

What an exciting and fun-filled start to kindergarten we've had! Our little learners have made so much progress, and it's been a joy to see them grow in both confidence and skills.

Learning Adventures

We have been exploring a variety of themes that help lay the foundation for early learning. From discovering the alphabet, sounds and learning our numbers. We've also had fun learning

about our emotions and practicing kindness through activities that encourage sharing and teamwork.

Classroom Activities

In literacy, our focus is to build letter recognition and sounds, and the children love singing songs and playing games to reinforce these concepts. During math time, we explored shapes, counting, and simple patterns through hands-on activities that

engage their imaginations.

Play and Social Skills

Play is an essential part of kindergarten, and we've seen so many wonderful moments of children working together, solving problems, and using their creativity. Whether building with blocks, pretending in our dramatic play corner, or sharing stories with friends, they've made significant strides in building social skills and friendships.

Stage 1

Years 1 & 2

In Stage One, our budding mathematicians have been exploring number bonds, strengthening their understanding of how numbers fit together. Through different activities and games, students have been discovering many number combinations!

Meanwhile, in science, students have been stepping outside to search for living things in their natural habitat, learning about the difference between living and non-living things.



Stage 1 students have been stepping outside to search for living things in their natural habitat.



Primary News

Stage 2

Years 3 & 4

Welcome to 2025 from the Stage 2 team! We are excited to be spending the year with your children.

We are:

- **Coco Page** (3/4P)
(Assistant Principal)
- **Alan Brandt** (2/3B)
- **Lizzie McLaughlin** (3/4M)
- **Madi Fitzpatrick** (3/4F)
- **Casey-lee Smith** (3/4S)
- **Jacob Ansell** (3/4A)
- **Maddie Mulhall**
(Learning and Support Teacher; 3/4P executive release)
- **Matthew Ablitt** (Visual Arts; RFF)

The students have settled in their classes very well and have quickly adapted to new routines. The Year 3 students are loving their new play spaces during break times and are enjoying being able to run on the Getiela at lunch and at Alex Park oval at afternoon tea. Please remind your child to bring a hat every day so they can use these spaces.

Our learning programs are well underway, with students learning about place value and addition in maths, descriptive writing and characterisation in English, and enjoying combined PE lessons on Wednesday mornings. They also are loving art lessons with the multi-talented Mr Ablitt!

This year in Stage 2 we are focusing on six key PBL expectations in line with our school PBL values of Be a Learner, Be Respectful and Be Safe. These six expectations are displayed in the circle diagram.

We are supporting students with consistent positive reinforcement and praise, and regular teaching of expectations. We also gather together every Tuesday afternoon to celebrate student success in our new Stage 2 Assemblies. Your child will bring home sticker charts to show their PBL achievements – please celebrate with them!



The six Stage 2 PBL expectations are displayed in this diagram. Families can support students by using this language when discussing school and behaviour with their children.



Welcome to
2025 from
the Stage 2
team!



Primary News

Stage 3

Years 5 & 6

Stage 3 have had a fabulous start to the 2025 year, engaging in quality texts and rich learning experiences. Everyone was very excited about the Taronga Zoo and Sydney Airport excursions in week

6. There is an excitement and buzz in Year 6 as students start to prepare for designing and ordering their Year 6 t-shirts and attending the three day Canberra camp at the end of term.

Primary Support Unit

Students in the support unit have had a fantastic start to the school year! They have quickly got back into routines and are thriving in their learning. Students are enjoying learning about living things in Science, reading lots of texts about animals and participating in dance lessons. Library

with Ms Soo and music with Ms Campisi have also been a highlight, with students enjoying every moment of creativity and exploration. Our dedicated teachers are just as excited to be back and are looking forward to another wonderful year of growth, learning, and fun with our amazing students!

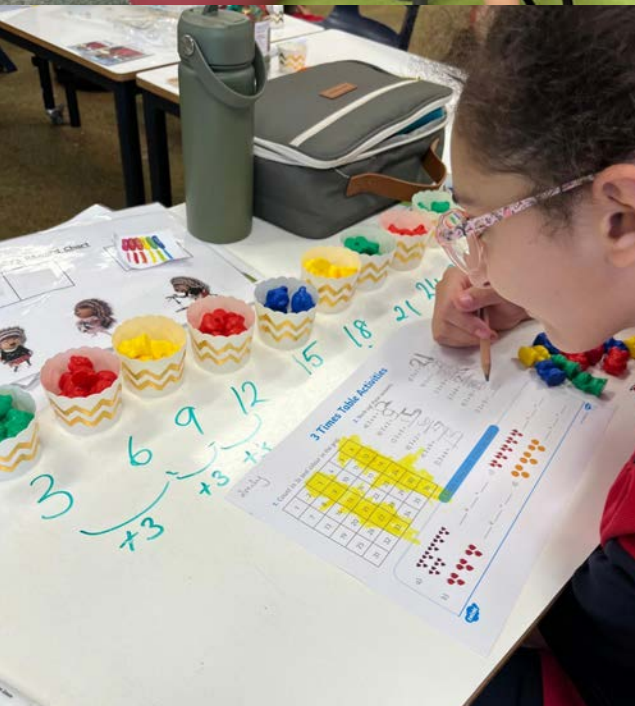
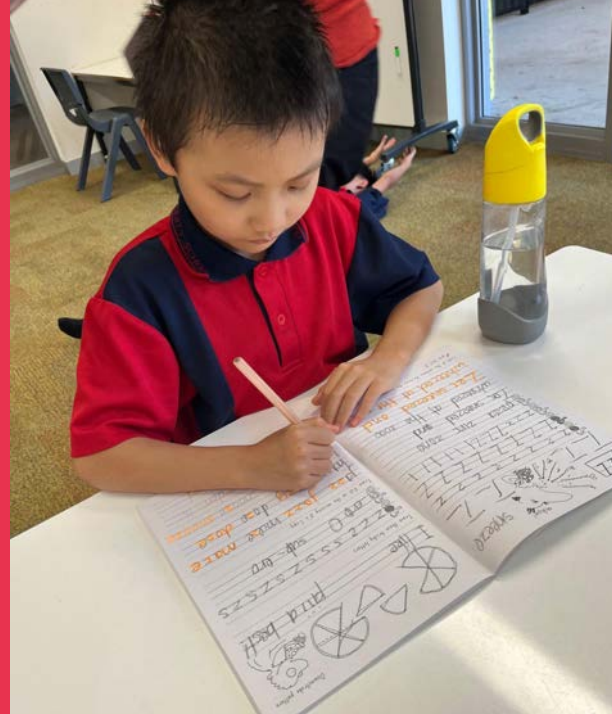
Students in Stage 3 have been participating in Kitchen Garden lessons with Ms Ward, learning about edible plant foods that are grown in our Maani. Making fun and delicious fruit skewers was a highlight of the week! Yum!



Students in Stage 3 were excited to celebrate the year of the snake and witness the amazing Qing Fong Dragon Lion Team for Luna New Year.



Students in the Support Unit have had a fantastic start to the school year!





High School Deputy Principal News

Welcome to term 1 of 2025, we have some important events and initiatives happening this term.

Congratulations to the PDHPE Department led by Head Teacher, Mrs Baker for an outstanding Swimming carnival, a lot of organisation and effort went into organising the day. We had a generous number of students advancing to the zone level.

I also want to congratulate our Opens Boys Basketball side led by Coach, Mr Cutts, who have recently won their last few games, beating Blakehurst High and JJ Cahill High School to continue and advance in the competition as they faced their round 3 opponents, Randwick High School. Wishing our boys all the best.

Our Buckley Shield RL boys were beat by a strong Randwick side, however I wanted to congratulate the boys together with their

coach, Mr Gold, for showing great sportsmanship, they played with pride. Hopefully they advance in the future.

Congratulations to Brooklyn from NASCA for running a successful weekend camp for some of our indigenous girls to Parramatta. There they met NASCA students from Narromine High School that they had been writing letters to as part of our Pen Pal Program last year. The girls were also lucky enough to go and watch the NRL Indigenous all-stars RL Match at Commbank stadium.

YEAR 11 TO 12 ACADEMIC REVIEWS

Both Deputy Principal's, Mr S. Marcos & Ms. J Garcia will be meeting with students and their parents / carers in years 11 and 12 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, please refer to the following QR code:



BEHAVIOUR CODE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

At APCS we are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning



environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students, and we expect nothing less than respectful communication between staff and students. Any profanity or inappropriate gestures directed towards Teachers carries a consequence of an automatic suspension.

We would like to work closely with our parent, carers and community members to promote positive relationships with between all.

For more information on the NSW department of education Behaviour code for students, please refer to the following 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
- Navy or Black long pants, shorts, skirt (No Logo)

- APCS Tie (Optional)
- Plain white collard shirt
- Plain Black Shoes
- Red and Navy Blue APCS Polo shirt (Sport)
- 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)

Please note that Crocs, sandals or slip-ons are always prohibited, this footwear is deemed a safety hazard and at no stage do we allow students to be in open shoes at School. If Students present with a foot injury, communication must be made to the school directly from parents or caregivers and a discussion needs to take place about alternative arrangements.

Steven Marcos,
Deputy Principal

Jessica Garcia,
Relieving Deputy Principal

High School News



mathspace

Mathematics

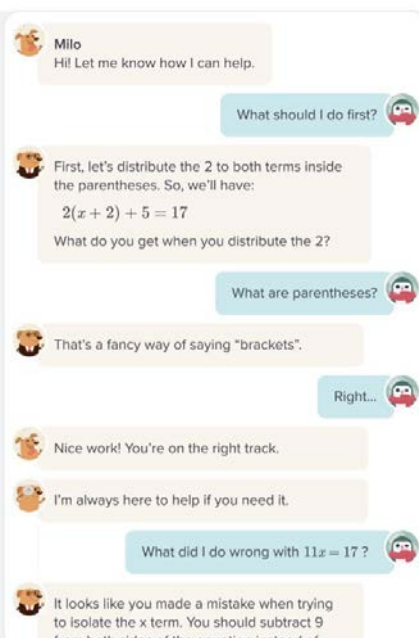
ENHANCING LEARNING WITH MATHSPACE

The Mathematics Faculty has introduced **Mathspace**, an innovative online learning platform designed to support students in developing their mathematical understanding. Mathspace combines an **AI-powered chatbot**, a **comprehensive online textbook**, and an **interactive system of hints and video examples**, all in one place. This platform enables students to receive immediate feedback, refine their problem-solving skills, and engage with mathematics in a dynamic and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to make full use of this resource to enhance their learning both in and outside the classroom. Mathspace classroom links should be available via Google Classroom. Students must ensure that they are logged into their DET portal before creating their accounts or logging in.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS

Students are reminded of the importance of bringing a **scientific calculator** to every Mathematics lesson. A calculator is an essential tool that supports students in their problem-solving and reinforces numerical fluency. Having one readily available will ensure students can participate fully in lessons and prepare effectively for assessments. The **CASIO FX-82AU** is recommended for most students with the **CASIO FX-8200AU** being recommended for senior students studying the more academically rigorous advanced and extension courses.



UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

With assessments approaching in the coming weeks, students should remain aware of due dates and expectations for their tasks. Regular revision and consistent practice will be key to their success. The Mathematics Faculty encourages students to utilise Mathspace, seek clarification when needed, and maintain an organised approach to their studies. Additionally, **homework help** is available to students on **Wednesday afternoons** in the Yakka-Takka. This initiative is regularly staffed by Mr. Liang and Mr. Guinness.

High School Assessment Booklets can be found via the following link:
<https://alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment.html>

← 6.04 Three step equations

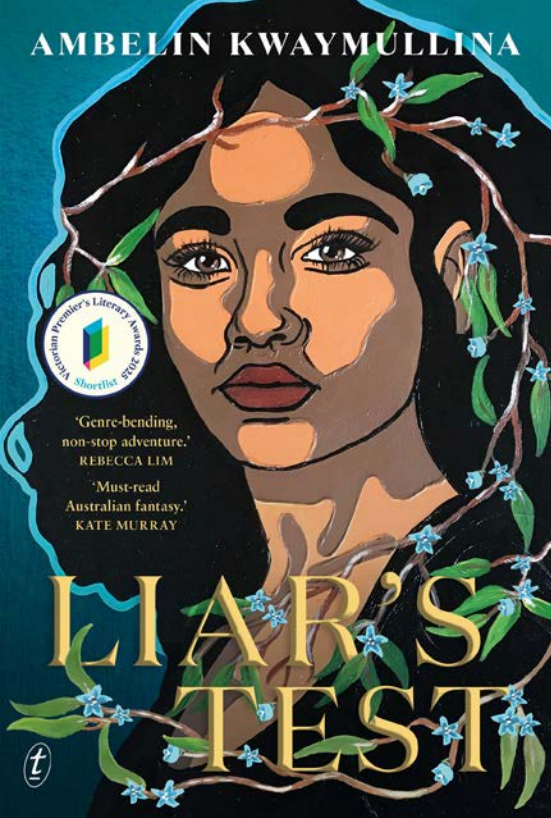
Solve: $2(x + 2) + 5 = 17$

✓ $2x + 4 + 5 = 17$

✓ $2x + 9 = 17$

✗ $11x = 17$

$11x = 17$



Year 7 have started the year off reading Liar's Test by Amberlin Kwaymullina.

High School News

English

Our learners in English and English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) are off to a flying start.

Year 7 are reading Liar's Test, a fabulous new fantasy adventure by Amberlin Kwaymullina, a First Nations author from the Palyku people of the Pilbara in WA.

Year 8 are delving into poetry in all its forms. Just ask them to tell you the difference between a simile and a metaphor, or alliteration and onomatopoeia.

Year 9 are creating advertising campaigns and pitches and, although APCS isn't Gruen, some are just as nervous about presenting live as the entrants in The Shark Tank.

Year 10 are writing persuasive speeches on a topic that resonates with their personal sense of culture, identity and individuality (see above for nerves!)

Year 11 and 12 are gearing up for the Big One, practising sophisticated analysis of a range of genres and writing their own creative and discursive pieces. While some of the texts they study may focus on imaginative works, they do plenty of "real life" speaking and writing too, and the skills they learn are transferrable to all other subjects, as well as the wider world.

High School News

Science

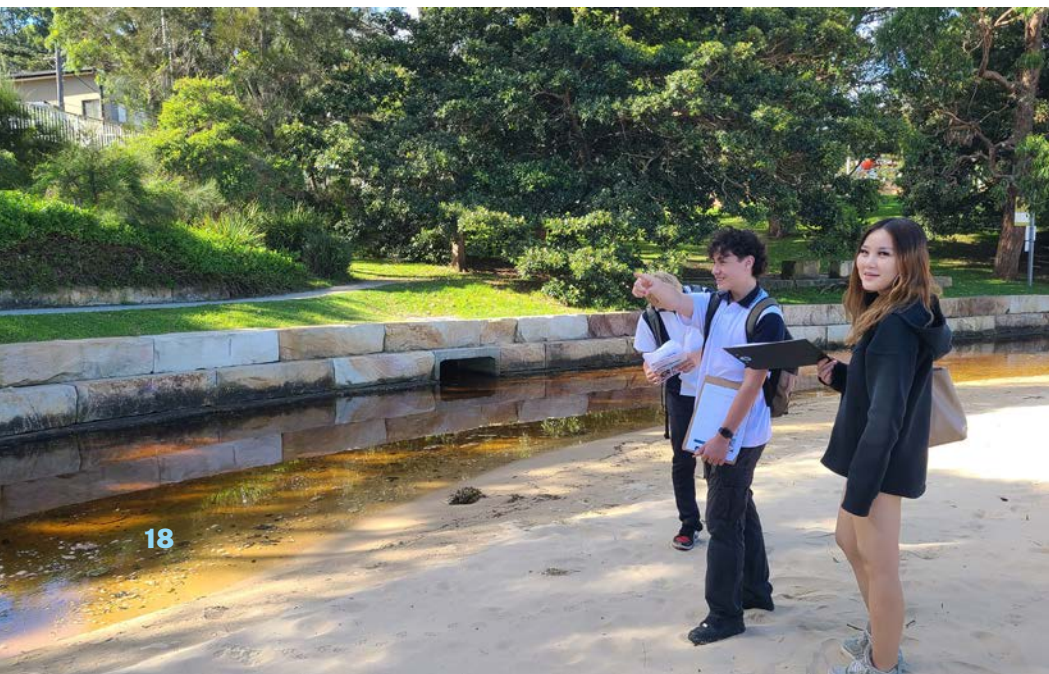
Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science Field Trip.

With a growing number of APCS students expressing their interest in the sciences, this year the Science Faculty has introduced a new course for our Year 11 students. Lead by our newest staff member, Ms Franks, students from the Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science class embarked on a field trip to Bundeena earlier this term. Staff and students took the train and ferry down to Bundeena for a day of field work.

They started off the day by examining water

management strategies in Bundeena and undertaking water quality tests. The group then continued on for a short walk to Jibbon Beach, looking at invasive plant spread as well as examples of historical Aboriginal shell middens and ancient rock carvings of local animals at Jibbon Headland.

It was a fantastic day for students to apply their knowledge to the real-world and explore how science is conducted outside the classroom.



Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science students embarked on a field trip to Bundeena earlier this term.

High School News

HSIE



Hello Alex Park, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Katherine Padovan, and I have recently joined Alex Park as the HT HSIE. I bring with me over 15 years teaching experience across Sydney.

I am very passionate about teaching across the HSIE curriculum and my extensive experience is not only in the classroom but consulting for the DOE in areas of curriculum and also an experienced HSC Maker and Judge Marker.

This term in HSIE our Year 7-10 students are learning across both Geography and History form how humans interacted with the physical environment the cultures of the ancient past in History.

The Elective History in classes are leaning about different ancient civilisations from Ancient

Rome to the Mayans and the Aztecs.

The students in Year 9 Elective History are working on their Ancient Civilisation task allowing them to explore the history and archaeology.

Year 10 Elective History are about to embark on a journey of the investigating the Salem Witch trials and how the impact that they had on the historical period and Salem as a town.

High School News

Music

Our High School Concert Band continues to grow under the leadership of Indiana Williams. Learn more about him...

Indiana is a conductor, teacher and musician who has worked at schools and music programs across Sydney, having previously studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He currently works as a band director at Sydney Secondary College, Maroubra Junction Public, and as a conductor and tutor through the Sydney Catholic Schools' Amadeus Program. Indiana has also in the past worked at the NSW State Music Camps,

as well as professional engagements as a trumpeter with ensembles such as the Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra and The Metropolitan Orchestra.

Indiana has a great love for music education and its power to create the whole human. His current inspirations include Richard Gill, J.S. Bach and Nina Simone.

New band members are welcome!

Rehearsals are on Wednesday mornings from 7.30 in the Denzil. Please register your child via the QR code below.



Band rehearsal with Indiana Williams.



High School News

TAS

The TAS Faculty at Alex Park has kicked off 2025 with exciting projects, innovative learning experiences, and opportunities for our students. From cutting-edge software to excursions, here's what we've been up to!

TECHNOLOGY & SOFTWARE

Our students are developing future-ready skills with industry-standard software, including:

Fusion 360 – Used across our Timber, Design & Technology and Graphics classes for 3D modelling and prototyping.

Microbits – Embedded systems and coding projects have taken centre stage in our Computing curriculum.

Adobe Creative Suite– Supporting creative digital design projects in multimedia and graphics.

EXCITING PROJECTS ACROSS THE FACULTY

Director's Chair Challenge

– Students in our Year 11 Design and Technology courses are crafting chairs inspired by their favourite film directors, merging ergonomics with cinematic storytelling.

Stage 4 Boomerang

– Our approach to Indigenous design ensures students appreciate both craftsmanship and cultural significance.

Our **Food Technology** students have been busy

developing their culinary skills while exploring food science, nutrition, and sustainability.

LOOKING AHEAD

SHAPE Exhibition – 27 March – Stage 6 Design & Technology students will attend the **SHAPE Exhibition**, showcasing outstanding major works from across NSW in design, technology, and textiles. This is a fantastic opportunity for inspiration and insight into the standards of excellence in HSC projects.



Our students are developing future-ready skills with industry-standard software.

High School News

Sport

The school year is well and truly underway, and what a busy start it has been! Our students have jumped straight into their sporting commitments, demonstrating great enthusiasm and school spirit.

STAGE 4 SPORT KICKS OFF

Stage 4 Sport (Years 7 and 8) is now in full swing. Year 7 students have eagerly selected their sports for Term 1, preparing for the upcoming Zone Gala Day in Week 9. Meanwhile, our Year 8 students are honing their skills in Basketball and Oz-Tag as they get ready for the highly anticipated in-school Denzil Shield Round Robin Competition, taking place in Weeks 10 and 11.

STAGE 5 SPORT IS UP AND RUNNING

Students in Stage 5 Sport (Years 9 and 10) have now finalised their sport selections. This year, students had the opportunity to choose from three different categories: competitive school sport, passive school sport, and community sport. This term's community sport options include tennis and ice-skating, providing students with a fantastic way to stay active while

enjoying new experiences.

At the end of each Stage Sport session, sport teachers nominate a student to receive a 'Best and Fairest' award. Check out our Week 1 award recipients.

CHS EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTING TEAMS IN ACTION

Our Combined High School (CHS) extra-curricular sporting teams have started forming and training, with some teams already competing in their first round of competition as part of the Knock-out Competition. The open teams, which consist of our senior students (Years 10, 11, and 12), have kicked off their matches, while the U15 competitions are set to begin around July and August.

For those keen to follow the progress of our school teams, competition times and dates can be accessed through the following link: [CHSSA Draw](#).

RECENT MATCH HIGHLIGHTS

Open Boys Basketball Team: Played their first game against JJ Cahill and secured an impressive victory with a score of 51-15. The boys now move on to face Blakehurst High School. A special shoutout to Mr. T. Cutts, who made his debut as coach and led the team to success.

Open Boys Soccer Team: Competed in the Zone Gala Day on Thursday, 13th of February. The team showed significant improvement from last year, securing one win, one draw, and one loss against tough competition. Well done to the team and Mr Brooks on their achievement.



Check out our Stage 5 'Best and Fairest' award recipients for Week 1.



The Open Boys Basketball Team secured an impressive win in their first game against JJ Cahill.



UPCOMING GAMES

Stay tuned for more updates on upcoming matches and results in our next newsletter. Best of luck to all our teams as they continue their sporting journey this term!

- Open Boys Rugby League Team: First game to be played by March 14th.
- Open Girls Netball Team: First game to be played by March 21st.
- Open Boys Volleyball Team: First game to be played by March 21st.
- Open Girls Volleyball Team: First game to be played by March 25th.
- Open Boys Soccer Team: First game to be played by March 21st.

The first junior team to form and compete this year is the **U14 Rugby League Buckley Shield**. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches!

NRL ALL-STARS EXCURSION OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 7 AND 8 STUDENTS

Earlier this term, selected Year 7 and 8 students had an amazing opportunity to attend an excursion where they met the NRL All-Stars players. This experience allowed students to meet their idols, connect with culture, and even play

a few rounds of touch football. Both the APCS boys' and girls' teams were undefeated! Check out the photos of them in action and meeting some of APCS' sporting heroes and past students.

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The regional swimming carnival was a fantastic day out, all the students demonstrated positive behaviour and represented Alex Park with pride.

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully qualified for the Sydney East Regional Swimming Carnival:

- Thomas Curran- 200m free
- Joanna Lim- 50m free
- Sacha Bond- 200m Free, 200m IM, and 100m Breaststroke
- Joshua Cheng- 50m free, 100m butterfly

15 boys Relay Team:

- Michael Dulson
- Temuulel Boldbaatar
- Teman Moskvina
- Uunai Shinebayar

17+ boys Relay Team:

- Sacha Bond
- Frank Clarke
- Kristoffer Stribling
- Yuki Takahashi

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SUCCESS

Grace Cho-Triganza

(Year 10): Achieved an outstanding result with her soccer team, placing 2nd overall at the National Championships. In addition to this, earlier this term, Grace was also one of the only female APCS students who attended the Open Soccer Gala Day. During this event, Grace was scouted, earning a selection spot as part of the Eastern Suburbs Zone Team. Congratulations, Grace!

Frank Clarke (Year 12):

During the school holidays, represented NSW in the U18 Baseball Team, which secured gold at the Australian National Championships. This is an incredible achievement—well done, Frank!





Year 7 and 8 students had an amazing opportunity to attend an excursion where they met the NRL All-Stars players.



Our High School students had a fantastic day out at the regional swimming carnival.



High School News

Sport

Open Boys Cricket Team compete in the Alan Davidson Shield.

The team played their first match against Woollooware High School on Wednesday, February 26 with Mr T. Miles leading the team.

Looking to catch Woollooware unaware, the lads were eager to get on the park, many of them making their APCS debut.

Skipper Thomas Scott Kicuroski won the toss and elected to bat on a syntho deck surrounded by a vast outfield of long grass. He opened the batting with the impressive Tom Andrews and the pair took some shine off a new ball in the hands of some experienced Woollooware High bowlers. Wickets soon fell, however, and after Michael Bell Link survived just one ball before having his stumps obliterated, APCS were scrambling at 4/11. Faiz

Falak batted sensibly and with composure and put on some handy partnerships with the middle order, although it was young Liam Nixon that saw the innings to the end. Coming in at 8, Nixon batted with a maturity beyond his years to finished 26 not out, ably supported by the lower order. In the end, the visiting side finished 8-103 off their allocated 40 overs, an excellent achievement given the context.

In response, Woollooware got off to a flier and took a liking to some short-pitched bowling. Zak Rusznyak snagged a wicket and spinners Oscar Rickerby-Foley and Jo Scott Kicuroski bowled well but the total was eventually inadequate to trouble Woollooware's formidable batting unit. Left armers Andrews and Augie

Harrex kept it tight for a few overs but the total was achieved before 20 overs.

It was a fantastic effort from a young side with the potential to be a real force in the east Sydney cricket scene within the next few years with further development and experience. Great job boys!!

High School News

Sport

Training session schedule.

At the moment, our team training session times are designed and scheduled for our CHS Open Teams, however, junior students are more than welcomed to join our APCS recreational clubs in the meantime until more information is distributed later in the year about our junior CHS training session times:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>7.15am-8.15am:</u> Boys Basketball Training with Mr Cutts in the Denzil	<u>7.15am-8.15am</u> Boys Open Soccer Training with Mr Brooks on the Field	<u>7.15am-8.15am</u> U14 Boys Rugby League Training with Mr Gold on the Field	<u>7.15am-8.15am</u> Mixed Fitness Club with Mr Brenner and Ms Kasz in the Fit Lab	
<u>3.00pm-4.00pm</u> Girls Netball Training with Mr Brenner in the Denzil		<u>12.10pm-12.50pm</u> Boys Open Cricket Wednesdays during lunchtime with Mr Miles at Alex Park	<u>3.00pm-4.00pm</u> Mixed Badminton Recreational Club with Mr Burgess in the Denzil	
<u>3.00pm-4.00pm</u> Girls Soccer Training with Ms Barnett on the Field			<u>3.00pm-4.00pm</u> Ultimate Frisbee Club with Mr Rutner on the field	

- Open boy's and girls' volleyball training session time to be confirmed soon.
- Open boy's rugby league training session time to be confirmed soon.

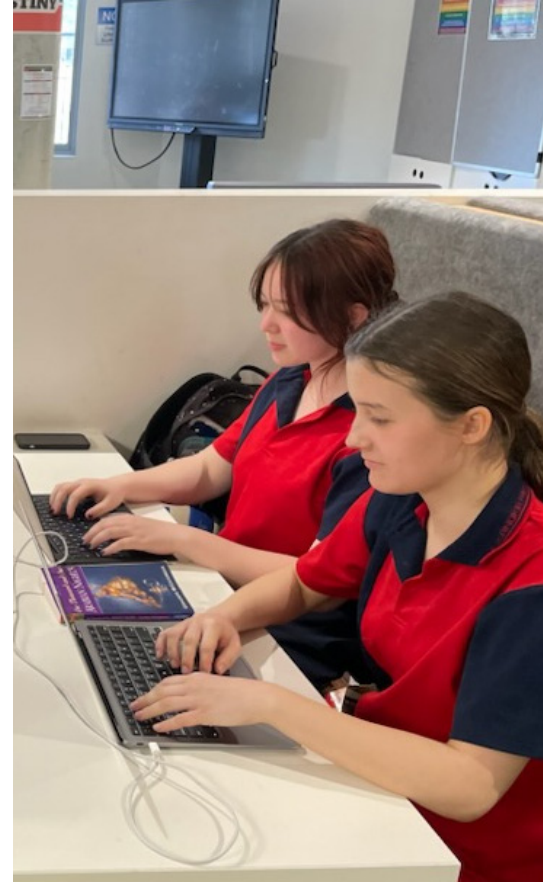
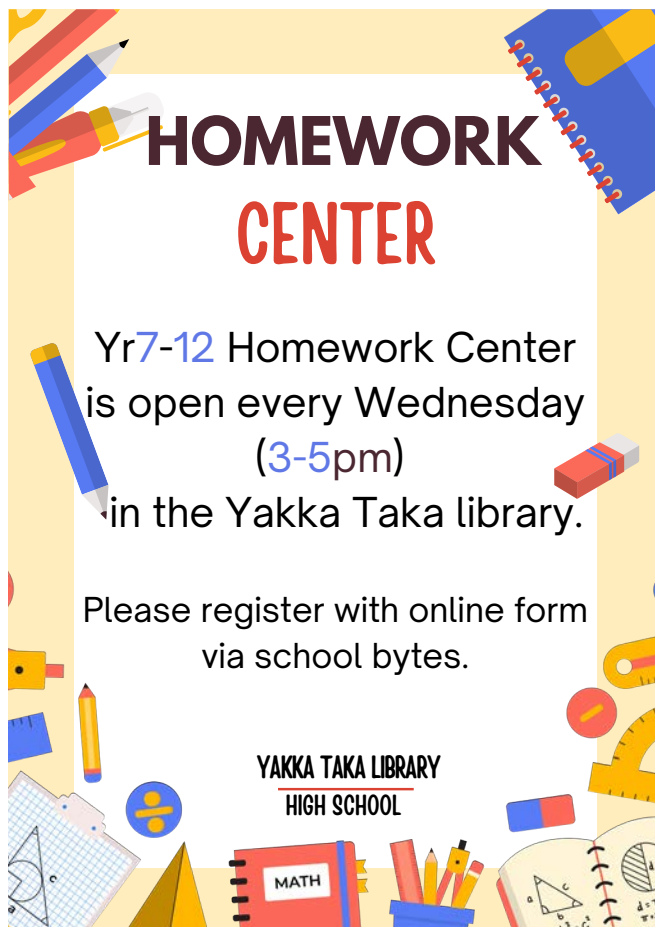
High School News

Library

Yakka Taka high school Library

Homework Centre (Yr7-12) has commenced in the Yakka Taka library every **Wednesday** between **3-5pm** this term. An online parent permission form has been posted to families via email on School Bytes.

Please complete & return the online form if you wish your child to attend the homework centre. You can ask for a paper copy from the school library if you have not received an online form.



Yakka Taka
Homework
Centre @ High
School Library



Homework Centre
has commenced
in the Yakka Taka
library every
Wednesday
between 3-5pm.



High School News

Wellbeing

Attendance & Academic Wellbeing at Alexandria Park Community School

At Alexandria Park Community School, regular attendance is key to success. When students miss school, they miss out on learning, friendships, and opportunities that shape their future. Attendance is not just a requirement—it's essential for academic wellbeing.

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every school day helps build:

- **Routine & Stability**
– Reduces stress and fosters a positive mindset.
- **Social Connection** – Strengthens friendships and teacher support.
- **Confidence & Resilience** – Teaches problem-solving and perseverance.
- **Academic Growth** – Ensures students keep up with their learning.

Even When It's Hard—Still Come to School

Challenges are part of learning. Feeling tired, nervous, or unsure? Come to school and talk to us so that we can help you. Running late? Still come to school, talk to us about building routines.

Find me in the Yakka Taka. My office is next to Mr Miles, Head Teacher Administration. We think of ourselves as an **information hub**—with Ms Young (Librarian), Mr Rahman (IT Officer), and Ms Crapis (Careers Advisor) nearby.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Under NSW law, students must attend school unless they have a valid reason. Acceptable reasons include:

- Illness (with medical certificate if extended)
- Unavoidable medical appointments
- Religious holidays or family emergencies

Absences must be explained within seven days.

If an absence is unexplained the school may contact parents.

MEET YOUR 2025 WELLBEING TEAM

- **Head Teacher Wellbeing:** Robin Riedstra
- **Student Support Officer:** Tessa Ingles
- **Year Advisers:** Max Brenner (Y12), William Sharp / Harry Burgess (Y11), Diana Luo (Y10), Gaby Barnett (Y9), Rhombus Ning (Y8), Josie Bauman (Y7)
- **Girls Advisor:** Jessica Stanmore
- **Assistant Year Advisor:** Brenton Smith
- **Counsellors:** Cheryl Herden, Maryam Hopkin, Erin Daniel

Robin Riedstra
Head Teacher Wellbeing

High School News

Learning & Support

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term for the Learning and Support Team at Alexandria Park Community School.

We welcomed back our dedicated staff and introduced two new team members. Brenton Smith has joined us as the Learning and Support Teacher for Years 8, 10, and 12, bringing a wealth of experience and a strong passion for supporting students with additional needs. We are also fortunate to have Tunde Frisnyak, who began with us last year and has already made a positive impact through her work with Years 7, 9, and 11.

Additionally, we warmly welcomed Jamaica Saukuru, who will support the Small Group Tuition Program this year. This program focuses on providing targeted literacy and numeracy support for students requiring additional assistance, and we are excited for Jamaica to commence her support sessions.

This term, one of our priorities has been assisting Year 7 students settle into High School. We have been working closely with teachers to address individual learning needs and have implemented tailored support plans. To further ease the transition, we offer daily recess and lunchtime clubs where teachers and School Learning Support Officers create a welcoming environment for students to connect with peers and build friendships.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting students across Years 7-12 throughout 2025, with a continued focus on helping all learners access class materials and succeed in their studies.

Jessica Garcia

Head Teacher Learning Support

High School News

HS Support Unit

We are delighted to welcome our new support unit students to our school community!

Transitioning to high school is a big step, and we are so proud of how well our students are settling in. They have been busy exploring their new classrooms, meeting their teachers, and making new friends along the way.

Our dedicated staff have been working closely with the students to ensure they feel comfortable and supported in their new learning environment. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they engage in different subjects and activities. They are adjusting well to their new routines and are showing great curiosity and eagerness to learn. The teachers have been providing engaging lessons tailored to the needs of each student, helping them develop their confidence and skills.

In addition to academic learning, our support unit students have been enjoying various social activities designed to help them bond with their peers. These activities have included classroom games, teamwork exercises, and outdoor sport activities, all fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

This term promises to be filled with exciting events, such as our swimming carnival. This is always a highlight of the school calendar. Beyond the swimming carnival, we have a range of engaging programs and events planned throughout the term. From hands-on science experiments to creative arts projects and interactive learning experiences, our students will have plenty of opportunities to explore

their interests and develop new skills.

We would also like to acknowledge the support from families in helping their children with this transition. Your encouragement and involvement are invaluable in making sure our students feel secure and confident in their new environment.

We look forward to a fantastic term of learning, growth, and wonderful experiences for our support unit students. Welcome again, and let's make this year a great one!



Our International Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the native history of Warrane (Sydney Harbour)



We finished off with an international flavoured lunch at Darling harbour!





Other School News

New Staff

This year we have welcomed some new faces into our staff team. Let us introduce them to you.

Primary School



Name: Rachel Nealer

My Role at APCS: Primary Teacher for Stage 1, Year 2

About me: Hello! My name is Rachel Nealer, and I am very excited to join APCS in 2025.

I have previously taught year one and a 4-6 inclusive class at a school in Western Sydney. I am originally from the Northern Rivers in a small town near Byron Bay. I have recently moved to the area and am looking forward to the change in lifestyle (being closer to the beach again-yay).

I'm thrilled to be part of the vibrant school community and look forward to building

relationships with my students, colleagues, and families. I've always had a passion for and believe in fostering a positive learning environment where students feel encouraged to explore, grow, and succeed.

I look forward to meeting you and working with your children throughout the year ahead.

High School



Name: Alex Scheul

My Role at APCS: My main role is as a secondary music teacher who also teaches visual arts and wood technology. I am also super lucky to be involved in this year's Solid Ground program!

Qualifications: Bachelor of Music Education with First Class Honours, from the

Sydney Conservatorium of Music (USYD).

Experience: Casual teaching in 2024 with professional experience since 2022. This is my first year of full time teaching and I've been eager to start.

Previous Employment: Senior Educator at an Out of School Hours care centre.

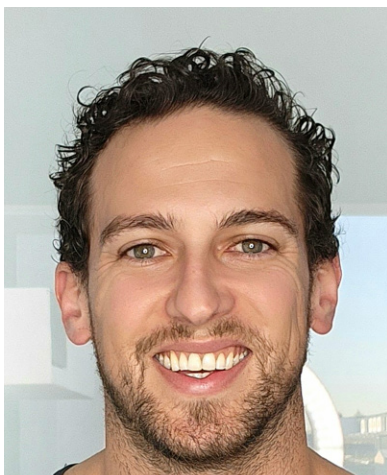
Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS: As a new teacher to the school, I am very excited to jump in where I can in the different faculties. I am really keen for the Solid Ground program this year and have been thinking of potentially starting a student-led backstage crew for the school.

Goals: My goals for this year are to start learning school Culture and

Community through meeting and engaging with as many people as I can. I also have access to the wealth of experience in my mentor teachers and colleagues around me that I cannot wait to explore!

First impressions of APCS: All staff, though specifically the CAPA department, have shown me immense support and collaboration already. I feel very lucky to be in such a supportive environment where my ideas and voice can be heard.

Other information about me: If you're in my music class, you've already done this – but I always like knowing what pieces of music people use to define themselves. I'm always looking to expand my music taste – so let me know what your favourite song is at the moment :)



Name: Brenton Smith

My Role at APCS: I'll be working in Learning and Support across Years 8, 10 & 12, as well as Stage 4 and 5 Sport

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Teaching Primary, Learning and Support Secondary

Experience: I've been with the Department of Education for over a decade, spending nine years as a permanent teacher in primary schools across Sydney before moving into a High School Learning Support in Newcastle for the past 18 months..

Previous Employment: Before stepping into education, I took a different path—I left school early to complete my trade as a builder and later spent five years with Fire and Rescue NSW. Teaching eventually became my calling, and I've never looked back!

Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS: I'm passionate about sport,

data, and learning support processes, so I'd love to get involved in all things related to these areas at APCS.

Goals: Get to know my students, staff, and the wider community. Actively participate in school culture and contribute to its positive environment. Ensure I provide the best possible support in my Learning and Support role.

First impressions of APCS: From day one, I've felt welcomed into a kind and supportive environment that genuinely values student wellbeing and success. I'm looking forward to being part of this great team!



Name: Jamaica Saukuru

My Role at APCS: - K-12 SGTP co-ordinator (Small Group Tuition Program)

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Teaching (Secondary)

Experience: I worked at Alex Park as a teacher in HSIE in 2022, 2023 & now returned in 2025!

Previous Employment: I have my Cert III in Fitness, working in a group fitness environment. I have also worked in hospitality and worked as a casual in primary school.

Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS: I'm already thoroughly enjoying working in the Jenla in the Learning & Support team.

Goals: Help and support our amazing Alex Park students become confident in their literacy and numeracy!

First impressions of APCS: A massive school with awesome kids!!!



Name: Mel Ryan

My Role at APCS: In 2025, I joined Alexandria Park in a permanent role as a High School Support Unit teacher for the autism class. Additionally, I teach Stage 4 Visual Arts, combining my passion for creative expression with my commitment to inclusive education.

Qualifications: I hold a bachelor's degree in education, from UNSW (COFA) and have a background in visual arts. I am currently completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Inclusive Education at UWS, further strengthening my expertise in supporting diverse learners.

Experience: I have almost 20 years of experience across primary and high school settings, including mainstream classrooms, support units, hospital and SSP's. Throughout my career, I have worked as an SLSO, a mainstream Art

and TAS teacher, a Special Education Teacher, and an Assistant Principal.

Previous Employment: Prior to and alongside education, I pursued a course in Events and Entertainment Design, which led me to work in advertising, theatre set design, and live music event management. I have also run my own photography business and worked as a mural artist.

Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS: In the future I would love to Join the Wellbeing Team to support student mental health, SEL programs, and peer mentoring initiatives. I would like to be involved in art-based extracurricular activities, murals, exhibitions, or community art projects. I would like to contribute to staff professional learning around autism support, sensory-friendly classrooms, and neuro-affirming practices. I would also like to return to a Leadership role. Most importantly, I would like to strengthen connections with families and local organisations to support our students to improve Family Quality of Life.

Goals: My key goal at Alex Park is to become an expert in adjusting mainstream curriculum to ensure our Support Unit students can fully access and engage with their learning. I am passionate about creating meaningful,

differentiated programs that align with student strengths and needs. I also aim to introduce the Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) behaviour model to support students, colleagues, and parents in developing problem-solving skills and fostering positive relationships. By embedding these approaches, I hope to contribute to a more inclusive and student-centred learning environment.

First impressions of APCS: My first impressions have been incredibly positive. The school has a welcoming and supportive environment, with kind and dedicated teachers who are passionate about their students. The resources and facilities are outstanding. I've also been impressed by how well the school provides PL across KLA's, such as the PDHPE faculty for running stage 4 sport. I have loved how happy, helpful, and collaborative my colleagues have been. Most importantly, the students are fantastic, funny, curious, and a joy to teach. I also love how Aboriginal culture is embedded throughout the school. It's inspiring to see such a strong commitment to acknowledging and celebrating First Nations perspectives. It's an honour to be part of such a culturally rich and inclusive community. It's an inspiring place to work, and I'm excited to be part of the team!



Name: Nathaniel McGuire

My Role at APCS: As a classroom teacher at Alexandria Park Community School, I'll be living in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSIE) faculty, specialising in History, Geography, Aboriginal Studies, and Business Studies. I am passionate about delivering engaging and meaningful lessons that encourage critical thinking, cultural awareness, and real-world connections.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Humanities and Social Sciences) and Bachelor of Arts (History, Geography and Aboriginal Studies).

Experience: With six years of teaching experience, I have worked in both rural and urban school settings. I spent almost five years teaching in Brewarrina at Brewarrina Central School, where I developed a strong connection to community-

focused education and learned the value of building meaningful relationships with students and families. I then spent a year teaching at J J Cahill Memorial, continuing to foster an inclusive and engaging learning environment in an urban school.

Passionate about student wellbeing and Indigenous education, I strive to create a classroom where all students feel supported and empowered to succeed.

Previous Employment:

Worked for 5 years as an SLSO while studying.

Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS:

Aboriginal Education & Cultural Programs – Supporting Indigenous students, embedding First Nations perspectives across the curriculum, and working with community members to strengthen cultural awareness.

Student Leadership & Mentorship – Helping students develop leadership skills through Student Representation, peer mentoring, or community engagement projects.

Curriculum Development in HSIE – Contributing to innovative and inclusive approaches in History, Geography, Aboriginal Studies, and Business Studies.

Social Justice & Community Engagement – Involvement in programs that promote equity, diversity, and social change.

Excursions & Experiential Learning – Organising field trips and hands-on learning experiences to enhance classroom engagement

Goals: *Enhancing Student Engagement* – Developing innovative and interactive teaching strategies in HSIE to inspire curiosity and critical thinking in History, Geography, Aboriginal Studies, and Business Studies.

Collaborating with Aboriginal Education – Embedding more First Nations perspectives across the curriculum and building stronger connections with Indigenous students, families, and community members.

Strengthening Community Engagement - This year, I aim to build stronger connections between Alexandria Park Community School and the wider community. I plan to collaborate with local organisations, Elders, and industry professionals to create meaningful learning experiences for students

First impressions of APCS: *Welcoming and Inclusive Environment* – From the start, the school felt like a supportive community

where staff and students value diversity and inclusion.

Strong Sense of Identity

– Alexandria Park has a rich cultural heritage, with a strong commitment to Aboriginal education and community engagement,

making it an inspiring place to teach.

Engaged & Diverse Students

– The students bring a variety of perspectives and experiences, creating dynamic classroom discussions and a vibrant

learning atmosphere.

Collaborative Staff Culture

– The teaching team is passionate, supportive, and eager to share ideas, making it easy to collaborate and feel part of the school community.



Name: William Carroll

My Role at APCS: I am a classroom teacher in the High School support unit. I teach a range of subject areas including English, Maths and PDHPE.

Qualifications: I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Geography from the National University of Ireland Galway. I also have a Professional Masters of Education from National University of Ireland Galway

Experience: I have been teaching for 7 years now, 5 and a half years in Ireland in a voluntary Catholic

school teaching mainstream English and Geography to all levels of high school. I've been teaching in Sydney for the last year and a half, jumping between support units across the eastern suburbs.

Previous Employment:

I've worked in Canada, the United States and Australia doing some construction jobs, landscaping and furniture moving. Also recently worked in a coffee shop in Port Douglas completing my regional work.

Areas that I would like to be involved in at APCS:

Sport! Big football (soccer) fan and have played and coached all my life. I have a huge interest in most sports, but soccer has always been my number one

Goals: I have many goals this year as the Australian education system is still relatively new to me, but finishing my accreditation would be one if not my main goal for the year.

First impressions of APCS:

Having done a lot of casual work here last year in both the high school and primary school, I can say that the staff are extremely welcoming and so helpful. It really makes a new staff member feel very comfortable in such a big school.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Faculty is delighted to welcome three new teachers this term:



Ms. Rachel Sullivan joins the school from Ireland, bringing enthusiasm and expertise to the team. Her favourite number is 4, which is a square number, the smallest semiprime and composite number.



Ms. Morgan Hunter, who has a strong passion for number theory, is eager to share her love of mathematics with students. Her favourite number is 56, which is the sum of six consecutive prime numbers!



Mr. Andonov brings an engineering background to his teaching, providing students with insight into the practical applications of mathematics. This year, he will be teaching both Mathematics and Science. His favourite number is 7, which is the only prime number that precedes a cube.

NASCA Team

NASCA aims to support and improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student's educational outcomes, cultural identity and career readiness. We provide the tools and foundation to live a healthy, happy, active and successful life. The NASCA Staff at Alexandria Park are **Brooklyn, Harry and Alisha**.



Introducing New Uniform

APCS Hoodie

At Alexandria Park Community School, we strive to foster a learning environment that values inclusivity, individuality, and a strong sense of community. Our school uniform plays an essential role in uniting our diverse student body and instilling a sense of pride and belonging among our students.

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a new uniform hoodie which features Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designs, created in collaboration with our elder, Uncle Bruce Shillingsworth. Uncle Bruce designed a personalised cultural artwork to honor and represent the Gadigal land on which Alexandria Park Community School stands. The design incorporates our school colors, reflecting the rich history of the four schools that have united to become the community we are today.

The new uniform hoodie has been developed following rigorous consultation with our students. As a school that deeply values student voice, we engaged

extensively with our students to understand their perspectives and preferences. The new hoodie features a modern design that aligns with the feedback received from our students while maintaining the high standards of our school uniform. It has been crafted to ensure comfort and durability. We are confident that this new item will resonate with students, enabling them to feel both confident and comfortable.

At Alexandria Park Community School, we view uniform as more than just attire; it is a symbol of our commitment to inclusion and unity. By embracing a design that celebrates the diversity and creativity of our students, we continue to build a school culture where every individual feels valued and an integral part of our community.

Students and families can select to purchase the item, although do not have to. To determine interest, can we please ask that if you would like to purchase this new item of uniform for \$50. As always, the school is happy to support any students requiring assistance.



Please contact Debra Lade (Principal) or Aunty Deb (AEO).

We recently emailed a letter and Expression of Interest form. Please contact the school office if you did not receive.

We appreciate your continued partnership in fostering a positive and inclusive school environment. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Lade
Principal

P&C



ALEXANDRIA PARK
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WELCOME

Join our Community

P&C MEMBERSHIP

Scan the QR code to find out
more about our APCS events.



Upcoming Community Events...

Transport for NSW



Free child car seat safety check

2 in 3 car seats are not used properly

Make sure your child is safe with a free inspection by a Transport for NSW Authorised Restraint Fitter. You can have your child car seats and booster seats checked for safety and correct fit.

Date: Saturday 29 March 2025, 9:00am-1:00pm

Location: Eveleigh Early Learning and Preschool. 41 Henderson Road, Eveleigh

Bookings Essential: 9246 7630 or email: vstamper@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Service only available to City of Sydney residents

ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Community Opportunity Success

TERM 1 **2025**

📍 Park Road, Alexandria, NSW, Australia, 2015

☎ 02 9869 9800

✉ alexparkcs-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

🌐 alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.gov.au

📺 Follow us

Community Opportunity Success



Yarramundi

Alexandria Park Community School is on Cadigal Land