May School Calendar

Wednesday 8th – Junior Campus Cross Country
Friday 10th – NASCA First Aid training
Sunday 12th – Happy Mother’s Day!
Wishing all our Grandmothers, Mothers, Aunties & Guardians
Have a wonderful day with family & friends.

Tuesday 14th, Wed 15th & Thur 16th – NAPLAN
Monday 20th – District PSSA Cross Country
Tuesday 21st – ICAS Computer Test
Wednesday 22nd – NASCA/Fox Sports Filming
Thursday 23rd – Zone Cross Country
Friday 24th – Power of One Anitibullying Show
Monday 27th – Sorry Day (26th) Reconciliation Week
Wednesday 29th – Zoo excursion K-1
Thursday 30th – Year 6 Fundraiser Footy Day

Diane Fetherston

Principal’s Report

Exciting, innovative, creative, dynamic, and successful - words that describe this wonderful school, Alexandria Park Community School. I am honoured to have been asked to relieve as the Principal of this amazing community school.

Greetings parents, carers, families, students and staff. I have been a teacher in public education for 26 years, holding executive leadership positions in 3 schools over the past 12 years. I have come from Rose Bay Secondary College where I am a Deputy Principal. Last year I was privileged to be able to relieve as the Principal of Marrickville High School. Having opportunities to work in a range of schools, each with their own unique communities, has provided me with a wealth of educational leadership experience. I am excited and highly motivated to be able to work with the students, staff and parents of Alexandria Park Community School.

My first 2 weeks here have been amazing. The students, staff and parents that I have met have been welcoming, friendly and committed to the beliefs and values of our great school, such as the continuity of education from Kindergarten to Year 12, and our values of community, opportunity and success.

I am so impressed with the diversity and quality of the educational programs that are offered to our students. I want to acknowledge and thank the staff at our school, whose passion, expertise and creativity provide these learning experiences for all.

I have participated in a wonderful Kindergarten gross motor skills lesson – where a variety of resources and activities ensured the students were fully engaged in fun fitness activities that were developing a wide range of basic movement skills.

A Year 3 class has started a fascinating Science and Technology unit of work where they will learn about built environment focussing on children’s play parks and their equipment. Last Friday they designed and built their models of a piece of play equipment. Their products were ingenious, fun, creative and practical.

I have seen the displays of the art works by Year 4 students – currently exploring collage work and creating their own self-portraits in the style of Picasso. The artworks show extraordinary artistic talent – the colours, the images, I want to frame them all.

I must congratulate one of our artists, Eufa Vaewpech’s of year 4, whose work has been chosen to assist in advertising the Bikewise program run in Sydney Park. This program, delivered by qualified instructors, provides
lessons to children on how to competently and safely control and ride their bikes. This is a copy of Eufa’s artwork.

SEARS is an incredibly clever program provided for all students in years 7 – 11 every Tuesday afternoon. In SEARS (Student Engagement and Retention program), students can select from a wide variety activities, diversely different from curriculum lessons. They develop skills in communication, positive relations, sharing and respect, along with a variety of knowledge and skills across all areas of academic study including art, writing, drama, the environment, technology, language, sport etc.

TABS is a unique and innovative program which is delivered every Thursday lunchtime of week B. TABS stands for ‘Teachers as Buddies to Students’ and it involves teachers who volunteer to mentor and buddy a small group of Year 12 students during their Higher School Certificate studies. The program is structured in that there is a different focus for discussion and sharing at each TABS session. This wonderful initiative provides quality, regular and sustained support and ‘check ins’ for our year 12’s, who I know appreciate the extra care, concern and camaraderie that the staff at Alex Park voluntarily provide.

Providing a forum for the voice of the students to be heard is highly valued at APCS. For us it is all about the students, their education, happiness and connectedness to our school. The Student Representative Councils (SRC) in our school provide the opportunity for the students to be heard and to make decisions that are in the best interests all students. Last week I was invited to attend the senior SRC meeting. Each student, representing years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, introduced themselves and some explained their executive roles on the SRC. I was very impressed with the work that this SRC has done to make lockers for students a reality – from consultation with staff, to purchasing and installing the lockers, to developing the policy by which lockers will be allocated and supervised, this SRC has done a wonderful job.

I look forward to visiting and participating in other lessons and programs during Term 2 – and what a busy term it is. With sports carnivals for cross country and athletics, grade sport kicking off for years 7 & 8, NAPLAN in week 3, excursions being planned including the Stage 3 excursion to Canberra, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, formal examinations for years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, half-yearly reports and much much more, we can all look forward to a very exciting term.

Thank you,
Diane Fetherston, Relieving Principal

School Uniform at APCS
Term 2 also sees the weather change to colder mornings and afternoons. We remind all our families that at our school we have a school uniform and take pride in wearing our school uniform. We expect students to be wearing the correct school shirt for their year group, navy blue pants and the school jumper with the APCS logo on it. Wearing the school uniform aligns with our positive behaviour for learning statements.

‘We are a safe community’ – when our students are in the correct school uniform we can better care for and protect them – we can easily see our students in the playground, moving between classrooms and campuses, at sport and on excursions, and this helps us with supervision and safety across the junior, middle and senior schools.

‘We are a respectful community’ – the wearing of our school uniform and sports uniform communicates to all that we respect our school and everyone in our school community. It shows that we are proud of our school and our collective achievements, and that we happy to represent our school in the community.

‘We are a learning community’ – our school uniform is designed to support learning. It allows for students to be comfortable in classrooms and
active in the playground. It is differentiated across the school K – 12 to reflect the changing nature of learning across the stages. The senior uniform is smart and business like with its white shirt and tie communicating our school’s strong focus on learning.

Our school uniform pieces are available from the uniform shop on the junior campus. The school jumper costs $25, the jacket, $34 and the pants are $26. If you need help with school uniform for your child/children please contact your class teacher K – 6 or Year Advisor 7 – 12 and we can help you.

**Year 1/2M**

Engaging Year 1/2M, in fun math’s activity using laptop technology.

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**Growing Respect**

Ever wonder what staff do on School Development Days? At our school staff came together to complete the Engoori program ‘Growing Respect’. This whole school program provides an approach to respectful relationships between and across students, staff and parents. Engoori is a strength-based conversational process that comes from the Mithaka people of Western Queensland. Our training program commenced on the Thursday afternoon and evening of April 11 and continued on Friday April 12, the last day of term 1. As a result of completing this program staff have created our own cultural action plan which documents our strength-based values, behaviours and practices, actions, outcomes and responsibilities to support and continue to develop respectful relations in our school and community. A school team will be formed to develop specific and explicit classroom lessons, linked to current PBL practice (Positive Behaviour for Learning).

**LIBRARY NEWS**

1. Our school library is checking students’ record for overdue library books during Term 2 weeks 2-3. **K-4 students will not** be borrowing books during library lessons for this time duration. **Yr5-12 students can** still borrow books provided that they don’t have overdue books.

2. School library news is often posted on APCS library Blog. Every student has personal password to log in DEC student portal. You can access library news by clicking on BlogEd tab once in student portal home page.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Attention Parents & Students in Years 9, 10 or 11.

The following website has scholarships available for students studying in High schools in NSW in 2013. Applications for these entire scholarships close on May 17th so don’t delay if you are interested in applying.

[www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au](http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au)

**Year 9**

The Moulala Yousafzai Scholarship is open to any student in Year 9 who values their education. Valued at $4000.

**Year 10**

The St George Bank scholarship is a one week residential in Sydney where students explore career opportunities in the Banking Sector plus they receive a $500 bonus.

**Year 11**

The Unions of NSW Scholarship is for any student in Year 11 studying any one of the following:
Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies or Modern History.
Valued at $2500

**P&C NEWS**
The P&C is running a fundraising BBQ at the new Alexandria Bunnings store on 2nd June, from 7.30am-5pm. Funds that the P&C raise go directly to purchasing fantastic resources and equipment for our children. This is a request for K-12 parents, carers & senior students - we would appreciate as many helpers as possible to ensure everyone has a good day. A spreadsheet will be at the Senior and Junior campus office's - we need volunteers to help cook & serve. If you can fill in your preferred time slot so the roster can be organised early. We are asking a time slot of one hour duration so please help support our P&C and give an hour of your valuable time.

**Participating in P&C Activities**
Activities such as fundraisers and community garden days, is a great way for parents and carers to meet each other, to meet the school staff, to find out more about our great school, and to work together to help all of the children at APCS. It is a great way for us all to feel connected to and a part of the Alexandria Park school community.
Our P&C meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month and this term are on: 29th May & 26th June - Junior Campus staff room, 6.30pm. Please put these dates aside and come along to a meeting - they are very informal & informative! If you haven't joined the P&C as yet please do join - forms available on the schools website or at both school offices. This will keep you up to date on what is happening in and around your school. Members receive a copy agenda and copy minutes and is a great source of information on what is happening at YOUR school.
All are welcome to attend our P&C monthly meetings.

Courses available for students interested in screenwriting, construction, and accountancy.
**Intermediate Screenwriting Course with**

**Metro Screen**
15th May, 6.15PM
Cost: $350
Contact: Robert Gadsbey: metro@metroscreen.org.au
Award winning tutor: Rozlyn Clayton-Vincent is an award winning screenwriter with a Masters of Screenwriting from AFTRS. Her short films have screened in competition film festivals around the world.

**ABE Education School Online White Card Course**．

**Indigenous Accountants Australia Initiative**

**Australian Film Television and Radio School July School Holiday Courses**
AFTRS Studios, Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park, Sydney
Mon 1st to Wed 3rd July – Digital Animation: 14-17s
Mon 1st to Fri 5th July – AFTRS Trop Jnr Filmmaking Week: 10-15s
Wed 3rd to Fri 5th July – Writing a Short Film: 15-17s
Thu 4th to Fri 5th July – Introduction to Radio: 12-15s
Mon 8th to Wed 10th July – Intro to Games Design: 14-17s
Mon 8th to Fri 12th July – The Real Filmmaking Workshop: 15-17s
Contact: 1300 065 281

**2013 TERM DATES**

**Term 2**
Students’ return Tuesday 30th April
Students’ last day Friday 28th June

**Term 3**
Students’ return Tuesday 16th July
Students’ last day Friday 20th September

**Term 4**
Students’ return Tuesday 8th October
Students’ last day Wednesday 18th December