SCHOOL CALENDAR – JUNE

Wednesday 5th
- ICAS Science Test, Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

Thursday 6th
- Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

Friday 7th
- Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

Monday 10th
- QUEEN’S Birthday (Public Holiday)

Wednesday 12th
- School Athletics Carnival at Erskineville Oval

Friday 14th
- Regional Cross Country, Netball School Cup (Year 5/6)

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Reconciliation Week Assembly
Reconciliation means coming together. In Australia, reconciliation means the bringing together of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Non Aboriginal Australians to work together to overcome inequality, misunderstanding, division and racism. At APCS we launched Reconciliation Week with a whole school, K – 12 assembly. Led by our school captains, the staff and students listened to speakers and learnt about National Sorry Day and the purpose and process of reconciliation. Our junior school captains, Moumitha and Jinwoo, spoke to us about the meaning and importance of Sorry Day. Two year 9 students, Sarah and Maha, shared with us their poems about Sorry Day and the apology to the stolen generation. These poems are included in this newsletter. A highlight was our wonderful school choir who opened the proceedings with our National Anthem, sung in English and in Dharawal. They also performed an engaging and fun piece called Black & White which had us all joining with them to clap our hands. Much thanks to Ms Winfiled for her leadership of this wonderful choir. With the 2013 theme of ‘Let’s Recognise’ we paid tribute to the Aboriginal staff at our school and the outstanding job they do in teaching our students in classrooms, educating staff, students and parents about Aboriginal history and culture and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families of APCS. At Alex Park we come together to create a school that is safe, respectful and focussed on learning. It is within these school values that we can advance reconciliation. Let us all, in the spirit of reconciliation, recognise learn about and praise each other’s differences, strengths and cultures.

3S classroom visit
I received a wonderful email from Jalen Merritt, Cullum Povey, Kuyan Madden and Lawrence Nguyen of 3S inviting me to visit their class to view and talk about their playground models. The 3S students have been engaged in an authentic science task incorporating guest speakers, surveys of community, team collaboration to design and build a playground environment for future children and families. 3S students explained to me what they had learnt and how that learning has been applied to their final assessment task. I was most impressed with the language of design and project management the students had acquired and also the way in which they had to work collaboratively to complete the project assignment. I must acknowledge Ms Smith their teacher who has inspired her students and demonstrated the high quality of teaching and learning that is part of daily practice at Alex Park.
Crown Street Public School parent visit
It was a great honour for me to host visiting parents from one of our partner public schools, Crown Street. Accompanied by their Principal Mr Nieslon about 20 parents and grandparents were provided with the opportunity to experience APCS. I am very proud that I can invite visitors to our school and confidently take them on a tour of our classrooms, specialist learning spaces and playgrounds. I know that they will get a strong sense of the calm, well-managed, ‘on task’ environment and observe students and staff, working and learning together, in innovative, technology rich classrooms. The tour was led by our students so I must thank the following wonderful school leaders who did an outstanding job of representing their school.
Junior School Captains – Moumitha Dey & Jinwoo Park. Year 8 speakers - Alexander Makarytchev & Rachel Lin
Senior Captains - Lola Imawan, Hassan Mourad
Senior SRC - Nise Tuaopepe, Mikey Waqairawai
Critical to supporting parents on transition to APCS is to establish links and communication with our current parent body. It is in this light that I also sincerely thank Joasia Gajda one of our P & C members and parent of a child in Kindy who gave up her time to join the tour group and answer questions from an Alex Park parent perspective.

Testimonial to APCS
What a lovely surprise to return to my office late last week to find a note under my door. The note was from one of our newest casual teachers, Lauren Candido. She has given me permission to share it with our school community
“I was called up and asked to teach at APCS on Thursday 23/5/13 for the first time. I was overwhelmed by the kind welcome I received from the staff at the senior school. However, as I later learned, this was clearly a reflection of an entire school culture as I received the same warm welcome from the senior students as well as both staff and students at the junior school. APCS has a wonderful culture of community, respect and just plain old getting along”.

Middle School Assembly
Congratulations to Ricky Yan, Akif Kazi and Nam Anh Dang who led a wonderful Middle School assembly this week. I was excited to be able to watch Jonathan Wu from Year 6 and Kathy Zhou from Year 7 be presented with the ‘Stars of the Week’ award. I was moved by the performance of The Rhythmics, better known as Namira Uddin, Luce Neilson, Amanda Lao, Kaelynn Tee, Shweta Doshi and Ellen Zhang from year 6. The Rhythmics, under the expert tutelage of Miss Winfield, entertained and impressed the Middle School audience with their acoustic performance of ‘Lantern’ by Birds of Tokyo.

My congratulations to
Dominic Jia of Year 6 who has been selected to performance as part of the Sydney Region band 2013. This is a very prestigious honour for Dominic who is a talented trombone player.

Commemorative Service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans
It was an enormous honour to be able to attend the Commemorative Service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park last Friday. Accompanied by SRC students Ms Day and Aunty Deb we were all deeply moved by the ceremony. A traditional smoking ceremony was held after the arrival of the official party. The students of Darlington Public School performed a Welcome Dance. School students and staff from across the state attended the ceremony to pay their respect, to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service and duty, and to lay a wreath in memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, the Governor of NSW spoke to us of the outstanding service and immense sacrifice made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander men and women in the protection of Australia. The Veteran’s address was given by FSGT Don Taylor from the Kalkadoon Tribe of North West Queensland.

Lest we forget.
APOLOGY DAY POEM
Forgiveness
The act of pardoning somebody for a mistake or wrongdoing
They were stolen
Viciously ripped out of our grasp gone.
They were made to feel ashamed
Ashamed of their identity and were forced to forget
forced to live a lie.
How can we forgive them?
How?
Whatever works he speaks
Cannot undo these actions.
How can we progress as a nation
If we are constantly in feud?
We want to see peace,
Harmony,
Feel the warmth of a unified nation.
To be set free by a Federal apology
We must move on
We must accept the truth
Face it
Move on from it
We must forgive
So we can start a new chapter
A new page in history
For our families
And the future generations to come.
Sarah Ishak Year 9

HEALING THE PAST
Separation, Loneliness
Broken Hearts
Families getting
Ripped Apart
Locked, Caged
All on their own Never experienced
Being alone
Sadness, tears
Mother’s cry
Not even a chance
To say goodbye
Scared, Confused
Passing the days
Trying to learn
The white people’s way
Maha Cheema Year 9

Cooking up a storm in the ‘Growing Respect’ program
The ‘Growing Respect Program’ is targeted for Year 8 and Year 9 students at Alexandria Park Community School. The aim of the course is to develop students with various skills and knowledge that encourages them to be good leaders and role models. Students will also develop skills that allow them to respect themselves, their peers and their school.
As part of the program on Friday 24th May 2013, students were involved in an activity called ‘Ready Steady Prepare’. Students were paired up and with their aprons and chef hats on, they prepared lunch for themselves. Students were given various ingredients (cooked prawns, chicken, coriander, capsicum, noodles, bread rolls, fish sauce, soy sauce, mayonnaise, fresh lemon and salt and pepper). With only 10 minutes on the clock, students were under pressure to communicate a plan of action with their cooking partner, and to create and prepare an appetising and presentable dish. Temperatures were rising and the pressure of cooking was at boiling point as students had to work as a team to share the mayonnaise, soy sauce, lemons and salt and pepper. Thank you to Ms Fetherston, our Principal, who took time out of her busy schedule to visit the students and watch them in action.

Students were guided by effective questions that required them to have a learning conversation with their partner and assess how they went. Ms Prexl and myself put on our judging hats and ranked the students based on their creativity and presentation. Then of course, it was time to eat!

Congratulations to Jessie Cai (Year 9) and Ellen Zhang (Year 8) who won the ‘Ready Steady Prepare’ competition. Coming in equal second was Aaron Simpson (Year 9) and Diamond Smith (Year 8) with the very generous Ms Kasz who was kind enough to partner up with Aling Su (Year 9). Lucky third position, was Jason Ke (Year 9) and Ibrahim Hoballah (Year 8).

Congratulations to all students who did a fantastic job in building respectful relationships and developing their communication and teamwork skills throughout this activity.

By Ms Constantinides (HSIE teacher)
‘Growing Respect Programme’ Coordinator
SYDNEY TAFE NSW
Work and Study Support
Dear Parent/Carer,
Are you thinking about work and study options?
Have you thought about
• Studying at TAFE?
• Career pathways?
• Interview skills?
• Writing a CV or a resume?
A specialist TAFE teacher will be available to help you develop these skills for employment or plan a pathway into education.
You will learn
• How to recognise and develop your skills
• Do some work on employment preparation
• Look at vocational learning pathways
A one-on-one session will be held at Alexandria Park Community Centre (cnr Power Ave & Park Rd, Alexandria) on Wednesday 12th June between 9:00am and 1:00pm to work out your needs.
To book a time call
Maria – 9217 5008
Email Maria.Jonson@tafensw.edu.au

TIPS FOR PARENTS
Getting ready for camp
What do you remember most about school camp? Children can feel a little anxious before they go - but then don't want to come back home! Here's how to help them feel confident about camp as departure day approaches.

Parenting ideas
Parenting expert Michael Grose opened his Facebook page to readers' questions for a little while recently and was inundated. It's worth jumping online to have a look - if only to see you're not alone in your parenting challenges.
Find out more: https://www.facebook.com/parentingideas.com.au

COMMUNITY NEWS