The Alexandria Fair

Alexandria Park Community School (APCS) were very lucky to have the opportunity to take part in the ARAG Alexandria Fair on Sunday the 30th of March in Alexandria Park.

APCS’ school band opened the fete with a fantastic performance which attracted large crowds and was met with great applause. Mr Alexopoulos proudly displayed his students’ wood work and handicraft while students from the SRC ran two stalls, including henna tattooing and hairspray. The students did a fantastic job raising $250 for the Senior SRC.

Maths teacher Ray Liceralde’s wife, Anna Canillas volunteered her time to create exquisitely beautiful face painting designs. She has a private business called Painted Faces on Parade. Anna can be booked for kids parties or private events

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2014 TERM DATES

Term 2

Students’ return Tuesday 29th April
- Speech Therapy K-4

Wednesday 30th
- Year 12 Reports Distributed
- P&C Meeting 6:30pm

Friday 2nd May
- Years 3-6 PSSA Sport Begins

Students’ last day Friday 27th June

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News from the Park

Term 1 Week 11 Date 11 April 2013

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The Alexandria Fair

Alexandria Park Community School Band

Mr Alexopolous & Jennifer Vo (12X) and Helena Guo hairspraying

Adiba Ali(12X) and Fowzia Khan (12X) henna tattooing

Anna Canillas face painting
Our community event for Term 1 is the celebration of Harmony Day. Harmony Day this year saw students dressing in their national costume, a formal assembly hosted by our junior school captains and a cake stall, run by our P & C where families provided cakes, biscuits and treats from different cultures. Alexandria Park C is a multi-cultural school which has at it’s core respect of the diverse cultural backgrounds that our students and their families bring to our school community. It was wonderful to see so many families come to school to celebrate Harmony Day with us. Our junior SRC welcomed guests to our school. At our assembly our fabulous choir moved the audience with their rendition of our National Anthem in Durrawal and in English and their performance of John Lennon’s ‘Imagine’. Students from K – 7 spoke eloquently about what Harmony Day means to them capturing the theme of ‘Everyone Belongs’.

Assemblies at our school are very important occasions and bring together students, staff and at time families to share in information, performances and important messages about the culture of our school, what we stand for and what we value. This term the weekly high school assembly has claimed the Denzil as it’s venue, every Wednesday before sport. In years past this assembly as been held on the Senior Campus but the hall is no longer big enough to host our high school. The High School assembly is hosted by our school captains and the agenda includes messages from Senior SRC members and teachers about achievements and upcoming events. Our Deputy Principal Secondary, Mr Kingsley always has an important message to share with the high school which reinforces our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) philosophy and the school values of community, opportunity and success in a safe learning environment. A highlight of this assembly is the Johnson Report. Mr Johnson and his partner Hamzah Alitembokarsan of Year 10 script and rehearse a skit which has a message linked to an upcoming event or to a
theme from the PBL program. At time other staff and students are a part of the weekly skit. One of the best Johnson Reports this term was on the promotion of Ride2School Day. Mr Johnson, Mr O’Kell, Mr Walker, Mr Alexopoulos and students rode into the Denzil on their bicycles and Mr Johnson, playing a ‘bikie’ type character, spoke to the high school about Ride2School Day and encouraged the students to ride to school on their bicycles. It was a fun entertaining and engaging way to communicate this event.

Ride2School Day was a great success seeing many students from K – 12, staff, parents and families riding their bicycles to school. An initiative of our P&C, under the leadership of Yvette Edgell our Vice President, Alexandria Park Community School was chosen by the City of Sydney to be the school to launch the Ride2School initiative. It was a great opportunity to be able to host the Mayor of the City of Sydney, the Honourable Clover Moore who engaged with our students, staff and families and was very impressed with our great K – 12 school. I know this because at the Alexandria Fair, when she gave her welcoming address she spoke to the crowd about our school saying it is a wonderful ‘community’ school where you can start your child in Kindergarten and they can continue their education seamlessly right up to Year 12 and the HSC.

Whilst all these wonderful events and occasions are a part of our school culture our focus remains on quality teaching and learning. It was a great opportunity for me to read the Best Start reports for each child in Kindergarten. I acknowledge the work of our Kindergarten teachers, under the leadership of Mrs Smith the Assistant Principal, in their expertise of the assessment of each child at the start of school and the production of such informative reports. Term 1 has seen students from K-12 participate in assessment tasks the nature of which varies depending on the Stage of student. Assessment of and for learning is both formal and informal across each Stage of learning and this continual process culminates in the formal reporting to parents, of student progress and achievement. Our Year 12’s having completed their half-yearly examinations and I will be writing their half-yearly reports over the holiday period. Ms Betar, their Year Advisor and I will be meeting interviewing each year 12 student early in term 2 to discuss with them their reports and to work with them to ensure they have the strategies and support to achieve their personal best in the HSC.

Our senior students are wonderful role models in our school. I was honoured and excited to be contacted by our Director of Schools, Mr Megaheyy who asked if our senior students would represent public education at an event where Westpac would be announcing a major program for future leaders in Australia. Westpac asked that we select 2 of our students to be interviewed by the media and Ridwan Ansary (school captain) and Emily Turner of Year 11, with the permission of their parents were given a number of interview questions to help them prepare.

Westpac provided a bus to transport us to the Domain on Wednesday April 2nd. We arrived to see over 200 senior school students, many from the most prestigious private and independent schools and APCS, Tempe High School, Marrickville High School and Rose Bay Secondary College representing Public Education. Ridwan and Emily were interviewed and did us proud.
Students and staff were provided a morning tea under a marquee as we awaited the announcement. A map of Australia had been drawn on the lawns of the Domain and all the 200 + students had to fill the map ready for the media and the announcement.

The CEO of Westpac announced that as part of the celebration of 200 years of Westpac in Australia that the bank was creating the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, a $100 million fund that will provide educational opportunities to Australians from all walks of life. The aim of the Foundation is to deliver 100 scholarships a year, to graduates and post graduates at university, forever.

Initially the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation will be partnering with The University of Sydney and The University of Melbourne, as well as building on Westpac’s existing partnership with The University of Wollongong. More information about these scholarships can be found at https://info.westpac.com.au/200years/?wbc-vnty=www.westpac.com.au/200years

It was a great day out and we learnt a lot about the history of the Westpac Bank, the media and mixed and mingled with students from a diverse range of schools. Who knows maybe one day, one of our students at this launch will be awarded a Westpac Bicentennial Foundation scholarship as a future leader in Australia.

I wish all our students, staff and families a wonderful, fun and safe holiday and look forward to working with you all again next term.

The Annual School Report for 2013 has been released and is available to read on our school website. This report outlines the achievements of our school towards our school priorities, targets and sets out our plans for 2014. I encourage you to read this report over the holidays as it is an amazing document which provides information and evidence of the quality of the educational programs provided and outcomes that are achieved by our students at APCS.

Diane Fetherston, Principal

Term One 2014 9th April Recognition Assembly

Academic

Angel Wang 11
• Recipient of the U of Sydney Academic Achievers Award for Year 10 student

Hayley Faau 4/5
• Outstanding achievements in all English areas

Andy Huang 4/5
• Outstanding results in Mathematics

Theodore Sanuri KM
• Outstanding results in Mathematics

Benjamin Wellby KM
• Outstanding achievements in all English areas

Arada Thama 7A
• Science Consistency in class and practical work

Elliot Anastopolous 7A
• Maths Consistent effort and support of classmates in group learning activities

Lucy Bridges 7L
• Science An excellent learner in classroom and laboratory activities

Robinson Shi 7L
• Maths An excellent team worker in all lessons

Haider Jalal 7X
• Maths High achievement in all topics this term
Citizenship

Outstanding role model
Toby Hannan KM
Isaac Luke KS
Acaysha Povey 1/2D
Chloe Nicholson 1/2F
Jennifer Otgonbayar 3/4P

Jennifer Vo 11
• Recipient, of the Betty Makin Youth Award for her involvement in volunteering and supporting peers

Volunteering their time at a community event
Aaron Simpson 10A
Calunn Seddon 10A, Dennis Deng 10X
Helena Guo 11X
Irene Li 10X
Jessie Cai 10X
Muhammed Cheema10X
Jennifer Vo11X
William Makarytchev11X
Adiba Ali 12X
Fowzia Khan 12X

Hayley Faaui 4/5HT
• Fundraising over $1,000 for Leukemia

Performances
Lauren Young 5M
• The Entertainer

Special Awards
Jasmin Charles 4/5
• Outstanding academic improvement
Lauren Young 5M
• Accepted into the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Orchestra

Liberty monitors
Tariq Ho 10X
Leo Li 10A
Ellen Zhang 9X
Betty Chen 9A
Jared Hermogenes 11A
Allan Xie 11X
Patty Dai 11X
Jia Shin The 11X
Dasha Vovrenko 11X
Shweta Sharma 11X

Implementing the Australian Curriculum in K-4
This term, the school began teaching the new Australian English Syllabus to K–4.
One focus of the new English Syllabus aims to ensure that students learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose.
KM and KS have been learning that punctuation is a feature of written text different from letters. They recognise that capital letters are used for names, and that capital letters and full stops are used for the beginning and end of sentences.

Gloria, Ben, Toby and Lena demonstrate their use of capital letters and full stops.
1/2F have been busy planning and drafting
descriptions. They understand that there are different ways of asking for information, making offers and giving commands.

1/2D have been studying dinosaurs, producing factual information reports with descriptive language.

3/4P have been planning and writing narratives and persuasive texts containing key information and supporting details. They have also been learning to use persuasive language to compose simple spoken persuasive texts as part of Speaking and Listening.

K-4 News
Kindergarten have had a fabulous first term at Alex Park. They have enjoyed learning all about the school, eating healthily at morning fruit break, making lots of new friends and appearing in the local news!

Have a safe and peaceful Easter break. The K-4 teachers look forward to seeing everyone back for a productive second term.

Ms Micallef
Kindergarten Teacher

Gloria and Thomas riding their bikes to school and Kindy Choir

Theo reconstructing words from his story during daily DEAR and Aoife progressing through guided reading levels

Stage 1 HSIE Celebration artworks by Aoife and Scoutt

Chloe showing off her straight line artwork
Senior Campus upgrades

A major focus for our school this year is improving the physical environment of the Senior Campus. Some of the projects planned include the renovation of existing classrooms, converting the senior library into a 21st Century Learning Centre (CLC) and upgrading of the playground. During week 11, the playground works have commenced. Bobcats are flattening the rear section of the playground, removing the existing ash felt and stage area. New retaining walls are being built which will provide a much larger and

Class 1/2D Report

It has been a busy Term 1 in 1/2D with fantastic support from the parents and students. A special thankyou to the parents who have assisted with literacy groups and our class representative who communicates via email to parents.

- In English the unit, “Let’s Talk” has focused on improving students’ talking and listening skills and teaching them to speak in proper sentences.

- In Maths students have been learning about whole number, addition, subtraction, 2D Shapes, position and length. They will work in groups rotating around stations (using the “Count me in too” program) and are encouraged to use different strategies to solve problems.

- In Science the unit, “What’s for Lunch” has focused on healthy eating and healthy choices.

- In HSIE (Human Society and its Environment) the topic was “Celebrations” and students covered birthdays, Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Day, Harmony Day, Christmas, Easter, Ramadan and New Year.

- PDHPE (Personal Development, Health & Physical Education) has continued to focus on Positive Behaviour for Learning and children celebrated their individuality in a unit titled “There is only one Me”

- Visual Arts has been integrated with HSIE, Science and English.

- Mrs Broomfield teaches 1/2D on Mondays and Mrs Davey Tuesday-Friday. Music is on Wednesdays, Drama Friday mornings and Library day is Monday.

We are enthusiastically looking forward to Term 2.

Donna Davey and Roz Broomfield.
Alexandria Park Community School Newsletter

usable playground area for students. The playground works are expected to be completed during the Easter holidays.

Glen Kingsley
Deputy Principal

P&C UPDATE

After a hectic first term we are getting closer to our aim of raising enough money to refurbish and reopen the Park Rd canteen. As always there are lots of ways for you to be involved at school and support the students, here are some upcoming opportunities:

Giant Easter Raffle tickets are on sale at both Park and Mitchell Rd campuses and prizes will be drawn at the Family Picnic Day on Friday 11 April. We will also be selling soft drinks left over from Alexandria Fair at the Picnic. Bring a blanket and enjoy the last day of Term with your children.

The Entertainment Book is now on sale. We make $14 for every copy sold and this year you can buy a digital edition so the offers are delivered straight to your phone ready for use. The digital edition is available now and the book version will be available from Term 2. You can purchase by visiting the APCS page at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/211w970 or if you'd prefer to pay cash, see a P&C rep on Friday mornings at the Park Rd Canteen. You can purchase a book for any area in Australia so these are also a great gift for regional or interstate relatives. You save the cost outlay after using only 4-5 of the 100's of offers available.

APCS Parents Facebook Group is up and running. This is a closed group only available to APCS Parents and Carers, it's content is not visible to people who are not part of the group. The aim of the group is to keep parents informed with events and issued related to APCS, it is not a forum for discussion or complaints, please take these up separately through appropriate channels. If you would like to join the group you can access it at https://www.facebook.com/groups/apcspandc/ and a P&C administrator will approve your request to join. The P&C Social Media Policy applies to this group and you can access a copy of it on the School's website or by emailing us at apcspandc@gmail.com

Park Rd Campus Working Bee will be held on Sunday 4 May. There's always plenty to do on these days from gardening to painting and everything in between. Even an hour of your time is greatly appreciated. It's also a great way to meet other families and get to know your way around the School. Kids are welcome.

School Sports volunteers are needed for Years 3-6 on Friday mornings. We are looking for people to assist teachers and everyone is welcome from novice sportspeople to those with a coach's certificate. It would be a weekly commitment from 9-11am for Terms 2&3. The students get great encouragement from this type of involvement so don't be shy if you're a fanatic in hiding.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 April at 6:30pm at the Park Rd Campus. Hope to see you there.

Sport is a great way to keep kids active and involved; its benefits go beyond fitness to social developmental. APCS students are involved in
numerous clubs in the local area and soon we’ll have a comprehensive list with more information on the P&C area of the School website, in the meantime here’s the contact details for just a few;


Karate: Mario Borg Karate, Alexandria Town Hall, [www.marioborgkarate.com](http://www.marioborgkarate.com)


If you're involved in a sporting club and would like to have details listed please contact us at apcsand@gmail.com

**Update - School Banking Programme**

It's been a very busy year so far for our school banking programme. We have nearly 100 active users registered, with over 30 new members who joined this year. It's great to see so many regular savers who come to the canteen with their deposit books every Friday.

As it gets very busy especially from around 8:45 until the school bell, we would ask parents to please fill in their child's deposit slip the night before so that they can be processed as efficiently as possible so the children can get to class on time.

This year the Commonwealth Bank launched a new automated redemption tool which tells us when your each child has reached a 10 token milestone and only allows us to redeem their prize at that time. There have been a few teething problems where it might take an extra week or two for them to show up on the redemption report, so we apologise if this has happened. It's a new system so these things may take a little while to get straightened out, but be assured that as soon as your child pops up on the redemption report we will be able to put their order through.

Some children are also close to reaching 10 deposits for the year, and those eligible will be receiving their bronze certificate at the beginning of term 2.

If your child is not yet a member and they would like to join, please come along with your ID on Friday mornings between 8:30-9:30 in the canteen area and we can get you started.

There are great incentive prizes for making regular deposits and the children learn about the benefits of saving in the process.

The School Banking Team

**Scooter Safety**

Safety rules for everyone.

- Before any scooter is used, ensure that the steering tube is locked in place and that all the screws and bolts are tight.
- Always watch the terrain. Scooters should not be used on wet, oily, sandy, gravelled, cracked or icy surfaces. Also make sure to avoid bumps and kerbs.
- In wet conditions there is a major risk of slipping, do not scoot in these circumstances.
- Children under 12 should ride with adult supervision at all times. Scooters should not be ridden by anyone under the recommended age limit for their scooter.
- Safety equipment should be worn. Ensure that your child always wears a helmet and enclosed shoes with rubber soles. You might want to consider hi-visibility vests and accessories and elbow and knee pads too.
Ensure that your child does not ride down any steep hills. The brake is not designed to decelerate from high downhill speeds.

Brake pads become hot when used heavily. Make especially sure that your child does not keep the brake on for a long period of time. Explain to your child that direct skin contact may cause burns.

Ensure that your child does not ride on roads or paths with motor vehicle traffic.

Always make sure your child stops, gets off their scooter and looks before crossing any roads. Students must dismount before entering School grounds.

Only one child may ride on the scooter at a time.

Observe any manufacturer’s weight limits that apply to your scooter.

Remember! If you use your scooter regularly it needs regular maintenance.

Hayley Faaui has exceeded herself as a volunteer in raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation. She raised $1078, with many donations coming from family and friends. They have recently found out that a relative has leukaemia. Hayley wanted to be involved in the “World’s Greatest Shave”.

Everyone agrees that Fadz Hairdressers of Newtown have done a brilliant job with Hayley’s hair. She has had one side shaved in a pattern, foiled blonde and then a “wash out blue” was put through her hair. Looking gorgeous I must say! Congratulations to Hayley on her effort!

Hayley is a member of 4/5HT at APCS

Ms Hanekroot (teacher)

Photography WINNERS!!

Alexandria Fair was on in the park last Sunday. Knowing that there was a photography exhibition occurring, the students of 4/5HT decided to enter some photos taken exhibiting “The Changing Face of Alexandria”. We had a lot of fun using the school cameras, learning how to focus, deciding on the composition and what actually constituted the changes that are occurring in Alexandria.

We decided on 15 photos, had them printed off at school, mounted and displayed at the Fair. Emily Whitie and Eve Stanizzo are to be congratulated as they were 2 very lucky winners. Each were presented with a digital camera, which were kindly donated by Good Guys of Alexandria.

Congratulations, Emily and Eve.

Ms Hanekroot (teacher)

6W Harmony Day Celebrations

This year 6W celebrated the Harmony Day “Everyone Belongs” theme by holding some student-led lessons based around culture. Students in our class elected to run an activity or lesson with a cultural theme. Adrian Zhao taught a Cantonese language lesson where we learnt
how to count to ten. Tom Jiang, Joseph Shao and Oliver Yang taught us how to say some everyday language in Mandarin. Varun Sharma entertained us with a humorous presentation about everyday life in India. Kaille Giitsidis taught us about the Greek language and alphabet. David Oh told us some fascinating traditional Korean folktales, and Grace Carey taught us about the symbolism behind the Union Jack.

In addition to all these fantastic lessons, Anson Ge, Jessica Chen, Selena Chen, Lesley Yu, Connie Wong and Tom Jiang were Dumpling Masterchefs for a day. They taught the whole class (including Miss Wilson) how to make delicious dumplings from scratch. It was really enjoyable learning about everyone’s culture and it was fantastic to see the students take the responsibly of organising and running such fantastic activities.

Miss T Wilson

Year 7 Orientation Camp
As part of our transition programme, Year 7 students attended an Orientation Camp from 27th-28th February, 2014 at The Tops Conference Centre in Stanwell Tops. This was an invaluable opportunity for students to develop their teamwork skills, and familiarise themselves with teachers and peers. We were also accompanied by a select group of Year 10 Peer Mentors, who each displayed excellent leadership qualities and acted as keen role-models for the younger students. Students enjoyed activities including Go-carting, Abseiling and ‘Survivor’. I’d like to congratulate students for their exemplary behaviour and participation, with a clear mood of teamwork, encouragement and cohesion throughout the entire Camp.

Mr Olsen.

THE PRESS CLUB
Opens Boys Basketball Team
Interview with coach, Mr Okell
This week we interviewed Mr Okell for the boys basketball team. Mr Okell believes that Chapman deserves a mention because of his outstanding performance. He also thinks that Andy Zhu has improved a lot and has learnt heaps of skills.

Mr Okell looks forward in coaching everyone again next year.

He agrees that the team did an amazing job, however, he was a bit disappointed considering that they had lost. He is also looking forward to the under fifteens boys and girls seasons to start and he is curious of their skills.

He believes that the boys basketball team paid off because it was better than previous years. He also wants the boys to train hard and he couldn’t wait till they beat their opponents.
THE PRESS CLUB
Boys Soccer
Last Wednesday, the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School boys soccer team came down to the back oval to verse our Alex Park team. Despite it being a very close call, the score had come down to 2-0 their way. Special mention goes to the whole team for trying their hardest to defend the goal. You all played exceptionally well, good luck and train hard for the next game boys!

We’ve conducted a brief interview with one of the Cleveland players (Number 7) to reveal how he feels about the ball game, soccer:

**How long have you been playing soccer?**
For about two years.

**Do you enjoy soccer and why?**
Of course very much, because of the adrenaline, when you score a goal it gives you a good feeling, the feeling that you can do whatever you want.

**What are some good tactics when playing soccer?**
Pass the ball, be relaxed and don't keep the ball to yourself.

**Who is your inspiration and role model?**
Ronaldinho

**What is your goal in life?**
My goal is to become a professional soccer player and inspire people.

**How was it like versing the Alex Park team?**
It was funny. 😊

We’ve also conducted an interview with one of our very own star players, Kayra Bozdagci:

**How long have you been playing soccer?**
Not a very long time.

**Do you enjoy soccer and why?**
Yes, because I like it.

**What are some good tactics when playing soccer?**
Don't be a hog.

**Who is your inspiration and role model?**
My inspirations are my brothers.

**How was it like versing the Cleveland Street team?**

It was overly tiring and I thoroughly entertaining game to watch and we hope our team can try our hardest to beat them next time. Game on boys!

Reported by Caroline Truong, Jennifer Lim and Kayra Bozgagci.

Harmony Day – Report
Harmony Day is celebrated everyday on the 21st of March in Australia. The first Harmony Day was celebrated in 1999 and was a day for people to gather together and participate in activities, celebrating multiculturalism. The main message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’ and is an occasion for many cultures to join together and celebrate world peace and belonging. People celebrating Harmony Day are encouraged to wear orange or their National clothing.

Thursday 20th March was Harmony Day at Alexandria Park Community School. Students from K-7 were invited to dress up in orange and their national dress wear.

Many students, teachers and parents dressed up and all looked wonderful dressed in orange. Students from many nationalities displayed their national dress, including Indian, Lebanese, Chinese, Aboriginal and many nationalities.

The assembly was run by the new K-6 school captains, Ahana Goswami and Ben Snaea. Students from K-7 told the assembly about what Harmony Day is to them and the principal, Miss Fetherston, addressed the assembly. Ms Winfield and the junior school choir sang two songs, wonderfully.

Thank you so much to all those who spoke at the assembly and dressed up in their national dress wear.

Press Club regarding School Hours
Our latest poll was “Should school be opened from 11am-5pm instead from 8am-3pm”. We have managed to get a result of people voting for a yes around a total of 39 including teachers and others saying no in a total of 67. There were a couple of reasons why students/teachers said no to our proposal.
• Parents would have to wait till their kids are dropped off to school, whereas parents come late to work.
• Another reason why they said no is because students would have to get home late in the afternoon at five and parents would be worried what might happen to them.

Reasons why there were voting’s for yes includes:
• Students don’t need to wake up early in the morning to get to school then end up being late
• Students would have enough time to finish their homework’s
• Students have an advantage to get to school in time by public transport

In conclusion it become that students and teacher do not except this proposal as it was not the right thing to do.

STAFF PROFILES: MR ABDULLAH:
The Press club selected Mohammed Abdullah and conducted a short interview with him to find out more about him. Mr Abdullah describes his teaching method as calm and relaxed and was previously a ‘lazy and comedic’ student at school. He loves being a teacher because it gives him an opportunity to interact with the students and staff and he loves to learn. Outside of school, Mr Abdullah’s hobbies include spending time with family, keeping fit and travelling. If you want to keep fit just like Mr Abdullah, come to our fitness club, operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:15am- 8:15am.

MR JOHNSON:
Mr Johnson describes his method of teaching students as a mixed method. He was previously a nerd and was an annoying student at school. He loves the career as a teacher considering that he enjoys learning and teaching HSIE (history and geography) and economics to the senior years. Outside of school, Mr Johnson’s hobbies include playing poker, music and he also loves gardening. Mr Johnson is also famous around the school for his Johnson reports, which are held regularly during assembly to inform students and teachers of a current affairs taking place around the school.

Year 7 Gala Day
Tuesday the 1st of April saw our annual Year 7 gala day against the other high schools in the Eastern Suburbs Sporting Zone. This tournament is a yearly demonstration of our school’s talents, showing up rival schools with two or three times the number of year seven students. While competing in Netball, Basketball, Soccer and Oz tag our students were able to teach the opposing schools a lesson in sporting skill, sportsmanship and general behaviour off the field as well.

Two teams deserve a special mention. Our undefeated boys’ basketball team never looked like being beaten by their opposition and took out the grand prize without losing a single game. The other team was the six students who took part in the six a-side boys Oz Tag tournament, meaning they had no reserves. The boys played four games back to back against teams who had up to six reserves on their bench, winning 3 and making it through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately the 80 minutes of play with very little break between matches took its toll and they were narrowly defeated 4-2.

Congratulations to all students who attended the day and thanks to all the staff who helped make the day a great success.

Stewart Okell

Gala Day Report
I thought I would update you all on our gala day today. Before I do, I’d like to thank a few people for their help. Thanks to Lucy and Amanda for looking after the leftovers and playground duties, Tiff for the help in organising and Bowman for completing the boys Oz Tag draw. Also David Olsen and Peter Walker for their hard work on the day.
As most of you know we are punching above our weight division when it comes to these sporting tournaments as the schools we are up against have double or even triple the number of students. Despite this our students always show that they can mix it with the bigger schools and their behaviour was exemplary.

Despite some disappointing results in the netball, our soccer teams and girls basketball team finished just outside the semi-finals. The best results were in the boys Oz Tag and boys basketball. The 6 Oz Tag boys played without reserves, a luxury afforded to every other team, and played 5 straight games, making it to the semi finals. The boys eventually lost 4-2 in the semis but really did our school proud. The other result was our boys basketball team who went through their tournament undefeated. A big congratulations to the coach Mr Walker who chalked up his first coaching victory, putting him in the lead for the Jack Gibson award later in the year.

Mr O’Kell, Teacher

Term 1 Sports Wrap
Alexandria Park Community School was a hive of activity in Term 1 with a number of sporting teams taking on rivals from the Sydney East region in a variety of knockout competitions. Although the results of these contests varied, there was one clear outcome achieved – FUN! Further to that all of our teams continued to uphold the great sporting ethos Alex Park is becoming renowned for.

The highlight of the term was without doubt our girls open basketball team. They progressed through to the region semi-finals only to be stopped by competition heavy weights Endeavour Sports High. Considering the youth of our side and vast improvements that are being made through their commitment to training we can only expect them to challenge for the regional championship in 2015.

Other notable achievements include our boys open touch football and boys open soccer teams. They both found themselves under heavy fire from oppositions who outpointed them in age, experience and ability but they showed plenty of fight and some impressive play, especially by some of the younger members of the squad, to only go down by a couple of converted tries.

Term 2 will see the commencement of zone grade sport for Year 7 and 8. Several schools from the Eastern Suburbs Zone will converge on Moore Park to compete in basketball, netball, Oz tag and soccer and from the look of our young sports stars we are should be in the mix to bring home a title or two! We wish you lots of luck for the challenges ahead. The full list of sports for term 2 include:

- Basketball training
- Social basketball
- Social soccer
- Touch football
- Table tennis
- Tennis training ($4 per week)
- Grade sport Year 7/8 ($5 per week)

MUSIC NEWS
Term 1 has been a busy time in the Music Department!

In Class Music time K-6 have been learning about music from other cultures, linking to Harmony Day celebrations. Kinder have learnt some African songs, Stage 1 have been dancing the Mexican Hat Dance, Stage 2 have mastered the basics of Bamboo Pole Dancing and Stage 3 produced amazing Shadow Puppet plays. Stage 4 students have developed a range of performance skills in their unit Rock My World and put together their own bands to perform some impressive 12 Bar Blues.

There have been a number of ensemble performances this term as well. The Vocal Ensemble sang ‘Imagine’ for the Harmony Day assembly and also performed a number of songs for 160 seniors at Alexandria Town Hall. The
Middle School Band gave their first performance of the year at the Alexandria Fair in front of a large and appreciative crowd. Rehearsals for these ensembles will re-commence in week 1 next term.

Two of our students have successfully auditioned for NSW Public Schools Ensembles which will see them performing in huge concerts at the Opera House later in the year. Congratulations to Lauren (5M) who is joining the Symphonic Winds Orchestra and Emma (6W) who is now a member of the Voices of Sydney!

Next term will also be extremely busy! I will be starting up a lunch-time interest group for students in years 3-6 who would like to learn to play the recorder or who would like to further develop the skills they already have. More information will be available early next term.

Also in term 2 all stage 3 students will be involved in rehearsal for the school music “Rocks to Rap” which will be performed early in term 3. Our Community Choir will be re-starting on Tuesday, April 29th at 6.00pm in the Park Rd Music Room. New singers are very welcome - please contact me through the school or just come along to rehearsal.

Leanne Winfield

On Wednesday 2nd April the senior SRC students ran the Secret Bunny fundraiser once again. Students had the opportunity to buy a chocolate bunny for their friends, teachers or special someone, which was then hand delivered by the Secret Bunny himself. It was a fun and successful day, helping to raise funds for the SRC. Thank you to all staff and students who supported the initiative!

BIKE SAFETY:

With the recent success of ‘Ride your bike to school day’ at Alexandria Park Community school, I feel there is a need to inform parents and students of an urgent safety issue. Wearing a helmet while riding your bike, scooter or skate board is not an option. It is ILLEGAL and a person caught riding without a helmet can be fined. New South Wales road rules state that any person riding a bike/scooter/skateboard MUST wear an appropriately fitted helmet, regardless of age or training wheels. Any person under the age of 12 is not permitted to ride on the road and must ride on the footpath. If an adult accompanies a
person under the age of 12 on a bike/scooter/skateboard, they too can ride on the footpath. We encourage our students to decrease their carbon footprint and maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, however we cannot encourage any activity at a cost to their safety. If you or your child ride to school, please wear a helmet, we want you to arrive to school safe and sound! For more information about bicycle road safety, visit the website below.
Fellow Bicycle Rider,
Miss Kasz

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS
Community Centre activities for children and parents will cease during the school holidays and begin again from Tuesday April 29. For families attending the Friday Playgroup please note the earlier start (9am – 11am).
Playgroups in the Park were held on Tuesday April 8. Over 600 parents, carers and children attended the family fun day even though it was cloudy overhead. A great day was had by all.

The Community Centre has been chosen to be the venue for a Centenary Celebration of Baby Health Clinics which will be held on Tuesday August 5. The first Baby Health Clinic was established in Alexandria in 1914.

A Channel 7 camera crew spent a day with volunteer parents involved with our Family Food Co-op on Friday March 28. They filmed the parents around Flemington Markets as they bargained and purchased food for the Food Co-op. They also came back to the Community Centre to film the parents boxing up the fruit and vegies for the families as well as interviewed Jo and some parents about the success of the Food Co-op. This story will be aired on the Sunrise Program in a couple of weeks and the video will be available on the Sunrise website http://au.tv.yahoo.com/sunrise.

On Thursday March 27 families from the Multicultural Playgroup went on an excursion to the Australian Museum to see the Tyrannosaurs Exhibition. Even though it was a rainy day it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the families who braved the weather.

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