An Engaged Harmony Day at Alex Park

Harmony Day (21 March) celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. In 2015 we celebrated 15 amazing years of Harmony Day at Alexandria Park with a wonderful assembly and numerous learning activities for students K – 12 which increased our knowledge of and respect for the diverse cultures that are represented within our school community …a community where ‘Everyone Belongs’. Much thanks to the performers at our Harmony Day Assembly, especially the Lawrence family and the Arabic Band from Granville Boys High School.
Harmony Day in Years 5 & 6
Harmony Day is a big event at our school. Here at Alexandria Park, we celebrate Harmony Day as a day to come together and celebrate differences. To students and teachers, Harmony Day means friendship and unity.
Class 5O made decorative hands to create an outline of Australia to show the diversity of our country. Class 5/6S also made hands and created a peace sign to symbolise peace. Our two classes made flags of the cultural background they come from, which we then turned into chains of flags that stretched across the atrium. 5O made self-portraits of themselves which were pinned onto the board outside their classroom and 5/6S made a display of the word *hello* in many languages.
The first hours of the day were spent practising and/or learning an African dance. For a while the middle school kids from 5O and 5/6S danced alone and then later, we went to get our buddies to teach them how to do the dance. It was based on a clock; we all had a lot of trouble teaching the year ones that! All of the junior students received a paper badge from their buddy. It was all lots of fun!
We had a huge assembly in which the Vocal Ensemble sang *Under Southern Skies* and The National Anthem. We had three performances. An indigenous family did some traditional dances which were enjoyed by everyone. Two students dressed in green shared their Polynesian culture and had the audience shouting down the roof. But the biggest success, judging by crowd noise, was definitely the Bollywood dancer!
At the end of the day everyone one was happy. I guess Harmony Day really does make everyone harmonious!
*Written by Willow Ross and Lian Zhi Li in 5O.*
Achieving Students – Brittney & Aaron Simpson

Brittney & Aaron formed part of a sixty-four person contingent of young, Indigenous students who recently attended the All Stars Indigenous Youth Summit held in conjunction with the Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars clash on the Gold Coast. The All Stars Indigenous Youth Summit enables participants to interact with other young leaders through a series of workshops, activities and discussions. Participants will continue developing skills that allow them to become strong leaders within their respective communities. Souths Cares Mentor, Rhys Wesser, said that Brittney and Aaron Simpson have consistently demonstrated their leadership ability and for them to participate in the recent Youth Summit will only help them along their journey.”

To qualify Brittney and Aaron had to demonstrate:
- Leadership and involvement in school and community activities;
- Commitment to the attainment of school studies and employment; and
- High attendance at school.

Souths Cares General Manager, Brock Schaefer, said Souths Cares were pleased to support Aaron and Brittney’s participation at the Summit. “When students demonstrate the qualities they have and maintain a positive outlook, it is only right that those qualities should be nurtured and developed,” he said.

“That’s what Souths Cares does in the community – we’re all about students staying healthy, completing their education and moving successfully into further education and employment. Recognising and rewarding Aaron and Brittney’s achievements at school and the community, reinforces those positive messages not only to them but to all members of community.”

Principal’s report

It has been another massive term at Alex Park, which has included the formation of an additional class in K – 6 due to increasing numbers. Much work has been done in Term 1 by High School Deputy Glen Kingsley and the high school executive team in the re-design of our Year 11 and 12 reports and the implementing of ‘Sentral’ software to reporting practices. During Term 2 all reports from Kindergarten to year 10 will be reviewed and redesigned to improve reporting practices across the school.

We celebrated a wonderful Harmony Day on March 19. Many staff, students, parents and community members came together to make our 2015 Harmony Day a wonderful school community event. K – 6 were led by Ms Smith and her class 5/6 in traditional African dance. Our assembly showcased cultural dance and performances from around the world, including Arabic drummers, Aboriginal Dancers, Bollywood dancing, Cook Island dancing and a wonderful performance from our school choir of the song Under Southern Skies.

Under Southern Skies

There’s a peace in our hearts and a hope in our hands
We’re the family of children, we come from many different lands
Our time is just beginning, our race is yet to run
But if you will take us with you then we have already won.

Under the southern skies, together in this land.
Every voice in celebration, a family hand in hand.
Under the southern skies as one we rise and turn our eyes to see.
All the wonder of the future in a world of harmony.

I am thrilled that our Creative Learning Space (CLS) on the Senior campus is really coming together with the arrival of the new furniture. This learning environment has been specially created to inspire creativity and collaboration and cater to the needs of our high school students as adult learners who require flexible design in classroom organisation.

Year 12 have recently finished their half-early exams and are back in classes getting feedback on their examination performance which will support their continued learning in the final half of the HSC.

In Term 2, May 12, 13 and 14, students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will sit their NAPLAN tests. In this newsletter we have included NAPLAN 2015 information for parents.

Our P & C, under the leadership of President Deb Heggaton-Klenner, organised a fantastic Election Day BBQ and cake stall to raise money for new playground equipment on the junior campus. I want to thank all the parents who came to school to help out on the BBQ and those who made cakes, biscuits and slices. Also a special thanks to our high school student volunteers from our SRC (Student Representative Council) and Interact Club (a branch of Rotary) who helped on the BBQ and the sale of the cakes. It was a great day, lots of families stayed to help, and their children had a great day at school riding their bikes and scooters and playing on the equipment and on the oval. Some of the children even had a gardening
lesson from one of our community gardeners who kindly shared her expertise with the children. And on top of that the P & C made a considerable sum of money which they will use to improve the playground equipment which our children love to play on.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Friday morning 7:15am-8:15am a regular group of staff and students arrive early to the junior campus to meet up in the Denzil for the Morning Fitness Program. Led by Ms Kasz this band of motivated and committed health and fitness role models engage in 60 minutes of cardio-vascular and strength training activities, then shower and change, ready for the school day. Some grab breakfast on their way back over to the senior campus from the Breakfast Club. Some mornings, I can hear the music pumping and I head into the Denzil to watch the fitness training. Most weekends I help out by washing, drying and folding their towels….ummm housework is exercise too I think! All students are welcome to join the morning fitness club. See Ms Kasz for more information.

Thanks to all students, staff and parents who have worked together to help make term 1 2015 at Alex Park such a success. I wish you all a happy, fun and safe holiday and look forward to us all being together again in term 2.

Deputy Principal’s Report
The staff has become increasingly concerned about dismissal of students in the afternoon and I’m sure that you agree that the safety of students is of the utmost importance. To ensure that students remain safe, we ask that parents and carers support the school and adhere to the procedures set out below around dismissal of students. The procedures about walking to school and the use of bicycles and scooters also apply to drop off in the mornings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedures</th>
<th>Mode of Transport</th>
<th>Pick Up Point</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking with parent</td>
<td>School playground</td>
<td>Please wait for your child near the school canteen or under the COLA (large shade area). Please use the gate next to the playground equipment (if exiting through the back of the school) or the front gate. Children are welcome to play on the playground equipment, with parental supervision, after all other students have left the school grounds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycles and scooters</td>
<td>School playground</td>
<td>Please mount and dismount bikes and scooters before entering and exiting the school and walk them through the playground. Bikes and scooters should not be ridden near the bus bays, for the safety of the riders and...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
those waiting for buses. If parents are remaining on school grounds after school with their child, please allow your child to ride their bike or scooter in the playground only after all departing students have left the grounds. Please see instruction on use of playground equipment above.

| Private vehicle | Entrance to Alexandria Park on Power Avenue Please see map following Students will be escorted across the pedestrian crossing on Power Avenue and will be supervised by a staff member until picked up. Please U-turn past the bus bays in Park Rd and continue to the spot marked on the map, which is a marked entrance to the park. Students will be directed to the vehicle as it pulls up at the park entrance. See map below |

| Buses | Bus Bay on Park Road The following buses leave from the bus bay: The Factory bus: approx.3.10 The Settlement bus:(select days)approx.3.15 608 School Special: approx. 3.25 355 to Bondi Junction approx. 3.27 Students are expected to sit on the silver seats at the front of the school and wait for buses. No active games are permitted to ensure the safety of students near the road. Parents who are accompanying their child on a bus are asked to assist staff by encouraging their child to follow the same safety rules as unaccompanied students. |

Dismissal time for all students is 3.10. It is important that parents pick students up promptly, as staff supervision does not extend for long periods of time after school. Students who are walking independently will be walk with a teacher and either cross at the pedestrian crossing or continue walking along Power Avenue. Please do not double park, or park in "No Parking" zones at the front of the school. This is both illegal and unsafe for students.

Map of Power and Park Road

Welcome to new Staff at Alex Park

**Name: Holly Bray**

**Academic Qualifications & Institution:** University of Sydney, Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Humanities and Social Sciences) Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Psychology)

**Teaching experience (courses, years, schools):** This is my eighth year working as a school counsellor for the DEC (have previously worked in the Parramatta area), this is my first year working in the inner city

2015 teaching load at Alex Park - At Alex Park CS every Monday

Other responsibilities at Alex Park - Member of Learning Support and Welfare teams

**Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement:**

Passionate about working with young people and take a strengths-based approach to counselling.

First impressions of Alex Park: Very dynamic school environment with passionate staff, wonderful programs, and a great connection with the local community

**Name: Madeleine Perkins**

**Academic Qualifications & Institution:** Bachelor of Education (Primary) from the University of Sydney

**Teaching experience:** I have extensive experience teaching surf lifesaving and aquatic safety to K-12 students on Sydney's Northern Beaches. I have recently commenced casual teaching at various schools around Sydney, mainly on the North Shore and Northern Beaches.

2015 teaching load at Alex Park: 3/4P until the end of Term 1, 2015.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park I look forward to being involved in the PSSA Sport Program at Alex Park and encouraging all students to get involved, do their best, and have lots of fun.

**Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement:** My personal teaching pedagogy and professional practice recognises and supports each student to learn in a way that is conducive to their specific needs, interests and diverse backgrounds. As a teacher, it is critical for me to get to know my students and how they learn. Communicating with each student to find out their individual interests and passions outside the classroom can lead to a stronger rapport with my class. Through recognising that each of my students learns differently, I can deliver my lessons through a variety of engaging activities that can be differentiated easily for my students.

First impressions of Alex Park: Although I am new to Alex Park, I have felt welcomed at every moment. Friendly students and parents have greeted me in the playground and staff members have offered their assistance in settling into the wider school community. The educational programs are engaging and meaningful and provide many opportunities for extension and differentiation where needed. I believe that Alex Park is a wonderful school that nurtures and supports every student to achieve their personal goals, whether it is academic or holistic.

Any other info you want to share?

I am super excited to become a member of the Alex Park school community.
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS
Primary Sport News

We have had a very successful term in Primary Sport, with many students representing the school in the Zone and Regional Swimming carnivals and active participation in our Combined Sport program. The success of our own Swimming Carnival led to impressive achievements at Zone and District level. I’d like to congratulate the following students who were selected to represent South Sydney at the Sydney East Regional Swimming Championships, held at the Sydney Aquatic Centre in Homebush on 18th March:

- Lauren Young 6M (100m, 50m Freestyle)
- Arie Seddon 3/4F (50m Freestyle)
- Eden Timbery 6M (50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly)
- Andre Monteiro 6M (50m Breaststroke)
- Nicholas Pineiro 6M (50m Breaststroke)

I also commend the achievements of the Senior Girls Relay team who came in third place at the South Sydney Zone competition, as well as every other student who participated in the events.

K – 2 classes have been actively involved in class sporting activities, and Years 3-6 students have been participating in a Combined Sport program. This includes PSSA Cricket and Softball teams who have travelled to Tempe Reserve to compete against other schools and Terry Denzil coaching Basketball in the aptly named Denzil. Other students have been learning to swim at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence and participating in a range of at-school sports including GoGo Fitness.

I’ve been very impressed (and slightly exhausted!) by the high level of encouragement and participation in Sport this term, and I’m looking forward to our next big event, the Cross-Country Carnival in Term 2! David Olsen Teacher.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

In 5/6HM, we have been looking at persuasive speaking and working on projects to persuade people to come to their chosen country. In HSIE, they have produced some magnificent projects on Papua New Guinea. In Science they are using technology to communicate a topic of their choice. Some are doing videos while others are doing PowerPoint presentations. The students are very engaged in their projects, which is great to see. I look forward to seeing their presentations next week.

In Mathematics, 6M has been developing their knowledge and understanding of Addition and Subtraction and Whole Numbers. Students were given the task of creating a game that others could use to develop their skills in one or many content areas within these strands. Some students created finance games where they had to manage their money and face the challenges of unexpected costs or budget constraints. Nicholas and Christopher developed a game board that would develop knowledge of factors and multiples. In this game, students could take out their opponents’ counters by landing on them if they were on a square that was in the same multiple patterns. The students were very creative and had a great time trying out and evaluating what others had developed. On Monday 23rd March students also attended an excursion to ABC.
Studios and Imax. We learnt how television and radio is broadcast and some of the technological advances made in this industry over time. At Imax, we watched Hubble 3D and were amazed with the images the satellite had taken over time. We learnt about the important missions astronauts have made to repair and upgrade Hubble, and the new understandings that have been made about our Solar System and the galaxies around us because of Hubble’s existence.

In year 7 Maths the students have been tackling all things integers, under the guidance of Mr. Bennett and Miss Caswell. Students have discovered ways to work with numbers and solve problems with and without using a calculator. We are now exploring the world of angles and shapes; students are identifying and measuring angles and shapes both in and outside the classroom. Outside of the classroom students have come to realise that our world is made up of so many shapes and angles. Students have brainstormed in the classroom the importance of the knowledge of shapes and angles in everyday life and in different types of jobs. Next stop triangles and parallelograms.

The students of Year 7 have just completed their first major English assessment for term one. This assessment was based on the picture book My Place by Nadia Wheatley. Students have been studying Australia’s diverse cultural landscape and how this has changed over time. The students have also made short speeches on their ‘precious item’ which they presented in class. This assessment encourages students to think about and express ideas about their own culture and to celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity. The students have been working very hard and I can’t wait to read their assessments next week!

Mr Jun

Year 7 camp
Recently year 7 were invited to participate in a two-day camp at Stanwell Tops. We all hustled to the double decker bus and took our seats. After a while we decided to play heads up and then we started singing pop songs. Before we knew it we had reached our destination and were given a chance to see our rooms.

The teachers split us into three groups and each group went to a different activity. The first activity that my group did was survivor, which was a competition between two teams where you have to overcome these challenges to win. The next activity was go-karting where we split up into small teams and raced each other. The go-karts were pedal powered and the course we rode on was designed like a real racetrack. The last activity was our favourite, which was the Goliath swing. We worked as a team to pull up the person on the swing to a maximum height of 26 meters. We would then drop and swing back and forward until we came to a stop. At the end of the day we were served a delicious dinner. Following dinner we played some drama games, led by Miss Foley. They were games like murder winks, guessing games and fruit salad. We had such a great time and can’t wait for the next camp. We would like to thank Mr Jun, Miss Foley, Miss Caswell and Hilton for coming on the camp with us and Mr OKell for organising the camp. Trisha O.W and Liv A. 7A
**HIGH SCHOOL NEWS**

The Creative Learning Space (CLS)

At the end of last year the Senior Campus Library began its transformation into the Creative Learning Space. The aim was to create a new type of learning space, which allowed for more collaboration to further engage students and keep up with the ever-changing needs of our students and the community.

A key element in this change was for a variety of new furniture to be bought and installed to allow the space to change the way teachers teach and therefore students learn. On Tuesday 24th March 2015 the new furniture arrives and Miss. Ryan and Ms. Betar worked hard to get it all set up for Wednesday's classes.

Some students were asked what they thought of the new space and this is what they said:

'It puts my mind at ease when I'm working’ – Antony

'It promotes creativity' – Irene

‘Having a positive learning environment makes me more engaged in my school work’ – Mehtaj

'It's comfortable, so we will be able to learn more' – Muhammad

'I feel the new furniture allows us to work in groups and individually to explore a range of ideas’ – Nicholas and Hassan

'It's cosy' – Solongo

'It's really good. It feels like a university library’ – Tony

'I like the different colours' – Usman

**Science News**

Year 9 students have received their very pleasing individual results for ESSA which was done in November 2014 at the end of Stage 4. Alex Park students continue to achieve outstanding results – Science overall 2% above State average. Students excelled in the area of Communicating Scientifically with a massive 31% of Alex Park students being awarded a Band 6. Stages 4 (Year 7) Scientists have been putting their inquiry and research skills into practice, investigating branches and future careers in Science.

Year 8 Scientists have been very energetic and experimenting with many different types of energy transformations.
Stage 5 Scientists are studying the elements of the Periodic Table and the chemistry behind chemical reactions. 10X were challenged to recite some of the Periodic Table song and Kayleen amazed the whole class with her version of the song. Try it for yourself….https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUDDiWtFiEM

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT
Vocational Education and Training: CERTIFICATE 2 IN BUSINESS
All vocational education and training (VET) subjects require students to complete a mandatory work placement of 35 hours in Year 11 and 12 to gain authentic industry experience in the business environment. A range of local businesses have been chosen by our business partnership workplace coordinators – Southern Sydney Business Education Network (SSBEN).

Students in Year 11 are working towards achieving competency in the following business skills:
BSBWHS201A - Contribute to health and safety of self and others
Safety is the responsibility of everyone. Hence, students in Year 11 have participated in a workplace safety inspection of the senior campus to develop their skills and knowledge in hazard identification and measures to eliminate hazards in the workplace.

BSBWOR204A - Use business technology
Students are developing their skills and knowledge in using and maintaining business technologies and processing information.

Students in Year 12 are working towards achieving competency in the following business skills:
BSBSUS201A - Participating in environmentally sustainable work practices
Students are learning about ways in which organisations can improve their resource use and identify environmentally sustainable work practices to support business objectives.

Year 11 VET Business Services students

Year 12 VET Business Services students

(Alice, Miki, Anne)
Year 11 Work Studies
Work Studies is designed to assist students in their transition from school to work. It also supports the development of skills needed for effective career planning.
Students are working on setting short, medium and long term school and career goals. Strategies to support the achievement of goals are identified and reviewed on a regular basis.

Year 10 History
Year 10 has been working on their new Australian Curriculum assessment tasks for History. Students were asked to write an essay about a significant personality (examples included Eddie Mabo and Charles Perkins) who contributed to the civil rights movement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Through this process, students provided feedback to other students about their essay writing by cutting up their own essay and asking another student to put it back together. This activity highlighted appropriate structure, reading and writing for meaning, defining an argument and refining editorial skills. To everyone’s surprise, this lesson was extremely engaging and entertaining and students revelled in the opportunity to provide constructive feedback to their peers.

The second part of the assessment constituted constructing a Facebook page for the personality that displayed that individual’s identity and highlighted what had been learnt through their research. The products speak for themselves.

Student collaboration:

Sample of student work in Year 10 History
Year 7 Geography

Semester 1 has consisted of all year 7 HSIE students studying Geography. The main focus has been acquiring geographical skills like mapping, understanding the weather and climate, while also understanding the variety of devices that geographers use to gain their information. Over the coming weeks, we will be using our skills to further study the many world heritage sites around the world and their importance to a variety of cultures.

Maths Matters

Congratulations to Jo Taranto Head Teacher whose son Thomas was born on 5th February. Both mum and baby are doing well. It is a credit to her leadership in the mathematics faculty over the past two years that structures have been established in the faculty that allow an ongoing quality response to the 21st century needs of Mathematics students during her absence. Welcome to our newest staff member Charlie Liang who is an enthusiastic young teacher whose skills complement those of current staff. His maturity and depth of understanding as a teacher is well beyond his years of experience. Paul Piperias our industry Mathematician with the Mathematicians in Schools program run by the CSIRO is back with us this year. He has some great ideas and is currently working with year 10 classes and teachers.

Congratulations to our HSC Mathematics and extension students who once again had excellent results. It was particularly pleasing to see the improvement in General Mathematics results and the achievement of two General Mathematics students in gaining our first band 5s. This is an increasingly popular subject state wide and caters for students who wish to enter university courses that do not require higher Mathematics.

All students in years 7 to 10 have spent the beginning of term 1 investigating number and computation and were assessed in week 5. Currently the years are studying different topics such as geometry, financial maths, algebraic techniques, indices and surds.

The Australian Mathematics Competition will be upon us in term 3. All students from years 3 to 11 are encouraged to enter this prestigious and challenging competition. Registrations by the school need to be completed in term 2 and therefore notes were sent out with a return date of March 20. However, if you were unable to meet the deadline and still wish your child to compete in the AMC please pay the $6 online or sign a note and pay $6 at the front office.

Students in years 7 to 10 need to have a calculator. From the early years it is preferred that the students use calculators that are approved for use at the HSC. This is encouraged so that students may be fully conversant by the HSC with all essential features of the calculator. The calculator recommended is the CASIO fx-82 AU PLUS. These may be purchased at most stationery suppliers or at the front office for $20.

Problems of the Month

What maths word can you make with these 12 letters?

| T | U | O |
| M | N | O |
| A | C | S |
| P | I | T |

Have a go at answering this month’s problems for your chance to win! All solutions are to be emailed to Mr Abdullah at muhammad.abdullah@det.nsw.edu.au with your name and class. The first correct answer will be awarded 5 deadly stamps and a special mention.

Years K – 4

A young girl is 18cm taller than her brother. He is 164 cm tall. The girl is 51 cm taller than the cow. How tall is the cow?

Years 5 – 12

Is the number xxyy a perfect square for any x, y: 0, 1... 9?

TAS REPORT - NICTA TECHFEST 2015, 20th February

APCS year 11 Design and Technology and year 10 IST students were given the opportunity to meet Australia’s leading data scientists, tech researchers, engineers and students delivering the next wave of technology innovation at this year’s TECHFEST held at Australian Technology Park, Sydney. An informative and fun day was has by all. Below are some comments made by Year 11 Design and Technology students who attended TECHFEST:

At techfest I have experienced many new technologies and innovations. It was very interesting and refreshing. It was great seeing and talking to so many inspired and driven people sharing new ideas.
It was wonderful and inspirational. I saw many new ideas.
Nick Alexopoulos

Homework Centre
Homework Centre is in full-swing for Term 1!
Every Thursday from 3.30pm – 5pm Mr Abdullah, Ms Medway or both are in the CLS (formerly known as the Senior Library). Students have been working on their Maths, Business Services and HSIE. The prize for the most regular attendance goes to Mokea Ford. Well done Mokea!

Year 12 Crucible excursion.
One morning (more specifically Thursday, 5th March 2015), Year 12 English Advanced, Mr Forbath and I set out on an intrepid adventure to the faraway destination (for inner city students) of Bella Vista Farms. The purpose of our trip was to view a performance of The Crucible as part of our unit study of Module C: Representing People and Politics. It was a journey fraught with danger (battling Sydney traffic), intrigue (exploring suburbia in north-west Sydney) and plenty of entertainment (both on-stage and off). Thanks, Year 12, for a very satisfying theatrical experience!
Ms Prexl 😊

Careers News
Ms Betar is pleased to announce that the Careers department have purchased access to a website devoted to career news and development. WWW.jobjump.com.au is an excellent resource for teachers, students and parents to access whenever they want to know anything about jobs and how to get them.
Once you register you will receive weekly newsletters focussing on your personal career interests. What's more, if you provide your non-school email address you will continue to receive newsletters for 12 months after you have left school! This allows students who are indecisive to remain in contact with employment and training opportunities. You can change your career focus at any time.
Please have a look at the flyer which tells you how to register and what you will get from registration.

SYDNEY STORY FACTORY
Ever wondered who will star as you in the film of your life? During term one at the Sydney Story Factory, year seven and eight students from Alexandria Park have tried to answer this and many other questions. Students have created an outline for the film of their life, decided on the soundtrack, cast the roles and written a script for a key scene from the film.

Richard Short
Storyteller-In-Chief, The Sydney Story Factory
p: 02 9699 6970 | m: 0402 599 557 | e: richard@sydneystoryfactory.org.au | w: www.sydneystoryfactory.org.au

Alexandria Park joins the Safe Schools Coalition!
As a community school, Alexandria Park prides itself on providing opportunity and success to all who walk through our gates. This week, we took another step towards ensuring this is achieved by joining the Safe Schools Coalition.

The Safe Schools Coalition is a nationally funded organisation dedicated to making schools safer and more inclusive for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse young people. The Safe Schools Coalition will provide professional development to our staff to ensure we are able to build a connective and supportive environment for all of our students. The coalition is endorsed by National Safe Schools Framework and aims to build safe school communities where diversity is valued, the risk from all types of harm is minimised and all members of the community feel respected, included and supported. If you would like more information about the Safe Schools Coalition, please visit their website at http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/ Miss Tiffany-Jane Kasz PDHPE Teacher
Student Year Advisor Reports

Year 8 Year Adviser Update
It is with much delight that I welcome Year 8 2015 to the senior campus. This year group has a positive attitude and a mature approach to their learning and I congratulate them for their successful transition to the senior campus. As their Year Adviser, I am pleased to inform parents and the community that I am constantly receiving positive feedback about Year 8’s academic progress and their positive attitude. I would like to acknowledge all the students who I have handed out deadly awards to this term, in particular Tiffany Nguyen, Tia Erdal, Lucy Bridges, Robinson Shi, Wesley Darmawangsa, Nicola Ross, Intan Alitembokarsan, Taitum Milanovic, Zoey Read, Arada Thama, Liam Johnson and Mikaela Raeburn. Congratulations for earning more than 7 deadly awards this term! Keep up the great work Year 8! I look forward to seeing you in our Year Adviser meetings where we continue to discuss our values for Positive Behaviour for Learning. Remember that the value till the end of term is, ‘right place, right time.’
I wish you all a happy and safe holiday! See you all in Term 2.
Andrea Constantinides

Year 10 Year Advisor Update
The start of the year has been a very busy one for Year 10 as we settle into 2015. So far there have been a few different events for Year 10 that have occurred this term, including an excursion to UTS for an Information Technology (IT) seminar, another excursion to Technology Park for IST students to visit Australia’s Information and Communications Technology Research Centre of Excellence (NICTA) and an excursion with Commbank called “Smart Start” that looked at smart spending and saving strategies.

We have had students in Year 10 involved in representing the school in basketball (Mustavi Ali and Serika Shillingsworth), outdoor cricket (Mustavi Ali), touch football (Rachel Lin, Serika Shillingsworth, Jainen Mautama, Diamond Smith and Sarah Riley) and swimming (Chris Cen). Special mention to Chris for coming 4th in 100m backstroke at Sydney East Regionals and Serika for being selected for the preliminary squad for regional basketball!
There is no doubt that next term, Year 10 will be just as busy and proudly representing the school at a variety of events. See you in Term 2 and enjoy the holiday break, everyone.
Geraldine Prexl

Year 12 Year Adviser Update
The year has started very well for most of our Year 12 students. Throughout the Term we have focussed on time management and getting the most from our study periods while at school. Most students have at least one study hour a day where they can be utilising the time to catch up or revise their school work. On Thursday afternoons students not enrolled in extension course are expected to attend the supervised study periods held in the PLC.
Throughout the term we have had a few guests address Year 12 during our Year meetings. So far, a representative from Volunteers Abroad has spoken to the students of the benefits of completing several months helping out in a place of need. The Australian Federal Police sent some detectives to the senior students to talk about jobs and pathways into the AFP. Unfortunately, Year 12 were preparing for their upcoming exams so it was Year 11 who benefitted most from this visit.
We have representatives from the University of Sydney, Australian Catholic University and Macquarie University lined up to speak at our Year meetings during Term 2. The HSC & Careers Expo is coming up on the 29th May and I have booked us in. It is a very worthwhile event for Year 12 students looking to shop for post school options.
Students have just completed their half-yearly exams and are now awaiting the results and feedback. All went very well and, as their Year Adviser and Careers Adviser, I expect to interview each student early next term, after they have received their reports, to discuss their progress and assist them to achieve their best in the HSC. These interviews will also provide me an opportunity to help students with their post-school aspirations.
Patricia Betar

Positive Behaviour for Learning and Life
Alexandria Park Community School uses Positive Behaviour for Learning approaches to address student behaviour and create a positive learning environment for all. As part of this program the students have been learning about positive values for learning and life.

We have provided some information below about the values they have learnt about in Term 1 and the values they will be learning about in Term 2. Discussing these at home with your children and using this language when appropriate will assist your child in developing these values beyond their school environment.

Term 1
What you say matters – this value is about students realising how influential what they say is and that they should always think before they speak. It is important students understand the power of their words and the fact that positive words can make someone’s day whilst negative words can really upset a person.

Respect – this value draws on many different aspects of learning and life. Students have been taught to treat others in a considerate way and reflect on whether how they treat others is the way they would like to be treated. This is all centred around the idea of listening, sharing and valuing the opinions of others.
**Right Place, Right Time** – this value teaches students about appropriate behaviour. Students have learnt about the context of their behaviour as some behaviour is okay if they are in a certain place or it is a certain time. For example, tackling another student is appropriate when on the football field, but not in your maths class. This value also focuses on general safety.

**Term 2**

**Bullying (including cyberbullying)** – this value is aimed at addressing an issue that many teenagers go through whilst at school. Students will reflect on how their actions impact on others. Cyberbullying is an increasing concern with the access that many students have to the Internet. We will be informing students of the fact that what you post stays on the Internet forever and therefore they need to think before they post.

**Resilience** – this value focuses on our need to bounce back from challenges that arise throughout our lives. Students will discuss strategies to deal with these challenges and will learn that we learn through these challenges, as they are an ongoing part of life.

**Getting along (being a good friend)** – this value asks students to reflect on what it means to be a good friend. Friendships are such a key part of a student’s social development throughout their adolescence and it is important they understand what it means to be a good friend and what a positive and healthy friendship is.

---

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Dear Parents,

Your child has received an information letter for ICAS 2015. Our school will participate in Mathematics, Science & Writing tests. Please complete the form and enclose the correct amount of money in an envelope and return to APCS school office by Thursday (30/4/2015) if you wish to enrol your child in ICAS.

Overdue library books

We send standard library overdue notices home towards the end of each term (even if your loan is not quite overdue). If you have received an overdue slip from APCS school library, please help your child find & return the books to the school library. Please put the slips inside the book when you return it. You will not be charged any overdue fines for late returns. However, you must pay the contribution fees indicated in the letter to the school office if your child has lost the overdue books.

**P&C Meetings Dates 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What’s on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4th</td>
<td>School Development Day – staff participate in professional learning and development sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1st</td>
<td>Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 return to school for the start of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12th</td>
<td>P&amp;C will be held on the Junior Campus 6.30pm - 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kids Mega Day – Monday April 20, the School Development Day!!**

One1seven church Green Square is the local Anglican church and they are supporters of our school. On the Staff Development Day in Term 2 (20 April) they are hosting a Kids Mega Day, a full day event for children in Kindergarten – Year 6. The program runs from 8:30 (first drop off) and finishes at 5:00pm (last pick up) at their church building on the corner of Collins & Victoria St Beaconsfield. The theme for the day will be Space, and there will be dramas about some of the things Jesus said, crafts, games and a whole lot more.

Register now for lift off! The price is $30 per child (although there are discounts available if needed or for families of 3 or more). Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Children simply need to bring a hat, a drink and a NUT FREE lunch.

For more details: one1seven.org/kids
To register, email Andrew Levy at andrew@one1seven.org or call 9698 9497.

**School calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What’s on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday April 2</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday April 20</td>
<td>School Development Day – staff participate in professional learning and development sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday April 21</td>
<td>Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 return to school for the start of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 23</td>
<td>Year 10 PDHPE excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday April 30</td>
<td>Year 12 Modern History excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 4</td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting 6.30pm on Junior campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS**

No dogs are allowed on our school grounds. If you see someone with their dog on the grounds could you remind them of this rule, which has been made to ensure the safety of your child. The Council rangers may be called if a dog is seen on the school grounds.

This is a useful link with helpful information for children and dogs, promoting safety [http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/dogs_and_children.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/dogs_and_children.html)

Something of interest – Dogs on School Grounds:

- Under the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 owners of dogs must:
  - Be 18 years of age or over
  - Leash their dog when in a public place
  - Ensure their dog wears a collar and identification tag when in a public place
Ensure their dog does not enter a food consumption area or wild life protection area

Ensure their dog does not enter a school or child care playground and any other place declared prohibited to dogs by Council

The NSW Consolidated Act pertaining to dogs states dogs are prohibited in some public places. Section (e) of the Act specifically refers to schools and states that this applies to dogs whether they are leashed or unleashed. The exceptions are assistance dogs that are specifically trained to assist those who are sight or hearing impaired. Here is a link to a pdf

A fine of up to $330 can be incurred for having a dog in a prohibited place.

NAPLAN 2015

What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests? NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how? NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests? NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests? NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs? All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated. A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background. Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured? NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 15 May 2015.

**Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?**
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

**How are NAPLAN test results used?**
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

**Where can I get more information?**
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit the NAP website [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

**NAPLAN 2015 tests timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 language conventions 40 minutes writing</th>
<th>Year 5 language conventions 40 minutes writing</th>
<th>Year 7 language conventions 45 minutes writing</th>
<th>Year 9 language conventions 45 minutes writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 12 May</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 13 May</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 14 May</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 12 May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes reading</td>
<td>45 minutes numeracy 45 minutes</td>
<td>40 minutes reading</td>
<td>65 minutes numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes writing</td>
<td>50 minutes numeracy 50 minutes</td>
<td>40 minutes reading</td>
<td>65 minutes numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes reading</td>
<td>65 minutes numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.

[www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)
© Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority 2015

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY**