Welcome back to school.....First day of school for 2016

Xi Xi is a new student this year to Alex Park. She is in 3/4F. Xi Xi says that her first day at school was fabulous.

Year 8 students are looking very smart and adult in their white shirts. This group of fantastic students came to school a day earlier than they needed to help Mr Okell and the new year 7 students settle in on their first day of high school.

Welcome back to our parents too. They tell me that it is great to see how excited and enthusiastic the children are. One funny mum said ‘I am very happy my child is back at school. Can you keep him till 5pm?’

Mala, Aneesha, Hayley and Deanne, ex year 6 students of Alex Park are new to ‘high school’ and year 7. They said that their first day of high school was ‘exciting and fun’. We met new friends. It was great to meet the high school teachers Ms Medway, Mr Bennett, Ms Kasz and Ms Bourke.’

The year 6 and year 7 boys found their ‘usual spot’ in the playground before school to continue their handball games.

Jason in Year 7 said his first day of high school was ‘Good, great! We did drawing and we met new kids and new teachers like Ms Casswell and she helped me with the work when I wasn't sure. It's good to back.’
Congratulations students, staff and parents for a fantastic start to the 2016 school year. It seems not that long ago….way back in 2015 that we farewelled our Year 12 class of 2015 and congratulated and celebrated their outstanding HSC results, then here we are welcoming our newest Alex Park students - 64 Kindergarten children…wow!!

The Alex Park leadership team from left to right – Deputy Principal of the high school Glen Kingsley, Deputy Principal of the Primary School, Debra Lade, Principal, Diane Fetherston, and Community Centre Coordinator, Jo Fletcher. (Yes this photo was taken from a height in an attempt to make the team look younger and slimmer).

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
Regular school attendance is critical to student learning and well-being. It is a core rule in our public schools that students ‘attend school every school day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.’ If your child is absent from school, parents and carers need to provide an explanation for the absence within 7 days. This explanation can be provided in person, or by telephone call, written note, SMS text message or email. The written note can be handed to the administration office on either campus or to the class teacher (for primary students) or period 1 teacher (for high school students). If you have concerns about your child’s attendance, please contact the class teacher (for primary students) or Year Advisor (for high school students) so we can work together to support regular school attendance.

Family holidays and travel during the school terms
As of 2015, the Principal cannot approve students being exempted from attending school to go on family holidays or to travel. Holidays and travel need to be scheduled during the school vacation periods. If you believe that you have extenuating circumstances which require you child to absent from school for an extended period time to travel during the school term you will need to complete an application for extended leave and attach your travel documents 2 Weeks before the anticipated leave date. If the reason for the travel is in the best interest of the student a Certificate of Extended leave may be approved, with the period of the absence being counted as ‘leave’ absences from school and will affect your child’s attendance record.

Ms Diane Fetherston Principal
Lunar New Year!
8th of February 2016
As some of you may or may not know, February 8th is the Lunar New Year. Here are some ‘Did you know’ facts to spread cultural knowledge and appreciation!

Did you know?
The Lunar New Year occurs on the first day of the first lunar month and occurs between January 21st and February 20th. As the name suggests, it is determined by the lunar calendar which follows the phases of the moon, as well as other astrological phenomena.

Every Lunar New Year starts a new animal’s zodiac year, and 2016 is the year of the fire monkey! There are 12 zodiac animals, each corresponding to a particular year. They are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

Many other countries, cultures and religions follow a lunar calendar. Although Lunar New Year is most commonly known as “Chinese New Year”, it is celebrated in many other countries as well, including Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Tibet, the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam. Other cultures and religions that follow a lunar calendar include Judaism and Islam.

If you lived in China, you would get 3 days off work to celebrate Chinese New Year, and Koreans will traditionally eat tteokguk which is food made of soup and rice cakes. It is said that finishing a bowl of tteokguk will make you grow a year older! Some people avoid eating it for this reason!

On Lunar New Year, red envelopes filled with money are handed out from elders to young people and from bosses to employees. The colour red is adored in Chinese culture and is regarded as the colour for energy, happiness, and good luck. Sending red packets is a channel for sending good wishes and luck. Below is an example of how much money is typically given.

Red Envelopes — How Much to Give Who

- **Parents**
  - ¥500 - 2,000 (≈$100 - 300)

- **Close friends and relatives’ children**
  - ¥50 - 200 (≈$10 - 30)

- **Your own children**
  - ¥100 (≈$20)

- **Acquaintances’ children**
  - ¥10 or ¥20 (≈$5 - 10)

- **Your employees**
  - ¥100 - 1,000 (≈$20 - 200)

Staff professional learning

Our staff have competed on line and practical courses in Emergency Care and CPR. They have met in teams to share practice and collaborate on curriculum planning and assessment across all key learning areas. The Assistant Principal from the Educational Services Team gave a presentation of our PBL (positive behaviour for learning) data collected late in 2015 and led staff in an analysis of the data and provided a number of tools and strategies which teachers can use in their classrooms to enhance their PBL programs.
MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS

Name: Jessica Wayland
Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), at Macquarie University,

Teaching experience: I have worked at Stanmore PS since graduating and have taught Year 6 and Year 2.

Other employment experiences: I was a Milliner (hat maker) in Double Bay for 5 Years before beginning my university degree.

2016 teaching load at Alex Park: Kindergarten

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: I enjoy being part of welfare programs, mentoring children, and giving them personal and meaningful goals and guidelines. I love all types of hands on art and am extremely creative, which shows in my approach to teaching and my personality.

I believe that learning should be meaningful. I enjoy teaching interest based, play based and project based learning because it is meaningful, purposeful and enjoyable.

Name: Molly Moore
Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Primary education, University of Technology Sydney
Teaching experience: I taught as a casual teacher for 1 year before travelling overseas to work with special needs students in America. I then spent 2015 teaching year 2 at Concord West Public School.

Other employment experiences: Before completing my degree I worked in a day care centre, working with preschool students.

2016 teaching load at Alex Park I am very much looking forward to teaching year 2 at Alexandria Park.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: I love being involved in extracurricular activities as a teacher. I have previously had the opportunity to run the SRC and host Jump Rope for Heart at Concord West.

I look forward to creating an exciting and challenging classroom for my students. I believe students need to work in a safe and collaborative environment, and I will do my best to nurture and develop students’ diversity, independence and self-esteem.

First impressions of Alex Park – I have always wanted to work at Alexandria Park Community School because I grew up in the area and had the wonderful opportunity to complete my first university practicum at this school. I believe it has a unique and supportive setting, and I look forward to providing students with strong foundations and the skills they need to be successful lifelong learners.

**Name: Rosanna Ralston**

Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Education (Primary), at Sydney University,

Teaching experience: I have worked regularly as a casual teacher at Alex Park in terms 3 and 4 of 2015 as well as at other Inner West schools such as Stanmore PS, Mortlake PS, Woniora Road SSP and Glebe PS.

Other employment experiences: I lived in Spain, France and Colombia teaching English to adults for many years before beginning my University degree. I speak Spanish and some French.

2016 teaching load at Alex Park: Years 4/5.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: I am passionate about being part of the school community at Alex Park and would love to share my passion for yoga and meditation with the students here over the course of the year.

I believe that school is about creating children who are lifelong learners. Through linking what we learn in the classroom to the bigger picture world around them, I hope to encourage my students to grow and develop into happy, healthy and successful adults.

**Name: Denise Goldmann**

Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Arts (History & Development Studies) at the University of New South Wales. Masters in Teaching (Secondary –History, Society & Culture) at the Australian Catholic University.

Teaching experience: I completed my professional experiences at Marcellin College Randwick, Emanuel School and Ravenswood School for Girls. I also completed a professional experience of three weeks in a German School in Argentina called Pestalozzi Schule.

Other employment experiences: I was a Volunteer Coordinator at the University of New South Wales for a year in 2014 for a program called “Walama Muru”. I selected 30 university students to participate in the Program and organised fundraising events throughout the year. With the funds we
travelled to the community of Gilgandra in rural New South Wales where we engaged in cultural exchange with the local Indigenous community and undertook development projects which were needed by the community.

2016 teaching load at Alex Park: I will be sharing classes with Ms. Arya and with Ms. Szymanski. I will be teaching History Junior years (Year 8 to 10) and Legal Studies & Business Studies to senior students.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: I would like to be involved in Enrichment programs such as (Hip Hop dance, yoga &mindfulness).

I believe the role of teachers is to inspire a love of learning, a desire to be in the classroom and to act as a medium, a model through which students attain knowledge. I aim to create a learning environment in which students feel safe, welcome and part of a community. I strive to always emphasize and model respect, be well prepared, flexible, friendly, empathetic, have the highest of expectations and be enthusiastic.

First impressions of Alex Park: From the moment I first stepped into the school I have felt extremely welcomed by staff and students. The fact that the word community is part of the school’s name is indeed not only superfluous. Although I have only been working at the school for a short time, I already feel proud to belong to Alexandria Park Community School.

Name: Miss Natalie Szymanski
Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Arts (Ancient History + Art History & Theory) University of Sydney Masters of Teaching (Secondary)/ Graduate Certificate in Religious Education

Teaching experience: 7-10 History, Modern History, Ancient History, Studies of Religion, Geography, and Business Studies. Experience teaching 7 through 12. Have worked casually at a number of different schools since mid-2013 (during my final year of Masters).

Other employment experiences: Worked for 5 years as a support worker for people with disabilities at a not-for-profit respite organisation. My experiences with a range of different individuals (from 3 year olds to 40 year olds) provided me with invaluable insight in the importance of differentiation. I also received many certificates for training (duty of care, supporting diverse cultural groups, senior first aid, Makaton sign system etc.)

2016 teaching load at Alex Park (courses, years):
Classes:
Yr 8 History
x 3 Yr 9 History
Yr 10 History
Yr 10 commerce
11 Modern History
11 Business Studies
12 Business Studies
12 Vet Business Services supervisor
12 Work Studies
12 Modern Histor
Other responsibilities at Alex Park: Part of the Year 12 Mentoring program, enjoy one to one time with senior students discussing goals and challenges. I loved being involved in the SRC and Kick Back Café in 2015, happy to help out anytime.

I encourage inquiry based learning in my classes. I find the best way to learn is if the class community share ideas discuss debate and present. I will always ask my students to assess sources with a critical eye and question the intentions of the creator. In my eyes, history can be like a juicy soap opera. There are so many intriguing and interesting moments from the past and it should be delivered by an enthusiastic and passionate story teller, me!

First impressions of Alex Park – I was incredibly impressed with the rapport between the teachers and students. The kind greetings and laughs in the hall really left a lasting impression. The staff are inspiring and hardworking, they were all very welcoming, kind and supportive when I first arrived and continue to be.

Name: Daniel Nehl
Academic Qualifications & Institution: Bachelor of Science (James Cook University)
Graduate Diploma of Education (Southern Cross University)

Teaching experience: Academia Europea Guatemala (2013)
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (2015)
Alexandria Park Community School (2015)

Other employment experiences:
NSWDPI and Fisheries (Research Technician) 6 months
Sydney Water (Field Sampling Officer – Water Quality) 3+ Years
Both of these roles involved the use of science skills in the field and in the lab, which were an invaluable experience. They gave a real context for the role of science in society and future jobs that may be available for students.

2016 teaching load at Alex Park: Year 8, 9, 10 Science, Year 11 Senior Science, Enrichment Programs (New Inventors Go 3D!), Years 8 and 10 sport.

Other responsibilities at Alex Park: Technology, Outdoors, Aquaculture

To inspire and give every student a fair opportunity, whilst remaining assertive to the individual needs of the wide variety students.

First impressions of Alex Park: A very friendly environment with excellent supportive practices, culture and activities.

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS’ PRIMARY MESSAGE

I feel so incredibly lucky to have been appointed to Alex Park as Primary Deputy Principal. I would like to thank the student and parent community for making me feel so welcome. I have thoroughly enjoyed the start to our new school year and have been very impressed by the commitment shown by all of our teachers.

Our Kindergarten students had their first official day last week and it was wonderful to see so many proud parents farewell their children and then attend our ‘tears and tissues’ morning tea. I would like to congratulate our Early Stage 1 team on organising such a smooth transition for our new students and for the care they have shown to make it a memorable week. I would also like to welcome all of our new families to Alex Park and I am confident you will enjoy your time as part of our school community.
I have been able to visit all of our K-6 classrooms and I have been very impressed with how well our students have settled into the new school year. At Alex Park as part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program we have a school wide approach and work together to follow our three school expectations: Be a learner, Be respectful and Be Safe. It has been wonderful to see so many students working towards these expectations both in the classroom and in the playground. I am looking forward to contributing to the many valuable programs at Alex Park and working with our school community this year.

Debra Lade Deputy Principal
Park Road Campus

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS
Award winners at our first primary school assembly for 2016

Welcome back to School from the Early Stage One Team

Kindergarten students have already completed their Best Start assessments, and have started their very first year of schooling at Alex Park. We have had lots of fun in our new classes, and we have already learnt a lot about what it is like at “Big School”.

This year the Early Stage One Kindergarten team is being led by the newly appointed Assistant Principal, Ms Thea Wilson. Ms Wilson is excited about the fact that we now have three Kindergarten classes at Alex Park! Miss Coco Page is also teaching Kindergarten
in 2016 and she brings a wealth of experience and ideas with her. We are thrilled to have a newly appointed permanent teacher working with us, Miss Jessica Wayland. Miss Wayland was previously working at Stanmore Public school, and she is a passionate teacher who has lots of experience and enthusiasm to bring to Alex Park.

We would like to extend a special welcome to all the Kindergarten Parents and families who are new to the school this year. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your children, and learning and growing together in 2016.

**STAGE 1**

Welcome back to all students and parents to what will be another exciting year for all Year One and Year Two students. We have had a great start to the year with all students settling in to their classes extremely well.

The Stage 1 team includes Ms McLeod (1M) as Assistant Principal, Mrs Davey (1D), Miss Butler McPhee (2B) and Miss Moore (2M) Also our wonderful support teachers, Mrs Toia our Reading Recovery teacher, Mrs Kent our English as an Additional Dialect teacher, Aunty Deb our Aboriginal Education Officer, and Aunty Jane our Student Learning and Support Officer.
In 1M and 1D students have started learning about Chinese culture and have created beautiful Chinese dragons. The students love doing activities that help them to learn their sounds and developing their writing skills.

In 2M and 2B students have also created some beautiful work in setting goals for the year and getting to know their teacher.

Welcome back to students in Years Three to Six! (Stages 2 & 3)

A big welcome to all students in Years Three to Six, we are very excited to have 5 classes in our 3-6 teams.

Our team is led by Mrs Lucy Smith, an experienced member of our school executive. Mrs Belinda French is teaching 3/4F, and we welcome Miss Rosanna Ralston to APCS who is teaching 4/5R. Mr Daniel Judd has returned to APCS in 2016 to teach 5J, Ms Jocelyn Smith is once again teaching 5/5S and Mr Olsen is teaching 6O.

All our teachers are very excited to be working with such a wonderful group of children, and we look forward to a great year of learning together. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of the 3-6 staff if you have any queries or questions.

L-R Jocelyn Smith, Rosanna Ralston, David Olsen, Daniel Judd, Lucy Smith and Belinda French
HIGH SCHOOL NEWS
We have had a great start to the 2016 school year in the high school. Recently I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet with students and parents during enrolment interviews, and it has been fantastic to welcome 18 new students into the high school.

Each year group has had the opportunity to meet with their Year Advisors who have reminded students of the school’s expectations regarding bringing equipment to school including their BYOD and the wearing of full school uniform.

Our 2015 Year 12 students performed very strongly in the HSC, with many band 6’s gained across various subjects. 6 of our Yr 12 cohort received ATAR’s in the 90’s, with our highest achieving student Allan Xie receiving an ATAR of 98.2. Our former school captain, Will Makiachev, achieved an ATAR of 97 and was recognised by the BOSTES, being placed on the All-round Achievers list. To qualify for this, students need to have achieved a result in the highest band (Band 6 or Band E4) in 10 or more units of their courses.

We are fortunate to have highly qualified, experienced teachers employed in our High School who are experts in their Key Learning Areas. This ensures the delivery of high quality educational outcomes for all our students. I am looking forward to another very successful year at Alexandria Park Community School.

Mr Glen Kingsley Deputy Principal High School

THE EAL/D TEAM (English as an Additional Dialect)

The EAL/D faculty works to promote English language learning and intercultural understanding across the curriculum, and strengthen the school's ties to our vibrant multicultural community. Members of the faculty work collaboratively with classroom teachers to strengthen classroom strategies for student intercultural and language learning. APCS is very proud of the achievements of our EAL/D students, particularly given that a student who had been in Australia for less than three years achieved the top ATAR for 2015. We look forward to further celebrating the achievements of our students from Language Backgrounds Other than English in 2016. If caregivers have any questions about their child’s English language, or education in Australia
they are welcome to contact members of the faculty. Interpreters are available by calling 131 450.

**HSIE STAFF (Human Society and its Environment)**
(Back: Kadek Arya, Denise Goldman, Natalie Szymanski, Amy Day, Stuart Okell)
(Front: Tiffany-Jane Kasz & Adrian Johnson)

**HSIE Staff**
Ms Kadek Arya  Relieving Head Teacher - Legal Studies, Modern History, History & Geography
Ms Amy Day (Mon-Wed) - Modern History, Business Studies, History, Geography, Commerce
Mr Adrian Johnson – Economics, Commerce, History & Geography
Ms Natalie Szymanski – Modern History, Business Studies, Work Studies, Commerce, History & Geography
Ms Denise Goldman (Wed-Fri in Term 1) – Business Studies, Work Studies & History
Ms Tiffany-Jane Kasz – Commerce

**HSIE in 2016**
The HSIE faculty is looking forward to change and innovative practises in 2016. We farewelled our amazing HSIE Head teacher of 9 years, Ms Nahida Jamal at the end of 2015 and wished her all the best at her new school in the position of Deputy Principal. We also look forward to Ms Andrea Constantinidies returning in Term 3.

Off the back of excellent 2015 HSC results, the faculty is aiming to further improve learning outcomes for all students through continuing to focus on enriching and real world learning experiences such as with speaking with Holocaust survivors and working with the City of Sydney to solve Urban Growth. The HSIE faculty is also incorporating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) into its programing and teaching by leading Cross Key Learning Area Professional Development.

**MATHEMATICS FACULTY**
Mathematics staff: Claire Casswell, Joanne Taranto, Muhammad Abdullah, Stephen Bennett, Ray Liceralde, Charlie Liang

Exciting things are happening in Mathematics this year! We are continuing to create authentic learning experiences at all stages including a number of problem based learning tasks. This year we are supporting student learning through the development of student reference sheets to focus individual study for preparation and aid in Mathematics examinations. Students will be developing these in all classes 7-12. We will continue to support our HSC students with study days during the school holidays.

Paul Piperias is our resident expert Mathematician will continue to support learning as part of the Scientists in Schools program. He will be involved in STEM projects, in particular the UNSW Solar Car Competition and the Australian Mathematics Trust Statistics competition. We will aim to become National champions this year after our valiant effort to become State champions in 2015.

**SCIENCE**

Our team of dedicated Scientists inspire students to achieve their very best in all areas of Science.

In Science, students develop an appreciation of the contribution of science to finding solutions to personal, social and global issues relevant to their lives now and in the future.

Together, we aim to develop a willingness to use evidence and reason to engage with and respond to scientific and technological ideas as informed, reflective citizens. United we recognise the importance and relevance of science and technology in our lives now and for the future.
TAS FACULTY – (Technology and Applied Sciences)
Technology is part of our everyday lives. Technology areas of study include: Agriculture, Architecture, Engineering, Food, Graphics, ICT, Photography, Timber and Textiles, where students will be prepared for lifelong learning and career opportunities in the study of design and related fields.

They will be given further opportunity to develop an inspired interest in developing innovative solutions, an appreciation of, and satisfaction in producing products and projects of enduring functional quality. Students will learn to meet the requirements of an identified need through a design brief.

The introduction of the chickens adds to our dynamic and expanding Faculty!
The CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) staff may be small in number at APCS but they make up for it in experience and enthusiasm. Ray James is our specialist teacher of Visual Arts and Leanne Winfield is music personified. As so much research tells us, it is the creative arts that best develop our critical thinking skills, enabling us to problem solve and to imagine. Our outstanding CAPA team do an amazing job of fostering the creative thinking skills of our school.

CHICKENS
Alexandria Park Community School had the honour of being the first school to be presented with the day old chicks for the Sydney Royal Easter Show Meat Bird Pairs Competition. The SEC students represented the school with pride and enjoying the opportunity to get up and personal with a number of the day old chicks.

This is a State wide competition with over 100 schools participating for all corners of NSW. During the competition, students have the opportunity to raise and nurture, monitor and record every detail of these chickens. The aim is to dispel the myth that hormones are used in the raising of chickens for meat production.

Yr 8 Agriculture students will compete in this competition, under the supervision of Mr Miller.

ENGLISH
Hi, I'm Tahlia Sanders and I'm teaching English with 8A, 8x, 9A, 11 standard and 12 studies at Alex Park this year. I started working at Alex Park as a casual last year, and then taught English, PDHPE and careers in terms 3 and 4, which was a lot of fun, but I'm excited to only be teaching English classes this year! I think Alex Park is a fantastic school with a wonderful sense of community. I love that students of all different year groups are friends, and that students and teachers have such supportive and positive relationships.

Prior to becoming a teacher I worked in event management at UNSW, planning and organising a variety of student-focused events. After controlling crowds of up to 5000 uni students, managing
a class of 30 high school students is easy (except for last period on Fridays). I’m looking forward to a wonderful year at the school, and am excited about the innovative ideas the English faculty are working on this year.

**ENGLISH KLA (Key Learning Areas)**

At APCS the English staff consists of Jane Ryan (Head Teacher), Alex Forbath, Harry Jun, Geraldine Prexl, Tahlia Sanders and Maeve Thomson. The team is young and vibrant and full of enthusiasm. As a team we value the teaching of English as it is critical to the success and wellbeing of all of us throughout life. In English classes students develop their skills as effective communicators who question their world and seek to make meaning that will contribute to a better future for all. Through exploring contemporary issues, such as refugees, or concepts, such as conflict, students are encouraged to be deep and critical thinkers. They explore many of these issues or concepts through a range of texts, including novels, plays (and yes – Shakespeare too!), films and use a diverse range of texts to express and share their own ideas and understandings of the world.

**KOREAN**

This year at Alexandria Park Community School, we will be offering Korean as a language of study for year 8 students. Korean is spoken by a population of more than 80 million people in Korean communities worldwide and in recent years, has experienced a huge boost in popularity. Through their study of Korean, students will be able to develop their intercultural communication skills and will support their understanding of Australia’s engagement with Asia. Students will be exposed to a wealth of culture and tradition dating back to more than 5,000 years. In this course, students will develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through a range of culturally rich teaching and learning activities. Parents are encouraged to get involved with students’ learning, as they will be keen to share their knowledge of Korean language and culture at home!

Harry Jun Korean Language Teacher

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Music Ensembles** The co-curricular performance program is a well-established and successful part of the Music program at Alexandria Park Community School and we are looking to further expand and develop the program again in 2016. It affords our students many excellent opportunities to develop their instrumental and vocal performance skills. Participating in an ensemble also allows students opportunities to develop important life skills such as independence, responsibility, commitment and collaboration. Many friendships are also forged through belonging to an ensemble. For a number of our students belonging to a school ensemble is a stepping-stone to joining ensembles outside of school such as the Sydney Children’s Choir or Arts Unit ensembles. We encourage all students to participate in co-curricular music. **There is no fee for participating in an ensemble** although there may be a small charge from time to time to cover travel costs to performances etc. Ensembles being offered at the start of 2016 are:

**CONCERT BAND:** This ensemble is open to all instrumentalists from years 4-12. The Concert Band can accommodate players of all String, Brass and Woodwind instruments. We also encourage Acoustic and Electric Guitarists, Bass players and Drummers. There are a few places for Keyboard players from about Grade 2 exam level and up.

All Concert band players must already have some experience playing their instrument as we do not currently offer beginner tuition at school. Students who no longer have their own instrument may be able to hire one from school or from the Performing Arts Unit.

Rehearsals are on Tuesdays starting at 8.00. Students can register at the first rehearsal on Tuesday February 9th
**VOCAL ENSEMBLE**: This ensemble is open to all students from years 4-12 who enjoy singing and would like to develop their vocal ability. There is no audition.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays starting at 8.00. Students can register at the first rehearsal on Wednesday February 10th.

**A CAPPELLA VOCAL GROUP**: This ensemble is open to students in years 9-12. This ensemble is for strong singers who are interested in exploring the style of singing and repertoire popularized by “Pitch Perfect” and “Glee”. It would be ideally suited to students already having vocal lessons or who have performance experience.

Rehearsal time will be negotiated with interested students but will be before or after school time. Interested students should contact me by email or in person as soon as possible.

Leanne Winfield Music Teacher

**SPORTS NEWS**

**2016 and the PDHPE goals** *(Personal Development, Health and Physical Education)*

The PDHPE department are looking forward to an exciting new project for 2016. We will be working with our Stage 6 students on a new program called ALARM designed to improve the written extended responses under exam conditions.

Below is our hard-working PDHPE team;

From left: Mr Matthew Bowman, Ms Connie Rossides, Ms Tiffany Kasz, Ms Julie Strachan and Mr Stewart O’Kell

**K-6 SPORT**

We have an exciting year of sporting opportunities planned for all K-6 students, with our brand new K-2 Sport programme on Thursdays. Classes will be involved in a variety of structured physical activities that promote enjoyment and recognise the importance of these for health and
lifestyle balance. During Terms 1 and 2, students will also participate in a 1-hour Dance programme on a rotation, delivered by specialist teachers in the Denzil (see the timetable below). The fee for K-2 Sport is $40.00 per semester. Our Kindergarten students will also enjoy a structured AFL programme taught by specialist coaches with AFLNSW.

Combined Sport for Years 3-6 will run until Friday 1st April (Week 10). PSSA Softball and Cricket competitions will for run for eight weeks, beginning on Friday 12th February (Week 3). Teams will travel to Tempe Reserve to compete against other schools in our region. Our Go-Go sessions continue to be popular, as do our swimming lessons at the NCIE. Terry Denzil has kindly offered to continue coaching our Basketball group, and the At-School group of students will participate in a range of sports and fitness activities. The 3-6 Sport fee is $50.00 each term.

We also have our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 24th February at Botany Aquatic Centre. More information will come shortly.

Thanks for your ongoing support!

Mr Olsen  
K-6 Sport Co-ordinator

**APCS FITNESS CLUB IS BACK FOR 2016!**

Did you know that teens that participate in approximately 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise on a daily basis achieve more positive mental and physical health? Engaging in physical activity also aids a better quality night sleep ensuring improved focus and concentration throughout the day. Teens who participate in physical activity are also more likely to continue to be physically active into their adult life and avoid obesity and other lifestyle related diseases such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

If you (parent/guardian/carer/teen) are interested in kick starting 2016 with a healthy dose of physical activity, join us on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 7:15-8:15am in The Denzil for a combination of aerobic, strength and flexibility training. All welcome- seasoned athletes, beginner new year’s health resolutioners, experimental athletes, young and old (you can rival Mr Abdullah for the fittest senior citizen)- come one, come all!!

![Team Photo](image-url)
LIBRARY NEWS

News from the library (Term 1 & 2)
APCS library hosts three book clubs throughout the school year. Your child will bring a book club brochure home at various times. If you wish to place orders of your choice, please be mindful of the following procedures.

**Scholastic Australia**: You can make orders both online or send cash or cheque to school with your child.

**Carnival Club**: you can only place orders online via website in the brochure.

**Redgum Club**: you can only place orders online via website in the brochure.

News from the library (T1W3)
Dear APCS families, welcome back to a new school year. APCS library classes starts on Monday (8/2/2016). K-6 classes will be able to borrow & return library books during the scheduled times below at junior campus. Students must have library bags in order to take books home. Library bag costs $10 each at the uniform shop near the school office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>Monday (11:40am-12:40pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>Monday (9:10am-10:10pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Monday (2:10pm - 3:10pm)</td>
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<td>1D</td>
<td>Monday (10.10pm - 11:00am)</td>
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<td>1M</td>
<td>Monday (12:40pm-1:40pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Thursday (9:10am - 10:10am)</td>
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<td>2M</td>
<td>Thursday (10:10am - 11:10am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4F</td>
<td>Thursday (12:40pm-1:40pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5R</td>
<td>Thursday (2:10pm - 3:10pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5J</td>
<td>Wednesday (12:40pm-1:40pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Wednesday (10:10am-11:10am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6O</td>
<td>Wednesday (11:40am-12:40pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K-6 classes will have library orientation lessons once per term. Dates will be announced to classes prior to lesson commences.

If you find 2015 overdue library books at home, please let your child bring them back during first library lessons in weeks 3-4. Please write a return message on the back of an overdue slip which might be brought back by your child showing book titles during W3-4. There are no fines for late returns. However if books are lost, you need to pay $6 per book to school

**Update on Back to School with Opal**
Schools will receive Opal Cards from 27 January 2016.

Eligible school students can ‘tap’ into Opal with the School Opal card from the beginning of Term 1 2016.

Consignments of School Opal cards for students who had a travel pass in 2015, and are eligible for travel in 2016 under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), should arrive at schools from 27 January 2016.

However, certain eligible students will need to apply for a School Opal card:
- students changing schools or campuses,
- students updating personal details,
- students going from year 2 to 3 or from year 6 to 7, and
- new applicants or students who have not yet applied.
Parents of these eligible students will need to submit an application via [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students), and will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address in the first two weeks of term one 2016.

Students or parents can contact 131 500 or [concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au) for more information or if their cards don’t arrive within the first two weeks.

Parents or guardians, and students who are eligible for SSTS travel and have not already received a card, should be directed to apply online at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

Schools need to endorse the application forms and return them to Transport for NSW within the first two weeks of term to ensure eligible students can get their School Opal cards as quickly as possible.

Schools are only required to endorse the enrolment status, year level and home address of students. Schools are not required to indicate the nominated transport mode and operator. Transport for NSW is responsible for managing SSTS compliance.

**Important information about travelling with Opal:**

- The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school on approved modes of public transport.

- The School Opal card doesn’t cover travel to activities away from school, such as, after school care, sport and school excursions.

- Remember: A grace period applies at the start of each new school year, where school students who have been approved for SSTS travel can travel without a valid pass while new passes are being issued. Students must be in school uniform or be able to provide evidence (such as a school ID or school books) that they are travelling to or from school during this time.

- Students should use a Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends, during school holidays or activities away from school.

After two weeks of receiving your School Opal cards, please return any cards unable to be issued to students to:

Transport for NSW Locked Bag 5085
Parramatta NSW 2124

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**Please Note:** The instructions above are specifically for Schools within the Opal Network.

**Application process for students travelling both inside and outside the Opal network**

Students travelling inside and outside the Opal network will need to follow the application process for both a School Opal card and a school travel pass. Schools should send the endorsed School Opal card application form to Transport for NSW and the endorsed Application Form for Subsidised Travel and Update of Student Details to the appropriate operator.

**Application process for travel outside the Opal network**

Parents, guardians and students cannot apply online at this stage and should obtain a paper application form available from their school or TAFE.

A separate application must be lodged for each part of the journey taken with a different transport operator. For example, a journey on a bus and a train requires two applications; however, a journey on two separate services run by the same operator requires only one application.
If the application is successful, the school travel pass(es) will be issued by the transport operator and sent to the schools for distribution.

**Behaviour matters**

Please remind students that free travel is a privilege that can be taken away if official Codes of Conduct aren’t followed. In summary, students should remember to:

- Tap on and tap off every time.
- Offer their seat to paying customers without being asked.
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers.
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey.
- Always travel with a valid ticket.
- Student Codes of Conduct are available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

**TRANSITION PLAYGROUP NEWS**

**Alexandria Park Transition Playgroup** - For families with children aged 3-5 years

Wednesdays 9am - 11am Terms 1 & 2, 2016

This Playgroup is for any local family whose child is aged 3-5 years who wants to know more about Alexandria Park Community School for possible future enrolment of their child/children. (Younger siblings also welcome)

Cost is $2 per family

For further information please contact Jo 9319 3207.

**COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS**

The Community Centre has begun all its activities for Term 1. There are Music & Movement classes at 10am and 11am on Mondays. The Transition Playgroup has moved to Wednesdays from 9am to 11am. The Multicultural Playgroup is on Thursdays from 10am to 12noon. And every Friday fortnight the Food Co-op runs with boxes of fruit and veggies for only $30. The Toy Library is open and there are plenty of clothes and things in the Secondhand Clothing Swap. So come in and check out our Community Centre.

**This term our Transition Playgroup is open to all school parents with children aged 0-5 years. Every Wednesday 9am to 11am. Come and join us.**

To find out more information about any of the above activities please contact Jo Fletcher on 9319 3207.