ACHIEVING and ASPIRING STUDENTS

Soroptimist International, Sydney, names Solongo Marneur an Education Grant Awardee for 2015-2016.

Solongo Marneur (Year 11) and her mother Mrs Nanjaa and 2014 awardee Jennifer Vo (year 12) and her mother, Mrs Vo, with Principal Miss Fetherston at the Soroptimist Sydney Education Grant Awards Ceremony held recently at Parliament House.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls. Its network of around 80,000 club members in 130 countries and territories works at a local, national and international level to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls.

The Soroptimist International Sydney panel were very impressed with Solongo’s application and were especially interested in her volunteer work supporting communities in need in her home country of Mongolia. Interestingly Mongolia has just formed its first Soroptimist International club and Solongo and her mother are very keen to support this initiative now and when they return to Mongolia. Congratulations Solongo.

Girls Basketball team are Winners

Congratulations to the Girls Open Basketball team who will be representing Sydney East in the final rounds of the NSW CHS Girls Open Basketball competition. The team had two outstanding performances against Engadine, 49-2, and Caringbah, 42-12 in the first and second round matches. As a result they were able to compete at Sutherland Stadium and along the way defeated Randwick Girls High School 52-25, Endeavour Sports High School and Rose Bay Secondary College by 25 points. Placing them in the top 23 teams in the state. The team consisting of
Meiya Folwell, Helena Guo, Sheetal Singh, Nikita Hutabarat, Eri Kawada, Brittney Simpson, Diana Chin, Saraih Flood, Serika Shillingsworth and Matilda Folwell demonstrated the skills they have been learning during their 2 hour after school training sessions each Friday with their coaches, Stewart Okell and Terry Denzil. Their achievements to date are to be celebrated and we wish the team all the best in their next match!!! Go Girls!

**Learning, Leadership and Innovation**

Teacher professional learning and collaboration is an integral component of quality teaching. At Alex Park teachers and support staffs create teams to share practices and learnings. These teams can be K – 12, or primary and high school, faculty and cluster based or housed in student wellbeing, such as the welfare team and the PBL team. Teams of staff form to drive special programs and events such as Harmony Day, NAIDOC Day and Presentation Day. We have opened our professional learning centre (PLC) on the senior campus to provide a flexible environment conducive to teacher learning, collaboration and sharing. Timetabled high school classes also use this space creatively.

Most recently staff have been working to complete their training on Anaphylaxis and Child Protection. Anaphylaxis training was developed through a number of e-learning modules. Each module contained essential information about recognising and providing an emergency response to anaphylaxis, a life threatening condition, together with information about key departmental policies and strategies to manage and support students diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis. At the end of each module staff had to complete and pass a test. At the end of all the modules staff had to complete a test and gain a final score of 100%.

Our Child Protection training was held on a Tuesday afternoon with all staff brought together to discuss scenarios and share experiences and strategies for supporting students and families. The photos show our staff engaged in professional learning and training in the PLC.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to Leanne Seddon and Yvette Edgell.

Leanne and Yvette have been tireless leaders and workers for the betterment of Alexandria Park Community School. As executive members of the P & C they have worked collaboratively and inclusively to improve the opportunities for parents, carers and the broader community to engage and connect with our great school. They have been instrumental in building the capacity of our P & C and passionate about working with the school community to make APCS the best school for all of the children. Thank you Leanne and Yvette for your service as President and Vice President of our P&C for the past 2 years.
At our recent P&C AGM meeting I thanked the entire executive team for their commitment and work during 2014 which saw the strengthening of P & C programs such as communication and engagement, senior campus renovations, community days, and the school canteen.

Our 2015 executive team is:

Deb HeggatonKlenner - President
Andrew Levy - Vice President
Yvonne Timmins - 2nd Vice President
Kylie Mashman - Secretary
Cimone Grayson – Treasurer

I am excited to be able to work with Deb and her team in 2015 to continue to lead Alexandria Park Community School collaboratively with our parents and carers, staff, students and the broader community in programs and initiatives which will see us fulfilling our vision for our school.

Vision Statement
“Alexandria Park Community School is a high performing school where our core business is to EDUCATE FOR SUCCESS. Our vision is that all students will achieve an inspiring future through continuous and uninterrupted quality educational opportunities provided from Kindergarten to Year 12. These experiences allow all students to LEARN, LEAD & SUCCEED.

Our unique and vibrant school community setting reflects our position as the inner city Sydney hub for educational excellence and demonstrates our commitment to serve and respect our diverse local community through mutually authentic partnerships, collaborative decision making and respectful relationships.”

High School Open Day
It was wonderful to be able to open our high school to local parents and students and host an event where our visitors had the opportunity to experience high school classrooms, on the senior campus and the Middle School. Over 50 people met and talked with students, teachers, support staff, executive leaders and parents. They saw lessons in Maths, Science, Technology, English, Geography, Business, Economics, PDHPE, Music and Visual Arts. Our school captains, vice captains, SRC and student ambassadors were amazing in their leadership. They spoke eloquently, passionately and honestly about our school to our visitors and answered their questions about our
high school. Eden Timbery, junior school captain, chaired our assembly on the junior campus with her usual calmness and expertise. Two Year 7 students, Trisha Williams (ex Year 6 from Bourke Street Primary School and Ben Snaea (ex Year 6 APCS) addressed the assembly speaking about their transition to our high school, the support that they have received from the Middle School and Transition teachers, the programs that they enjoy and the new friends that they have made this year.

I would like to share with you part of an email sent to Leanne Seddon from a local parent who attended our High School Open Day:

“How gorgeous are those year 12s! Lots of happy families there today - and we know lots of them and they were all looking for something to fault and no one could fault anything so please congratulate Di, the teachers, and especially the beautiful students who did the most perfect sales job because they were themselves showing the best of their school!

All the Darlington kids loved going into the year 11 Chemistry class, hearing about what they were doing (exciting!) and hearing how much everyone loves Mr Bashir: 'such a cool teacher' apparently!”

Needless to say I am a very proud Principal who has great belief and confidence in our students, teachers, staff and learning programs and I love being able to show the community the wonderful outcomes that are achieved every day as part of our practice at Alex Park.

My classroom visit

In this newsletter I want to share with you my visit to 7A Music. Every student is learning an instrument under the tutelage of Ms Winfield. They are working on a performance item called ‘3 Little Birds’ (a Bob Marley song). I loved that they invited me to class to perform for me and even more so when they allowed me to play with them (on the Tamborine) when they performed 3 Little Birds’ for a second time. Too much fun!!! All year 7 classes are experiencing the same opportunities to learn an instrument and perform as a group in their unit of work called ‘Reggae’
Safety in the car park on the junior campus

Last year work was undertaken by the WHS team and the P&C and strategies implemented to improve the safety in the car park by decreasing the pedestrians. The oval is now used for movement between the campuses and pedestrians, cyclist and scooter riders entering and exiting the school at Belmont Street are NOT to use the car park. They are to use the gate at the Community Garden sign to enter and exit the school. Much thanks to Sam our General Assistant for constructing this gate during the January holidays.

Welcome to Alex Park Steven McLeod New Teacher, 2015

Academic Qualifications & Institution: I have completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts in Music and Drama at Wollongong University. I also completed my Masters of Primary Teaching at University of Western Sydney.

Teaching experience: This is my third year out of university. I have done lots of casual work from K-6 for about 2 and a half years ranging a variety of schools in the St George and Sutherland Shire Areas. I have also worked out west at Bankstown and Belmore South Public Schools. I did a 3 week block at Lucas Heights Community School doing Special Ed with high school students. I also completed about a two week block at Lugarno Public School on a Stages 2 and 3. I recently just completed a two term block at Padstow Park Public School on a 4/5 class.

Other employment experiences: I have been involved in many musical theatre shows which allows me to maintain my skills in performance. Performance is my passion and I enjoy sharing creative arts skills with the children. This is done voluntarily but a skill that I will use in my teaching career.

2015 teaching load at Alex Park: I am job sharing with Jann Hanekroot on a 5/6 class for two days and doing R.F.F for 3 days doing creative arts and library with K-4.

Areas of passion / interests that you would like to be involved in at Alex Park. I would like to be able to put on performances for the school and perhaps outside of the school which would give me great pleasure and achievement.

Beliefs/goals in relation to teaching, learning and student achievement: I believe that all students have the right to learn no matter what their race, culture or background. I believe it is very rewarding when you see students’ progress. Education is so important and shows that we can make a difference in a child’s life.

First impressions of Alex Park: The students, staff and parents are all lovely and I am looking forward to teaching my classes this year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

In 5/6HM, students have been studying how ICT affects society. Students have watched a YouTube clip on how technology has changed their lives and also found out some statistics about the use of technology. They are looking forward to their assessment, where they’ll have to make a product using some form of technology to communicate with each other.
In Creative Arts in 6M, students have been investigating the use of weaving in Papua New Guinea as a way of creating functional objects like bags and mats as well as using palm fronds to create shelters. Students have experimented with paper weaving to create an artwork and will be developing these skills further in their major work.

Year 7 are being introduced to the intricacies of geography. They are learning to read different kinds of maps and developing skills which are required to build success in future years of geography. The Year 7 cohort have also come together to spread Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) amongst the school. Some very proactive students have even continued to maintain PBL outside of school, by posting motivational and positive messages on their class group's Edmodo page. I am very proud of all the hard work Year 7 are putting into enacting PBL and hope it continues to spread! In Science, students have been researching the different branches of Science. Students have discovered all the different jobs in Science and have begun to create a tree to display our information. We have also been learning about equipment in the lab and working towards getting our Bunsen burner licence.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

8A Creative Writing Stories

8A have been studying the text “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss as part of their current Area of Study – Journeys. Students had to imagine they were in The Waiting Place, as mentioned in the story, and write a story about their experiences while waiting. Below is a selection of the students work.

Waiting for my Lasagna to Heat Up

By Arada Thama

I look at the clock and see it’s 8.14pm. Everyone else in the house was either getting ready to relax on the couch or talking to each other. I can feel my stomach starting to rumble. I now know I’m very hungry. I go to the fridge to look for something to eat, and then I see it. It’s just sitting there looking right back at me. I could hear it simultaneously saying “eat me, eat me.” So I decide to take the delicious famous Italian meal that consists of layers of lasagna sheets and the rich, thick and tasty mince. Oh and a top layer of an unidentified type of cheese. I put it on a plate and put the mouth-watering slice of lasagna in the microwave to heat it up. I closed the microwave door and put it in there for two minutes. I glared at the microwave as the light shone on the tasty meal I was about to eat. I watched as it spun around in the microwave. I looked back at the time, one minute and twenty-six seconds to go. Excitement fills inside me. I look back at the clock again and see it has one minute and three seconds to go. ARGGGG, I want it to be finished already! As the seconds went by, I got hungrier and hungrier. To use up some time I went
over to the drawer and got a spoon, because I like to eat with spoons. I walked back to the microwave and I smiled because there was only fifteen seconds to go. I counted down the seconds in my head. 3, 2, 1, BEEP! I excitedly opened the microwave and took out the plate, which was really hot. I walked over to the table with my food and sat down. I spooned out a piece of lasagna. I could feel steam coming out of it. I put it in my mouth and my taste buds felt amazing. The wait was worth it.

Mohammed is waiting for Snow to Snow
By Mohammed Mourad
I woke up in the morning in the middle of autumn waiting for winter to come. Days go past still waiting for winter. Every night I have dreams of snow but it never comes to life. I tell my mum I want to travel to another country to see the snow but she always says it will come one day. I always watch the news and the news reporter always says it is snowing in another country. I get jealous. I call my friend in another country where it is snowing right now. He answers and he says, “I can’t talk for long because I hardly have any reception”. I ask, “why?” and he said, “the snow has frozen the electricity lines and my dad is trying to melt it”. On February 29th I was so devastated that the news reporter said it was not going to snow this winter. Once I heard that I was very disappointed but I still believe it will snow. I always believed the weatherman but now I don’t. It is now bedtime my mum always reads me a bedtime story. I told her that tonight I want a story about snow.

Waiting at the Dentist
By Reece Madden – Sadiku
Today is a Tuesday morning and I am waiting for the dentist. I have been waiting for so long it seems like hours. I am so bored. I have nothing to do. Oh wait, I have my iPhone to play games and listen to music, but it is only on 5% battery. I better hurry up and go get my charger from my car. I have to be quick or someone might take my spot in the dentist. I feel confident that no one will take my spot so I rush to the car park and dash to my car. I just remembered that I have left my bag in the waiting room at the dentist. I felt absolutely dreadful. Now I had to run back to the waiting room, get my bag, get my car keys out of my bag, run back to the car park to open my car and get my charger. That is something I am willing to do to avoid being bored. So I ran back to the waiting room, to get my bag with my car keys inside, to obtain my charger from inside my car. I am now looking everywhere in my car for that stupid CHARGER. I can’t find it. I must have left my charger at my nephew’s birthday party. I am now engulfed with disappointment and RAGE. I miserably walked back to the waiting room and sat down in my uncomfortable chair. I realised I still have a petty 5%, no now 4% of battery. Oh well that will be a disappointing four minutes. Oh well I might as well play flappy bird, no fruit ninja. Just as I was about to start playing, my iPhone ran out of charge. I just have to be patient. About two minutes later the main dentist called “Mr Robinson”. I felt relief for the first time today.

Joshua is waiting for the Snow to Snow
By Joshua Carrillo
I woke up on a cold winter’s morning; rush outside to see the shining white snow and … nothing. I saw the news report last night and it was expected to snow today. I just moved here and I’ve never seen the snow before. All my new friends say that the snow is amazing. I’m a bit jealous I haven’t seen it before. Days pass and still no snow. I was getting a little worried. February 28th, I wake up, look out my window and see nothing. I was so devastated. I didn’t want to wait another year. I stayed in bed all day. I was so sad I didn’t get to see the snow. It was 9pm, I was not even thinking about the snow anymore. When suddenly, a little snowflake came from my window. My heart filled with joy, as I went to my window and saw snow falling.
I’ll be Waiting Forever!
By Kyra Togo
The sound of people chewing, munching, slurping and crunching is driving me crazy. Ding! The bell rings. I watch the waiter pick up the plates of food from the kitchen and walk towards my table. It feels like the waiter is walking in slow motion and purposely making sure the people around me get their food before me. Is it finally my turn? Is this torturous wait finally over? I seriously cannot believe this waiter. He came to my table with two plates of food and it turned out it was table number 34 not 43!

Here I am still waiting. If I have to wait any longer I am going to go into that stupid kitchen and cook my own food. I can feel my stomach shrivelling into the size of a tiny little pea. Mmmm! Even the thought of peas is making me a lot hungrier and definitely a lot angrier.

The smell of all the food, every ding of the bell, every footstep of the waiter, every crunch, munch and slurp that I hear, the stale taste of hunger in my mouth, makes me feel like I’m on the road to insanity. I’ll be waiting forever!

The High School Careers Program
From the Careers Department, Careers Adviser Patricia Betar
Every year the Careers department works hard to find the best opportunities for our students to gain knowledge and skills in employment and/or training.

Year 2014 was no exception and, as the Coordinator of our VET subjects and Year Adviser for both Years 11 and 12, the Careers Department had its work cut out.

We began the year with the checking of enrolments into Distance Education, Saturday school, OTEN High school, Tafe and Registered Training Organisations, (RTO). All BOSTES entries have to be updated, finalised and maintained throughout the year and the Assessment Schedules and Policies handbooks need to be updated and handed out to students.

2014 saw twelve students begin the year as School Based Trainees. Of these twelve there were two withdrawals, two completions and eight rolling over into their second year in 2015. We ended the year with the signing up of six new trainees to begin in 2015.

Year 8 students were able to participate in the Racing 2 The Top Program again this year. Selected students get to build and keep their own remote controlled, petrol powered racing cars. This is an excellent program where students develop skills in engineering and mechanics. They learn how to read and follow instructions, work in teams and gain self-confidence and develop maturity.

Year 10 enjoyed a variety of new experiences related to training and employment, most of all, Work Experience 2014 saw fifty-four students participate and twenty one employers volunteer to host the students for the week. It was a record number of students and an overwhelmingly successful week for Year 10. Students got to visit lawyers, schools, emergency services, financial, medical and higher education institutions, not for profit organisations, small business, multi-national companies and entertainment industries. They followed this week up with lessons from me in formal letter writing so thank you letters were all posted along with a Certificate for each employer. Students also received a Certificate acknowledging their completion of work experience.

Other activities offered to Year 10 were the SmartStart Financial Literacy workshops where students were given skills in financial planning. The Tax File Number application scheme for schools finished up last year so I made an extra effort to ensure that all Year 10 students used the school for easy access to a Tax File Number. Those who missed out will need to apply via the post office and produce 100 points of ID.

Year 10 were also given the opportunity to visit CHEP at Rosehill where they were given an insight into the workings of this section of the Transport & Logistics Industry. Some students were also lucky enough to attend the Zurich Insurance Careers Day where they visited the Sydney office of
Zurich Insurance and worked with staff members throughout the day on early career goals and strategies for improving their career opportunities.

The **Subject Selection evening** held in Term 3 was also designed to help students in Years 8 and 10 choose the right subjects by giving them access to as much information as possible. A representative from the BOSTES gave an informed talk to parents about the BOSTES requirements and Tafe were there also to give out information and answer questions related to vocational courses available.

**Year 11**, along with **Year 12**, were addressed throughout the year by representatives from many different University and Private Education providers. These **information sessions** allowed students to gather information and compare and contrast the different institutions and to hear about the entry pathways and scholarships being offered by the different Institutions. Volunteering abroad was also explained to students with one student deciding to take a Gap year and work in Vietnam after hearing about the program.

An excursion to Parramatta for students to learn about the **employment and volunteering** within the disability sector was organised for those student who are taking **short courses** at TAFE. Finding school didn’t fit were organised for those students in Hospitality and photography. The Careers Department helped several students apply for **awards and scholarships** throughout the year and nominated several more. These included the Betty Makin Youth Award and the Housing NSW Scholarship. The You@UNSW is a very successful program that allows students to achieve ATAR bonus points if needed to get into a course at UNSW.

The University of Sydney school **free tutorial scheme** continued with many of our Year 11 students being eligible for free tutoring from University students throughout the year. This will continue in 2015.

I was lucky enough to escort a few girls from Year 11 to Parliament House for the **Young Women in Leadership Lectures**. I have also helped organise students interested in the **Winter & Summer school programs** offered by several Universities, particularly for our Indigenous students.

The biggest event organised for **Year 11** this year would have to have been the **Study Skills Day** at The Australian Technology Park. This day was designed to help prepare Year 11 for their final year of High School where every assessment counts towards their HSC and many students become overwhelmed through lack of organisation and preparedness. Guest speakers provided the focus and talked about motivation, the required skillset needed to be successful and some valuable techniques designed to help students get the most out of their study time at home and at school.

**Year 12.** This year we had two students leave school before the completion of their HSC. Both students were supported through counselling, conversations with them and their parent/caregiver, appointments with employers and assistance in completing application forms. One has continued her education through an alternative educational provider more suited to her career goals while the other student has gained access to full time employment.

Many students in Year 12 applied for **scholarships** through Universities such as the E12 scheme, UTS Science scholarships, Schools Recommendation Schemes, and Co-op programs. The Long Tan Leadership Award was also coordinated by the Careers Department. **Mentoring** from the Boston Consulting group continued with several Year 12 students and the meetings were organised throughout the year.

A visit to the **HSC Careers Expo** at Moore Park was also on the agenda for Year 12 to expose them to as much information as they could absorb regarding their post school choices.

As well as the class specific activities mentioned above, the Careers Department was also responsible for preparing our school for the **VET Audit** to ensure our school was delivering Business Services to an Industry standard.
My multiple roles as Careers Adviser, Year Adviser and Vet Coordinator often overlap and I am able to access information and opportunities to best support our students. This year I have attended regular interagency meetings, VET Coordinator meetings, Careers & Transition Adviser Meetings, University, TAFE and Private Provider Careers Adviser Days and seminars, workshops and conferences dealing with topics as varied as the scaling report on the ATAR and HSC to emergency housing contacts for students at risk.

I have been fortunate to have been able to organise visits from the Defence Forces for the whole school and UTS Engineering for girls only.

As well as all this, the Careers door is always open to students wishing to seek my assistance in enquiries regarding their futures.

I look forward to doing it all again in 2015 😊

Students Online
Schools are asked to encourage their senior students to use the resources and information in Students Online. Years 10, 11 and 12 students need to activate their account first and create a PIN. Once logged in they can access, via My Details, their:

- personal details
- Year 10 grades (in Dec) and HSC Preliminary (Year 11) grades (in Nov)

and in Year 12, or their HSC year, their:

- personal HSC Exam timetable (in Apr)
- Assessment Ranks (in Nov)
- HSC results (in Dec)

Students Online is designed to be a one stop shop for senior study and HSC information for students. It also has a wide range of useful advice and resources. For example, the Study tips and materials section has links to

- past papers
- marking guidelines
- quizzes
- HSC workbooks including eBooks
- HSC apps

Year 12 Students will receive a Students Online Bulletin reminding them to activate their accounts at the beginning of term 1, 2015.

MUSIC NEWS
Music Ensembles
CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC
At Alex Park we encourage students to participate in co-curricular ensembles to develop a range of musical and personal skills.

This year there are three co-curricular Music ensembles available for Middle School students to join.

Middle School Band is for students who can already play an instrument and rehearses on Tuesday mornings from 8.00.

Middle School Vocal Ensemble is open to any student who enjoys singing and is interested in developing performance skills. We rehearse on Wednesday mornings at 8.00.

Middle School Percussion Ensemble is open to any student who enjoys playing xylophones. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays during Lunch 1.

Students can still join an ensemble simply by coming to the next rehearsal.
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
Microwave Jenny (duo Brendon and Tessa Boney) has begun their residency at Alex Park! They will be working with students from 7A and the Year 9 Elective Music classes on alternate Tuesday mornings developing performance and song writing skills. During Tuesday afternoon program time they will be mentoring the Senior Rock Bands in collaboration with Mr Johnson.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS
SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook, Twitter, Snap chat and other social media might well be blocked at school for valid reasons, but it doesn’t mean we can ignore that it exists or that our students are prolific users of the world’s largest social network.

We need to educate our students in the appropriate and responsible use of social media. We need to reinforce to our students that whatever they post, positive or negative, can affect their relationships with people, how people feel about them and what they might say about them to others. We all need to remember that we’re interacting with people in social networking sites – not text and images – even though the text and images are much more visible than the people.

Even if your child’s privacy settings are specifically set to just Friends, there is a possibility that a friend can become an ex-friend or just try to play a prank on your child by copying and forwarding information that was meant only for friends. For this reason, it’s important for users to be extremely careful about what they post online, even among their friends. The key to having a positive reputation online is being a good digital citizen: behaving civilly and respectfully toward others online and sharing positive information about oneself in blogs, social networking sites and other social media.

Students are reminded that what you say reflects on you. It always helps to think about the impact and audience when you post on someone’s page, “Like” something, comment on someone’s update or even support a cause. What might this say about you? If you just want to say something to a single friend, just send
a private message or use Facebook chat. But remember that even that can be copied and posted somewhere else if the person didn’t like what you said (or did)!

All students in years 5 – 12 in 2015 are required to sign the school’s ‘Technology Policy’ which outlines the appropriate use of technology whilst at school. The policy explicitly states that students are not permitted to use social media whilst at school either on personal devices or school owned computers and devices.

Mr Kingsley
Deputy Principal- Senior Campus

Super Spanish
¡Hola! ¿Qué tal, Alex Park? This term in Spanish, Year 8 are studying introductions and different countries in the Spanish-speaking world. Students have learnt how to describe their own nationalities and made representations of their parents’ nationalities, which are currently on display in the Spanish classroom.

The revitalisation of the “Positive Behaviour For Learning” program has started with great success. Our value for the 1st three weeks of the term was “WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS”. Our current value is “RESPECT” and our final value for the term is “RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME”. The PBL value is placed on the school website and we encourage caregivers to support our PBL values in the home environment. PBL posters have been placed into classrooms and the PBL team aim to have PBL signage in our outdoor environments by the end of term. All PBL values are incorporated into class lessons, in the playground, at sport and all extra-curricular activities. Students displaying our PBL values are rewarded through our school reward system.
PDHPE REPORT

The PDHPE Faculty are looking forward to another successful year. All classes have settled into their respective programs which involves both theory and practical lessons. This year the faculty is implementing the revised Crossroads Program on Thursday afternoons. Crossroads is a mandatory Stage 6 course designed to help senior students address issues of health, safety and wellbeing at a time when they face significant changes and challenges in their lives. The presentation of the program will involve many outside agencies and aims to prepare and support students as they encounter situations related to identity, independence and their changing responsibilities.

LIBRARY NEWS

1. APCS families will be able to purchase books from two kinds of Book Clubs (Scholastic Australia & Redgum) in 2015. Scholastic Australia provides 2 issues of catalogues each term. Students can hand in money with order forms enclosed in an envelope to class teachers when making purchases. However, when making purchases from Redgum, parents must place orders online at home via the Redgum website. Both book clubs will deliver the ordered items to APCS library for distribution at the end of each term.

2. K-9 students should read lots of books listed at the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge website  https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html Please help your child make online reading log entries at home if you wish them to receive a PRC certificate in Term 4 2015. PRC online registration will be open in March.

School Photo Day is coming SOON!
Monday 16th March

- Please take the time to read the relevant information below and on the MSP Photography payment envelope - remember these helpful hints for payment options:
- Online – pay the photographer directly – see details on the MSP envelope for instructions how to pay online. (DO NOT PAY ONLINE TO THE SCHOOL)
- You may use your credit card and ensure that you use your individual “shootkey”.
- Cash – children bring the money on the day with the correct amount enclosed (no change is given).

Do not seal envelopes inside each other. Payments for more than one child can be included in the 1 envelope, however, please indicate on the envelope the names of all the children you are paying for – each child still needs to have their own envelope to present to the photographer on photo day. Please ensure your child has their envelope with them on Monday 16th.
ALL STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN THE CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM ON MONDAY 16 MARCH.
Navy shorts, Yellow, Green, White Shirt, white socks, school shoes/runners.

Sibling envelopes are also available from the senior and junior campus office – you will need to ask for a sibling envelope if you want a sibling photo to be taken.
Student ID cards will also be able to be purchased for $5.00 for students in years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
The Student ID is not charged for students in year 7 – this is complementary.
Each child will be photographed on Monday and included in the class photo.
If you have any queries MSP Photography will be more than happy to answer your questions - Phone: 95583363

**P&C NEWS**
I would like to take this quick opportunity to advise that I will not be standing for any P&C positions at the AGM this year as I need to have a break and have some "me time with my family". I have been involved with P&Cs on Executive for 9 years and I feel that our APCS P&C is growing strong and I am leaving at a time when it can only get bigger and better as our school numbers are growing each year, bringing new ideas.

I will also take this opportunity to thank my right hand Yvette Edgell for all her work and continuous support whilst I have been the P&C President. Together we have done an awful lot in a short time and I seriously just can’t find the words to show my extreme gratitude for everything that she has done.

Di Fetherston is truly amazing as Principal and I was lucky to be able to watch her shape the school to greater and better things.

A big shout out to all the P&C executive that have been along my journey and also to all the members helping out at various events or working bees etc. **THANK YOU.**
I have enjoyed every bit of watching our P&C grow from our sometimes P&C meeting once a term 4 years ago for 1/2 to an hour if we were lucky to our now regular monthly meetings that are so informative that they go overtime.

Hopefully I will see you at one if not all of the P&C upcoming events.
Leanne Seddon
2015 P&C President – outgoing

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 P&C COMMITTEE**
Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank the past committee members for all their hard work and dedication to increase the profile of the P&C.

Leanne and Yvette have left big shoes to fill and I am excited about furthering their great work.
I am looking forward to tackling this New Year head on and meeting as many parents as I can and hearing your ideas about our school community and how it may be even more fantastic!

Our school community needs parent volunteers in a variety of roles including canteen prep and service day (the more help we get the sooner we can expand to provide lunches to the senior campus), uniform shop and school banking on a Friday morning, working bees, and fundraising to name a few. The involvement of volunteers is crucial to the success of the projects undertaken throughout the year.

As a volunteer you are not only contributing to making Alexandria Park Community School a better place for our children to learn, play and grow but you will also meet other children and parents and see how things work inside the classroom, canteen or wherever your time may be given.
Upcoming events to note in your diary:
Saturday 14th March
Our first official working bee of the year. Junior Campus, Park Rd, 9am-2pm
Bring along a hat, enclosed shoes, gloves and weeding items. Kids are always welcome!
Come down for an hour or two or stay for the day - all help is greatly appreciated!

Thursday 19th March
Harmony Day
The P&C will require cakes, cookies, savoury treats, whatever your specialty in baking or dashing to the supermarket before school. **NO NUTS PLEASE**
We also require volunteers to assist by selling goods on the day.
This is a fun day at school, the kids love it and they especially love seeing their parents helping out.
More details to follow.

Saturday 28th March
*State Elections.*
Come along to school and cast your vote.
P&C will be running a barbeque and selling cold drinks and coffee from CRAVE. We need volunteers to assist with the barbeque and sell drinks.
P&C meetings have now changed to the 1st Monday of the month; however, the next meeting to note in your diary will be Monday March 30th to accommodate the school holidays, which fall during the first weeks of April.
The meetings begin at 6.30pm and are held upstairs on the Junior Campus. We look forward to seeing many of you there.
If you can't make it to the meetings you are always able to drop suggestions and comments into the P&C drop box located inside the canteen area.
Please like our Facebook page, it is ‘APCS Parents’. It is a great way to stay in touch with what is happening around the school and in the community.
Please if you think you can help out with some of the upcoming events I would love to hear from you.

Deb HeggatonKlenner 0405 083 871
P&C President

SCHOOL CALENDAR MARCH
Monday 9th
- Years 7-10 Swimming Carnival
- Year 10 Smart Start
- Year 6 Selective Test
Saturday 14th
- Junior Campus WORKING BEE
Monday 16th
- School Photo Day- Full school uniform
- Year 12 Half Yearly Exams
Thursday 19th
- Harmony Day Celebration
Friday 20th
- Year 7 Gala Day
Wednesday 25th
- P&C meeting