Dear parents /carers and community,

As this term comes to a close, we have witnessed some terrific achievements, developing momentum at the beginning phase of our school's three year planning cycle.

I'm honoured and inspired to be appointed at the beginning of this term as the Green Square School substantive principal. I hope my passion and commitment in serving our community will be evidenced through improved outcomes for our students, stronger connections amongst our community and more responsive and innovative teaching practices across the school.

This term we witnessed a wonderful emerging collaboration with our school, Alexandria Park Community School, Sydney University, local AECG, Aboriginal Lands Council and a number of inspiring community groups, parents and students. Its focus was to bring about a greater connection to and awareness of our community's needs and resources. Congratulations to all who participated in what was a very powerful and lasting process of connecting with community.

Thank you Kate, for leading our teachers through this process. Thank you to Aunty Vicky, Deb, Cathie and Belinda, Uncle Terry, Dave, and Des for your mentorship - enriching this opportunity beyond our expectations.

I would like to thank Leanne for her outstanding leadership and collaboration throughout her time as relieving Assistant Principal. Her return to Lomandra School, after two terms here, sees an opportunity for a substantive assistant principal to be appointed next term through merit selection.

Our first series of student reviews concluded this term and there are a number of very positive outcomes for students as a result. Thank you to our teachers, James, Laura, Fernando and Kellie, and School Learning Support Officers Kham, Anthony, Diana, Vicky, Dominique & Annie for your unwavering commitment to supporting our students’ success.

I'm excited to read through another newsletter this term, and celebrate the achievements of our students and their contributions to the making of this edition.

Term 3 for students commences on Tuesday, 14 July.

Have a safe and restorative holiday break.

Patrick Faucher
Principal
Green Square School

My Integration back to Alex Park Community School.

When I first started at Green Square I was integrating straight away because I was performing at the Oprah house at Alexandria Park Community School. I now integrate 3 days a week, on a Tuesday, Wed and Friday. It has taken a long time for me to get this far in integrating and I'm pretty proud of myself. I have accomplished a lot since I have been at Green Square. I want to be a child care worker after I leave school. So I can help little kids learn.

- Hayley
Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the term, I would take this opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements from our students. Charlie and Saxon commenced integration at their home school with success and are maintaining a good attendance record at Green Square School.

For me, one of the highlights of this term was representing Green Square School at the War Memorial in Hyde Park. Teachers and students attended the ceremony to commemorate our Aboriginal Diggers. Saxon created a wreath with native flora he collected from the school's gardens and red, yellow and black ribbon. It was well thought out and it looked stunning! From Red Class and in front of a massive crowd of other schools, Saxon presented the wreath at the ceremony, well done Saxon!!

Well done to all students for your efforts this term. Enjoy a safe holiday break!

- Fernando

This term we wanted to offer the students an opportunity to create a street art mural in a safe, legal and structured environment. Students explored the different opinions that exist in society when people talk about graffiti, is it art or vandalism? How is street art different to graffiti? We also explored the ancient history of graffiti followed with a more contemporary approach from the streets of New York and the revolutionary tag of 'TAKI 183'.

The theme for the street art mural is "Healing After Conflict". It is inspired by the 100 years since the return of the ANZACS and photographs of Aboriginal soldiers. Students experimented with a technique to create street art using stencils. They made reference to such artists like Banksy. Due to wet weather our project has been delayed and the completion of this street art mural might run into term 3.

- Fernando

Every Friday the students and staff at Green Square School go to Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym for rock climbing. At 12:30pm we take a taxi from school to the Indoor Climbing Gym. When we get to the Indoor Climbing Gym, we wait for the other staff to get there. Once they have arrived there we go straight into the cave. We used the teacher’s phone for light because it was too dark to find our way out. There are three different caves. Cave 2 has small spaces to fit your body through, and cave 3 is even more difficult because it has more obstacles than the other caves. After the caves we did rock climbing. Firstly, we had to put our harness on and choose our partners. We start climbing, after we reach the top and we come down, that’s when we swap. There are different levels of difficulty for each climb.

Rock climbing is really exciting and fun!!!

- Saxon
KADUL WITH RYKA ALI

Ryka Ali’s heritage stems from the Wuthathi tribe of Shellburne Bay, Cape York and from the Torres Strait Islands. A winner in the Young, Black and Deadly Talent Quest (2003) he is a very proud ambassador for Australia’s Indigenous youth. Ryka has performed at various festivals and cultural showcases around the world. Most recently he has been working with his grandmother Cindy, presenting Indigenous workshops in schools throughout Australia. Ryka and Cindy visited us again at Green Square School on Tuesday 16th July to join us in the lead up to NAIDOC 2015. Ryka’s performance revealed the richness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands cultures. The presentation was in two parts, reflecting both sides of his heritage. The show was entertaining, educational, and included participatory didgeridoo playing, an explanation of various instruments, artifacts and costumes specific to the Islands. Ryka introduced the Aboriginal culture, ‘painting up’ with ochre and explained its importance and the significance of the designs. Ryka also got us all trying out some hip-hop moves combined with the amazing sound of the didgeridoo. From all students and staff at Green Square School, thank you Ryka and Cindy!

NAIDOC Tucker:

From BBQ to baking to stewing, Green Square School students and staff served up a range of traditional Indigenous and non-Indigenous tucker for our school community and members of the Department of Education Aboriginal Education Team, Auntie Faye, Jane Stanley and our Regional Director to name a few.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Auntie Vicky for all her hard work to co-ordinate the food on the Thursday of NAIDOC week and once again delivering the best Roo Stew that’s around. Thanks to Jimmy and Kham for their skills on the BBQ, serving up kangaroo skewers, sausage, mushrooms, onions and marinated kangaroo pieces. We would also like to thanks Isaiah in Gold Class for his excellent skills in baking, cooking damper for the whole school, it was deadly.

- Laura

Blue Mountains

As part of NAIDOC week at Green Square School, we went on an excursion to the Blue Mountains. The students enjoyed the scenic view of The Three Sisters and Blue Mountains at Echo Point and also visited the Waradah Aboriginal Centre where they experienced cultural heritage including Aboriginal art and a dance performance. Prior to our excursion to country, Blue Class Teacher, Kellie Keogh and cultural mentor, Belinda French worked closely to develop lessons which incorporated cultural awareness, language and knowledge linking with this year’s NAIDOC theme. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving the land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places within the nation. It expresses the spiritual and cultural connection to the land and sea.

- Kellie
Being Culturally Aware Becoming Culturally Inclusive: A Pathway to Cultural Competence program.

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group’s (AECG) invited Green Square School and Alexandria Park Community School teachers to participate in Connecting to Country - Cultural Immersion. This action research project led by Dr Cathie Burgess, Faculty of Education University of Sydney – Aboriginal Studies Research Team, is an opportunity for teachers to establish and maintain respectful relationships with the Aboriginal community at the local level. In collaboration with cultural mentors, the program aims to enhance teacher capacity to plan, develop and implement inclusive programs, underpinned by productive teaching and learning practices.

During the three days, the group visited important Redfern community organisations including Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council, National Centre Indigenous Excellence, Redfern Park Café, National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples and Gadigal Radio Station. The group also visited significant sites including The Royal Botanic Gardens and a Tribal Warrior cruise to Goat Island. On the final day, a variety of talks were provided by community representatives including parents, students, Mark Spinks from Babarana Mens Group and a special presentation by Aaron Hughes about MGoals - a program designed to support Aboriginal Culture and Education by providing local Aboriginal communities and schools with an online project that assists students to create their goals for living and learning.

Teachers from Green Square School would like to thank The Inner City AECG, Alexandria Park Community School, Dr. Cathie Burgess and mentors David, Des, Belinda, and Terry for their ongoing support, and we look forward to continuing to work with all throughout 2015 and beyond.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I would like to congratulate all my students on their achievements this term. Each and every student in Gold class has made improvements. Both you and they should feel proud that with each advance moving closer to achieving their goals. Not every step may be big but each contributes and should be celebrated.

I would like to congratulate Isaiah on the positive steps he is taking in integrating at his home school and maintaining a good attendance record at Green Square School. Kaden has been demonstrating maturity in his choices at school, showing how he can be a role model in how he communicates. John is increasing putting more effort in his skills of communication and teamwork in Oz Tag. His attendance record has also increased. Jaidyn has been demonstrating his creative skills in music and is a fantastic member of our cooking class, making the best pasta from scratch, well done Jaidyn. Tyrone has joined Gold class this term, showcasing his skills in English and Art, I look forward to working with Tyrone next term to increase his integration. I would like to acknowledge Saysha in furthering her skills in the working world, taking part numerous TAFE courses and Kajiya in achieving so many learning outcomes in his learning program. SenseAbility program has been a success in Gold Class. This is a strengths-based resilience program. Young people who possess sound social and emotional skills are generally better able to cope with the stressors of daily life. They also tend to have better relationships with parents, teachers and peers, and perform better academically. Well done to Tyrone, Isaiah, Kaden and Jaidyn for your confidence to participate in our role plays, you all should be proud of your efforts and I certainly enjoyed your dramatic performances.

I look forward to continuing learning through fun activities next term.

I have been very fortunate to have been part of the Cultural Immersion Program this term and would like to thank our school community, Alexandria Park Community School, the Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group, Cathy Burgess from Sydney University, Belinda French my mentor, local Elders and many more member of the local Aboriginal community, for affording me this opportunity to learn and connect with them, the history and the culture of this land.

- Laura
In the Garden This Term

Horticulture has been a resounding success this term and all students who engaged should be very proud of their efforts. We have our first compost bin in place which has started composting, it is based on the scientific formula – three layers of carbon to one layer of nitrogen (ask the students about this technique to grow soil). We have built our ‘yarn up’ corner as part of our NAIDOC celebrations; this includes a vast array of native plants used traditionally for bush tucker and medicine (the students will learn more about the plants uses in term 3). We have continued to maintain the existing garden beds (the rocket is sensational). We have also been given a flat Pak tank which was donated in order to store rain water; this also contributes to our overarching theme of the whole program – sustainability. Finally we have started digging out our garden path which will link the various garden beds to the yarn up corner.

We have a lot in stall next term and I look forward to working with the students once again. I would like to thank Kham (SLSO) for his knowledge and support with the program, Aunty Vic (SLSO) for her knowledge and instruction regarding the yarn up corner. Leanne (AP) for organising the amazing native plants; I am looking forward to see them grow and the continued support from the Stephanie Alexander program.

- James Thornton – teacher and garden co-ordinator

Djami (Here I Am) Indigenous Art Education Program

Tahlia Coade attended an excursion to the NSW Art Gallery with her Classroom Teacher, Kellie Keogh this term, where she participated in the ‘DJAMU Indigenous Art Education’ program. The Indigenous Art Education Program comprises of five full days of learning over Term 2 and 3, 2015 and Term 1, 2016. The intensive learning experience will provide opportunities for Tahlia to learn about the art collections of the AGNSW as well as developing a concrete understanding of aspects of art making, historical and critical practice and the conceptual framework. Tahlia’s apparent enjoyment of the program was evident on the day. Tahlia had the opportunity to meet Judy Watson, a famous Aboriginal artist.

- Kellie

Teaching music at Green Square this term was great. All the students jumped in from the start, and we’ve got some natural musicians. Jaidyn can freestyle for days. Aden McGivor holds down the drums really tight for everyone to jam on top of. Aiden Phillpott and Tahlia were our vocalists. Saxon and Lachlan are also good drummers. Charlie is a natural at guitar. Tyson & Tyrone usually jammed on percussion. Kabha showed us some rhythms on the Lebanese drum, which I’d never listened to before, sounded great. The school has enough resources to get a high quality recording studio going. I’m overseas for term 3 but in term 4 I’ll set up the studio and do some song writing lessons. If students want to prepare songs during term 3 (singing - rapping - chords on guitar/piano - just a beat or rhythm you like), we can record in Term 4. SO MAKE SOME JAMS. It was great getting to know everyone. All the best, see you in October :)

- Adrian
This term we continued to play games against Key College every second Tuesday which has been fantastic. Students have competed well, worked as a team and on occasion when there has been less numbers, been flexible enough to change teams. Tribal warrior mentors have also come down and had a game which was great; we decided to have a staff V's student's game which was played with both high intensity and fairness with the result being 10 all. We hope they are showing you their skills at home.

- Jimmy

Souths Cares teacher’s aide program

We are very privileged to be part of the South’s Cares teacher aide program in which members of the premiership winning South’s Sydney Rabbitoh’s squad come in to the school and support the students with their academics. We would like to thank the club for allowing the players to come in specifically Jason Clark, Glenn Stewart, Bryson Goodwin, Dave Tyrell and Cody Walker. The players have been very professional in supporting the students with their learning and have also provided great advice to support them with their life skills. We hope to continue this association in the future.

- Jimmy

TAG TUESDAY

This term we continued to play games against Key College every second Tuesday which has been fantastic. Students have competed well, worked as a team and on occasion when there has been less numbers, been flexible enough to change teams. Tribal warrior mentors have also come down and had a game which was great; we decided to have a staff V’s student’s game which was played with both high intensity and fairness with the result being 10 all. We hope to continue this during the 3rd term. Thank you to Ben from Key College for assisting in organising the games and Uncle Burt and all the tribal warrior mentors for their participation and encouragement.

- Jimmy
I start every Monday with a bang waking up at 5 to get ready then off to boxing we go. Tribal Warrior has help me so much through the 7-8 weeks they have worked with me. They have given me good routine because now I wake up every day at 5; they've taught me good morals and always put school first. I can't speak highly enough for my mentor Byron, I think of him as my second dad.

Tuesdays and Thursdays we have national parks. National parks teachers us about good work ethic and about aboriginal culture. It makes me think really badly of the English and British people for stealing their land and their beliefs. It makes me really sad, now I’m working with Tribal Warrior to help give young Aboriginals to succeed in life.

- Lachlan
Dates for your diary!

Specialist TAFE Teacher Phil Clark returns to facilitate The NSW Construction Induction Card (White Card) issued by WorkCover. This can only be obtained by face to face training, so if you are interested, make sure you are on time for the three sessions.

**Introduction to Construction**
- **Date:** Friday 31st July
- **Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm
- **Venue:** Green Square School

**OHS Construction White Card Training**
- **Dates:** Friday 7th and 14th August
- **Time:** 9:30am-12:00pm

**Visual Arts Excursions**
- **Venue:** White Rabbit Gallery Redfern
- **Date:** Friday 24th July

**BELLA Program**
- **Venue:** Museum of Contemporary Art Circular Quay
- **Date:** Tuesday 11th August

**‘Incursion’ 2 Green Square School**
- **Poetry Slam Workshop with Candy Royalle** - dates to be confirmed!

More excursions to be announced throughout term 3 and 4, so watch this space!