



Message from Stephanie Walsh (Head of Campus)

Wow! What an amazing first semester it has been. It has gone by so quickly and I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Albert Park Community.

I appreciate change can be hard for many and I know that some of you have been and may still be, concerned about what Albert Park may become. I can assure you my main goal is to not fix anything that is not broken and for it to continue to be a place where our community feels valued and welcome. Years of community strength exists here, and I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to walk alongside you all in your learning journeys as you work towards fulfilling your dreams.

During the last weeks of terms one and two, we saw everyone take part in our Celebration Days. It brings such joy to a space when we can see the community supporting each other and highlighting all the amazing young people that we have here at Albert Park.

Many in our community demonstrate resilience and strength daily. Many of us have had to and still deal with uncertainty, our own and others, and the fear that this can create. Managing fear is bravery and bravery allows us to face change and grow.

Whilst COVID is still around, we have managed it at Albert Park through each doing our part, through being understanding and helpful towards each other.

I would like to celebrate the amazing team of educators that we have in our learning community, from the teachers, youth workers and young people themselves. This learning community is full of opportunities to build skills which set young people up for happy, meaningful futures. Futures where we are all able to contribute to society in one way or another. I truly believe that the Albert Park community recognises the power our generation has and the responsibility to make our ever-more connected world, a more hopeful, stable, and peaceful place.

I look forward to working alongside you all again next semester. Please enjoy a well-earned rest and stay safe. If you need any assistance from Albert Park over the school holidays, we are only a phone call away ☺



Image: Stephanie Walsh, Head of Campus



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INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY and LIBERATING EDUCATION

Students have taken up or initiated multiple opportunities to build their skills in collaboration and problem solving this semester.

Student-Led Project: School Jerseys

We were talking about how we didn't get to have school jerseys when we left mainstream, and it felt downgrading that flexis didn't have jerseys, so we decided to do it ourselves and make it happen.

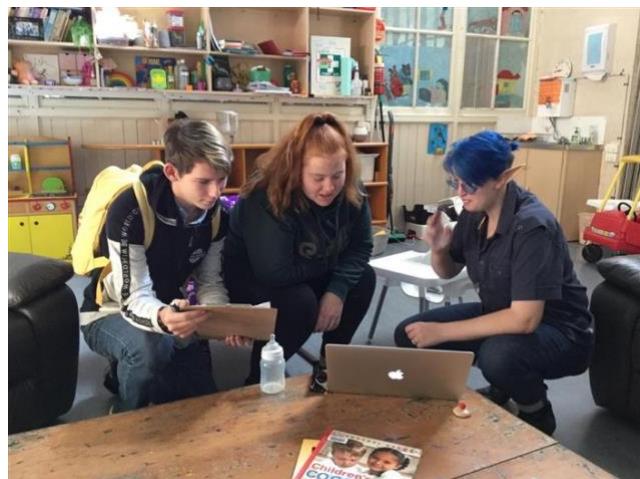


Image: L-R Nate, Penny & Nyx review designs

We looked online for different jersey companies, and we found Canterbury. We made an online inquiry, talked on the phone with the company representative, organised through the office for a suitable time for him to visit in person, and met with him to discuss possible designs. We looked at the school logo for colour inspiration because we don't have official school colours or uniforms. Then we started on their design customiser, and we went through five different designs and consulted with peers to see who would want one, what design they prefer, and what they

could afford to pay. We aim to have people with their jerseys sometime in Term 4. We are

FRONT



BACK



Image: One possible jersey option designed by students

looking at ways of reducing the cost to students, including fund-raising, and looking at grants.

We must find 50 people to commit to purchasing to go ahead. If you are interested in buying a jersey, please give your name to either Nate or Nyx. We will be asking for \$10 deposits once we get 50 committed people.

By Nate, Year 11 student, and Nyx, Year 11 student

IDAHOBIT Day

IDAHOBIT stands for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia.

The history of this day is that 31 years ago, the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases and Related

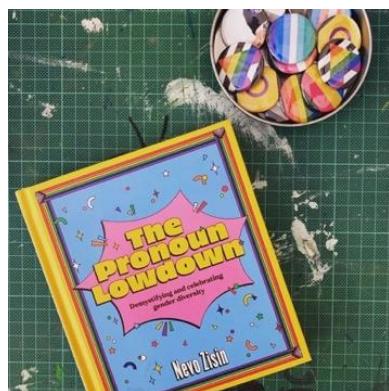


Image: Students created badges and discussed preferred pronouns as part of IDAHOBIT Day



Health Problems. Young people said that they wanted an expert to answer their questions around these important concepts, so we organised for Max, an educator from True Relationships and Reproductive Health to visit us for a morning. Max responded to fantastic questions, such as how to 'come out' to people who hold homophobic beliefs, and whether we can directly ask someone about their gender transitioning. Foundations students continued those conversations while making an assortment of Pride badges, researching the meaning and histories of the different Pride flags, and collaborating to order a set of Pride flags for our school. Visibility matters!

Families Program

Our mums have shown great self-advocacy and problem-solving skills in raising concerns they felt around having their unique needs met within the school. It has been very tricky for them trying to balance caring for their children and accessing education at the same time, and they expressed themselves articulately about this at a formal meeting. Our organisation has been exploring options for child-minding at our site, and this is ongoing.

Our young mums were faced with the problem of finding it hard to supervise the outdoor cubbyhouse, so they decided we needed an indoor cubbyhouse for the toddlers to play in. They looked online, selected, ordered, and then got handy with tools to construct an adorable little wooden house that sits close to where they work. It is now easier to keep an eye on the little ones as they play.

We also want to acknowledge that we have been fortunate to have the continuing support of Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House, providing us with the wonderful early

childhood worker Kylie every Tuesday morning. Kylie offers play-based learning activities tailored to our little ones' developmental stages, while modelling such warmth and care. We are so grateful for this.



Image: Ollie enjoying Ruby's yummy lunch

New Cook

We farewelled our beloved cook Stuss during the semester and welcomed our incredible new cook Ruby. Ruby comes from a community development background and has owned several successful cafes including Blackstar Coffee in West End. She has been nurturing the whole community with her absolutely delicious meals and we look forward to eating many more of them!

"I thank everyone for welcoming me to the community. I look forward to continuing to nourish people with food, and keeping you all on your toes, not knowing what I'm going to make next."

Ruby, our new cook



"I am so grateful for Ruby's cooking. She always makes vegetarian and gluten-free and dairy-free options to cater for everyone."

Kody, Year 12 student

Placement student

We have been delighted to welcome back a previous Albert Park graduate from some years ago as a placement student. Amelia is studying youth work at TAFE and chose to return to us for her 10-week placement where she attends for two days a week. She has been creating a positive rapport with our students and has been learning a lot about working with young people while sharing her wisdom with us.



Image: Amelia, our current youth work placement – who is also a former student!

LEARNING CHOICES

English

Many young people have worked on one or other of our two senior English subjects this semester. Our six Year 12 Essential English students studied hard for their exams, and all passed- we are so proud of them! They also created oral presentations based around topics that concerned them. The topics they researched included problems with Australia's prison system, veganism, support for people with substance issues, men's mental health, the impact of technology on our well-being, and issues with Australia's foster care system. Our Literacy Short Course students can complete their four tasks in any order they like. Some students have been preparing for mock job interviews, and other students have been passionately advocating around issues that affect young people by creating news articles about them. We aim to create a zine anthology of these articles next semester.

Maths

It was exciting to see so many young people engaging with the maths subjects this semester. Several young people have completed the Numeracy Short Course and many more are on track to finishing next semester. Those young people doing Essential Mathematics have shown determination by working through various complex assessments, including formal exams. Many skills were on display in the maths space, including:

- Problem solving
- Budgeting
- Using Excel spreadsheets



- Time, distance, and speed
- Perimeter, area, and volume
- Communication

Early Childhood Studies

Early Childhood Studies is a brand-new subject offered at Albert Park this year. In previous years we noticed that our students who were young parents were very interested in their children's development and spent time focussing on



Image: Annabel's 'play product'



Image: Penny's 'play product'

the value of play-based learning in early childhood. They planned, constructed, justified, and evaluated a play-based learning product for a baby or young child that is developmentally appropriate. Some beautiful handmade toys were produced. They also analysed a case scenario.

"I learned new things that I could put straight into practice with my one-year-old. I made a set of felt finger-puppets to encourage imaginative play, and I did some peer-teaching, leading a practical session on how to make no-cook play dough."

Penny, Year 12 student

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Visual Arts

The creative chaos has continued this semester, with many students enrolling in the Certificate I and II in Visual Arts this year. A few



Image: Nic's pottery

students are on track to complete the qualifications next semester. Many have been art-whispering and peer-tutoring each other in the art space, resulting in a supportive little art space community where people can feel safe to experiment. Ceramics has exploded this year with people throwing pots on the wheels, tutoring each other in the use of glazes, kiln firing, and hand-building. Our new etching



Image: Lou on 'the wheel'

press has enabled people to do relief-printing with lino, and dry-point etchings with acrylic plates. A plethora of paintings have been produced, and

people have been drawing with charcoal, graphite, pencils, pastels, and ink. There has even been sewing in art, much chatting and a bit of guitar playing. We have also been dreaming of a coffee machine!

"The pottery was fan-flipping-tastic because we had access to great teachers like Jade, Lou and Ofa who taught us the appropriate techniques. I made a small dish that was alright, and then I made a toothbrush holder



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and a bathroom cup, and they were a lot better. I am keeping on with pottery because it is fun."

Nic, Year 10 student

Fashion



Image: Nic sewing an accessory

Students who are studying the QCAA Fashion subject have been designing and creating accessories reflecting their personal aesthetic, and they have also been creating

multi-modal responses to the works of wearable artists.

Students who chose not to study the subject have enjoyed learning to sew by hand and on the machines and have worked on self-driven projects such as sewing bags, tops, aprons, scarves, and skirts. Jayella used second-hand t-shirts which she cut open and re-fashioned into new bikini tops. She found a market through social-media and started to take orders. This process helped Jayella demonstrate the entrepreneurial skills of self-belief, creativity, risk-taking, networking and communication.



Image: Jayella re-purposing old shirts

Music

We continue to see magic happen in the music spaces! New and continuing students have collaborated on an array of recording and live music projects.



Image: Penny & Ollie on drums

In the Easter Holidays we were excited to partner with Brisbane City Council's Visible Ink program to offer real-world music industry experience with paid performance opportunities at the

Visible Ink space during Youth Week for students who had been honing their performance skills at our on-site events and were ready for the next step. Along the way, they built skills in planning, collaboration, time-management, problem-solving and perhaps the most important industry skill - paperwork for invoicing!

It has been exciting to see new performers stepping up to perform for the community in Term 2, with Josh and Th@tB@nd becoming crowd-pleasers in their first live performances. Our IDAHOBIT and Music for Mabo Day events were informative and celebratory days with a great community atmosphere. It was inspiring to see many of our new students collaborating with continuing students and heart-warming to see the amazing peer support offered by the community.



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Magic School Bus & Outdoor Adventure Based Learning

With COVID-19 restrictions eased this year, we have been able to resume a full program of



Image: Katelynn on the Karawatha Forest Magic School Bus trip

fun off-site adventures. We visited Northey Street City Farm, the Nurri Millen Totem Trail, and the Karawatha Forest. We saw the Australiasian Dance Collective perform at QPAC, we saw the movie 'Cruella', and we went to the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, the Museum of Brisbane, the UQ Art Museum, and the Gallery of Modern Art.

"This semester I've really enjoyed the bushwalks and playing 'Spotto' in the van, where you have to spot yellow cars. I liked going to see the contemporary dance show 'Three' at QPAC."

Katelynn, Year 12 student

Foundations

Foundations is a collaborative learning space that aims to create a safe learning environment that has been adapted for several sensory sensitivities to ease anxiety and

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enable participation. We consulted and collaborated with young people to decide upon the term projects based upon people's shared interests. In first term we wanted to learn about sea creatures, so we hand sewed felt sea creatures and attended the Creatures of the Deep exhibition at the Queensland Museum. This term we have been inspired by the 'little beasties' of Albert Park (insects!) and are currently working towards establishing a native beehive next semester. We have also negotiated to have a once-a-week drama class where we have built trust, played games, and danced! We are now working on a short film based on the witches from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

"I've been loving Foundations this semester. I love making badges and doing whatever I want. I learned that nudibranchs - flamboyant sea slugs - exist. The drama sessions have been fun".

Rayen, Year 12 student



Image: L-R Nic, Odin & Kat at the QTIC Come'n Try Day at Southbank TAFE

Career and Work Pathways

Our career and work pathways coordinator Madelaine organised lots of opportunities for young people to explore possible future



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options for themselves. We went on lots of excursions, including the Careers and Employment Expo at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the QTIC Come'n' Try Day at Southbank TAFE, a guided tour of the Mater Education facility - initiated by a student interested in enrolling in the Diploma of Nursing - and a visit by the ADF to discuss pathways to a defence force career.

We have an onsite Future Pathways Expo morning planned for Thursday 15th July.

"I am really glad that the Defence Force came to school to do an information session with us. I got a better understanding and deeper insight from what I already knew."

Spartacus, Year 12 student

Physical training

"This semester we have been taking every opportunity to get ripped at the Lang Park PCYC. We have been training hard with Deb and practising basketball with Derek and having fun along the way. We got up to shenanigans and got huge. We trained hard with our trainer André at Dundee Kim's Boxing Gym in West End, who pushed us to our limits. We got powerful and were looking good doing it."

Nick, Year 10 student

Body Literacy

In response to growing curiosity about health, sex, and relationships in the community, we introduced a new timetabled session called Body Literacy!

Body Literacy focuses on learning how bodies work to understand what bodies need, then collaboratively figuring out ways to

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Image: Working agreement created by young people for the Body Literacy sessions

communicate these needs to others so that we can have healthier relationships with ourselves and people in our lives.

Young people contributed fantastic questions to our anonymous question box that we brought into Governance Wednesday check-in meetings, as well as engaged in 1:1 or small group conversations with Jade. To establish a safe learning space before any conversations could begin, young people were consulted, and a working agreement was collaboratively created. We were then able to deep dive into topics like safe sex practices, destigmatising menstrual and mental health, the ethics of



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pornography, processing grief, personal boundaries - the list goes on. We understand that it can feel embarrassing and uncomfortable to talk about these (often taboo) topics and we may not know how to talk about them (yet), but they're important and we all have a right to this information. We're looking forward to more conversations next semester!

What are some goals we should aim for in this life?



Image: Young people using digital tools to respond to anonymous questions posed to the community in governance sessions.

“I’m actually learning about sexual education, unlike mainstream school, where they leave you in the dark. It’s a non-judgemental space where you don’t feel embarrassed to ask questions.”

Ratty, Year 11 student

Independent Living Skills

This term we brought back this short course, where students can learn nutrition and cooking skills. We have only just started, but we have a group of interested students and we have already made protein balls and cupcakes. We are planning to do some cooking with Ruby so we can learn some of her secret recipes. We

are always looking for taste-testers to offer feedback for our culinary creations!

ORIENTATION OF NEW STUDENTS

This semester we were delighted to welcome many wonderful new young people to our community.

Students were introduced to our invitational model which requires that young people make their own choices, set their own goals, and take responsibility for their own learning pathway. Students developed personal and social skills by engaging in group work, community building activities and games.

From Rach & Fi on the Admin Desk

Thanks to all the young people for their continuing good manners, friendly greetings and chats each day; you all help to make our job such a delight.

Please contact the office if any of your contact details have changed. In particular: address, mobile numbers, email address and very importantly any changes to Emergency Contact People.

Please make contact if you are absent from school with a reason and the expected duration of the absence.

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Have a safe and restful break over the next two weeks and we both look forward to seeing all of your lovely faces back at school to commence Term 3 on **Monday 12th July at 9.30am.**

Child Safety Update

The law is being strengthened to improve the protection of children from offences of a sexual nature. We ask that you make yourself aware



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of the planned introduction of two new offences under the Queensland Criminal Code which come into effect on 5 July 2021. More information can be found [here](#). Please contact the school if you would like further information.

Random student quotes:

"Eetsswa, lad!" Tawera, Year 10 student

"Don't fall in the toilet (: " Doug, Year 12 student

"Be safe, don't die." Nyx, Year 11 student



Image: Brittney painting a skateboard deck



Image: Nic with his first pottery creation

Albert Park Facebook

This semester we have been posting regular updates about what we've been up to on our Facebook page. Check it out here and 'Follow' and 'Like' our page to stay updated:
<https://www.facebook.com/albert.parkflc/>

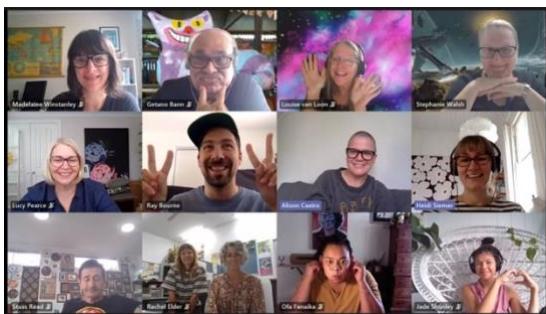


Image: Albert Park Staff found themselves looking at each other on screens again at the end of Term 1 due to a sudden COVID lockdown – but kept smiling through tricky times.

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