

Arthur Phillip High School Newsletter

Visit our website www.arthurphil_h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Principal: Laretta Claus

Administration Office: Ph: 02 9635 8638

Fax: 02 9687 1149

School Address: Macquarie Street, Parramatta 2150



iSTEM Excursion

As part of the STEM initiatives at Arthur Phillip High School, 28 students from Year 9 iSTEM participated in the "Science and Engineering Challenge" at Olympic Park. The students entered the hall at the Quay centre and were accompanied by 7 other schools, all eager to win the prize. Silence filled the room as the organiser announced the significance of the challenge, with the winners entering the National competition to represent NSW.

Soon afterwards, groups of students were assigned to their designated areas for the challenges. These ranged from building bionic arms, to making a vehicle to traverse the rough terrain of mars, to building bridges. Amongst the 8 activities, one of the groups from APHS came second because of their impressive ability to build sturdy equipment from limited resources.

At half time, there was a break where the students could debrief each other about their activities, before embarking on the new challenges. The excitement of the morning only grew as the students shared knowledge and built more ideas. With the second half of the challenge, one group came out on top as they won the network challenge. This

Upcoming Events

- 2nd May Catch Up Vaccinations
- 13th - 24th NAPLAN Years 7 & 9
May
- 22nd May Prospect Zone Cross Country
- 7th June APHS Athletics Carnival
- Term 2 Year 10 TAFE Program
Kitchen Fit outs,
Automotive & Hair and
Beauty

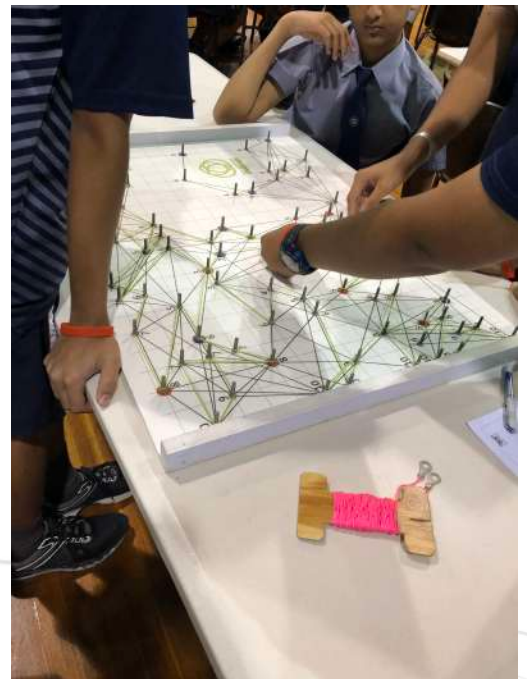


At APHS we Strive



Towards the end of the day though, all the schools settled back to where they originally were seated. At this moment, the bridges were tested for their strength in front of all the schools present. With each bridge being tested, the crowd grew more excited to see if their school were better than the others. Whilst the bridge created by the students at APHS did not win the top place, it was still an intriguing and suspenseful time.

Through the Science and Engineering challenge, students had faced many obstacles and learnt how to overcome them. It was a great day for the students, to experience how to solve problems together whilst in the face of competition. A survey created about the challenge had the students indicate that over 75 % of them thought the challenges enabled them to work in teams better, and to think more creatively. Furthermore, 100 % of the students enjoyed the challenge and would definitely participate in another one if the opportunity was to come. Overall, it was an enjoyable event for all members that participated, with valuable lessons learnt.



UWS Youth Leadership Masterclass

Student leaders from Years 10 and 11 attended the Youth Leadership Masterclass at Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus today. Together with students from 11 other schools, they were tasked with creating a pitch in their chosen fields to create positive change in their local communities.

Arthur Phillip HS pitched four ideas in the areas of Social Media and Self, Poverty and Homelessness, Reduce, Reuse, Imagine and Mental Health and Wellbeing. Students worked collaboratively to produce a 60 second pitch that had to deliver a message, illustrate how this message would be delivered to their target audience and be sustained, and come up with a PR & marketing solution.

Our students' pitches were articulate, informative, and thoroughly entertaining. Well done to all students who took part.



Congratulations to Melika Azimi Year 10 who will be the student representative on the APHS Finance Committee and Colin Xu Year 10 who will be the representative on the WHS Committee.

A special congratulations, also goes to Kevin Huynh in Year 10 who represented the school at the Rotary Youth Public Speaking Competition. Mr. Akins who attended the competition was full of praise for Kevin's speech and the confident, refined presentation he gave.

Year 7 & 8 Support Unit STEM Activities

At the end of last term Ms Lin's Support Unit class down on the Eastern Campus were doing some fantastic work based on STEM activities building their understanding of how Science, Maths, Technology and Engineering are inextricably linked. Well done to all students.





Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

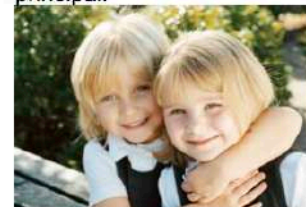
Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





**My child won't go to school.
What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning website*

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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