



Artarmon

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GAZETTE

supporting the Artarmon community spirit

Artarmon Public School shining 100 years on by Jane Rowley

More than 2000 people celebrated Artarmon Public School's centenary on October 24. Staff, students and parents were joined by alumni from all decades, including 97-year-old Owen Kimberley who started at APS in 1918.

Re-enacting part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, the school band marched from Jersey Road into Abbott Road to herald the official ceremony.

In her speech to the crowd, former school captain and Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth said she had made life-long friends at APS. Current School captain Madeleine McDonald spoke of the diverse cultures represented in the school community. She said students were "taught to appreciate the differences in each other".

Attendees viewed an original school room, memorabilia from the past 100 years and displays of current students work. Entertainment was provided by the school bands, choir and dance groups.



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DET Minister Verity Firth...old APA girl

Artarmon celebrates 100 years of education

Flags, created and decorated by APS students created a festive atmosphere for the centenary celebrations. School education director Dean White led students past and present, their families and friends in a rousing three cheers for APS and the festivities began.

The school's award-winning concert bands serenaded the crowd while students and their families participated in a variety of arts, crafts and games the school's multicultural committee and the P&C had organised. Using colourful sand and pebbles, a beautiful celebratory mandala was created outside the infants building.

Henna tattoos were very popular and many children were delighted to write their names in Japanese characters using a traditional brush technique. There were school yard games from the past to play and games from schools around the world including a Korean stone catching game.

Liberal MP for Willoughby Gladys Berejiklian said the multicultural emphasis reflected the local community. "I think the cultural diversity adds to the school. It's a great example and microcosm of our broader community," she said.

A game many older participants enjoyed was trying to place names and faces from the past. Brother and sister, Gary and Marilyn Blue caught up with Suzanne Yeo and Robert Clancy. Together they attended APS between 1947 and 1956. It has become a family tradition for Robert; his grandchildren Samantha and Charlotte Clancy are current students at APS. Like all students, they wear the school badge and motto printed on their uniform.

Dilys Wright and John Streckfuss, part of a group of twenty from the Class of 1951, were proud to have been involved in the creation of the motto and badge design. The carefully chosen words "Learn to Live" continue to inspire 21st century students.

More recently, the addition of the school values – harmony, synergy and excellence – have resonated with many students including School Captain Brendon Ward who used them to sum up his positive experiences as a student at APS.

Along with many other students, Brendon proudly wore his Centenary Medal. The medal was presented to every APS student and teacher to commemorate the school's centenary – a memento to treasure as the school community looks to the future, continuing to evolve and grow.

An enthusiastic Minister Firth said: "Artarmon has always had an incredible dedication to public education, it's always had a reputation for being a really high quality school literally throughout its hundred years and I think it will be so for the next hundred years."

- Jane Rowley

Photos, opposite:

Top, L-R: Owen Kimberley...class of 1918; APS Principal Louise Green {MPS Photography}; APS mandala

Middle, L-R: class of 2010; APS...marching in

Below, L-R: class of 1954; APS string group

