Dear Parents/Caregivers

Well Week 6 is upon us already and I am so pleased with how the students have settled into routines and have also developed their learning goals to work towards this term. I really enjoy going into classes and observing lessons and I am so happy with how engaged the students are and how relaxed the learning environment is.

Last week, I attended the State School Principal’s conference in Brisbane. There were over 1200 participants there with the theme of the conference being, “Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate.” The conference focussed on equipping principals to be system players who: collaborate to respond to challenges; critique, question and support each other; and share and scale up new and effective practices.

There were a number of quality speakers and presenters throughout the two days, but my main excitement occurred when Alpha State School was one of the 4 schools in Central Qld region to be showcased on the big screens for everyone to see. Each region showcased 3-4 schools, which means, Alpha was one of 24 schools to be shown to all the participants over the two day period. Not a bad feat considering there are over 1200 state schools in Queensland. I was so incredibly proud to see our little school being shown as a leading school not only in this region, but also the state! Huge congratulations to Pete and all the staff from last year, as their hard work and dedication has been what has made Alpha State School the excellent school it is today!

It was also great to hear our new Minister for Education, Kate Jones, speak about how she still volunteers at her son’s school tuckshop and how proud she is to not only be a graduate of a state school, but how proud she is to send her own child to one.

I have come back inspired and keen to jump straight back into the fantastic school that we have here with my goal being to best support and lead our staff and students to even greater heights in the near future.

Explicit Instruction
The staff have been fantastic in imbedding explicit teaching in their classrooms this year. A great deal of effort and time is going into planning lessons and activities that will be of benefit to the children here at Alpha State School. I have been visiting classrooms and have been seeing just how structured and fast-paced the learning is and am confident that your children are getting a fantastic education here.

Facebook page
Please ‘like’ and visit our Facebook page. Our page is one way we try to keep parents up-to-date with events and information about our school. It is important to keep all posts positive and if you have any issues, please come to the school and discuss them with me or the staff member involved.

Lexia
The Lexia reading program is for students to access at home for 10-15 minutes per night. This activity is for students to do by themselves. I understand parents want to assist, however, the program is designed to pick up deficits (potholes to fill) to build a complete foundation for reading and, therefore, it is imperative that students complete the required minutes independently. Any concerns please see your child’s teacher or our Lexia expert, Mrs Ruthenberg. Each student has individual access now and is able to access at home no matter how many other students are using the
Every child has a good day every day. Every child matters every day.

Parade
All parents are welcome to attend the parade on a Friday morning. This is when awards are handed out.

Homework
It is really important that students complete their homework each week. I have been reading the weekly emails that the staff send out to the parents of the students in their classes and have noticed that a few teachers have been placing gentle reminders about homework completion in them. At Alpha, we strive to meet an ‘A’ standard in all teaching and learning areas and the process of consolidating new learnings each week, needs to extend to the home also if we are to continue hitting such outstanding benchmarks. Please discuss any issues with homework with your child’s teacher.

Have a great fortnight,
Vanessa Koina

PLEASE NOTE:
STUDENTS INFORMATION AND CONSENT BOOKS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY THIS WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH.

Prep Newsflash
Hello everyone!

This fortnight in the prep classroom, we have been learning lots of new things. In English, we have been learning about recounts – retelling a story that has been previously read. In phonics we have previously learnt S, A, T, I, P, and N; this fortnight, we have been learning C, K, H, E and are now learning R. In Maths we’ve been learning all about patterns and numbers. Science has us exploring the habitats of different animals, and whether or not the habitat is healthy. Lastly, in Geography, we have been learning our compass directions of North, South, East and West.

On Friday, students were also able to participate in a football skills workshop, learning how to pass, catch, and tag other players. Coming up this term, we will also be having the Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday morning of week 10, followed by the cross country on the Thursday of week 10. For homework this week, we are revising the letter h, and practising the letter r. It is important however that you continue all of the letters and sounds with your child. The sounds we have covered so far are Ss, Aa, Tt, Ii, Pp, Nn, Cc, Kk, Hh, Ee, and now Rr. To make practising letters, sounds, and sight words more fun, a folder has been sent home with your child, containing blank cards, a whiteboard marker, and some pictures. These are so you can write the letter/sound or sight word on the cards, and use these for: flash cards, go fish, snap, or concentration. At school we have been playing a game called ‘Find the ________.’ In this game, we used one of the pictures provided and hid it under a letter/sound or sight word card, and the children have to ask, “Is the (treasure, truck, flower etc) under (letter/sound/sight word)?” When they have correctly identified that card, they may pick it up and check. It is then your turn. Whoever finds the item wins.

If you need any further details, please do not hesitate to email or come and see me.

Regards
Miss Wilson

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin
The year 1, 2, 3s have been busy creating their persuasive posters in English. They have completed one on the Alpha Rodeo and are currently creating their second poster on, ‘Are cats better than dogs?’ Please come in and view the students work as they have put a lot of effort into making these fabulous posters!

Maths has been action packed with the year 1’s and 2’s focusing on place value and the year 3’s looking at rounding to 10 and estimation. Science has been exciting with our grass heads sprouting green hairs everywhere! We have also looked at non-living things and will be moving towards once living and never living objects!

Fantastic effort and behaviour this week year 1, 2, 3! Keep up the great work!

Miss Grogan
Every child has a good day every day. | Every child matters every day.

**Years 4/5/6 Intelligence**

Dear Parents,

Half way through term one already - Wow! Before we know it, it'll be Easter Holidays! Now that we are getting into the back end of the term, the children are completing a lot of assessment. This is both a draining and difficult time for the students... and teachers! In order to make this easier on the students, a good night’s sleep and a nice big breakfast are important. I have no concerns about the progress the students are making and am sure they will all do well on their assessment, these tips are just to help them to maintain concentration over longer periods of time. If you have any concerns, or your child is particularly anxious when it comes to testing, please let me know and I will accommodate their needs the best I can. Some of the students have also mentioned that they will be having days off for sporting events or holidays. If you could please let me know these exact dates as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated. This way I can reschedule assessment to ensure they don’t miss anything important.

Please try to ensure that your child is completing their Lexia minutes for homework each week. I have found that over the past 3 weeks, a lot of the students haven’t been doing Lexia at home. All students know that the consequence of not completing their Lexia minutes for homework is detention on Monday lunch times. These lunch breaks will be spent completing the minutes that they failed to do the week before. The student will then also be expected to complete their weekly minutes for that week, on top of what they have done in detention time. They are still given 1 hour of Lexia time each week in class so 15 minutes of Lexia each night is the maximum your child should need to do in order to complete their weekly minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss these with me.

Have a great fortnight!
Miss Hodge
chodg145@eq.edu.au

**Years 7/8 Broadcast**

In English we are still reading ‘Don’t Call Me Ishmael’ and evaluating the language we are using in order to help make our writing more colourful. This will help us write our own persuasive diary entries which is one of the assessment pieces for English this term. We are also in the process of revising Narratives (what they are and how they are constructed) and are writing our own narrative about a trip (another of our assessment pieces).

In Maths, we are all looking at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and will be learning how to convert between them eg fractions to decimals, percentages to fractions etc as well as revising how to add, subtract, times and divide these. The Year 8s will also be looking at percentage increases and decreases and working out GST. Both year levels will be having a test in Week 7 on Thursday so they should be revising work that we have covered when other homework has been completed.

A big thank you to those who attended the Prefect Induction. It was a lovely ceremony for the students and one I’m sure they’ll remember fondly. I have noticed a number of these students really taking their responsibilities seriously and have been setting a great example for the rest of the school. Thank you.

Finally, a very big thank you to Mick and Darin (our policemen) who did some fundraising last weekend and raised $95 for Work Experience. This money will go towards helping us get to Rockhampton again this year.

Keep smiling. ☺
Mrs Goodwin

**YEAR 10 NEWSCAST**

This week will see the commencement of both the English and Maths assessment task. Students are currently planning their short story adaptation of the novel we have read in class. In Maths students need to design a target game and calculate the probability of achieving a desired outcome.

Also this week students have the Science unit exam. We will be starting the new unit on Evolution this week as well.

Reminder that students need to complete 100 minutes of Lexia each week. We have allocated a 45 minute block on Monday but it is up to the students to complete the rest of the time for homework.

Have a good fortnight.
Mrs Rogers

**MODERN MASTERS ~ NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM**

Hi Everyone,

All students are working consistently on their amazing art pieces and are very proud of them.

Prep and the Year 1/2/3 class are exploring primary, secondary, warm and cool colours, shapes and patterns using a variety of media. In order to understand how
Over the last 5 weeks I’ve been having a great time with the 1-3’s, exploring what makes us unique along with how to get on with others. Last Friday, they put some of their newly acquired skills to the test by doing a short skit showing our five strategies of resolving conflict. All the students performed admirably. During the second phase of this term’s Health Unit we’ll be exploring our emotions and what it takes to be a good friend.

7-10 Philosophy
It’s been an insightful beginning of the term with the Years 7-10’s slowly building awareness of the expectations and challenges of philosophical inquiry. We’ve explored areas of social justice and aesthetics, while practicing our ability to define, set and apply criteria. In the coming weeks we’ll be delving further into the domain of aesthetics and increase our capacity to seek clarification and truly appreciate other’s points of view.

9/10 History
The 9/10’s are studying World War II this term and the beginning of term 2. It’s a fascinating and intense stage of modern history which has had significant effects on the world we live in today. Over the coming weeks we’ll continue to analyse source documents, watch snippets of documentaries and explore different perspectives surrounding these historical events.

Have a great fortnight
Mr Hammer

SPORTS NEWS
Congratulations to the four high schoolers Emily, Erin, Cooper and Beau who travelled to Barcaldine two weeks for CW Netball and Touch Trials. Despite being two the younger competitors at Netball, Emily and Erin played extremely well and were both selected to play in the Possibles and Probables. Emily was then selected as CW U/15 Netball Shadow. After having to listen to “Shake it Off” three times on the way to Barcaldine with Miss Clarke, Beau and Cooper were fired up for their Touch Trials. Both boys showed great skills with Cooper being selected to represent Central West at Mt Isa next month.

Miss Clarke

Every child matters every day.

Mr Hammer’s Post
Years 1-3’s Health

The Year 4/5/6 class are on a shape, pattern and senses journey and are producing pieces using crayon, paint. They are learning how to use negative and positive space, as to create balance in their artwork. Examples are outside the ICT room near their classroom.

In the Year 7/8 class the students are researching whether art has the power to hasten or change cultural belief. The students have come up with a list of social or cultural issues that are important to them, produced drawings in their sketch book and will choose one to expand on. Art pieces using pastel, crayon and India ink resist, along with encaustic art and Notan have been produced in class.

HISTORY - Medieval Europe
Year 7/8 are learning about the above period, after the downfall of the Roman Empire. In particular we have been focusing on feudalism and manorialism, along with changes in the criminal justice system.

GEOGRAPHY – Landforms and Landscapes
Year 7/8 are differentiating between landscapes and landforms, studying coastal management of our beaches and understanding the geomorphic processes that formed some of the major Australian landforms. This week we have been learning about volcanism and the effect on the environment.

Have a great fortnight
Ms Wright

Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty
CHAPPY’S NEWS

SU QLD Ilfracombe Outback Adventure Camp

Last week this camp opened online for Grades 5 and 6. The camp will be held in the first week of the school holidays and this year has a Commando theme.

The cost is $145.00 which covers bus travel to and from camp, meals, activities and accommodation. It is one of the cheapest 4 day camps available. I look forward to seeing many of our grade 5 & 6 attending. Please note there are only 30 spots on the camp and a number of these have already been filled.

Chappy

Emerald and District Athletics Association Inc

2015 Season Sign-On
Sunday, March 22 and 29
4.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Club House - Marist College Oval
New Athletes 5 years and over welcome
Sign up is $95 per Athlete

BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS ONLY

Season commences Sunday, 19 April with a come and try day
1.45 pm 5 years to Masters
First Club Day on the 26 April 2015

PICTURES FROM ROD DAHL NRL CLINIC

For more information please contact Wayne Gakowski on 4982 0746 or 0411 717 477.
Alpha 4B’s Rodeo
The recent Alpha Rodeo was a success even though Tropical Cyclone Marcia was causing havoc around the Rockhampton area at the time. Crowd numbers appeared really good and the vast majority of people were well behaved and enjoyed the event immensely. From a policing perspective, over the weekend we issued 9 x Traffic Infringement Notices, issued 6 x Liquor Infringement Notices, completed 14 x Street Checks and conducted more than 60 x Random Breath Tests. There was only 1 x Arrest for the weekend and that was due to poor judgement brought on by a high level of intoxication (aka stupidity). Thankfully there were no assaults and no traffic crashes. On the Sunday morning after the event, we tried to do some proactive policing and do something different so we were at the showgrounds very early to do Random Breath Tests for people BEFORE they drove. This initiative proved very successful.

Items of Interest
At the Rodeo we discussed a number things with people. Among these were that in an average person, your blood alcohol level peaks one hour after your last drink. It then drops by 0.02 per hour after that as your body processes the alcohol. This is a basic guide only. Other factors such as food, dehydration, medication, body size, male v female and whether or not you are a regular drinker can affect this. Also, as an experiment, one young bloke had heard that if you eat ice immediately before you blow into a RBT on the roadside, it will show a reduced reading. This is not right and it did not work for him when he tried it. The device is designed to obtain a sample of your breath from deep in your lungs – that is why you have to blow into the RBT for so long. Mouthwash, cigarette smoke and chewing gum do not affect the instrument. Mouth alcohol can show a higher initial roadside reading which is why we ask the driver if they have consumed any alcohol recently and if they say that they have, then we are required to wait for 20 minutes so that any mouth alcohol is dissolved before we conduct the RBT.

Contact Phone number for Weapons Licencing Branch – 3015 7777.

Contact Phone number for Qld Transport & Main Roads – 132 380.

The Alpha Police Station counter hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm when possible. There will always be exceptions to this such as emergency callouts, training, meetings and other operational policing demands, so it may be best to check in advance or phone before attending.

Take care
Mick Lingard & Darin Coetzer
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- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
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- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
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Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty