



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

Mobile - 0427 158 456 Telephone - 4987 0888 Fax - 4987 0800.

Website: www.alphass.eq.edu.au

12 May 2015

Issue 7

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the Week 4 edition of our newsletter. It has already been an exciting start to the term with so many things happening both in school time and as extra-curricular activities. The next few weeks are no exception to this.

NAPLAN

Our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will soon participate in the annual National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 12–14 May.

An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can. Further NAPLAN information for parents and carers is available online. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing.

Parents/ Care Givers Leading by Example in School Grounds

- ✦ Respect for others is one of the most important lessons that we want to teach our students at Alpha State School. To learn respect children need to be able to see the adults in their lives show respect to each other. It is important that parents/caregivers, as well as school staff, show respect when dealing with each other. It is a way that we create a safe school environment for staff, volunteers, students, parents/caregivers and visitors.
- ✦ People who enter the school grounds and are hostile or aggressive, this includes using abusive or profane language and threats to school staff or volunteers, students or other parents/caregivers, will not be tolerated.
- ✦ It is an offence under the Education Act for one adult to insult another adult at a school in the presence or hearing of a student. It is also an offence for a parent to approach and admonish or question the child of another family.
- ✦ The Education Act provides the Principal with the authority to provide a written direction requiring a person to immediately leave the school premises and not re-enter for a period of time. Conditions may also be

placed on a person's entry to the school premises.

- ✦ If a member of the school community has an issue or concern the appropriate protocol is to make an appointment with the staff member, outside of student learning times, to discuss the matter in a calm manner. If the matter cannot be resolved the matter should be referred to the principal in the first instance.
- ✦ All members of the school community are asked to abide by these protocols so that schools can maintain a safe supportive environment for our students to learn.

Relief Cleaners

From time to time, we need some relief cleaners to work when Sharon and/or Anne might be away. We will provide training for any interested persons. Please let the office know if you would be keen to become a relief cleaner.

Radical Reptile Visit

Next Monday, May 18, the students in Year P-3 will be walking to Jellybeans Kindy for a visit from the Radical Reptile Team. This looks to be an exciting excursion. Notes have gone home in relation to this. Please return your note, along with \$5 to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Medicare Local "Reading Bug" visit

On June 3, the students in Prep-3 will be having a visit from the ladies from Medicare Local. They will be delivering an interactive session about health and wellbeing. The Prep/1 will have their session together and the 2/3 will have their session together. A note has gone home in relation to this. Please return this note as soon as possible so that we can organise supervision.

Alpha Show Guard of Honour

Next week at the Alpha Show, we have been asked to form a Guard of Honour for the Governor of Queensland. As this is a special anniversary show for Alpha, it would be lovely if

our students could be part of this historic day. If you are interested, please return the note in relation to this as soon as possible so that I can let the show ladies know how many of us will be participating.

"The Crack-up Sisters" Workshop and performance

Next Monday and Tuesday, we have been invited to participate in a free workshop with "The Crack-up Sisters" I have sent a note home in relation to this, and have been super impressed by how keen our students are to participate. There is still time to express an interest in attending these free workshops and then having the opportunity to perform at the show next Wednesday. Please let me know by Friday if you are keen to participate in this activity.

Attendance

I am keen to promote the notion the "Everyday counts" here at school. While I appreciate that families have businesses and interests that often take them away from town for periods of time, I am currently analysing each student's data to see if there is a correlation between attendance and academic performance. I am keen to promote close to 100% attendance through newsletter articles, on the school's Facebook page and through local businesses in the community. I will include with each newsletter some information about our schools' current attendance rate as well as information that I think is interesting or relevant. I am even discussing having an attendance award or trophy on parade for the class with the highest attendance each week. There is nothing like a bit of healthy, fun competition to get things happening in each class!

- ✦ Currently our attendance for Semester 1 is at 94.2%
- ✦ Our attendance for Term 2 is at 89.1% compared to Term 1 which was at 95.9%.

While our aim is to have 100% attendance at school, I realise this is nearly impossible, so I have set our target for the year at 95% or above.

This is how each class's attendance is looking for Semester 1 so far....

Prep –	89.5%
1/2/3 –	92.6%
4/5/6 –	95.5%
7/ 8 –	94.6%
10 -	96.4%

Congratulations to the Year 4/5/6 and Year 10 classes for reaching our attendance target so far this Semester.

I hope you have a great fortnight and I look forward to seeing you at our local show next week.

Take care
Vanessa Koina

Prep Newsflash

Hello parents,

Happy belated Mother's Day from the prep class! The last few weeks have been very busy indeed in the prep classroom. We have been completing all of our usual Maths, English, Science, Geography and Health lessons, in addition to practising for our Mother's day performance, which we hope you enjoyed watching as much as we enjoyed performing it. In the next few weeks we will be having the reptile show (next Monday, 18th of May) and Under 8's day (the following Monday from 11:30 am- 2:00 pm).

Please remember the forms for the reptile show, the Crack-up Sisters, the guard of honour, and Medicare local need to be signed and returned this week if your child is attending. If your child is attending the reptile show, \$5.00 also needs to come in with that note. Could you please ensure to visit Miss Wilson's classroom this week if your child is attending the reptile show, as a form needs to be signed in school about whether your child is able to touch the reptiles or not. **While homework club is on this week, this will be the last week that it is running, due to low attendance numbers.**

Have a great fortnight!

Miss Wilson

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin

Week 3 has flown by and the students continue to demonstrate positive learning experiences! In maths this week, the year 1's have been learning about the split strategy, while the year 2 and 3 students take on multiplication! Our English lessons have brought characters to life, with students showing their talent and humour in games like charades! In science, we have taken the Magic School Bus into space and explored the Earth's movement as well as the planets! Upcoming events to write in your diary include: Reptile show (18th May - \$5 fee) and Under 8's Day (25th May). Please return any permission slips to myself or the office.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Miss Grogan

Years 4/5/6 Intelligence

Dear Parents,

Happy week 3! We're keeping nice and busy in 4/5/6 as we approach the middle of the term. We are well and truly into our curriculum now and are working toward preparing for assessment, which will start in the next few weeks. A huge thank you to everyone that came to our Mother's Day morning tea. The kids and I enjoyed having you here and appreciate the time you took out of your busy schedules to do so. Bernie has kindly put the photos from the morning on our Facebook page so make sure you have a look at those. There are some really nice ones! Good luck to our 2 grade 5 students, Alyce and Ben, who are completing NAPLAN this week. It'll be a tiring few days but I am confident that they will both do very well. Finally, just a quick reminder about homework. Some of the kids are either not completing it or simply not handing it in at all. It is given out every Monday afternoon and is expected to be completed and handed in on Friday morning. I am trying to encourage responsibility for their own work, however, some children are still forgetting each week. Your help with just checking that it's in their school bag of a Friday morning would be appreciated.

Enjoy your fortnight!

Courtney Hodge

chodge15@eq.edu.au

Years 7/8 Broadcast

Happy Mother's Day to all the Ladies – I hope your children were kind and considerate to you and showed you how much they appreciate you and what you do each and every day.

Another big week ahead especially for the Year 7 students who will be sitting their Naplan tests (with all other Year 7 students in Australia) every morning Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Good luck to Chloe and Kailum.

In English the Year 8s will be comparing two videos which look at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values. This will give them an idea of what they will be doing for their assessment piece of work. They will be looking at positive and negative persuasive words and incorporating them into paragraphs which support one particular video. They will also be continuing to write another paragraph on our persuasive text regarding snail mail.

In Maths, the Year 8s will be continuing to use the Distributive Law to expand using algebra expressions.

Each week your children are required to complete 100 minutes of Lexia, do Maths Mental sheets (without using a calculator) each night plus practice their spelling and do a Wonderword for homework. Sometimes they will have extra on top of this – it just depends on how much we get finished in class. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to complete this.

In the Electives:

Business – this week we will be looking at General Journal entries for writing off Depreciation and looking at Bad Debts – what they are and how they come about. We will then post these to the Ledger and extract a Trial Balance. They will have homework on Monday and Tuesday night in order to consolidate these entries.

ICT – students will continue learning about the program GameMaker. We will continue making a Maze game by adding more levels, adding appropriate sound, adding blocks and using the sleep function. This unit is very much focussed on being able to problem solve with lots of higher order thinking involved.

I will continue to push the students to aim high – to never just aim for mediocrity in order to get the best out of them so they measurably improve every day in every way.

Until next time

Keep smiling. 😊
Mrs Goodwin

Sports News

On Wednesday Patrick, Ryan, Clay Gleeson, Zack and Chloe competed at the CW Touch Trials. Congratulations to Ryan, Clay and Zack who were selected for the Central West U12s Team which will compete at the North West Trials in Alpha later in the month. A big thank you to the P & C for catering for the event and to my trainee Mr Taylor for his work on marking the lines for the day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOEL HALLS ON WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN ARCHERY ON THE WEEKEND OF 1-3 MAY AT CHARTERS TOWERS.



Miss Clarke

Mr Hammer's Post

Year 7-10 Philosophy

Last week we had a slightly smaller philosopher's group, as many students were at Beef Week. Those who remained were challenged to deepen their capacity to listen actively and integrate other student's point of view rather than simply focusing on their own ideas. This is a critical skill for developing wisdom and building more harmonious relationships. Most students performed admirably at this task. However, it something that we will continue to practice as the year unfolds.

9-10 History

The 9-10 Historians are coming down the home straight of their World War II Unit. Last week we were analysing source documents regarding the role of women on the home front in Australia during WWII. Students were also evaluating their capacity to reframe questions, give their interpretation and

find evidence to support their point of view. Next week will be our final review of WWII before moving onto our test in Week 5.

1-3 Health

In Health, students have begun the design process for a sandwich they will be making for a friend in Week 7. Last week they began brainstorming different kinds of possibilities in terms of their sandwich and ingredients. We heard some fascinating combinations. A watermelon sandwich was one of the more unlikely candidates! I look forward to seeing the final results.

Mr Hammer

P & C News

P & C are seeking Parents/Citizens wishing to help with catering the Alpha Show catering on 18, 19 and 20 May as it's the Alpha Show Society's 50th Annual Show. If you can help at either of these events please contact - Ben Standerwick, Tina Standerwick, Steve McGrath or Mick Lingard.

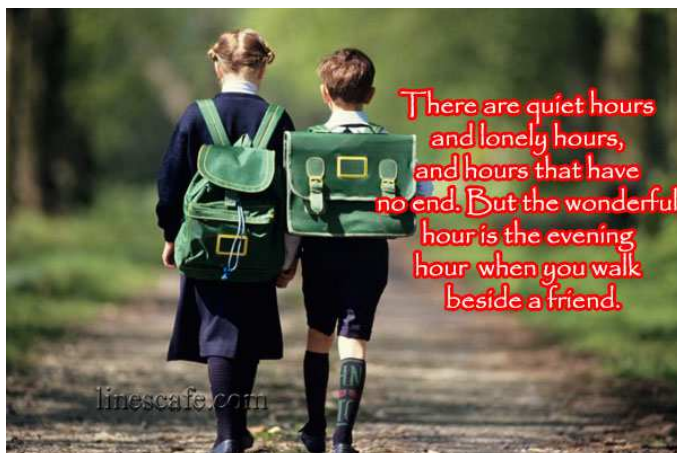
Mick Lingard
Secretary

YEAR 5/6 MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA PHOTOGRAPHS



Truth of School Life-

A First Bench Student Knows the Answer of Every Problem...
But
The Last Bench Student Knows How To Face Every Problem...!





Alpha Police Station

19 Milton Street

Alpha Q 4724

Ph. (07) 4985 1200



Vehicle Registration Checks

As we no longer have registration labels for our vehicles, you can use the TMR site to check when your vehicle registration is due at www.qld.gov.au/check_rego or by using the Queensland Rego Check App. You will still receive a Vehicle Registration Renewal Notice in the mail from TMR and a Certificate of Registration in the mail once the payment has been made and processed. This is a reminder as we are often asked questions relating to this matter. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that the vehicle they are driving is registered.

QPS Blog

As you may be aware, the QPS has a blog which is a great source of information and news. Use the myqps.qld.gov.au link which will get you to the main page. Alpha Police are part of the Longreach Patrol Group which can be found by clicking on the Southern tab across the top, then going down the list to Southwest and then Longreach will be displayed on the right.

Phone numbers: Weapons Licencing Branch – 3015 7777.
Qld Transport & Main Roads – 132 380.
Road Conditions Reports – 131 940

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

IF A CRIME'S HAPPENING
RIGHT NOW, CALL
TRIPLE ZERO (000).

IF NOT, THINK
POLICELINK.
CALL 131 444.

CRIME
STOPPERS
.com.au
1800 333 000