Dear Parents/Caregivers

**Curriculum and the classroom**
Interesting work in the Prep/1 class going on. The students are showing great improvement in their week on week results across numeracy and literacy. It is a reflection of the students, Kate, the aides and parents working together to have this positive work happening.

Hannah Clarke is away at touch football this week. Lois Marshall, a teacher from Barcy, is replacing Hannah. Good luck to Giaan Green who will be away playing in the North-West Touch Team. I hope they play well.

The touch carnival was a great success on the weekend. A cool day and well organised. Thanks to the P & C, volunteers and staff who made the day happen so well. The canteen provided great tasty food and the bar staff worked hard all day. More information and results will be in the parent info email this week and posted on facebook.

If you didn't receive a parent/teacher interview booking sheet please email me on pstan24@eq.edu.au. The sheets were sent home on Friday.

**Behaviour expectations**
The behaviour and effort of students in class continues to be a highlight within the school. We had the highest completion rate of Lexia minutes this week across the school. A fantastic result and this will correlate into real reading gains across the school and for your child.

The cold has hit again with some much needed rain. If your child happens to be out of uniform for a day please send along a note explaining the reason with your child please.

The school contact details are
**Phone:** 4987 0888  
**Pete’s email:** pstan24@eq.edu.au  
**Pete Stansfield mobile:** 0419 982 413  
**School mobile:** 0427 158 456

Kind regards  
**Pete Stansfield**

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**From the Principal’s Desk…**
**A bite of our fortnight in P/1**

The past three weeks have just flown by and it is hard to believe that we are now at the beginning of Week 4. Keep up the hard work everyone 😊

**Curriculum Update**

The Prep & One students are moving along really nicely and our goals for the term remain the same (Prep’s – Reading, One’s – Writing). Sight Word recognition is particularly important in assisting students along with their reading. Remember to practise these each night and please ensure that your child reads each book in their home reader pack at least twice. Students will be tested on the PM reading benchmark from this Friday (Weeks 4 & 5) and then again in Weeks 9 & 10. If you are not sure where your child is sitting on the PM benchmark, please see me so that I can update you on their progress.

**Reading Lexia**

Our guys are doing a great job of reaching and surpassing their Weekly Lexia minutes. Thank you parents for your support of this program, I am sure that you are beginning to see the positive effects on your child’s reading, writing and overall knowledge of letters and sounds.

**Matholia**

This week in class time the Grade One, students will start a new online Math Program called Matholia which will replace Mathletics. I will also send home an updated login for your child, in case it has been misplaced and students wish to access it from home. Accessing this program from home is not compulsory as students will be provided with time in class.

**Behaviour**

This week we are thinking about safety in our classroom and working on sitting on our chairs safely eg, two feet firmly on the ground (not underneath our bottoms), chairs tucked in carefully and ensuring that the 4 legs are evenly balanced on the floor. Please reinforce this through conversations at home – if possible. Thanks for your support 😊

**Homework Club – Afternoon Tea**

We will continue to have homework club on Tuesday afternoons. Currently the afternoon tea is being provided by the teachers. From this week, we would like students who attend homework club to bring a small plate of food to share. Some ideas include fruit, crackers and cheese etc, nothing fancy – just ingredients that are readily available at home. Please see me if you have any questions.

**Reminders:**

- **Homework Club:** Tuesday afternoon’s 3.05 – 4.00 pm. Remember to bring a small plate of food to share.

- **Reading:** Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 8.15 am

- **Activities:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 8.00 am.

- **Tuckshop:** Wednesday’s. Active After School Sport: Wednesday Afternoon’s 3.05 pm – 4.30 pm

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to pop in to the classroom.

I hope everyone has a fantastic week!

Miss Priddle 😊

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**Year 5/6 Reporting Live**

Congratulations to Chloe Trilford, Megha Mathew, Patrick Thorn, Morgan Stansfield and Hannah Goodwin who received awards in weeks four or five. A fantastic effort!

Just a reminder that the students are completing a ‘Carry it’ unit this term in Technology. This unit requires the students to make a bag from recycled materials. Any clothes or material donations would be greatly appreciated.

In Science, the students have been investigating shadows and refractions. The photos below are the students exploring these concepts.

Have a great fortnight.

Miss Gulliver.
SEVEN/EIGHTS

Well another week down and here we are again halfway through the term already.

In English the Year 7s are well and truly into writing or typing up their imaginative recount as they take on a role from one of Ned Kelly’s exploits. Each lesson in class we concentrate on writing another paragraph making sure we incorporate the necessary language features in order to make our writing come alive. The students’ rough drafts will be due on Thursday this week and their good copy the following Monday. So each day, please ask your child/ren if they are on the way to getting their rough draft completed by Thursday. In Year 8 English the girls have been analysing a television script called “Noah and Saskia” and answering questions regarding this script. Their assessment is due on Thursday and they must make sure they have answered questions fully, proofed it thoroughly and checked their spelling.

In Maths we continue to look at ‘best buys’ and everyone has been working hard on planning their best BBQ for 12 people on a budget of $60. Needless to say they have had to put a lot of thought into what they are buying and how much they need; the amount of times I have heard “Mrs Goodwin, can you just extend the budget by …..” goes without saying. Reality is finally hitting home as they see that there is only so much money to pay the bills – you can all thank me when you see me. 😊 This maths assignment will also be due on Monday the 18th.

Arty Treats

Students in P-8 are progressing impressively with their music studies. Prep/ one is continuing to learn about beat and rhythm, while the 2/3/4 class focus on timbre (sound characteristics of instruments) as they create soundscapes to descriptive stories.

Years 5-8 are creating pentatonic melodies and developing skills in reading, playing and composing music.

SHOCKWAVE

Thanks to all students who attended Shockwave – everyone approached the trip with a great attitude and a fantastic time was had by all. The beat-boxing workshops and performances were a definite highlight!

GRAPHICS

The Graphics crew are busy embarking on an exploration of a new technical drawing computer program called AutoCAD. It is a big learning curve for all of us, especially me, but a worthwhile endeavour to develop skills using the latest CAD technology. I will be away doing training on the program on Monday 18th August.

Miss Gray

As you can see in our class it is heads down and bushy tails up as we finalise assessment for these two five-week units.

Keep smiling. 😊

Mrs Goodwin
FIRST AID - Expression of Interest
Any person/persons interested in participating in the CPR Refresher or Full First Aid Course could you please contact the school or email bruth5@eq.edu.au so that we can contact QAS with numbers. Numbers need to be in by Monday, 26 August. Date for course will be advised after contact with QAS.

ALPHA STATE SCHOOL TOUCH DAY
Every child has a good day every day. Every child matters every day.

Alpha Police Station
19 Milton Street
Alpha Q 4724
Ph. (07) 4985 1200

If you need Police, Fire or Ambulance in an emergency call triple zero (000)

When should you call triple zero (000)
- If a crime is happening now.
- When a life is threatened.
- When the event is time critical, for example a fire.

Drivers Licence Smartcard Renewals – The new Smartcard drivers licences can be renewed online at tmr.qld.gov.au. However, if you still have one of the old laminated driver’s licences, you will need to attend a TMR Customer Service Centre to renew it and have it updated to a Smartcard licence when it is due.

Weapons Licencing Branch Phone Number: 3015 7777 – If you have any inquiries about time delays on processing weapons licencing matters, please call WLB on the phone number shown above. They are the only ones now who can give you a timeline on the processing of your application.

Drivers Licence Demerit Points – To answer a common question, if you are issued a Traffic Infringement Notice for a traffic related offence, you may also incur a loss of drivers licence demerit points as well as a financial penalty. An “O” or “Open” class driver’s licence holder has twelve (12) demerit points on their licence. If you lose the maximum twelve (12) demerit points for committing traffic offences, you will be notified accordingly by TMR. You may also have your driver’s licence suspended. It takes three (3) years from the date that the traffic offence was committed for those demerit points to be reinstated to your driver’s licence.

Consuming Alcohol in a Public Place – The offence of consuming alcohol in a public place incurs an on the spot fine of $113.00.

The Alpha Police Station counter hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8.00am and 12.00pm when possible. There will always be exceptions to this such as emergency callouts and other operational policing demands. We try to adhere to these times as strictly as possible but incidents occur which are beyond our control and this then impacts on these scheduled counter days

Take care
Mick Lingard & Jason Robertson
MYTH – CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR SHACKLES USED WHEN TOWING A TRAILER

For response to Customer Enquiries regarding this matter. There has been no change!

Recently, information has been circulating on social media about changes that require the shackles used when towing a trailer to be rated as well as enforcement of this requirement in the Gympie area.

Vehicle Standards can advise that under the current legislation, while the safety chains that are used to connect a trailer to a towing vehicle are required to comply with Australian Standard AS 4177.4 Caravan and light trailer towing components, there is no legal requirement for shackles to comply with a particular Australian Standard.

However, in the interest of road safety, the Department of Transport and Main Roads strongly recommends that vehicle operators use shackles that are either certified to AS 2741-2002 Shackles or are identifiable as having a suitable design for the trailer and towing vehicle combination.

These requirements are not new and have been consistent across most States and Territories for many years.

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Take care
Mick Lingard & Jason Robertson