Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the 2014 school year I trust that your family had a refreshing and relaxing break. I have enjoyed seeing eager students back ready to learn and see their friends. Thank you to the students, parents and staff for a smooth and positive start to the term. Students have settled in really well.

Welcome to Alyccee Wilson to Alpha State School. Alyccee and Tom, her partner, moved out to Alpha in time for the heat wave! Alyccee has since got ready to teach her new class in her new room and the students have relished the learning environment of the 2, 3, 4 class.

The school hat or maroon wide brim hat with a 5-6 cm brim is required for school. School hats are only $10. As soon as possible students must have a school hat. Any issues please see me. This is part of our school uniform and sun safety. CW or FN hats can be worn to district events only. This is for two reasons students are an Alpha State School student first and a district rep second. I need your support in having your child wear a school hat as soon as possible. Thank you to the students who are already wearing the full uniform.

Nominations for School, sports and class captains have been completed. Students nominating have seen me about the expectations as student council officers. Attendance, wearing the Alpha State School uniform, abiding by the school rules and getting involved appropriately with school life and their position were agreed to before nomination. I am confident students who are elected will perform exceptionally well for our school. The students will be informed on Tuesday as to the results of the ballot.

The Prefect Induction Ceremony will be held in the School BER Building (Hall) on Wednesday 5 February at 10.45 am. It would be appreciated if the parents of elected students could bring a plate for a shared morning tea after the ceremony. I look forward to seeing you at this special occasion.

Curriculum
Explicit instruction, choral learning and bookwork are top the priorities for teaching your child this year. Each student is tracked so that we can ascertain that they are improving in every area of literacy and numeracy. This can be achieved by classes being calmly relentless in their learning. A high expectation of improvement for each student has been set and the work may be challenging at times, however, the results will be there at the end and will make the journey worthwhile.

Behaviour expectations
Our mantras guide student behaviour and student management at the school:

✦ Measureable improvement every way, every day
✦ No drama
✦ Time on task
✦ Fun, safe play
✦ Aim for Up here with no middle ground nor down here (complimented with actions)
Plain speaking about behaviour requirements of students.....
Students are to follow directions the first time. Students who constantly challenge our reasonably set routines and teacher instruction will receive a consequence. I don’t believe it to be fair that a minority of students can take away learning time from themselves or class members and be involved in negative issues at lunch when others would like to get on with playing.

What is happening in the next two weeks?
Our swimming carnival is on Thursday, 6th of February. Events are scheduled to start at 3:30 pm. Students are encouraged to walk up with staff to the pool from school. If parents would like to take their child to the pool please ensure you can make it by 3:30 pm, barring a technological hitch for example, we will be starting on time. I look forward to students cheering on for their house and getting involved in the events.

Our ‘Meet and Greet’ for parents and teachers to catch up is on at the pool Sunday, Friday 9th of February from 5-7 pm. There is a free barbeque and cordial on the night. The canteen will be open for other items if you wish to purchase. Bring the whole family. Children need to be accompanied by a parent to the event. This will be a relaxed opportunity to talk to staff, see other families, have a swim to cool off and meet our newest staff member Alycce Wilson.

Our school is currently awaiting day 8 numbers to finalise our staffing. This will be an item on the agenda at the P & C meeting.

Parent/Community involvement
Our Annual General Meeting is on 11th of February. Please come along and get involved with the P & C. Positions for the Executive will called for at the meeting. Our P & C gave great support to the school and were a positive force for our students and I can’t wait to have another good year working with our parents.

With all of these facets combined I believe that Alpha State School can provide the best education for our children.

The school contact details are
Phone: 4987 0888
Pete Stansfield email: pstan24@eq.edu.au
Pete Stansfield mobile: 0419 982 413
School mobile: 0517 100 274
Kind regards
Pete Stansfield

A Bite of our Fortnight in Prep/1
“No one should teach who is not in love with teaching.”
Margaret E. Sangster

Welcome back to school for 2014! I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and are ready for another exciting year. It is great to be back in the swing of things already and I am very much looking forward to the fun times and learning that will be happening in the classroom this year.

The P/1’s have had a great start to the school year and are quickly adapting to the new routine. We have had a busy week with the Preps starting their sounds and sight words and also working on number recognition. This week the Preps are learning the ‘s, a, t, i, p’ letters and sounds and are having fun painting, writing, singing and making them.

The Year One’s haven’t skipped a beat! This week they have been working on sentence writing and have learned to count in two’s. We are learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives in English this week and the students are working on identifying these words in texts. Go Year One!

Homework also starts this week and a reminder for parents to please ensure the homework folder, with readers, is brought back to school on Friday mornings. Remember that Homework club for the P/1’ is on Tuesday
Every child has a good day every day. Every child matters every day.

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Every child matters every day. Every child has a good day every day. Every child has a good day every day.

towel, and sunscreen for these days.

Homework will be starting this week, and students will have a week to complete this. Please remember to bring your homework folders and readers back to school on Friday mornings. Homework club will begin this week on Tuesday afternoons from 3:05 pm to 4:00 pm with afternoon tea provided. If your child needs help to complete their homework, this is a perfect opportunity for them to receive that help, and have their homework completed on time.

I hope to see you all soon.

From
Miss Wilson & the 2,3,4’s.

Yr 5/6 Reporting Live!

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

The primary information night is on this Wednesday 5th, commencing at 6.00 pm in the BER building. This is a great opportunity for you to hear about how the primary school is going to operate this year and to ask us any questions. Chappy is also cooking a BBQ.

Swimming notes are to be returned as soon as possible. Please remember the necessary equipment and $1 for each lesson, except if you have a season pass then there is no cost. Swimming is set to start again this week.

Set homework will begin this week, it is handed out every Monday and is to be returned by Friday of the same week. Every Monday I will also take the students to the library to choose and exchange books. I hope to motivate the students to become enthusiastic readers.

Please email me or come and see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Enjoy your fortnight.
Miss Gulliver.

Afternoons from 3.05 pm to 4.00 pm with afternoon tea provided. This is a great, stress free way of ensuring that h/w is completed on time.

Swimming lessons for the P/1’s will be on Wednesday’s from 2 pm-3 pm for Week 2 and 3 only. Please remember to pack towel, swimmers, goggles and sunscreen. The swimming carnival will be held this Thursday from 3.30 pm onwards. Students will be walking up from school (if not picked up by parents), so please ensure that your child either comes ready with their swimming bag on Thursday, or you meet them at the pool with them. Get ready for lots of swimming carnival action and cheering! Go Yungi, Go Kabi :)

I wish everyone all the best for another fantastic school year.

From
Miss Priddle & the Prep/1’s

Year 2/3/4 Kaperz

Welcome back!

It is great to be back at school for 2014, seeing all the rested, smiling faces that are back and ready to learn. The year 2, 3, and 4’s are having a great start to their school year, and I can’t wait to continue on their learning journey with them! It is great to see after the holiday’s that they haven’t forgotten the school routine, and are ready and bright-eyed every morning.

In maths this week we have been learning about time, while in English we have been learning about nouns, noun groups, and creating interesting sentences. In Science we have been categorising things into living and non-living, based on the materials they are made from, or by other similar features. Finally, in Geography we are learning about the natural and human characteristics of many different places.

Swimming lessons will begin this week and will only be run in week 2 and 3. The year 2, 3, and 4’s swimming lessons will commence on Wednesday during these weeks for an hour, between 2 and 3 pm. Students need to bring swimmers, goggles, a
**High School Hi-Jinx**

Welcome back to the new school year. It was a great way to start the year with all students in 9 and 10 being happy to be back at school. During the first week we were busy establishing classroom expectations regarding behaviour and learning. We also participated in practise NAPLAN testing (much to the groans of the students). When these results are sent back to school it will give me a clearer picture of which areas your child will need some intervention. During this term we will be focusing on narrative writing with the goal of being able to write a quality piece of work in 40 minutes. So far the focus has been on punctuation - simple things like capital letters to start a sentence are important. This week we will look at including a variety of sentences to engage the reader in our story.

In maths our focus will be on number and algebra. We need to make sure that the fundamentals are established first prior to moving onto new work. During science lessons students will be consolidating their understanding of energy forms and definitions. We have been busy engaging in choral learning during lessons to start remembering these definitions.

Homework will involve a variety of activities targeting learning gaps. This week most students have had math skill sheets to complete as a result of some gaps in number concepts. I also encouraged students to complete reading. I have also sent home with some students fluency reading sheets. My major concern for reading is that students take too long to read the text and therefore do not get time to answer all the comprehension questions. Please check with your child about their homework.

Well I think I have written enough of an essay for this week. If you have any concerns please phone, email or come and see me.

Have a great week
Mrs Rogers

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**Miss Gray’s Tid-Bits**

Hi everyone, Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable, safe and relaxing holiday. This year I will continue in my role as ‘Arts’ teacher here at Alpha State School. The Arts includes a range of creative subjects including Visual Art and Media, Dance, Drama and Music. This term all students in years Prep to 8 will be participating in visual art lessons, with a focus on colour, shape and painting techniques. Students will have the opportunity to display completed work at the Alpha Show in May.

I will also be teaching Music as a high school elective subject, a course which includes both theoretical and practical (instrumental) elements.

As some of you may have heard on last week’s parade, I have picked up another subject – High School Manual Arts! It is a subject I thoroughly enjoyed in my own high school years and I am looking forward to getting back in the workshop and seeing what wonderful creations emerge. Already, after only one lesson, I am amazed and impressed at some of the design ideas students are coming up with.

The school choir (for students in years 4-10) and guitar ensemble (years 5-10) will continue this year. Audition and rehearsal times will be announced this week.

If you have any questions or would like more information on what your child is learning in my classes, please feel free to come and see me anytime or drop me an email (kgray144@eq.edu.au).

Miss Gray 😊

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**Year 7/8 Newsletter**

Welcome back to the new school year and welcome Year 7 over into the High School; also welcome back to my two Year 8 girls. So far we have had a great start to the school year with everyone bringing positive attitudes and a happy demeanour to school and into the classroom. It has been wonderful so far.

During the first week we have done all the major housekeeping involved in moving from a Primary situation to a Secondary situation – we have determined our class rules and looked at my expectations of them being in high school, worked out where we are sitting in our beautiful classroom, organised our books and where they need to be kept (whether it is in the locker, port or tidy box), determined what type of attitude we need to bring to class every day in order to make learning possible.

In English we will be doing a unit on Narratives and in Maths we are looking at Data – graphing and finding the mean, median, mode and range of data. In ICT we will be learning how to touch type – still an important skill to learn in this day and age.

I look forward to a successful year with my students. Feel free to contact me via phone or email whether it be to query something, deal with an issue, see how your child/children are going or simply to give some positive feedback.

I look forward to a successful year with your child/children and hope you will find having your child/children in high school at Alpha a rewarding experience for you and for them.

Mrs Goodwin

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*Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty*
Every child has a good day every day. Every child matters every day.

Would you like to learn how to cook easy, healthy meals and snacks for your family? For FREE?

Enrol in ‘Cooking for Health’ Today!

Cooking is an important skill often learnt from your family and friends. If you grew up cooking unhealthy meals, you are more likely to cook these as an adult, which can lead to poor health.

By learning to cook healthy, tasty meals, you can reduce your risk of developing diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some forms of cancers.

‘Cooking for Health’ is a group based healthy lifestyle program run by Queensland Health to help people become better at preparing and cooking healthy, delicious meals. This program is run FREE but spaces are limited to 15 people.

In this program you will learn:

◊ How to prepare and store food safely
◊ How to shop smart, read labels & budget
◊ How to create delicious, tasty and healthy meals
◊ How to adapt your favourite recipes to make them healthier
◊ Tips for healthy socialising
◊ How to combat your cravings without adding to your waist
◊ To experiment with different foods and learn to be creative in the kitchen

Enrol in Cooking For Health Today! The next program starts in Alpha on February 5, 2014 at Alpha State School’s Tuckshop. Classes start at 6:30 pm and run WEEKLY for 5 weeks.

For more information, please contact Kate Rose, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator on ph:4652 5500 or Email:kate_rose@health.qld.gov.au
Cooking for Health Timetable- Alpha 2014

If you are unable to attend any of the following sessions, please contact Kate on Ph: 4652 5500 or email: kate_rose@health.qld.gov.au prior to that session, so that we have correct numbers for food purchasing.

Please ensure that you wear closed in shoes for each cooking session and if you have long hair, please tie it back. You will not need to bring anything for the first four classes, so come along and enjoy! Topics that we will cover are explained below. Classes will be held from 6:30 pm each fortnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Recipe/ Meal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Salt- How much is too much? Cooking with alter-</td>
<td>Chicken and Vegie Stir-fry.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>natives</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Oils and Fats- the lowdown</td>
<td>Lean egg slice</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Tips for Entertaining: Healthy Finger Foods</td>
<td>Corn Fritters, Dips- easy Avocado cob and beetroot dips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Combat Cravings: Sweet alternatives</td>
<td>Fruit and yoghurt smoothies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Treats</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Competency Challenge and taste testing</td>
<td>You get to modify a family favourite recipe to make it healthier and share with the group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above vacancy exists at Alpha State School for a permanent full-time Schools Officer (Grounds & Facilities).

The application package can be obtained from the school office at 11 Milton Street, Alpha or by telephoning the school on (07) 4987 0888. The package will provide additional information relating to this position including salary rates.

Applicants must submit a detailed resumé and provide two current referees. Applications will remain current for a 12 month period and may be used to fill future vacancies.

Applications close at 12.00 pm on Friday, 14 February 2014.

Applications can be returned, marked “Confidential” to:-

The Principal, Alpha State School,
11 Milton Street, Alpha Q 4724

“The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to employment screening upon appointment.”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.
Welcome back to school and we hope you are ready for another busy and exciting year and also a special welcome to Alpha State School to the new Prep students.

**Speed Limits** - Please remember that the general speed limit in a built up area is 50 km/hr except where otherwise posted. This means that around town in Alpha it is a maximum 50 km/hr except for the posted 40 km/hr area around the school during the times specified on the signs on Milton Street and Dryden Street. The other exception to the built-up area rule in Alpha is the Capricorn Highway through town which is posted as a 60 km/hr zone. Speeding is not just driving faster than the posted speed limit. It is also driving too fast for the prevailing weather, light, traffic and road conditions without full regard for the vehicle condition and driver skills and experience. The 50km/hr speed limit in built up areas aims to make the roads safer for pedestrians and bicycle riders and in particular our children. You may also be aware that the Commissioner of Police has recently decreased the tolerance level for speeding offences.

**Child restraints** – Please look over the attached brochure on child restraints for your vehicle. It is a very comprehensive and clear to understand document. It is not about avoiding getting caught and paying a fine – it is about protecting your children and saving their life in a traffic crash.

**Do Not attend private police residences.** If you require police and the situation is a life threatening emergency - dial 000. If it is not an emergency and you phone the station on 49851200 and it goes to the answering machine and you do not want to leave a message - dial Police Link on 131 444. 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. Police are responsible for weapons licencing and Police Certificate matters only. Queensland Transport counter services are an exception and are not a core function of Police.

Take care
Mick Lingard & Jason Robertson.
Every child has a good day every day.

Child restraints

Transport and Main Roads

Precious cargo
Secure your

Department of Transport and Main Roads

For more information visit www.transport.qld.gov.au/childdriversrestraints
or phone 13 22 80

RACQ
For advice on selecting, fitting and installing child
restraints and baby capsules

contact your local RACQ branch

or phone 1300 25 35 35

email childdrivers@racq.com.au

Queensland Ambulance Service

To hire a baby capsule phone 3000 910 003

or phone 1800 86 505

e-mail childdrivers@racq.com.au

Kiddle's

For advice, installation, checking or hiring of a child
restraint or baby capsule visit www.kiddles.com.au

Service visit www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/baby-capsules

Telephone interpreters

If you have difficulty understanding the information in
this brochure, the Translating and Interpreting Service is
available for the cost of a local call on 13 450.

Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty
Don’t risk a child’s life, or serious injury to the most precious cargo you’ll ever carry. As a parent, it’s important to know that infants aren’t the only ones who need approved child restraints. It’s the law for all children up to 7 years of age to be correctly restrained according to their age and size.

**A guide to child restraints**

### Indicative ages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0–6 months</th>
<th>6 months–4 years</th>
<th>4–7 years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rearward facing infant restraint</td>
<td>Rearward facing infant restraint</td>
<td>Forward facing child restraint with built-in harness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Booster seat with a secured adult seatbelt</td>
<td>or Booster seat with H-harness</td>
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</tbody>
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### Safety tips

- Babies should stay in a rearward facing restraint for as long as their size allows.
- Children using restraints which comply with the new Australian Standards should progress to the next level of restraint once their seated shoulder height is above the top mark of the restraint.
- Children using restraints which comply with earlier Australia Standards should progress to the next level of seat once their eye level is above the back of their current restraint, or if the harness straps are more than 25 mm below the child’s shoulder height.
- Use only restraints which have been approved by Australian Standards (stamped in the restraint).
- Check the manufacturer’s information and product guidelines to ensure correct usage.
- Children can move to an adult seatbelt before the age of seven if their seated shoulder height is above the top mark on the booster seat, or if their eye level is above the back of the booster seat.

**New Australian Standard**

Child restraints sold in Australia must comply with Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 1754. This standard has been updated over time.

**Key changes in the new standard**

- Shoulder height markers on seats to show where a child should progress to the next level of restraint.
- Suitability of restraints based on seated height rather than weight.
- Colour-coded seatbelt paths to make installing in a motor vehicle easier.
- The introduction of a new type of booster seat for children from approximately 4 years to approximately 6-8 years of age (available now).
- The introduction of a new type of booster seat for children from approximately 4 years to approximately 8-10 years of age (available in the future).

Restrains manufactured to the earlier Australian Standard are still suitable for use.

Children should move to the next level of restraint once their seated shoulder height is above the top mark of the restraint. Children should never move up to the next level of restraint if their seated shoulder height is below the level mark.
Footy Season Begins 6 March 14

Who is going to win the Comp this Year???

Come on join the Footy Tipping Competition for 2014

Alpha Merchandise is coordinating the tipping competition for 2014.

If you are interested in becoming one of the tipsters please call Alpha Merchandise on 07 49 851123 to register you place.

The cost is $60 per person which needs to be paid before the start of tipping.

First Game is on the Thursday 6th March 2014

More details will be available in the next two weeks