



# ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

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

Website: [www.alphass.eq.edu.au](http://www.alphass.eq.edu.au)

**3 February 2015**

**Issue 1**

## *From the Principal's Desk...*

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back for 2015! I trust you had a restful and enjoyable 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 our 6 new Prep students who have quickly settled into the school routine in Miss Wilson's class. These students have already got into the swing of things and are working hard at learning new concepts.

Welcome also to our three new teachers. Miss Grogan will be teaching the 1/2/3 class, Miss Hodge will be teaching the 4/5/6 class and Mrs Wright will be teaching across the school specialising in The Arts, History and Geography.

This year, we are also celebrating our first cohort of Year 7's in High School. While this is probably not a big deal in our P-10 school, it is still nice to celebrate this historic occasion. Congratulations to Kailum and Chloe for being these two special students – I hope you enjoy being High School students at Alpha in 2015!

I am keen to continue this year with most of the programs and offerings that Alpha State School has had success with in the past. I don't believe in changing programs and processes that are working and getting results. I am keen for Alpha State School to continue to be a high performing school. For this to happen, all school members need to be on board (students, staff and parents) and we all need to work together to make the school the best it can be and for our

students to have the most success they can.

### **Curriculum**

Explicit instruction, choral learning, higher order thinking strategies, philosophy and bookwork are the top priorities for teaching your child this year. Each student is tracked weekly so that we can ascertain that they are improving in every area of literacy and numeracy. Teachers and I will then have data discussions and determine the best way to address the learning needs of each child in their class. Some students may be placed on an Individual Curriculum Plan (ICP) in 2015 in an effort to better support their learning. More information and individual meetings will be held with parents in relation to this. Classes need to continue to be calmly relentless in their learning. A high expectation of improvement for each student has been set; with the work being challenging at times, however, the results will be there at the end and will make the journey worthwhile.

### **Behaviour**

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 there (complemented with actions)

- ✦ The only person who has time to rock the boat is the one not rowing

I have been thrilled to be out and about every duty so far this year and have heard kind words and seen fun, safe play. Congratulations to the Year 7–10 students for excellent sportsmanship at all times and for encouraging each other while out in the playground. I have also seen fun, safe play in the Junior Play area with all students keeping their hands and feet to themselves.

I encourage all students to keep behaving so successfully. Well done!

### What's happening in the next two weeks?

Our 'Meet and Greet' for parents and teachers to catch up is on at the school on Friday 6 February from 4.00-6.00 pm. There is a free barbeque and cordial on the night. 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 game of cricket (or something similar) and meet our newest staff members. All welcome!

Our Primary Parent Information Evening will be held on Thursday 5 February at 6.00 p.m. in the BER building. The primary school teachers encourage all parents to attend to find out how the primary school runs and hear what exciting programs and events the children can look forward to.

Both these notifications have been placed on the school website.

### Day 4 and Day 8 Enrolment Collections

Last week I completed the Day 4 enrolment collection with our numbers currently sitting at 44. The Day 8 collection will be completed on Thursday 5 February. I will keep you posted if this has any implications for staffing at Alpha State School.

### P and C Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is on 10 February at 4.00 pm. Please come along and get involved with the P & C. Positions for the Executive will be called for at the meeting. Our P & C give great support to the school and are a positive force for our students and I can't wait to have a great year working with our parents.

### Student Leaders

The staff are currently reviewing the process for Student Captains/Leaders for 2015. Students have been encouraged to write their application letters and email/give them to Mrs Goodwin and myself. When a clear outline of the process has been reviewed and agreed upon at Tuesday's staff meeting, documentation will be sent home to parents so that you are all aware of the process for Student Leaders at Alpha State School in 2015. Keep your eyes peeled for this information.

Kind regards

Vanessa Koina

## **Prep Newsflash**

Welcome back to school for 2015!

The preps have had a great start to their first school year, learning about many different things. They have been learning the sounds s, a, t and p, similarities and differences, and have also started their geography unit. Beginning today, they will also be bringing home their homework books. In these books you will find some sight words, and a phonics activity, as well as a home reader pack. The sight words and home readers need to be completed every night, with the phonics as a once-a-week activity. Please bring the homework books back every Friday to be marked and prepared for the following week.

This year we will also be having homework club again. Homework club gives your child the chance to get help at school to complete their homework. It will be on

Monday afternoons from 3:05 pm until 4:00 pm. If your child is coming to this session, please send an afternoon snack to share at homework club. I look forward to seeing you all at the 'Parent Information Night' as well as the 'Meet and Greet' on Friday night!

Regards  
Miss Wilson

## **Years 1/2/3 Bulletin**

Welcome back to the new schooling year! It has been an exciting first week back at school for the Year 1, 2 and 3's! I am very excited to have been provided the opportunity to teach at Alpha State School, and I look forward to working with you and your child to enhance their learning outcomes. Below please see some information regarding the morning classroom routine.

- The classroom will be open at 8:30 am for students to engage in morning classroom activities. This is also a time for students to get organised for the day.
- Tuesday's and Thursday's will continue to be morning reading days (8:30 am-8:40 am). You are more than welcome to join your child for reading; they will love it!

I look forward to getting to know you all better at the meet and greet night!

Miss Grogan

## **Years 4/5/6 Intelligence**

*Dear Parents,*

*My name is Courtney Hodge and I am your child's teacher this year. This is my first year at Alpha State School. I am passionate, enthusiastic and enjoy working with children. I am very much looking forward to working with my class this year. A questionnaire was sent home last week with your children with some questions regarding your hopes and expectations for their learning this year. If you could please fill them out and have your child return them as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated. I have done this in order to have a more productive year and to ensure we are all on the same page when it comes to your child's learning*

*and development this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week as the 4.5.6 teacher and I hope your children have too. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your families more at the Primary Information Night and the Meet and Greet this week. Feel free to email [chodgils@eq.edu.au](mailto:chodgils@eq.edu.au) me at any time if you have any concerns.*

*Have a great fortnight!  
Miss Hodge*

## **Years 7/8 Broadcast**

Welcome back to yet another year and hopefully another one filled with learning experiences we can all be proud of. We are after all a 'top 20 school' – that's a big achievement and one we can all be extremely proud of. Our class is really quite small this year with only nine students all up. I hope Chloe and Kailum enjoy being in our 7/8 class and love being in High School. To Erin, Emily, Anna, Joel, Stuart, Cooper and Nick – congratulations on being in Year 8.

I hope the holidays were relaxing and good to everyone and brought with them lots of family time filled with much laughter and smiles. Now we need to dig deep again, work hard and settle back into our school routine.

In English we are all concentrating on a book called 'Don't Call Me Ishmael' which is a comical story about two teenage boys experiencing problems and how they deal with these issues. From this in-depth study we will be writing a narrative, learning how to write diary entries and also preparing a persuasive text as part of our assessment items this term.

In Maths, the Year 7s are looking at ratios, index notation and square numbers while the Year 8s will be looking at adding and subtracting integers (positive and negative numbers).

Welcome to Mrs Koina, Miss Hodge, Miss Grogan and Ms Wright – I am sure you will all enjoy your time here with us at Alpha State School.

Keep smiling. ☺  
Mrs Goodwin

## **YEAR 10 NEWSCAST**

Welcome back all.

Well we have a small class but an enthusiastic one this

year in Year 10. It was great to hear about their holidays and the students seem eager for the new year ahead.

This week in English we will be working on their leadership speeches. We are also reading the novel "Convict Boy" in preparation for writing a narrative piece that will fit the story.

Wednesday is Home Ec day for the Yr 10 students and they will be cooking this week. They have to select their own Australian recipe. We are studying food from around the world and each cooking session will be cooking a dish from another country.

Hope you all have a good week  
Mrs Rogers

## CHAPPY'S NEWS

As I say welcome to the new year for the seventh time, I am feeling a little emotional as my first prep students have moved into high school. It has been and still is a great pleasure and very humbling experience to serve as school chaplain at both Alpha and Jericho State Schools with all the great students and staff.

So what for the year ahead? While planning is almost over or well underway and the buzz of the New Year is starting to fade (it may have already) it is time to look forward to a full year.

But before we go any further, I would like us to learn something that our students do each day. When a student starts a new book or page the first thing they put in is a margin (Space). Can we as we plan put in space in our life schedule?

To be honest when I started the year I was looking at my diary putting in this work commitment, this program, that appointment and then looked at what time was left for family and me. WRONG. Then I restarted and put in my margins (Space) The Deni Ute Muster, Anniversary, birthdays, weekends away, Alpha Race day, Show Day etc then what I can do in work. My focus has changed and given greater value to my family and myself.

I have sat with people near the end of their life and heard many stories about the only thing they want and wished for was to have spent more time with family and friends.

This year enjoy YOUR year with family and friends. Put in margins and enjoy the space.

Chappy

## Fundraising at the Election

A very big thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts on the weekend. It was very successful and very much appreciated. This money will go towards taking our Year 9/10s to Work Experience in Rockhampton. The winners of \$100 each on the 100s boards were:

1 <sup>st</sup> 100s Board	Betty Thomson
2 <sup>nd</sup> 100s Board	Liz Callaghan
3 <sup>rd</sup> 100s Board	Bevan O'Sullivan
4 <sup>th</sup> 100s Board	Warren Ruthenberg

The Raffle (set of towels) was won by Kevin Wiltshire.

A big congratulations to these people.



Thank you again.  
Chanelle Goodwin

## Sessions Still Running at the Alpha Pool

- Aqua Aerobics – Tuesday and Thursday 5.30 pm
- Children's Aqua Aerobics – Tuesday 4.30 pm
- Pilates – Wednesday 5.30 pm and Sunday 5 pm
- Mum n Bubs Pilates – 2 pm Thursday
- Land Training (Children and Adults) – Monday and Friday 4.30 pm
- Swimming Club – Wednesday 4 pm

*Bookings still available for Learn-to-Swim (3 months old to adults)*

For more information please phone 07 4985 1137



*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



### **2015**

Welcome back to the start of another school year. A special welcome to Alpha is extended to all the new teachers and students.

### **Road Conditions**

Check for closed roads or changed road conditions online or by calling **13 19 40**. **Don't drive through flood waters.** Each year, emergency services receive calls for help from people who have ignored traffic signs and road closures and become stranded in flood waters – putting themselves and their rescuers at risk. Think about the consequences of your actions. Don't risk your life or the lives of others. ***“If it's flooded forget it”***. Ignoring traffic signs and road closures may result in your insurance company not covering you in the event something goes wrong. It really is just common sense.

The 13 19 40 service is provided by Queensland Transport and Main Roads. All road condition entries and updates are done by them. Police, local council and Main Roads marshalls provide them with information. Therefore, until TMR see fit to install a road monitoring camera at the Belyando River on the Capricorn Hwy. for instance, there will always be a delay between when the road conditions can be inspected and then reported back to TMR and then when they update their site. Roads will always be closed when there is water over them. It is then constantly reassessed on a road by road basis and depends on weather conditions and local knowledge being taken into account as to when they are reopened. As mentioned above, we are forced to 'dumb it down' so that even the most foolish driver is not placed at risk.

### **Crime Stoppers**

Anyone with information which could assist police with their investigations should contact Crime Stoppers anonymously via **1800 333 000** or **crimestoppers.com.au** 24hrs a day.

### **Contact Phone number for Weapons Licencing Branch – 3015 7777.**

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 and other operational policing demands**, so it may be best to check in advance or phone before attending.

Take care

Mick Lingard

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

*Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty*



**GEMFIELDS  
GIANTS  
JUNIOR  
RUGBY  
LEAGUE  
SIGN ON  
DAY**

**WHEN**

**SAT 7<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2015  
12 NOON TO 4PM**

**WHERE**

**ROY DAY PARK  
(FOOTBALL OVALS)  
SAPPHIRE**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH  
VARIOUS KIDS ACTIVITIES  
OLD & NEW FAMILIES  
WELCOME**

**2015 TEAMS**

**U6, U7, U9, U11, U13**

**NEW REGISTRATIONS  
REQUIRE BIRTH  
CERTIFICATE**

**Check us out on Facebook!  
Come & join a great family  
club!**

**ALL ENQUIRIES:**

**DALE: 0407 139 080**

**AMANDA: 0428 181 790**

# Media release

February 2015

## Popular Water Wonderland opens in Emerald!

The world's largest inflatable water theme park will burst open its gates in Emerald on Valentines Day (14<sup>th</sup> Feb) til Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

"When we first opened in Townsville we had about 7,000 Facebook likes in a matter of moments," park manager Joanne Thompson said. "Now we can't wait to help Australian families create new summer memories, and we're excited to be coming to Emerald."

The water wonderland will offer lots of activities for children, teenagers and adults of all ages, offering food, drinks and activities in and out of the water.

Tickets for a 3 hour session can be purchased online for \$25, or at the gate for \$30.

"Spectators don't pay, so this is a great chance for parents or grandparents to come along and watch in the shade as the kids have a fantastic time," Ms Thompson said.

"Parents only pay if they will accompany their children into the water. There is plenty of food and drinks to purchase, but you're also welcome to bring along your own picnic lunch. We want this to be great, affordable family fun while cooling down from the summer heat."

"This is a new form of entertainment for Australia and it also adds to the local economies of the cities we stop in," Ms Thompson said.

"We always look for local staff and we buy everything locally – the food, the suppliers and the trades."

Tickets and open hours are available on the website [www.waterwonderland.com.au](http://www.waterwonderland.com.au) or on the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WaterWonderlandAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/WaterWonderlandAustralia) with lots of competitions and prizes on offer. Group and Corporate Bookings are also available.

View actual video of Water Wonderland in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pbGs1WRXAo>

<ENDS>



For all media enquiries please contact  
Park Manager Joanne Thompson on 0419 315 948