



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

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

Website: www.alphass.eq.edu.au

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Issue 12

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to Week 4!

Last week, I attended a two-day Principal Induction Program in Brisbane where I learned about Ethical Standards, financial requirements, school improvement agendas and changing school culture. It was a really beneficial program and I was keen to return to school and begin to implement some of the ideas. The remainder of the week, I was in Longreach at Principal Business Meetings and Small School Alliance meetings where lots of different subjects were covered including NAPLAN improvement, attendance data and cluster improvement agendas. It was also a worthwhile time to be able to speak with the other P-10/P-12 Principals and discuss how we as a cluster can improve the educational outcomes for our students. I was also pleased to hear how we had improved on our whole school attendance rate since this time last year and our percentage of students attending less than 85% of the time had decreased dramatically. I know I have said it before, but attendance was not a huge issue for us at Alpha State School, however, it was an agenda that we could address easily and make our focus for improvement. I am so pleased to be able to say that we have done that. We will keep working towards our attendance target of 95% or above this year. Well done.

Athletics

Today at parade, I congratulated the students who travelled to Longreach to participate in the Central-West Athletics Carnival. While I was in Longreach, I visited the students and teachers and was pleased to see how well they were all

competing and that their behaviour was a credit to their school. Many of these students have been selected to go on to the next stage. Congratulations to all of these students and also to Cooper Standerwick for getting Age Champion in his division.

Behaviour

At behaviour parade today, I also started to discuss the difference between minor and major problem behaviours. I spoke about what constitutes "Disruptive" behaviour and gave examples of these. I also reminded the students that they are given many chances and opportunities to change their behaviour before it becomes a major or before it gets referred to me. I will address a different behaviour each week depending on what behaviour might be happening in the school. I will update this focus each week on the website. As we have to revise our Responsible Behaviour Plan for students this year, I am keen to implement the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) philosophy for 2016. If you have a keen interest in behaviour management, I am looking for a parent representative to join the PBL team here at school and undertake the training with the PBL team this term and next. Please let me know if you are interested.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Please help us by collecting the Earn and Learn stickers when you shop at Woolworths. You can drop these into the office.

School Opinion Survey

Thank you to those families that were able to complete the School Opinion Survey for this year. I look forward to seeing the results and working with you to improve our school even more. I am meeting with the P and C executive this afternoon to address some issues around community perception of the school, how we can improve and how we can combat some negativity that seems to have surfaced in the community in relation to the school. I will also discuss some staffing considerations for 2016, in particular, how our decreasing numbers impact on our teaching and non-teaching staff hours. I believe it is important to maintain open communication with the parent and community body and I would like the P and C executive to help pave a way forward.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

I will be completing the data collection this week. Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability. All Australian schools participate in this annual data collection. The data provided to the Australian Government is aggregated data only. Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- ✦ number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- ✦ level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- ✦ broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue

to consult with you. While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child's details to be included, please let me know.

Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

I hope you have a fantastic fortnight. Please contact your child's teacher or me if you have any issues or questions.

VKoina

Vanessa Koina
Principal

**Life is supposed
to be simple, but
no one said it
was supposed
to be easy.**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin

The 1/2/3's have entered the 2015 Premier's Reading Challenge! The goal is for students to read 20 books. They have a log sheet in the classroom where they are to record the books they read. If you would like to continue this challenge at home, the website is <https://eduqueenslandau.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=BANGAuthenticate.dll%253faction%253dSignOut%2526url%253dDefault.htm>. Students use their normal student login to get into the website. Please keep a record of the books your child reads at home, and write this in their homework so I can update their school log.

In terms of learning, we have been focusing on poetry language features and structural features! The students

have really enjoyed reading rhyming poems and finding the rhyming words and patterns! In Maths, the year 1s continue to work on subtraction and measurement, while the year 2 and 3 students have been working on fractions!

Please continue to support your child with their rainbow facts (year 1,2,3) and multiplication facts (year 2 and 3). The more they do it, the better they will be!

Have a wonderful fortnight!
Miss Grogan

Years 4/5/6 Intelligence

Dear Parents,

We are still short of stationary and now workbooks. Please check with your children to make sure that they have the required materials. If you could get these as soon as possible I would really appreciate it.

Our grade 4 kids have recently started a 'pen pal' friendship with a grade 4 class in Kingaroy. We will write to them every few weeks and discuss our hobbies, where we live and plenty of other things! This will be done in the time that the grade 5/6 group is in LOTE. The boys are very excited about starting this. I think it'll be a great opportunity to get to know new people, while working on our writing skills.

Last week 10 students handed in their homework on time and completed. This is a much better result compared to last week. Please continue to check that the students are doing their homework before Friday morning. Hopefully next week we will see all 13 students without Monday detentions!

Lastly, a huge congratulations needs to go to our class members that participated in the Central-West carnival last Friday. Each child showed perseverance and great sportsmanship. I couldn't be more proud to be their teacher. Also a huge thank you to the parents that came. It was a long day and we couldn't have done it without your support and smiling faces!

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me via email or in person.

Enjoy your fortnight!
Courtney Hodge
chodg15@eq.edu.au

Years 7/8 Broadcast

A big congratulations to all our kids on displaying good sportsmanship and competition at the Athletics Carnival last week. They all did a wonderful job and I am very proud of their efforts. Also very pleased that Kabi won. ☺ What is disappointing is the realisation of our dwindling numbers at school when watching the march pass. When I first came out here there were 45 students just in the High School, now there are only 44 students in the whole school. How sad that such a wonderful school is getting smaller and smaller.

In English we will be looking at the dangers of online chats and how sometimes things aren't always as they seem. We will be looking at the language features used when developing character profiles and what aesthetic qualities have been used in the Noah and Saskia TV series to help us make judgements and form opinions. In Year 7 Maths students will be calculating unit prices and making financial decisions based on unit prices while in Year 8 Maths we will be comparing statistics of different sample sizes from the same population (complete set of information). Both classes will be using the program Excel in order to work with formulas.

Homework – students have a minimum of 100 minutes of Lexia or some Reading Plus (for those students who have finished Lexia), Maths Mentals, practice their spelling and do a Wonderword). Please remember that this homework is all about filling in the gaps of their knowledge so it doesn't get harder as they go further into high school. Your continued support with this would be very much appreciated. If there are problems with them doing it at home they can always come and do it with me at school as I am always available unless on duty.

In the Electives:

Business – this week we will be doing a pre-test to see how much we know about the topic of Employment and will then be concentrating on where we can find jobs eg online, newspapers etc. Students have been doing an online survey on My Future in order to see whether their interests have changed since last year as to where they are more suited to work when they finish school.

ICT – students will continue learning about creating web sites and will specifically look at tables or div tags, adding colour, changing fonts, inserting pictures and background

Keep smiling. ☺
Mrs Goodwin

Mr Hammer's Post

7-10 Philosophy

The students have been exploring the mind-bending world of metaphysics the last few weeks in philosophy. They've been trying to find counter examples to refute Mr Hammer's claim that 'the world as we know it, only exists in our head'. On a more grounded note, we are now entering the domain of ethics. We will be considering is it ever right to do the wrong thing, even if someone has done the wrong thing to you.

9-10 History

Year 10's historians are preparing for writing an essay regarding the 1992 Mabo Decision. They are engaged in a weekly cycle of analysing source documents and then synthesising their findings into a paragraph. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about significant events surrounding land rights and native title in this country, while also developing their skills as writers. Over the coming weeks I look forward seeing the Year 10's develop as writers and thinkers.

1-3 Health

In Health this term, the 1-2-3's are investigating ideas around the theme of feeling safe. Thus far we've reviewed what we already know about safety, along with discovering how our body feels when we are in unsafe situations. Being aware of our body's signs of 'not feeling safe' is an essential skill to have in being able to self-regulate and make good decisions. Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on problem solving with respect to particular safety scenarios.

Miss Clarke's Sports Report

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Alpha State School Interschool & Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Thanks to all the parents and teachers for their help in running the events on the day and for showing off your skills in the relays and ball games. I apologise for any sore legs the next day. Thank you to the Alpha State School P & C for feeding us all day and to my chief Mr Taylor for his hard work leading up to and on the day of the carnival. I would also like to thank Chloe and Danielle Taylor who put in a lot of work leading up to the carnival to make sure the day ran smoothly.

Results

Alpha/Jericho Interschool Shield

1st	Kabi	272.5 points
2nd	Jericho	215.5 points
3rd	Yungi	163 points

Alpha State School Interhouse Shield

1st	Kabi	499 points
2nd	Yungi	367.5 points

Age Champions

10 yrs Boys	Zack Bryce
11 yrs Girls	Catie Rogers
11 yrs Boys	Myles Otto
12 Yrs Girls	Chloe Trilford
12 yrs Boys	Ryan White
13 yrs Girls	Emily Gleeson
13 yrs Boys	Cooper Standerwick
15 yrs Girls	Danielle Thorn
15 yrs Boys	Beau Standerwick

