



# ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2014

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

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

**14 October 2014**

**Issue 15**

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We have a Student Free Day (SFD) on Monday, 20 of Oct, week 3. Our staff will be at school:

- Completing crossing culture training
- Analysing our numeracy and literacy data
- Assessing how our systems are working in the school
- Spending time reflecting on the culture within the school community

This day will result in an action plan to continuing building our school environment and increase our capacity to individually cater for your child.

Term 4 is off to a calmly relentless start of learning and engaged behaviour by students overall.

At the time of printing this newsletter our 9/10 students will be in Rockhampton doing work experience in a wide variety of industry areas. Channele Goodwin and Mick Lingard (Sergeant and Adopt-a-Cop) will be enjoying making visits to workplaces over the week and hear the great feedback about our students in the workplace. There are also many life experience activities on at night. The students should have a fulfilling and briskly-paced week!

Next week is the Alpha State School Leadership Camp at Fairbairn Dam. Thanks to our parents for supporting this excellent opportunity for students to continue developing their inter-personal and leadership skills. There will be lots of activities and with winter well-and-truly over

students will be able to enjoy warm days and cooler evenings.

### **Curriculum and the classroom**

This term we are working through Marzano's research and text 'The Art and Science of Teaching', implementing high effect strategies for learning in class. In plain language, this is understanding and applying what works best for student learning. This complements our journey as an Explicit Instruction school for our signature pedagogy.

Students are only at school 13% of the year and that is why it is vital they attend every day and learn every minute of a lesson.

### **Behaviour expectations**

Still working on body language as 93% of communication. I will be talking to students about expected and required behaviour often to reinforce the positive behaviour that students need to engage in and get the most out of school life. I have asked teachers to do as much 'front end' proactive chats about positive behaviour so overall we are dealing with less incidents in a term in a reactive manner to already escalated incidents.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please see me for any issues or great news stories.

### **The school contact details are**

Phone: 4987 0888

Pete Stansfield email: [pstan24@eq.edu.au](mailto:pstan24@eq.edu.au)

Pete Stansfield mobile: 0418 982 413  
School mobile: 0517 100 274

Kind regards  
*Pete Stansfield*

## **A bite of Prep/1's Fortnight**

Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to school for the last term of 2014 ☺

Once again we are in for a very busy 8 weeks with speech night, P/1 Orientation Day as well as Graduation coming up this term. Not to mention Christmas!!

Homework will be sent home this week, including home readers and Reading Lexia. This program has made a very positive difference to the reading abilities of our students, so please remember to complete some Lexia at home each day. Students can also access Lexia at school before school and during timetabled lessons.

I am very proud of all our student's progress this year, we are absolutely smashing our learning goals and this is due to your continued support ☺☺

We will be 'upping the ante' so to speak, this term as we start preparing the Preps for transition into Grade One and One's into Grade Two. If possible, please start talking to your child about the transition that will take place next year, to make this process easier. There will be an orientation day closer to the end of the term to assist this process.

**Glue** - The Prep One classroom have used all their glue sticks! If you have some at home, could you please send them in with your child. Thank-you.

Reminder: Homework Club starts today. Please send a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Have a wonderful week,  
Kate Priddle ☺

## **Year 2/3/4 Kapers**

Hello Parents,

It's time for an update from the 2/3/4 classroom.

### **Behaviour**

All of the students in the 2/3/4 classroom have been having a great week behaviourally, and are settling back into the school term nicely. This term we will be focussing strongly on making sure students have positive body language.

### **In class**

So far this term, we have learned about some different forces, heat energy, and are currently focussed on friction. In Technology, the students' received a letter from "Willy Wonka" asking for their assistance in designing a new sweet treat, and creating packaging and a persuasive text to advertise their product. In English this term we will be looking at advertising and the persuasive devices that are used to advertise products. In Maths we are currently revising place value, and part-part-whole relationships.

### **Homework**

Homework club is still on Monday afternoons. If your child is attending please remember to bring a plate of food to share.

There are new camp notes going home today, with amended equipment lists and a private transport permission slip. Miss Gray, Mrs Stansfield, and I will all be driving the students to camp, so your child will bring home a note asking for permission to drive with one of the three of us. The amendment to the list was changing a swag to a sleeping bag where possible, as there will be limited room in private transport.

Welcome back to school,  
**Alycce Wilson,**  
**2/3/4 Teacher**

## **5/6 HAPPENINGS**

Hello All,

What a great start to the term! The students had a fantastic week with Bruce Burnell. I was

really impressed with the overall behavioural and academic reviews.

In English, the students are completing a novel and film comparison unit, looking at Storm Boy. In Maths, they are looking at chance and probability. In Science, the students are investigating matter, including liquids, solids and gas. In History, they are examining the Eureka Stockade, in particular the change this had upon Australian Democracy.

We are having a camp information session this Wednesday (15/10/14), at 5:30 pm. This is an informal session aimed at clarifying details and answering any questions you may have.

Just a friendly reminder that homework is still due Friday, this includes 100 Lexia minutes, spelling and Math mentals.

If you have any questions or concerns please come and see me.

Have a splendid fortnight!  
Anna Gulliver

## **SEVEN/EIGHTS**

Hi Everyone

Term 4 and hasn't that come around quickly. . Firstly welcome back and I hope the holidays were great. I hope my students had a wonderful break and I hope the parents enjoyed spending time with their children.

Well I spent the first two days of last week doing a Philosophy PD at Buranda State School where they are not as fortunate as us and don't have air conditioning only fans. How do they cope with the high temperatures – they stand at the door and squirt water on the students as they walk in after breaks. Yes I'm not joking! So we are very lucky!! It is a small (only about 120 students) school in the middle of Brisbane. It was a real eye-opener for Shannae and myself and something which I thoroughly enjoyed and can't wait to do with our students here. At Buranda they have been doing philosophy lessons with all their students for many years and the kids love it. I actually asked the Year 6/7 students whether they liked it when their teacher wasn't in the room and was surprised to hear that yes they do love it. So that to me is a good thing because kids tell it how it is. I want to give you one example of what I saw:

We were in a Prep/Year 1 class and the teacher was teaching them a concept about same and different. She showed the class two cards – one had a picture of the mind (brain) and the other was a picture of a pizza. She asked the students to tell her what was the same about the two pictures. Now here's the incredible part! One little boy put his hand up and these were his exact words:

“These pictures are the same because your mind starts with a base and it gets added to, while the pizza starts with a base and things get added to it.” I wouldn't have even thought of that similarity myself and this was a Year 1 student coming up with this comparison. This program gets the students to really think about things, ask questions about things. It was amazing!

This term in Year 7 English we will be looking at Biographies – what they are and who writes them. Our assessment will be to choose someone who interests us and write a biography about them. It should be a really interesting topic and I know the students enjoyed doing it last year. In Year 8 English the girls will be writing and illustrating a short story. I'm sure they will have a lot of fun learning about short stories and then finally writing one themselves. So interesting stuff all round in English.

In Maths we are all looking at Data – being able to collect the necessary data and then graphing this data so it is easy to read. We will be doing this both manually and electronically using the Excel program.

This week I am away with all my Year 9/10 students at Work Experience. I am certain it will be a big success and that they will learn heaps about the 'real world' and gain a valuable insight into the jobs they have chosen.

Keep smiling. ☺  
Mrs Goodwin

## **Miss Gray's Jottings:**

**Term 4 is up and running!! With such a busy term the time is sure to fly. Choir and guitar ensemble rehearsals will continue as normal this term, with students getting ready for speech night performances.**

**The Bush Dancing is going well in all year levels, with students demonstrating exceptional 'time-on-task' behaviour and embracing the challenges of partner dancing with a positive attitude. I am looking forward to seeing everyone up and dancing at the end of term disco!**

Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions regarding your child in any of my subjects.

Have a great week.  
Miss Gray



## **Alpha Police Station**

19 Milton Street

Alpha Q 4724

Ph. (07) 4985 1200

### **Securing of Loads**

We have received inquiries from people whether they were required by law to use the cargo net style of netting to secure items in the tray of their utility vehicles. The law has always been that drivers must secure the loads in their vehicles. Whether you choose to use ropes, chains, tie down straps, cargo nets or bolt things down it is up to you, but whatever you use be able to secure that load in your vehicle and prevent it falling from the vehicle while you are travelling along and becoming a road hazard or prevent it from becoming a projectile in a traffic crash. If you have items in your utility tray or trailer that are not secured to the vehicle in any way, you commit an offence. Loads in trailer, such as the green waste that you are taking to the dump, must also be secured. Fines range from \$75.00 to \$341.00.

### **Drivers Licencing**

Please be aware that at present there are ongoing connectivity issues between the QPS computer system and the Department of Transport & Main Roads computer system. While we can still do drivers licencing matters, it can take a bit longer than usual, so please be patient. We have been assured that the computer 'gurus' are working on it.

### **Traffic Enforcement**

The Qld road toll currently stands at 177 people, down from 219 at this same time last year. Sadly, it is still a large number of lives that have tragically been lost and the subsequent impact on families. Please remember to drive safely, drive to the prevailing road conditions and to look out for both natural and unnatural road hazards. To date, Alpha Police have written 381 Traffic Infringement Notices for varying offences so far this year. Traffic enforcement continues to be a key priority for the Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart.

### **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 & Jason Robertson

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

IF NOT, THINK  
POLICELINK.  
CALL 131 444.