



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

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17 February 2015

Issue 2

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to our second edition of the newsletter for 2015. Well, Week 4 is upon us and I am really pleased with how well the students have jumped back into their learning. It is great to see such enthusiasm and pride in the classrooms and I am hearing about some really interesting activities and assignments.

I have been really pleased with student behaviour thus far. I reminded students last week that our school Responsible Behaviour Plan refers to Safety, Respect and Learning as our school Values and Expectations. I know that prior to this plan being rewritten in 2013, the school Values also included Responsibility and Honesty. One of my jobs this year, is to revisit the Responsible Behaviour Plan. I am keen to collaborate with staff and the community to establish a unified approach to behaviour management and establish clear values and expectations across the school. As rewrites of this document happen, I will publish them in the newsletter and discuss them at the P and C meetings or through parent emails. Please feel free to contribute.

Explicit Instruction

The staff have been fantastic in imbedding explicit teaching in their classrooms this year. A great deal of effort and time is going into planning lessons and activities that will be of benefit to the children here at Alpha SS. I have been visiting classrooms and have been seeing just how structured and fast-paced the learning is and am confident that your children are getting a fantastic education here.

Curriculum/Testing, Data and Bookwork

Real gains are being made by students in their weekly writing task set by teachers to measurably improve their writing skills. Weekly testing in five areas of numeracy and literacy allows staff to identify gaps and give students a chance to ensure they are mastering new learning before moving on. Bookwork will be the focus as I walk around classes in week 4 and 5. For the most part our students take exceptional care in their bookwork. Bookwork being such an important part of effective communication we take it seriously at the school. Students will be asked to improve their bookwork if there is room for improvement and to re-write tasks when they have not made the best effort to write neatly.

Facebook page

Please 'like' and visit our facebook page. Our page is one way we try to keep parents up-to-date with events and information about our school. It is important to keep all posts positive and if you have any issues, please come to the school and discuss them with me or the staff member involved.

Lexia

The Lexia reading program is for students to access at home for 10-15 minutes per night. This activity is for students to do by themselves. I understand parents want to assist, however, the program is designed to pick up deficits (potholes to fill) to build a complete foundation for reading and, therefore, it is imperative that students

complete the required minutes independently. Any concerns please see your child's teacher or our Lexia expert, Mrs Ruthenberg. Each student has individual access now and is able to access this program at home no matter how many other students are using the program.

Parade

All parents are welcome to attend the parade on a Friday morning. This is when awards are handed out.

Student Leader Induction Parade

Student Leader Induction parade will be NEXT MONDAY February 24 at 10:45 a.m. A morning tea for leaders and their families will be held after this. Parents of Leaders please bring a plate of food to share. All welcome!

LOTE (French) lessons starting this week

After 4 weeks of trying to find a new LOTE teacher, we now have Ms Kelly Gavel delivering our LOTE lessons out of LSDOE. Kelly is very keen to get her lessons underway. Lessons will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Year 7/ 8 will be from 9–10 and Year 5/6 will be from 2–3.

Have a great fortnight,
Vanessa Koïna

Prep Newsflash

Hello everyone!

The preps have been settling in well and getting used to their school routine. In Maths this term, we have been learning our numbers to five, matching pairs, and same and different. In English we have been learning about imagination and how looking at pictures can help us to read and understand stories. Phonics has seen us focus on the letters S, A, T, I, P, N, and C; while we have been learning about living things in Science.

The prep classroom has an open door policy if there is anything you ever need to come and speak to me about. Don't forget, we are also having homework club on Monday afternoons. This is a chance for your child

to come and get their homework done at school if you know you will be particularly busy during the week. It runs from 3:00 pm Monday afternoon until 4:00 pm, and all P-3 students are able to attend if they desire. If you would like your child to attend homework club, please bring a small plate of food for the children to share for afternoon tea when they've completed their homework.

Regards

Miss Wilson

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin

Hello! We are well into our learning routine in the Year 1,2,3 classroom. In English we have been focusing on the text structure of persuasive texts. We have viewed different types of persuasive essays and deconstructed them using the persuasive text planner. Maths has involved counting sequences (Year 1), number lines (Year 2), place value (Year 2 and 3) and identifying odd and even numbers (Year 3). Science continues to be an exciting unit, with students exploring what it means to be 'living'. They have been using their senses to record observations in the school environment. Geography has focused on 'places', in terms of human and natural characteristics. We have also begun to observe maps and locate places on maps by referring to symbols and grid references. Overall, students have settled in nicely and understand what is expected of them in the classroom. Student of the Week will continue to be awarded on parade along with our weekly class draw for 'exceptional' behaviour.

Miss Grogan

Years 4/5/6 Intelligence

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on making it through to the beginning of week 4! I'm sure you are just as exhausted as I am. In our class we have been very busy with our start of term testing and beginning our curriculum units. I have put up a copy of the 4, 5, 6 assessment calendar on the notice board outside our room, but if you wish to have a copy, please let me know and I will send it to you. I have tried to separate the assessment as much as possible throughout the term but some of it is difficult to separate. Weeks 5-9 are when most of our

assessment is, so ensuring your children get enough sleep and a healthy breakfast is vital to their performance. If you are planning on having any time off away from school in these weeks, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make alternative arrangements for your child/children. Just a reminder about bringing recycled materials to school for our Science and Easter activities. If you could start saving items that you would normally throw out, it would be greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to getting further into our units of work and seeing how the kids go in their assessment over the next fortnight.

Have a great fortnight!

Miss Hodge

chodg145@eq.edu.au

Years 7/8 Broadcast

In English we have continued reading 'Don't Call Me Ishmael' and have looked at evaluative language being used in order for us to form opinions about people and how the author could be very influential just by the words he used. We have been thoroughly enjoying this story. We have also looked at the figurative language and all the language devices which help to make our writing better in order for us to see pictures in our minds.

In Maths, the Year 7s are looking at prime numbers and being able to construct a prime factor tree. We are also going to be looking at adding and subtracting fractions and how to determine equivalent fractions. The Year 8s will be looking at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and will be learning how to calculate profits/losses as well as converting between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Homework has well and truly started in our classroom. Each week students are required to complete 100 minutes of Lexia, do three Maths Mental sheets (without using a calculator) plus practice their spelling and complete a spelling Wonderword.

A big congratulations to all those students who tried out for leadership positions. You did a wonderful job speaking in front of your peers on parade and should be very proud of yourselves – just as I am of you. Whether you were elected or not you can hold your heads high. Well done..

Keep smiling. 😊

Mrs Goodwin

YEAR 10 NEWSCAST

Well Week 4.

The time is flying this term. We have already completed reading our novel "Convict Boy" for English and are now completing lessons to prepare us for writing our own short story that will fit into the novel.

Students are also starting to complete assessment tasks. This week students completed a Maths exam and in Week 6 students will have a science exam.

I have suggested that they start to compile study notes of the lessons we have done. We will continue to revise previous lessons as well as complete the last part of the theory this week.

Hope you all have a good fortnight.

Mrs Rogers

CW SWIMMING

Well done Patrick, Clay, Emily and Daniel who represented Alpha at the CW Swimming Carnival on Friday 13th. It was a very early start for the students, but a pep talk from Miss Clarke had the students psyched for the day. Not only did the students put a great effort into their swimming races but they were very helpful throughout the day. Special mention to Clay, Emily and Daniel who were all selected to represent CW at the upcoming NW trials. Thank you to Katrina and Warren for overachieving as timekeepers all day.

Miss Clarke



CHAPPY'S NEWS

Wow week 4 is here already.

Congratulations to our School and House Captains for 2015. I am sure you will do your best and do us all proud.

I would like to express my joy in seeing so many of our youth wanting to stand up, be a role model and represent the school. Everyone that put their name up for a leadership position should be proud of their efforts.

Like any election there can only be one person successful in each position. However for those who were not successful this time I encourage you to stay positive and work with those who are elected to benefit the school and students.

SU QLD Ilfracombe Outback Adventure Camp

Last week this camp opened online for Grades 5 and 6. The camp will be held in the first week of the school holidays and this year has a Commando theme.

The cost is \$145.00 which covers bus travel to and from camp, meals, activities and accommodation. It is one of the cheapest 4 day camps available. I look forward to seeing many of our grade 5 & 6 attending. Please note there are only 30 spots on the camp and a number of these have already been filled.

Chappy

ANGLICARE NEWS - FOSTER & KINSHIP

Anglicare CQ has recently become a Foster & Kinship agency working with the Emerald Child Safety Service Centre covering the catchment area from Blackwater to Boulia. Due to the lack of foster carers in our local towns children may be placed in larger regions where there are higher numbers of foster carers. It is important that kids being placed in care stay in their local area, keep going to their usual school and stay in touch with their family and friends. We are asking for your help! Below is an article AnglicareCQ has written and we are asking for it to be placed in your school newsletter. For further information please contact us on the details provided below.

Local children need local foster carers!

From our major regional centres to the smallest outback towns, we need more people who can take a local child into their home and provide the care and protection all children deserve.

Having local carers means when a child comes into care they can keep going to their usual school, stay in touch with their friends, community and culture, and remain involved in sports teams and other activities.

Foster carers are people of all ages, from a diverse mix of backgrounds. They might be single, a

couple, or a family with children of their own. What they all have in common is the ability to provide a secure, nurturing environment and the willingness to take on a challenging yet immensely rewarding role.

We'll be with you all the way, with training, advice, and round the clock support.

To find out more about becoming a foster carer, contact the AnglicareCQ foster and kinship care team:

Emerald: 0437926462/(07) 49824062
FKCIntakeWestern@anglicarecq.org.au

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWS:

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS (The first day of
Lent) THIS WEDNESDAY THE 18 FEBRUARY
AT 6:00 PM . ALL WELCOME.**

Parents of Catholic children 8 years or older who wish them to begin preparation for First Communion please contact Trish Mahon on 49851332 or email johnmahon@bigpond.com as soon as possible so that lessons can be organised. It is usual to make first Reconciliation (Confession) in the first year i.e. 2015 and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist/first Communion the following year. Thank you.



Alpha Police Station

19 Milton Street

Alpha Q 4724

Ph. (07) 4985 1200



Welcome

Senior Constable Darin Coetzer commenced duty at Alpha Station a few weeks ago. He and his family moved to Alpha on transfer from Chinchilla where he had been stationed for the last few years. Darin brings with him additional skills and a fresh level of enthusiasm to policing in Alpha.

Transport & Main Roads (TMR) Functions

Just a reminder that Alpha Station is a TMR agent only. We are not a fully online customer service centre and we are not a QGap office. As such, we do not have access to the majority of services a TMR customer service centre can offer. We do the best that we can within our abilities and within the policy and procedures set by the Queensland Police Service. It is not that we do not want to do certain things, it is simply that we are unable to or cannot do so in accordance with these guidelines. If we cannot handle your inquiry we will provide you with advice on how to solve your issue and who to contact.

Statistics

Like all government agencies, the QPS love statistics. Early this month Alpha Station had a performance review conducted by our superiors. They were very pleased with our recent results. Some indicators in the review for 2014 were: Traffic Infringement Notices (TIN's), of which 420 were issued during the year, 263 Street Checks were completed and over 900 random breath tests were done. Since 2012, TIN's have increased by over 500%, Street Checks have increased by over 400%, Intelligence Submissions have increased by over 200%, Liquor Incident Reports have increased by over 500% and (most pleasing of all) Traffic Crashes have decreased by over 70%.

Contact Phone number for Weapons Licencing Branch – 3015 7777.

Contact Phone number for Qld Transport & Main Roads – 132 380.

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

Take care

Mick Lingard & Darin Coetzer

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