



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

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

Website: www.alphass.eq.edu.au

17 March 2015

Issue 4

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Congratulations on making it to Week 8! It is hard to believe that the Easter holidays will soon be here. It is the business end of the term, with most classes undergoing assessment tasks and finishing off Term 1 work. Our focus, as always, is to keep working right up until the last day. Students will continue to be engaged in quality learning activities.

There are only a few announcements below, but please take the time to read them.

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. For the next 3 weeks, Jo Martin, the cluster pedagogy coach will be working with us and will be in and out of all classrooms talking to teachers about best practice, modelling lessons and providing coaching to staff around explicit instruction.

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. Miss Clarke has uploaded some great pictures from last week's HPE challenge – check them out!

Parade

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

Homework

It is really important that students complete their homework each week. I have been reading the weekly emails that the staff send out to the parents of the students in their classes and have noticed that a few teachers have been placing gentle reminders about homework completion in them. At Alpha, we strive to meet an 'A' standard in all teaching and learning areas and the process of consolidating new learnings each week, needs to extend to the home also if we are to continue hitting such outstanding benchmarks. Please discuss any issues with homework with your child's teacher.

Behaviour

There are a few minor behaviours starting to show up in the past week. Students are having issues with each other over kicking each other's footballs which then results in arguments. There is enough sport equipment for all students to play with whatever they choose. I speak about play and class issues each week at behaviour parade and I will mention this latest negative behaviour at parade on Tuesday. Can you please remind your children about sportsmanship and appropriate play with others at home also? That way, if we are all saying the same thing and are all on the same page, the message will become clear to our students.

In class behaviour has been generally good although I am reminding students each week about following adult instructions. I know how hard the staff here work to prepare and get organised for each lesson. I don't think they then deserve to be spoken back to or their instructions disregarded.

Take the Lead Program for Band 7–10 Principals

I have been accepted into the Take the Lead Program for Aspiring Band 7–10 Principals in the last week of school. Unfortunately, I can't get connecting flights from Cairns to Brisbane and then back to Emerald on the Wednesday when the program finishes, however, I will be returning to Alpha on the Thursday of Week 10 and will touch base with Chanelle who will be Acting Principal in my absence, then. I am really excited to be part of this program and I look forward to learning new skills that will help me be a better leader.

School Watch – It's our school, it's our responsibility

With school holidays approaching, I ask that you keep an eye on our school during the holidays. Please report anything suspicious to the police.

P and C meeting

Another fantastic P and C meeting was held last week. Please remember that all parents and friends are welcome at these meetings and we welcome all new faces.

Please come and see me if you have any issues or concerns. It is better to tackle things when they are small.

Have a great fortnight,
Vanessa Koïna

Prep Newsflash

Hello again everyone!

It's time for another update from the prep room. In English lately, we have been learning about using full sentences and giving reasons for our answers. We have been focussing on the letters Ee, Hh, Mm, Dd, and Gg. In Maths we have started using number lines to help us count up and down, and in Geography we are currently creating a map of the school.

Don't forget homework club is on Monday afternoons, for any prep, 1, 2, or 3 students that would like to come. As the end of the term draws closer, please keep helping your child to practice their sight words, letters, and sounds. By practising these every day, it will help your child with their reading and writing.

In other news, we have the Easter Bonnet Parade approaching on the Wednesday of week 10, and the preps have been working to create some wonderful bonnets.

Have a great fortnight!
Miss Wilson

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin

What a fantastic few weeks it has been in the 1/2/3 classroom!

In maths this week the year 1's learnt all about 2D shapes. They extended their knowledge of shapes to include 3D shapes by the end of the week! The year 2's focused on telling the time. In particular, they looked at clock features as well as half past, quarter past and quarter to. The year 3's learned 3 new concepts! They focused on addition and subtraction facts, mental addition strategies and written addition strategies. Well done 1/2/3, your persistence and enthusiasm during maths has been fantastic!

English continues to be a time of persuasion! We have some very persuasive students in year 123 who have been using a range of language features in their essays to strengthen their arguments! Last week students wrote a text on the topic 'country life is better than city life' while this week was on 'students should pick up rubbish at lunch time'.

The school and class rules are continually reinforced in the classroom, with most students demonstrating highly positive behaviour. Our key classroom focus for the remainder of term is to respect all people and property. Please continue to remind students of the importance of this rule.

Don't forget to pop on down to the pancake breaky next Friday (20/3/15 - 8:00 to 8:45). Please hand back your form as soon as possible, so we can adequately cater for all students.

Miss Grogan



Years 4/5/6 Intelligence

Dear Parents,

Thank you all very much for your support during these last couple of weeks of assessment. The kids have been getting to school on time and have been ready for their tests each day. So far, I am really impressed with how they are all going! Week 8 will be our final week of assessment, so your continued support would be greatly appreciated.

Our class has been working very hard to fill the marble jar (reward jar) to get to reward 1. In week 6, the children reached this goal and as a whole class reward, they got 30 minutes free time. They have been working really well as a group and were very proud of themselves. Hopefully we can reach reward 2 before the term finishes!

Thank you for letting me know when your child is going to be absent from school. It has been a huge help when organising assessment and catch up days. If this could continue, I would really appreciate it.

Feel free to contact me with any concerns or queries.

Have a great fortnight!

Miss Hodge

chodg145@eq.edu.au

Years 7/8 Broadcast

Week 8 already! Where did all those other weeks go? Only three left but as usual plenty to get through.

In English this week we are starting to write our four Diary entries which look at a teen issue from one person's perspective. Students are expected to persuade me to look at their issue (whether it be peer pressure, bullying, self image, relationships etc) from their point of view. They are able to make up a character for their journal or use a character that they have read about in 'Don't Call Me Ishmael'. Over the next couple of weeks they will also be completing their narrative about a trip and making sure they are using all the feedback I have given them in their writing over the last six weeks in order to make their story imaginative and exciting to read. Both pieces of writing are assessment items for this term so if students are going to be away please know that this is what they can be working on.

In Maths, the Year 7s will be looking at types of triangles and quadrilaterals and being able to classify them while the Year 8s will be looking at recurring decimals and irrational numbers.

Please remember that your children do have homework every night. Please check that they are doing these minimum requirements for me – Lexia (100 mins minimum), spelling, and Maths Mentals. I do appreciate your help in making sure these things are completed each night.

I'm sure we are in for another great week.

Keep smiling. ☺

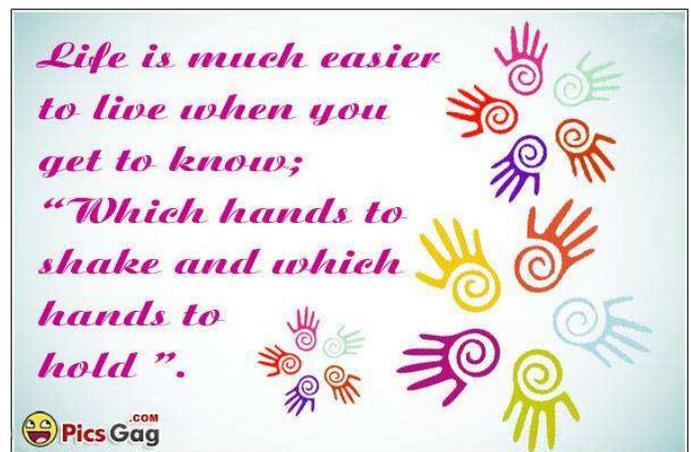
Mrs Goodwin

YEAR 10 NEWSCAST

This Wednesday is the Burger Challenge. In Home Economics students are to design and produce a burger that has a minimum of 2 salad/vegetable items. Both Chappy and Miss Clarke have joined the challenge. On Friday we will crown the Burger King or Queen.

Have a good fortnight.

Mrs Rogers



MODERN MASTERS ~ News from the Art room

ART

In art this week the Prep, 1/2/3 class have finished their pirates and castle collage and are moving on to painting an underwater scene. The students are being encouraged to think about the colours they are choosing, ones that reflect a coral reef and the fish that live there. The stimulus is a book called Neptune's Nursery, written and illustrated by Kim Michelle Toft and Allan Sheather. A silk painting technique has been used to illustrate the book, which requires each illustration to be hand drawn and painted on silk using a combination of a latex-based ink called gutta and dyes blended like watercolour. The students are using a wash technique first and watercolours after.

Years 4, 5 and 6 have completed their Notan paper cut and are finishing the paper drawing by using a wash technique over the patterns. They will begin their assessment piece next week from the planning they started in week two on the theme journeys. The students have been asked to choose the visual art forms and visual arts concepts they will be using to present their ideas. In creating artwork, planning is an important step and the students have been asked to also think about the materials they will be using.

Years 7 and 8 have been extremely busy working towards their assessment pieces and experimenting with different techniques, art forms and concepts. The work is of a very high standard both in the pieces they have been producing and in their portfolios. I am encouraging the students to keep these portfolios as a carry on piece for future years.

HISTORY

This week we have moved onto sequencing changes within the English criminal justice system from 800 AD until King Henry VIII. The students are learning that our jury system came from King Henry II and how he abolished trial by fire. They are enjoying hearing about the gory bits and have lots of questions. We have used role play and will use drama in our future lessons such as, students being judges, hearing cases and deciding on an outcome relevant to the time. It is important that all students keep up with their homework tasks, as these questions are especially loaded towards what might be expected in the exam in May. I am emphasizing the PEEL or TEEL technique in how to answer questions that require a paragraph response.

GEOGRAPHY

Understanding how geomorphic processes and rock types create landforms is our focus. Our case study is the Grand Canyon which has been named as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. In particular the students have been learning which type of rock is more prone to erosion? Why? What impact might this have had on the shape of the canyon? In later lessons we will be looking at some of Australia's more famous natural landforms. In geography as in history the students have also been learning that paragraphs flow better when text connectives are used. For example:

Showing cause/effect

so
therefore
then
consequently
in/as a consequence
as a result
for that reason

Adding information

too
in addition
indeed
apart from that
also
furthermore
on top of that

ICT

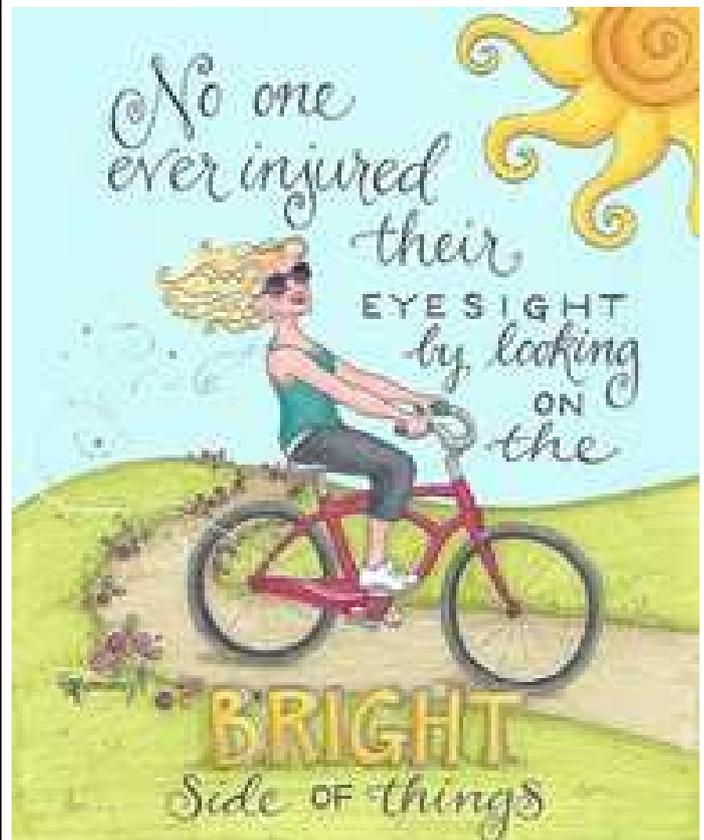
Years 7 and 8 digital stories are nearly finished and we are looking forward to the popcorn and cordial that Chappy has kindly offered to provide in week 9. The students still have a bit of polishing to do, which we will

be doing in class this week. Their narratives have been written and will be layered over their images this coming week. Peer assessment, in which students give each other feedback against the assessment criteria that was handed out in week one, will also take place in week 8. The assessment criteria has been constantly referred to throughout the term by myself and Chappy.

Have a great fortnight

Ms Wright

Life is an opportunity. benefit from it.
Life is a beauty. admire it.
Life is a dream. realize it.
Life is a challenge. meet it.
Life is a duty. complete it.
Life is a game. play it.
Life is a promise. fulfill it.
Life is sorrow. overcome it.
Life is a song. sing it.
Life is a struggle. accept it.
Life is a tragedy. confront it.
Life is an adventure. dare it.
Life is luck. make it.
Life is life. fight for it.





Alpha Police Station

19 Milton Street

Alpha Q 4724

Ph. (07) 4985 1200



Life Endangering Traffic Offences: Some QPS facts about “The Fatal Five”:

1. **Speeding** – Faster speeds increase the stopping distance when an unforeseen event occurs and also increase the chances of a crash occurring.
2. **Failure to wear a seatbelt** – Wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of fatal or serious injury by up to 50%.
3. **Distraction and Inattention** – The use of a mobile phone, especially texting, is highly distracting and incredibly dangerous.
4. **Driving while fatigued** – Fatigue contributes to 20-30% of all deaths on the road.
5. **Drink and Drug Driving** – Both alcohol and drugs can slow reaction times which can be crucial in an emergency situation.

Queensland Transport & Main Roads

Using the TMR website, you can check the current status of your driver’s licence. This is useful for individuals and for employers. Simply go to www.qld.gov.au/checkdriverlicence. You will need the person’s drivers licence number, first and last name and their date of birth to access it. However, no personal information such as address, traffic history or such is displayed. Likewise, as we no longer have registration labels for our vehicles, you can also use the TMR site to check when your vehicle registration is due at www.qld.gov.au/checkrego or by using the Queensland Rego Check App.

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).

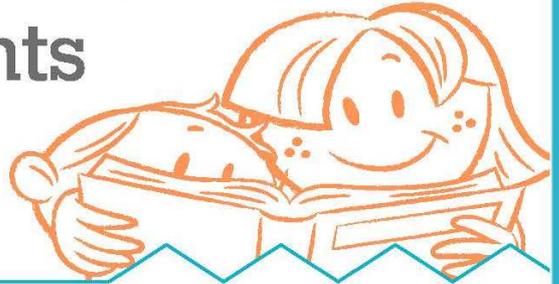
IF NOT, THINK
POLICELINK.
CALL 131 444.

CRIME
STOPPERS
.com.au
1800 333 000

Introducing

 SCHOLASTIC

Book Clubs LOOP for Parents



NOW
AVAILABLE
AS AN APP!

LOOP is the **NEW** Scholastic Book Clubs **Linked Online Ordering & Payment** platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our **NEW** iPhone and iPad App from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on **ORDER** in the top menu or **REGISTER** first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child's class
- Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date
- There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to order video, log onto www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on **HELP** in the top menu.



Put Breast Health First in 2015

The start of a new year is often a time when people set new goals and resolutions. It is also an opportunity for women to make a pledge to themselves to put their own breast health first and make time to attend for their free breastscan.

A breastscan is the best way to detect breast cancer early, well before a woman or her doctor can feel anything.

Finding breast cancer early provides women with the best possible chance of successful treatment and recovery.

Breast cancer is still the most common cancer diagnosed among women with one in eight Queensland women developing breast cancer at some stage in their life.

Most women diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 50 and have no family history of the disease.

BreastScreen Queensland has been providing quality, world-class breast cancer screening services to Queensland women for over 20 years and is the only nationally accredited breast cancer screening service in the state.

All women aged between 50 and 74 years are strongly encouraged to have a free breastscan every two years. Women aged 40 to 49 and over 75 are also eligible to attend.

The breastscan is done in private with a female radiographer and a doctor's referral is not necessary.

BreastScreen Queensland is located at over 200 locations across the state with your local Service visiting the region.

For peace of mind, why not make time to attend for this important health check at your preferred location.

Phone 13 20 50 today.

For more information visit www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au

