



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL WEEKLY WATCH 2015

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18 August 2015

Issue 13

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the Week 6 edition of our newsletter. It has been a busy fortnight with students and staff being away representing our school at both Central West and North West Sport activities. It is such an achievement, for a school our size, that we not only have the staff able and willing to take the kids away to sporting events, but that we have students willing to have a go and trial for various sports. I was really proud to see students involved in CW Cricket Trials here in Alpha a fortnight ago and also really pleased to hear how our NW Touch boys went in Toowoomba last week.

In the last fortnight, we also received our school's NAPLAN results and I was really pleased with how well all the students performed. While the NAPLAN tests are just one of the many data collection tools we use to determine the best learning opportunities for the students here at Alpha, they are usually a good indication of what we need to reteach or address for future learning activities. Congratulations to both staff and students on their excellent effort and results in this year's NAPLAN tests.

Over the past few weeks, during behaviour parade, we have been focussing on distinguishing between major and minor negative behaviours. I have discussed with all the students the difference between these behaviours in relation to physical and verbal misconduct and also what constitutes disruptive behaviour. In preparation for reviewing the school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students toward the end of the year, it is important that we have a shared understanding of the school's

values and expectations and also are able to distinguish between major and minor behaviours and the consequences related to these. I also spoke today about the importance of 'reporting' any issues to either staff on duty, class teachers or me at the time of an incident rather than a few days later. I also revised the practice of teachers asking students at the end of the day if they have had a good day or not. While this is a simple process, it is one that we value and consider important if we are to maintain a positive learning and behaviour environment.

In the next few weeks, the Travelling Film Festival will be visiting our Years 4–10 students for a workshop and then for a film night here at school on Saturday, September 5. I have sent a note home for these students today in relation to this activity. More information about the film festival will go home in due course.

On September 4, some students will be travelling to Longreach for a netball and league fun day. Miss Clarke has organised notes for those students who are eligible to attend this day. Please keep an eye out for these.

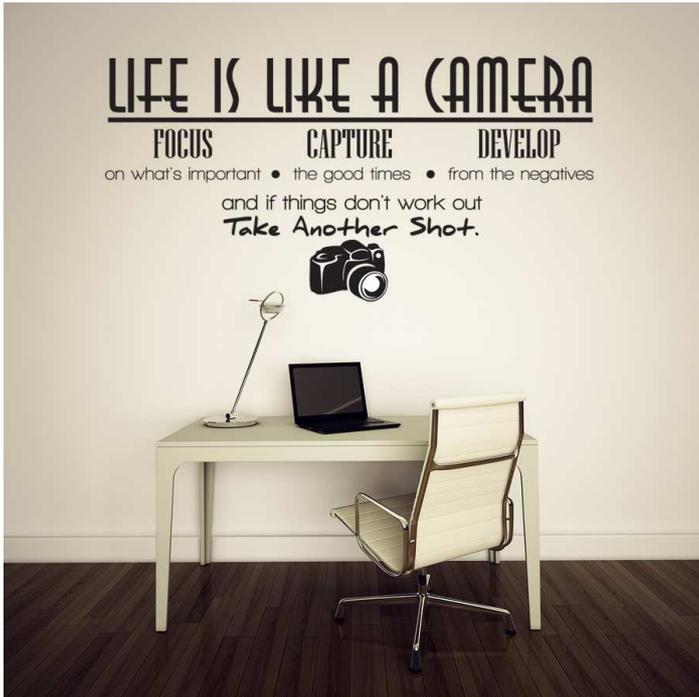
Unfortunately, we have had some staff away through illness or because they have been attending PD. We have not been able to get relief teachers for some of these days and have had to combine classes. While this is not ideal, we are fortunate that we have small class sizes to begin with and are

able to do this without much disruption.

Please let me know if you have any issues you would like to discuss. Your class teachers are also willing to address any issues you may have.

VKoina

Vanessa Koina
Principal



PREP KAPERS

In terms of learning in English this fortnight, we have been focussing on rhyming words and word families. The students have enjoyed listening to rhyming stories and identifying the rhyming words in these stories. In Maths we have been working on recording data, and in the coming weeks we will be exploring rainbow facts.

In history we are learning about memories and how different photos and objects can remind us of times in our lives. Please help your child to select something that holds a special memory of a time that was significant to them. We will be taking a photo of these objects and sending them home again on the day they come.

Please continue supporting your child in doing their homework and readers each week and returning these by Friday. The more often they practise their sight words, spelling words, and rainbow facts, the better they will become.

Enjoy your fortnight!
Miss Wilson

Years 1/2/3 Bulletin

Welcome to week 6 of learning! In English the 123s have been doing a fantastic job with Poetry! We tackled the tricky concept of reconstructing a poem to create a new poem! In Maths the year 1s have been focusing on multiplication and will do division in the upcoming weeks! The year 2 and 3 students have been learning about Australian money and how to calculate change. Science has been very entertaining. We have conducted investigations on the strength and water resistance of materials. This week we will look at how we can combine materials for a purpose.

English assessment will begin this week, while Science and History assessments will be conducted in week 7. Please make sure your child attends and if they are going to miss school can you please email me in advance so I can rearrange their assessment times.

Have a great fortnight!
Miss Grogan

Years 4/5/6 Intelligence

Hi Parents,

Next week (week 7) is sports camp in Clermont. I'm sure Miss Clarke is on top of things and has sent home all information for that but please feel free to contact me if you need an additional copy or if you have any concerns. I will be going with the students, along with Miss Clarke, so am happy to help out where I can to make sure the kids have an enjoyable time. For the students that aren't going to Clermont, attendance at school each day is still expected. The children will be placed in another classroom, either 7/8 or 9/10 I'd say, and will be required to complete the work I will provide them with. Their laptops will be required every day.

As I mentioned in one of my previous letters, homework is not being completed by some students. I

have implemented a 3 strike rule with the students this term. If their homework isn't handed in or completed 3 times this term, I will be sending an email home. If they then continue to not do their work, they will miss out on class activities. Some students are close to reaching that 3 strike mark at the moment. If you have sent a letter or there is an unforeseen circumstance that results in the students not completing their homework, this will not be noted as a strike. At the moment laziness is the main reason it isn't being completed, therefore, I have had to implement this rule. Hopefully we see more effort being put into homework from now on.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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

YEAR 10 HI-JINX

It was a busy week last week for students with assessment happening.

All students have completed a maths assessment in class as well as a science investigation that was a practice for their assessment task later in the term.

We are starting both new maths and science units this week, looking at surface area and volume in maths as well as continuing motion in science.

We have had 2 successful catering sessions providing 1st lunch for the students. Thank you to all parents for helping out by either donating ingredients or helping in the kitchen. A big thanks to Chappy and his LCC for covering the costs of the bread used. Next on the menu is spaghetti bolognaise and mac and cheese. This will be in week 8 after the 4/5/6/7 sports camp.

Have a fantastic fortnight
Mrs Rogers

Mr Hammer's Post

7-10 Philosophers

Last week the 7-10 Philosophers experimented with taking charge of the topic of inquiry while using the compassionate, critical and creative thinking skills they've been developing throughout the year. They

explored the social and political issues concerning the changing of the name of Blacktown due to racist concerns. After an in-depth discussion, students agreed that there seemed to be little sense in changing the name. However, if it was to be changed it should be up to the local towns-folk to raise this with their Mayor in a democratic process.

Year 10 Historians

Over the coming weeks the 9-10 Historians are continuing to develop their arguments and counter arguments concerning the claim that "The 1992 High Court Mabo decision was a significant turning point towards Reconciliation." This week they wrote a counter argument that opposes the claim. Their opposition was based on evidence from a Source which outlined how divisive the Court process can be for Aboriginal communities trying to secure land rights. Through analysing source documents from varying perspectives, the Year 10's are developing a very well-rounded point of view regarding this complex issue.

1-3 Health

Last week our Healthy 1-3's explored what it's like to be jealous. They investigated what it feels like, sounds like and looks like – and reached the conclusion that it was a fairly 'ugly emotion'. The students also engaged in some ball games to see if we could create a situation that fostered 'jealousy'. A few students admitted to feeling a wee bit jealous when the other team was winning. This week we'll be reflecting upon our jealousy experiences to develop strategies to keep us safe when we're feeling jealous.

Being strong doesn't always
mean you have to fight
the battle. True strength is
being **mature** enough to walk
away from the nonsense
with your head held high.

get more quotes at THEDAILYQUOTES.COM

Every child has a good day every day. | Every child matters every day.

FIRST AID COURSE



ALPHA STATE SCHOOL - BER BUILDING

(GREY BUILDING IN SCHOOLGROUNDS)

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER, 2015

**CPR e-Learning (Approximately \$65.20 per person —
depending on numbers for course)**

**Provide First Aid e-Learning course (Approximately \$144.00
per person — depending on numbers for course)**

**If you are interested in attending either of these courses could
you please contact the School on 4987 0888 or email
bruth5@eq.edu.au by Wednesday, 9 September.**



PLEASE NOTE:

**PARTICIPANTS WON'T BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE
CLOSING DATE.**

Alpha State School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty



Alpha Police Station

19 Milton Street

Alpha Q 4724

Ph. (07) 4985 1200



Queensland Road Safety Week 17-21 August 2015

Queensland Road Safety Week is an opportunity for all Queenslanders to be directly involved in making our roads safer for everyone. 'Speaking up for road safety' is the focus of this inaugural Queensland-wide event; and we're encouraging the whole community to have their say on road safety. Road Safety Week events will be happening right across the state, focusing on key road safety issue or problem behaviour each day of the week.

Monday 17 August 2015

Distractions

- ✦ Take action against distractions
- ✦ In the car, switch your phone to silent so you're not tempted.
- ✦ Keep your phone out of sight. Pop it in the glove box.
- ✦ Pull over safely before grabbing your phone or GPS.

Tuesday 18 August 2015

Speed

- ✦ Put the brakes on speeding
- ✦ Regularly check your speed when you're driving.
- ✦ If weather and/or road conditions are poor, slow down.
- ✦ Don't follow too closely – leave a two second gap.

Wednesday 19 August 2015

Fatigue

- ✦ Wake up to fatigue
- ✦ After work, hit the couch not the road. Avoid driving when you're tired.
- ✦ 10 hours a day is the maximum you should drive.
- ✦ On long trips, rest every two hours for at least 15 minutes.
- ✦ Restraints
- ✦ Show some restraint
- ✦ No matter how short your journey, always wear your seatbelt.
- ✦ Make sure children are always properly restrained.
- ✦ Remember, the driver is responsible for all passengers buckling up.

Thursday 20 August 2015

Sharing the road with others

- ✦ Drive/ride a safe vehicle, safely
- ✦ Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained and safe to drive/ride
- ✦ Know and follow the road rules
- ✦ Share the road by driving courteously and patiently
- ✦ Look out for and give all other road users the extra space they need – especially trucks, cyclists and motorcyclists

Friday 21 August 2015

Drink Driving

- ✦ Plan not to drink and drive
- ✦ If you plan to drink, plan to get home safely.
- ✦ Designate a driver or organise a lift.
- ✦ Stay at a mate's place
- ✦ You can still be over the limit in the morning, so avoid driving



We're asking everyone in the community to get behind this important event by sharing a personal road safety story, suggesting a life-saving tip, talking to their kids, family and friends about staying safe, or by making a pledge to improve a single road behaviour.

Businesses and industry groups are also encouraged to support and participate and can contact jointhethrive@tmr.qld.gov.au to get more information.

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

Alpha Merchandise Daffodil Day

HIGH TEA

Saturday 29th August at the Alpha Town Hall

From 2.00pm

The Cancer Council's Daffodil Day represents hope for a cancer free future and raises vital funds for cancer research, patient support and prevention programs. Please come and support this great cause.

DAFFODILS AVAILABLE \$8
PER BUNCH—TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE
PLACE ORDERS AT
ALPHA MERCHANDISE ON
0749851123.

INDULGE IN AN AFTERNOON
OF FINE FOOD &
PIMMS PUNCH.
\$5 PER PERSON ENTRY FEE
ALL PROCEEDS DONATED
TO THE CANCER COUNCIL

MULTIDRAW RAFFLE
MARKET STALLS
PLEASE RSVP TO
ALPHA MERCHANDISE FOR
CATERING PURPOSES
0749851123