As reported in the last newsletter tomorrow Thursday 30th October I will retire after 35 years in public education. I have held various positions as classroom teacher, Head Teacher, Deputy Principal and Relieving Principal. I have taught in a variety of schools in Sydney, Walgett, Lismore, Bourke, Byron Bay and Alstonville. I have been part of school executive teams for 27 years, 20 years as a Deputy Principal in three schools and during this time I have had various stints as Relieving Principal. The longest being for 12 months at Byron Bay High in 1999. I am very proud to have been part of Alstonville High School. I am proud of the educational, sporting and cultural achievements of Alstonville High School’s students and the education provided to all students by talented and caring educators.

I am reminded each day that Alstonville High School does not sit in isolation, we are part of a proud community. They provide opportunities for our young people in sporting clubs, church activities and cultural activities. I thank the parents who support our young people in these activities. I know my own sons have benefited from these connections and whenever I have the opportunity I remind parents, that when you enrol in Alstonville High School you have the opportunity for your children to be part of a unique community.
Finally, a special message to the students: "What is your vision for your future?" I hope it is challenging to bring about personal growth and transformation. I hope it is an expression of your aspiration of how you see your future. I ask all students to remember one thing or one word to accomplish your vision or future is to do it with ‘INTEGRITY’.

This single word is our school motto.

Every school newsletter reminds us that our community values integrity in all aspects of life. In particular two qualities I would like to remind you of as I leave Alstonville High School are:

**Aspire to be:**
- Life – long learners
- Caring and Compassionate

Finally to all students, I hope I have supported you in your educational journey.

I thank you for the unique contribution that each and every one of you bring to this school each day and I know that I am a better person for having been involved in the education of young Australians in diverse communities for the past 35 years.

Thank you to students, parents and teachers, I will miss the day to day life experiences that schools bring but I am looking forward to the next life chapters.

Paul Grebert
Relieving Principal

**TVET Trainee (Disability) of the Year Award**

On Friday night 17th October, Year 12 student Zac Green, who was a finalist in the 2014 GTA Awards NSW / ACT – Category Disability Apprentice / Trainee and was announced as the winner. Congratulations Zac!

Zac has automatically been nominated for an award at our Novaskill Annual Awards night on 6th November 2014 in the category – Automotive Apprentice/Trainee of the year for 2014. Good luck!

**A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health**

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

**Student Statement of Account**

Invoices have been mailed out this week. Please remember you can phone the school and pay for these by card. We apologise for the delay in sending these invoices out, which is as a result of a new financial system.

**Kayak4Earth**

“I must be able to look my grandkids in the eye and say that I tried my best” – Steve Posselt

Steve Posselt came to visit our school to inform us about the threats facing our current society and its water ways.

He was very informative giving us loads of information about the current state of our atmosphere and the effects that we shall be facing in the near future because of climate change. Showing us many graphs and tables with the use of an entertaining and educational PowerPoint he made us think about the problems we are facing and what we can do to prevent it from happening.

Wrapping his presentation up he told us all about the trip he is preparing to embark upon next January. Starting in Canberra and paddling in his iconic yellow kayak t the Sydney Opera House. He then plans to travel to the Gulf of Mexico where he is going to kayak along the Mississippi to Hudson Bay. Paddling along many rivers and across the English Channel, he ends up in Paris by November 2015. Presenting many motivational speeches along the way, he plans to inform the world about the conditions of the world’s climate and everything they can do to help our beautiful planet.

We thoroughly enjoyed what he had to say and learnt lot from what he had to say.
Year 9 Northern Networks Maths Quest Winners

On Wednesday, the 22nd October, four gifted students were selected to represent the school at this very competitive Maths Quest. Performances were most impressive with Andrew Entwistle placed first in the individual competition and the school with a team of four placed first in the team event. The team consisted of: Josh Pagotto, Andrew Entwistle, Sarah Johns and William Leahy.

The students must be commended for their outstanding maths ability as they continually outperformed other schools throughout the day. We look forward to these gifted students progressing in the junior school and then as seniors. Thanks also to Mr Aaron Perkins for his encouragement and support during the day. Maths rule!

Aaron Perkins / Maths

School Uniform

Black shorts are not to be worn to school or in PE under any circumstances. This is not part of the school uniform policy and has not been approved by the P&C or SRC. Students who come in black shorts will be sat in the office until their parent brings in appropriate uniform.

Steph O’Brien
Head Teacher Equity
P&C, Canteen & Uniform News

Our next P&C meeting is tonight Wednesday 29th October. Decisions made at P&C meetings directly influence your child’s school experience. Come along and learn what is going on at your child’s school and contribute to your child’s education.

Canteen and Uniform News

- Fresh salad bowls, wraps, and rolls available every day.
- Check out our daily blackboard specials

Uniform Shop

- Maroon Bucket Hats are now available $6.00
- Starting Year 7 next year? Beat the rush and buy your uniforms and book packs early.

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
8am - 10am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Empower U
World Class Course for 14-25 year olds Ballina 21-23 Nov 2014

Learn Advanced Living Skills
- Goal Setting
- How to manage emotions
- Breaking through Barriers
- Money skills & wealth building
- 6 Steps to career success
- Communication, family & Relationships

The Participants will walk away from the weekend with
- An absolute certainty and belief within themselves that they can achieve anything
- The tools and strategies to take that belief and take immediate action as they are now equipped to achieve what it is they want.

Don’t miss out - enroll NOW at Empoweringlocalyouth.com.au or 0412734454 Ask for Tim

Get Job Ready!
Teen Workshop
- Do you have little or no work experience?
- Want to start earning your own money?
- Desire personal freedom?
- Want to increase your self belief and confidence in your abilities?

Then come along and meet inspirational author Lisa-Marie Kerr!

In Get Job Ready, you will learn the secrets to:
- discovering your talents and passions
- effectively communicating your skills and passions to potential employers
- writing a killer interview-winning resume and cover letter
- finding a job you really want... and going for it

Once you know the secrets, you will be well on the way to landing your first job

Thursday 6 November
5pm - 8pm
at the Goonellabah Library
Pizza and drinks provided
Limited spaces, bookings essential
For bookings and enquiries call 66212464

For more information on how you can become an AFS Volunteer Host Family please contact the AFS Hosting Team:
Phone: 1800 631 992 Email: aus.hosting@afs.org Website: www.afs.org.au/host

The Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond
John Huegli Memorial Charity
Barefoot Bowls Day
Sunday 9th Nov 2014
3pm start
$20 per person, teams of 4 or we can put you in a team, no experience necessary
Flat shoes, socks or bare feet. Bowls and Coaching provided
Includes BBQ Dinner, Dessert and Drink
Rink Prizes, Fantastic Raffle and Lots of Fun
Bookings:
Call Cherry Street Sports Ballina 6686 2811 or Col Lee 0417 862 602 or Jodie Shelley 0427 287 627
Proudly Supported by:
Funds raised will go towards purchasing an Emergency/Crash trolley for Ballina District Hospital
IT’S SO EASY TO HELP

Bring any excess fruit or vegies from back yard gardens to the Lismore Community Garden each Wednesday morning from 8.30am to 12 noon and we deliver it to local food charities. Please help us “Stop the Rot” and redistribute this valuable resource of fallen fruit that often goes to waste.

SHARING FOOD AND CARING FOR COMMUNITY

As we go into summer, many back yard gardens will be overflowing with abundance. How many times have you heard “I’ve got so much fruit on my trees, I don’t know what to do with it all”? Here’s a great way to share resources and strengthen the ability of local organisations to help vulnerable people.

If you would like more information about our project, please call me on 0420 640 411 or 6625 2806.