Alstonville High School Newsletter

Developing future citizens and leaders of the community – life long learning!

Cawley Close Alstonville

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Values
We value and support:
- A positive, healthy and safe learning environment
- Respectful attitudes and actions
- Diversity
- Pursuit of personal excellence
- Service to community
- Team work
- Quality learning and teaching
- Initiative, leadership and self-discipline

Learning
We aspire to be:
- Life-long learners
- Creative and critical thinkers
- Effective communicators
- Skilled in literacy and numeracy
- Independent and organised
- Competent and innovative with technology
- Environmentally, socially and culturally informed
- Caring and compassionate

“Happy Holidays”

“And so this is Christmas.....what have we done – another year older...”

Alstonville High School has had a remarkable year as can been seen below:

- Outstanding HSC and NAPLAN results
- Awarded a Trade Training Centre – Primary Industries
- Opening of Skye Deck
- Successful Fun Run
- Bodhi Scott-Jones playing trumpet with London Symphony
- Chinese student visit
- TAS (Technology and Applied Studies) – 3D printer
- Bugsy Malone School Musical
- Year 10 Snow Trip
- Year 8 Boys Riggers Camp
- Heron Island Excursion

We have seen a number of changes – retirement of Paul Grebert, David Silcock taking on Principal, School Leadership and the loss of our TSO (Technical Support Officer). Young William Wood has been an outstanding support with technology in our school and we wish him well in his future. We will certainly wish for him to be here with us every day.

A big thanks to Marina Wiggins and Leone Chapman who have been relieving Deputy Principals. We will be interviewing for Paul Grebert’s position this week. Thanks to Aaron Perkins who has also been in a relieving Executive position.

The staff at Alstonville High School are amazing, the students are bright and well-mannered and it makes for a happy environment.

Over the school holidays work may begin on the security fencing and continuation of the Trade Training Centre build.

Last Friday I accepted the position of Principal at Southern Cross School K-12. I have loved every minute of my short stint at Alstonville High School. Peter Campbell (Director of Schools – Richmond Valley Network) is currently looking at who will be in the role in 2015. There has been two relieving persons and the best outcome is to have only one more person in the role until David’s return.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th Dec</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Year 10 Dinner Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Dec</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Presentation Assembly – 9:15am to 11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Dec</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Whole School Ballina Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Dec</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Last Day Term 4 Students</td>
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<td>18th Dec</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>27th Jan</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Jan</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Yrs 7, 11 and 12 First Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Jan</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Yrs 8, 9 and 10 First Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Feb</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>AHS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>9th – 20th Feb</td>
<td>Mon – Fri</td>
<td>Year 12 VET – Work placement</td>
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I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday, time with families and days of sunshine.

All the best.

Janeen Silcock
Principal

Year 6 Transition Days
Alstonville High students and teachers have been excited to meet our Year 7 students for 2015. There have been several transition experiences ranging from the Gifted and Talented day to the smaller schools testing and orientation (pictured below) culminating with the Orientation Day on 3rd December. Incoming Year 7 students were supported by the Year 10 Peer Support leaders. All students experienced sample lessons, a concert by the music students, a hilarious fashion parade and an afternoon of sporting activities.

We were very impressed with Year 6 behaviour and participation.

Mrs O’Brien / Head Teacher Equity

Hosting Chinese Students
Alstonville High School has the privilege of hosting a group of Chinese students in Term 3 2015 for a period of two weeks (Monday 28th July to August 11th 2015).

As part of this program, we are required to host students in the homes of students from Alstonville High School.

We are seeking interest from families able to provide accommodation over this period of time. As the students range in age from 11 to 15 years of age, we are particularly looking for families with students in Year 7, 8 and 9.

Please note that as part of the program, host families will be paid $452 per student to help allay costs associated with the visit.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Steve Duncan on 6628 5222 or email him on stephen.duncan5@det.nsw.edu to register your interest, or to ask questions.

Rigger’s Camp October 2014
Rigger’s Camp 2014 was lots of fun. There were many high points throughout the three days, and I learnt lots as well. The main activity, a 17km canoe trip along the pristine Nymboida River (blue sky, clear water, and beautiful flora and fauna) was challenging to say the least. But I also enjoyed the chance to put what we had learnt on the previous day into practice. It was interesting to see how everyone are when they were pushing the boundaries of their comfort zone. I was impressed with how well everyone went when they were working in a team, although there were a few mishaps: a bit of ‘heated communication’, a couple of fallouts, and many, many capsized boats (my partner Chris, and myself managed to capsize our canoe six times).

Mr Jarvie’s speech on leadership was particularly interesting, and everyone listened intently. It was very easy to understand and relate to what he was saying.

The games of spotlight/44 homes that we played in the evening were lots of fun. As it turns out, it is a lot harder than you would guess to hide in the dark (I learnt that the hard way).

On our final day, the group took part in some team building activities. Everyone was very competitive when taking part in a race across the obstacle course. But strangely enough, they moved with hesitation when being talked through the course while blind-folded. This particular task was hilarious to watch.

I think I speak for everyone when I say that Rigger’s Camp was a great experience.

On behalf of all the boys I would like to thank all the teachers involved, especially Mr Larrescy and Mr Jarvie.

Report written by Monty Greenslade
MORE PHOTOS FROM RIGGERS CAMP
**Year 10 Peer Support Training**

The Peer Support training for Year 10 students was conducted at the Alstonville Baptist Centre on the 24th and 25th of November. It was two fun filled days where the students were divided into groups of 15. Each group was guided by a teacher for the whole day. The teachers took the students through a series of activities that helped them reflect upon themselves, develop leadership skills and practise better communication skills.

The purpose behind the program is to identify forty leaders that will guide the Year 7 students next year. These students would be mentors to the Year 7 and will accompany them on the Peer Support Camp next year.

The students were exceptionally well behaved and were great ambassadors of the school.

**15 Years CHS Water Polo State Wide Knockout**

Last week the boys and girls teams travelled to Raymond Terrace to compete in the final eight of the State Knockout. On the first day, the boys won all 3 games easily to progress to the semi-finals as first in their pool. The girls had two easy wins and lost by two goals to perennial powerhouse Kirrawee, after leading 1-0 for most of the first half progressing them to the semi-final - all players contributed to these wins. In the semi-finals, the boys were surprised by the strength of Balgowlah and lost convincingly. They recovered to win the 3rd and 4th playoff easily against Warners Bay. The girls played last year’s winners, Lambton, and were the dominant team hitting the crossbar at least 6 times as well as having many other close shots. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens in sport, the stronger team lost by two goals. The girls were devastated by this result and found it difficult to get back up for the 3rd versus 4th playoff, losing by 3 goals. Kirrawee won the girls final by 3 goals and also won the boys final by 4 goals.

Many thanks to all involved: the parents who get the players up early for training, Greg and Kelly at the pool, the local swimming community who give up lanes to allow training, Corelle and Charlie for accompanying the team and to the coaches Mr Saywer, Mr Steel, Mrs Thomas, Mr Ford and Mr Hill. The school’s ongoing strength in water polo is due to the support we receive from the community especially both junior and senior clubs. Thanks to these groups as well and an invitation to all incoming students to practice your swimming over the holidays and join the school teams in 2015 to enjoy this wonderful sport.

*Chris Hill*

**Camp Kokoda**

On the 19th of November, twenty seven Year 9 students travelled to inland Queensland for a fabulous experience – Camp Kokoda. On arrival we met our two charismatic guides, Kirsty and Marcus (who had a snazzy British accent). Even though it bucketed down with rain shortly after, our spirits stayed lively and bright. We participated in group activities which soaked our clothes and splattered us with specks of mud; but there was light at the end of the tunnel and that was dinner.

After getting split into different groups, we all got assigned different duties to create a gourmet bowl of spaghetti Bolognese.

On the second day, we did the flying fox and free fall activity. Then after lunch we had to face the inevitable. In the blistering heat, hours away from any hospital (which a few of us definitely needed), we had to trek up a mountain which easily rivals Everest for the world’s highest peak. After the tiring hike, we went abseiling then we had a delicious meal of shepherd’s pie and played what could possibly be the best camping game, Mafia. Proud to say the townspeople won. Full and contented, we all headed to bed. The girls went to their glorious creation – The Taj Matarp (it was surprisingly comfortable).
On the walk back down the steep mountain, we completed a group activity for the first time of balancing an oversized seesaw. All in all, it was a great and enjoyable experience. You know what my grandfather once told me? GET BACK TO WORK. Good on you, Whippersnappers!!

By Emily Bryant and Jasmine Cartwright

Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31st December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015:

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at atr.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at atr.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

On Friday 5th December, the SRC held a brief ceremony in honour of the Rigby family. Margaret and Steve Rigby have given of their time selflessly and tirelessly over the past years through fundraising, building projects and our uniform restyling. Their installation of this garden for the 25 years celebrations was one of their many projects. We also remember their son James who was a much loved student at Alstonville High school from 2007-2012. On the 7th December 2013, James suffered a tragic and fatal accident. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the P&C, school staff, SRC students and James’s friends. We invite those who were unable to attend on the day to visit the school at any time to view the plaque, lay a flower and reflect on their memories.

Colleen Bowles

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at taxsuperandyou.gov.au

In the coming weeks we will provide more information by email on how students can apply for a TFN and the educational services we can provide. In the meantime if you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

Regards
Steve Vesperman /Deputy Commissioner of Taxation

NOTE: Ms Horne the Careers Adviser will still be processing school applications up until Wednesday 17th December 2014, students’ last attendance day in 2014. Blank forms can be picked up from inside the box attached to the Careers Office door and returned before that date.
**Library Teacher Exchange 2015**

In 2015 I will be travelling to Boulder, Colorado to participate in a teacher exchange program with Mr Sam Palsmeier. Mr Palsmeier will be your teacher librarian for the year. Needless to say, I’m looking forward to this new adventure! I hope you all have a wonderful year, I’ll write and post some photos on the library blog. Keep reading and smiling 😊 Ms Varela.

Here are some questions that Mr Palsmeier answered about his exchange:

*I know you love to travel as you often incorporate your travels into your Google Maps lessons with students. Have you ever been to Australia before?*

No. I travelled to New Zealand years ago, but have never been to Australia.

*What are you most looking forward to, both as a traveller and as a teacher?*

I’m really looking forward to visiting the local nature areas and wilderness. I’d love to visit Tasmania, and go backpacking in the desert. I’m looking forward to seeing the differences and similarities in our methods for teaching technology. In a lot of ways, their curriculum seems very similar—talking about digital citizenship, and becoming 21st century learners. But they also have found a way to integrate the technology they use in a way that we haven’t. I think it’s going to be great. So much in life is about attitude ... if you think you’ll have a great time, meet great people, and learn lots, you will!

*Is there a particular part of Australian culture you are interested in?*

As a librarian, it will be interesting to read some of the books that we can’t get here. Many of the children’s books I see here have an almost Americana cultural flavour to them. I’m interested in finding out what kids read in Australia.

There are also really interesting historical connections between the United States and Australia: both countries had a gold rush, a great sense of exploration, and relied on their Native peoples (and have had a tumultuous relationship with them). I find those connections really interesting.

Mr Sam Palsmeier / Exchange Teacher Librarian 2015 at Alstonville High School
The P&C Committee would like to wish all the school Community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Fun Run**

The Fun Run will be happening again next year on Saturday 14th of March.

If you are interested in helping with this great event please contact Annette McGrath 66291678 or email: mcgrathx4@westnet.com.au

**Canteen and Uniform News**

We are desperately in need of volunteers to help in the canteen, for a couple of hours, one day a week, a month or a year. Please call Robynne if you are able to help 66281797

**Uniform Shop**

**School Holiday Uniform Sales Times**

- Tuesday 20th 7:30 to 2:00pm
- Wednesday 21st 8:00 to 2:00pm
- Thursday 22nd 8:00 to 2:00pm
- Wednesday 28th 8:00 to 12:00
- Friday 30th 8:00 to 10:00

Then
- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8am to 10am

Please see website for price list

Please call Robynne 66281797 if you are able to help
What is the Green Army?

The Green Army is a voluntary programme for 17-24 year olds interested in protecting their local environment. The Green Army provides young people with skills, training and experience to improve their future career prospects while participating in projects that generate real and lasting benefits for the environment.

How can I get involved?

You can apply if you are aged between 17-24 years and an Australian citizen or permanent resident. You may be a school leaver, gap year student, graduate, Indigenous person, an unemployed job seeker and/or a person with a disability. Eligibility requirements relating to age may be extended beyond those listed above in future years.

How do I apply?

Go to [http://www.envite.org.au/Green-Army-Application.html](http://www.envite.org.au/Green-Army-Application.html) for an on-line application form and details of local projects. For more information email greenarmy@envite.org.au or contact our Lismore office on 02 66272800. EnviTE Environment is working with Service Providers Job Futures and Conservation Volunteers Australia to run Green Army project in the Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay, Grafton and Coffs Harbour areas.

You will receive an allowance during your placement in the Green Army. The Green Army allowance ranges from $10.14 to $16.45 per hour.