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
- Skilled in literacy and numeracy
- Independent and organised
- Competent and innovative with technology
- Environmentally, socially and culturally informed
- Caring and compassionate

When we have interviewed students about what they and their peers can do to help ensure quality learning occurs in classrooms it is interesting to note that they identify students having the right attitude and the right equipment as being very important.

Working together to encourage our students to bring the correct physical equipment and the correct intellectual attitude to school every day will improve the chance that we will be able to nurture a love of learning.

The importance of attendance
Regular attendance at school pays off for our students. Students who attend school regularly find that keeping up with school work is easier. These same students also report healthier peer and teacher relationships. We average about 200 school days a year. This works out to about 50 school days per term. Students who average 90% or less for attendance miss out on 20 school days a year which represents four weeks of work.

We have noticed a spike in absenteeism on Mondays and Fridays. Recently we experienced 12.5% absenteeism on a Monday. This week it was about 11%. This is of great concern to us because it means that many of our students are missing one of the most important school days of the week. It is more likely that classes will start new units of work early in the week. Teachers often recap work from the previous week because of the intervening weekend.

Educational Idea for the week – concentrating on some of the basics can make a huge difference
Learning in the classroom is a partnership. The classroom teacher brings subject expertise, passion, organisation and pedagogy. The student can bring a willingness to learn, the required equipment and an enquiring mind. Families can help by encouraging and monitoring students to be prepared for each and every day of school.

Student routines and organisations that start at home can have a very positive impact on the students’ ability to make a positive contribution to lessons. If students take the time at home to check their timetable for the day and the week this helps them consider what revision, homework or catch up they might have to do. They can also ensure they have packed the right books and other equipment.

We want our students to bring the right intellectual attitude (or equipment) to class. If they do not have the necessary pens, notebooks or calculators this can be a challenge. Simple routines at home, supported by parents can ensure that students can start the lesson well and participate effectively in the lesson. This kind of preparation will also limit the potential for conflict occurring between students and teachers allowing us all to focus on quality learning.
Students who are unwell should obviously remain at home so they can recover. We would like other students at school. We will be working with families to maximise attendance at school and have started by monitoring very closely absences that occur on Mondays and Fridays. By working together to ensure students attend school regularly we can ensure they have the best chance to do well at school.

**Representing our community admirably**

Recently I received the following email regarding students from our school. I would like to congratulate the boys mentioned on their behaviour and attitude whilst away. They have confirmed our belief that they are very capable of living up to high expectations.

Dear David,

Last week Liam McIntyre, Robin Cubis, Travis Gifford, Aidan King, Ryan Graham, Sam Kerry, Sam Dawson and Zak Galbraith represented North Coast in rugby union at the CHS state championships in Newcastle.

I have nothing but the highest praise for these eight students in the manner that they conducted themselves over the four days of the carnival. They are a credit to Alstonville High School by showing exemplary behaviour, great sportsmanship and a high level of skill.

The team enjoyed great success at the carnival with this group playing an important part in this team success with their contribution.

May you pass on my congratulations to Liam, Robin, Travis, Aidan, Ryan, Sam, Sam and Zak and my thanks to Alstonville High School in their support of these athletes and CHS sport.

Special mention should be made of Aiden King who was a wonderful captain of this team and Ryan Graham as vice-captain. Their leadership and guidance were invaluable.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Simpson
North Coast convenor

**Skye Deck**

In our last newsletter we reported that a new covered area had been constructed by parents and community volunteers. This area has been built behind the school canteen. We would like to acknowledge the following people for their hard work helping to bring this project to completion:

- Skye Gallop, Robyn Kirsh, Keryn Akers, Sophie Sproule, Leon Kirsh, Dave Collis, David Dillon, David Salgram, Jeff Akers, Jerome Akers, Troy Mainprize, Steve Maginnity, Brett Head, Robynne Surtees, Tony Surtees

We are currently getting prices for furniture that we will place on this space. We envisage that this new area can be a general seating area for students during lesson breaks. It can also be a space for senior students to use during study periods.

Visitors to our school who wish to catch up with teachers might find this to be a relaxing spot for a conversation.

Ben Holmes is working with canteen staff and students so that eventually we can install a garden on the northern side of the deck area where plants can be grown for use in the canteen.

**Road Safety for our students**

We want our students to get to and from school safely.

It is pleasing to see that many of our students are walking, riding pushbikes and skateboards to school. This kind of physical activity is healthy.

It is important that students take great care when they make their way to school. Riding skateboards on crowded roads, riding pushbikes across intersections without looking and walking on roads is unsafe and we do not want our students to be injured.

**Future directions for the use of technology at Alstonville High School – a possible “bring your own device” policy**

In our last school newsletter ([May 21st School newsletter](#)) we wrote about the possibility of our school moving towards a ‘bring your own device’ policy to provide students with increased access to technology in classrooms. We have received some feedback from families and would appreciate any other contributions you would like to provide. We would like to be in a position to make a recommendation early in Term 3.

**New Lockers**

We have about 26 families looking to use some new lockers so we will be placing orders for a bank of about 50 new lockers to be delivered during the school holidays. If your child would like to use a new locker or swap from one of the old lockers please let us know.

If you are interested in taking a new locker if we order more please let us know by sending an email to our school email
account alstonvill-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au using the subject “locker” and including your child’s name and roll group in the email or simply send a note into the front office with the same information. If there is sufficient demand for more of the new lockers we will place an order. The new lockers cost $20 per year.

David Silcock
Principal

Congratulations to our Senior Debaters

Chloe Timms, Henry Coyne, Ashleigh Smith and Anais Cross

Throughout Term 1 and 2, Alstonville High have, yet again, performed admirably in both local and state-based debating competitions.

Debate The Change - 2014: Ballina Shire Council Competition
Our Year 7 and 8 debating team entered this local competition. The first and second rounds were held on Monday 2nd of June, 2014 at Lennox Head Community Centre. Our team, consisting of Fin Ball, Evie Lopes (Year 7), Lucy Turner and Clare Johns (Year 8) won both rounds quite comfortably. Adjudicators at the competition were very impressed with our team’s ability to compose, develop, argue and sustain each topic with a sophisticated flair. Congratulations to the team and a big thank you to Mr Barnes for taking the team to the venue.

Premier’s Debating Challenge - 2014: NSW Competition
The Premier’s Debating Challenge has three divisions: Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Year 11/12. So far the Year 11 and 12 competition has been running since the early weeks of Term 1. Year 9 and 10 rounds begin later this term as well as Year 7 and 8. Our Year 11/12 team consisting of all Year 12 students won two of their three debates this year, losing a very close and quite contentious debate against Murwillumbah. The team’s winning debates against Tweed Heads High School and Banora Point were excellent examples of debating at the highest level in secondary schools. It is with great sadness that I write that the team were knocked out of the competition, due to Murwillumbah winning four debates, negating the need for our final debate against Byron Bay High School. This doesn’t take away the sacrifice, energy and enthusiasm that our senior team have put into debating; it is very much appreciated. Ashleigh Smith, Henry Coyne, and Chloe Timms have been involved with debating at Alstonville High since Year 7 and we will be very sad to lose these great speakers. I can only hope that they can pass what they have learned on to our younger sides. Special thanks must also go to Suzie Scott and Anais Cross who performed the role of Team Advisor for our team, as well. It is an unrewarding job at times, but I know the team always appreciate the assistance you provide. I wish our Year 9 and 10, as well as 7 and 8, teams all the best for their future debates.

Scott Thomas - Head Teacher English (Relieving)

School Uniform
Now that the weather is becoming cooler it is important to be aware of the correct winter uniform for students. See below for winter uniform for both junior and senior students:

Junior Girls Everyday
Winter
Girls may wear summer uniform with black stockings, maroon jumpers (fleecy or woollen), grey tailored slacks, grey track pants. Shorts are summer uniform and should not be worn with tights

Junior Boys Everyday
Winter
Boys may wear summer uniform also tailored grey trousers, maroon fleecy jumper and grey tracksuit pants.

Senior Girls Everyday
Winter
Senior girls may wear black stockings, grey jumpers either fleecy or woollen, grey tailored slacks and grey track pants.

Senior Boys Everyday
Winter
Senior boys may also wear tailored grey trousers, grey fleecy jumper and grey tracksuit pants.

Uniform will be monitored closely over the next few weeks.

Marina Wiggins / Relieving Deputy Principal

Sport News

Lawn Bowls
On Tuesday 6th May the North Coast Combined High Schools Lawn Bowls Regional selection trials were held at Tweed Heads Bowling Club. Alstonville High School had three students attend these trials. These students were: Emily Griffin yr10, Indiana Conlan yr9 and Kit Conlan yr9. The North Coast Lawn Bowls team is made up of eight students that consist of two teams of fours. Congratulations to those students representing Alstonville High who performed very well to be selected into the North Coast Lawn Bowls team. Emily Griffin, Indiana Conlan and Kit Conlan will now travel to...
Wagga Wagga to compete at the NSWCHS Lawn Bowls State Carnival from the 5th to 7th August. Well done!

Alstonville High Athletics Carnival - Thursday 12th June
The date of Alstonville High School's Annual Athletics Carnival has been changed to Thursday 12th June (Thursday, Week 7, Term 2). The Athletics Carnival is to be held at Geoff Watt Oval. Students travelling on bus services will need to walk to Geoff Watt in the morning and back to Alstonville High School in the afternoon to catch their bus home. All other students need to walk directly to Geoff Watt in the morning. There will be supervision on the route to Geoff Watt and no student is permitted on the main street or at the plaza. No Roll Call at School, but it will take place at Geoff Watt Oval at 8.53am (usual time). Students will be dismissed at 3.10pm, with enough time to return to school to catch buses. Students who need to vary from the above time/programme need to bring a signed note from their parents giving details for their other arrangements and give this to Mrs O'Brien on the day to get a leave pass.

Extra Information:
• Wear correct sports shoes and a hat
• No cartons of soft drink, No tents and No eskies
• Year 12 will run a full canteen including BBQ
• No footballs or soccer balls. Ball games will not be permitted at the carnival
• This is a compulsory day for all students
• If the carnival is cancelled due to wet weather a cancellation will be announced on ZZZ/2LM from 6:45am

If the carnival is cancelled bring books and equipment for normal Thursday lessons.

Paul Francis / Sports Organiser

Sport Information Note Term 3 - 2014

Attention: Parents/Caregiver
Sport for Term 3 2014 will be organised on Wednesday 18th June (week 8) of Term 2 2014. All sport choices both paying and non-paying will be carried out in the hall on Wednesday at the following times:

Year 10 Period 2 Wednesday 18th June
Year 9 Period 3 Wednesday 18th June
Year 8 Period 4 Wednesday 18th June
Year 7 Period 5 Wednesday 18th June

Money must be handed in at the time of choice if a paying sport is to be chosen.

Can you please assist your child in making a thoughtful sports choice as there will be no refund on money paid up front for sport, and the PE department does not encourage students to change their sport once their choice is made.

Sports choices for sports requiring a payment can only be made on Wednesday 18th June. A parental or caregiver’s note must be supplied in the event that money is not available on the day otherwise a paying sport cannot be chosen. If there are insufficient numbers to run a paying sport then that sport will be cancelled. Any students who had paid for a cancelled sport will have their money refunded and will have to again choose a different sport.

Lisa Morrow / PD/H/PE

Science
Homework Year 7 to 10
A reminder that all HOMEWORK (for Year 7 to Year 10) is available to download on the school website. You can use the link below to access it or follow the links from the curriculum page.

http://www.alstonville-h.schoools.nsw.edu.au/curriculum-activities/homework/science

Honeywell Engineering Summer School
The Honeywell Engineering Summer School is open for application again for 2014. This is for Year 11 students going into Year 12 in 2015 who are looking to do engineering after their HSC. Application can be made at the website below or see Mr Pelley in Science for more details.


ConocoPhillips Science Experience
The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is another great opportunity for students wishing to investigate possible careers in Science. For Year 9 and 10 students, this 3 - 4 day hands on program allow students to access programs at Universities across Australia. Rotary is a proud supporter of this program and are often willing to sponsor students to attend this program. Application can be made at the website below or see Mr Pelley for more details.


Allan Pelley / Head Teacher Science

Year 10 Graduation Polo Orders
Year 10 Graduation Polo shirts need to be ordered and paid for before Friday 20th June 2014. These are the white polos with student names on the back and can be worn in Year 11 and 12 and not to be confused with the jersey.

Allison Larrescy / Jillian Farrell
YR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION TO HERON ISLAND

Taking students to Heron Island comes with a lot of organisation and commitment from staff. Mr Maginnity has yet again devoted time to make this excursion possible and this commitment from him was rewarded with a fantastic response from the students who came along. These Alstonville High School students were enthusiastic, well mannered, courteous and took all the opportunities and challenges presented to them over the course of the excursion. Their behaviour was exemplary and made us all very proud to be representing Alstonville High School. We could not run this excursion without the help of Greg Hawkin whose knowledge and expertise of the Heron Island site allowed the students great insight into the ecology of Heron Island as well as helping with their diving. All students were eager to learn from “Hawko” and it was fantastic to see students so engaged and respectful of this legend of the reef.

Here is what some of our students had to say:

The first sleepless bus ride was full of excitement and expectation, all of us eagerly awaiting the boat ride which turned out to be filled with a fair bit more than a little queasiness. The first sight of the island was amazing and we could not wait to get off the boat and into our quarters. In our groups we each took turns cooking meals and trying to outdo each other under Mr Pelley’s command and futilely tried to save our food from the banded-rail snatchers. We were formally introduced to Hawko; a walking, talking encyclopaedia of natural knowledge, who taught us how to dive and showed us some amazing animals on our walks around the island. The multitude of different fish, kaleidoscopic coral, rays and sharks we saw on our dives were beyond words. We each discovered our new favourite animal, like Mitch with his sea cucumbers and Lilly with her Shearwater birds. The activities the teachers conducted, such as the cucumber count and reef walks, broadened our understanding of marine life and opened our eyes to the wonder of the natural world. Heron Island was one of the most amazing experiences we had ever had and we thank Alstonville High School for making it happen.

‘The baby turtles were my favourite.’
‘Sea cucumber count! I love the bread loaf, they are sick!’
‘The rare opportunity of a red octopus swimming underneath me and swimming with sharks. It was freaky but amazing.’
‘Being privileged enough to come to a beautiful island and watch turtle hatchlings make their way to the ocean.’
‘The marine life of the reef was sensational.’
‘Crystal clear waters with massive amounts of life, shark ally was a particular favourite.’

Steve Maginnity / Science and Allan Pelley / Head Teacher Science
Yr 11 Biology
Heron Island Excursion
P&C, Canteen & Uniform News

Our next P&C meeting is this Wednesday 4th June. Please include this date in your diary. 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 in a whole new way.

The P&C require a new Treasurer.
If you are able to help please contact Annette McGrath 66291678

Canteen and Uniform News

- Check the menu board for our weekly menu.
- Something new every week!
- Orders taken daily.
- See Robynne Surtees, Business Manager for any special dietary needs.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED.
The winter months are upon us and we are short of volunteers. Can you help? If you can spare a day or a few hours, please ring Robynne on 66281797

Uniform Shop

- Hours open 8-10am Monday Wednesday and Friday for general uniform and stationery needs

Year 10 Graduation Polo Shirt
Orders due back by June 20th
With NO extension of closing date
Position Vacant - Accounts/Admin Assistant in Alstonville

Brainstorm Productions is looking for a new part-time person to join their team in their family friendly office in Alstonville (32 hours per week negotiable). Further information and job description on the employment page of their website: [www.brainstormproductions.edu.au](http://www.brainstormproductions.edu.au)

LISMORE SEWING CENTRE SEWING CLASSES

Lismore Sewing Centre will be running sewing classes during week 1 of the upcoming school holidays. These classes will be broken into Junior and Senior classes based on age (Primary/High School).

Class dates: Monday 30th June, Wednesday 2nd July and Friday 4th July.

Children will be learning how to use a sewing machine and will take home a fun project made by themselves. Sewing machines will be provided as will the project kit.

Please contact Lismore Sewing Centre on 0266213158 or email [afewdesigns@bigpond.com](mailto:afewdesigns@bigpond.com) for more information.
Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre Far North Coast
Our Centre is here to support family members, friends or neighbours (carers) who provide a significant amount of help to someone who is a frail older person, has a disability, or chronic, terminal or mental illness.
The Centre is funded until June 30th 2015.
What we provide:
- Information on carer support services on the Far North Coast
- Assistance with accessing support services that meet carer and care recipient ongoing needs.
- Provision of short-term planned and emergency respite to give carers a break from their caring role.

If you are a carer and you need some help whatever your age - call us on FREECALL™ 1800 052 222* *(calls from mobile phones charged at applicable rates)