Principal's Report

End of 2015
This is the final newsletter for 2015 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents, carers and staff the very best in happiness and safety over the Christmas and New Year break. 2015 has been a fulfilling year at Alstonville High School with many students achieving beyond their expectations academically, socially and on the sporting field.

Staffing
There have been a number of staff changes throughout the year and this will continue into the new school year of 2016. I must thank the following staff for their outstanding contributions for 2015, who at this moment will not be returning to Alstonville High School for 2016. Mr Sam Palsmeier has been the librarian for 2015 due to a teacher exchange from the United States. Mr Palsmeier returns to his base school in Portland Oregon for the New Year. Mr Palsmeier has been a huge encouragement to staff and students, welcoming all to the library to gain the most from an important resource. All staff wish Sam the very best for his future and look forward to any forthcoming return visits. Through this past twelve months Mr Palsmeier has travelled extensively across Australia having each school break fully planned and organised.

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th Dec</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Academic and Sporting Presentation Assembly Years 7 – 10 – 12:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Dec</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Ballina Activity Day – Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Dec</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Last day Term 4 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Dec</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27th Jan</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Jan</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Yrs 7, 11 and 12 First Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Jan</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Yrs 8, 9 and 10 First Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Feb</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Alstonville High School Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th – 19th Feb</td>
<td>Mon - Fri</td>
<td>VET Work Placement Year 12</td>
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<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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I would also like to thank Ms Rebecca Somerfield, Ms Renae Wynn, Mr Chris Osland and Mr Tim Sweeney for their contribution in English, Mathematics, PD/H/PE and TAS faculties. All of these teachers have filled temporary roles for 2015 and have developed close relationships with their students, developing positive learning environments within the classroom. I wish them all the very best for 2016. I also wish to thank Mrs Debra Chapman for her service to public education and to Alstonville High School. Mrs Chapman has made the big decision to retire and to move onto different future directions with her husband and family. Other changes in staffing will be occurring for 2016 and these will be announced in the first newsletter for 2016.

Student News
A number of students will be leaving Alstonville High School at the end of 2015 and with the rest of the school community, I wish them all the very best for their futures. Some of these students are leaving as they have gained traineeships or apprenticeships into careers that they have dreamt about and are now becoming reality. This is a very exciting time for these students mixed with a little apprehension. I want to make special mention to Chiara Giuri who returned to Florence, Italy after completing an International Student Exchange. Alstonville High School supports a small number of international students throughout the year. It is a pleasure to have these students in our school as they give back to the school as much as they take from their experiences.

Change to 1 Hour Periods in 2016
A number of exciting changes will be initiated for 2016. One of these is the change from 8 forty minute periods each day to 5 one hour periods. This change in timing will reduce the number of student movements around the school each day but more importantly will allow a greater amount of time within class to be engaged in learning. This change initially will take some adjustment for both students and staff but I am confident that the overall result will be a total advantage for all and the focus upon learning.

I look forward to the start of 2016 and meeting all staff, students and parents. With a new Primary Industry area and a complete upgrade of cabling and computer access, 2016 will be a year of great opportunities.

John Douglas
Principal

Academic and Sporting Presentation Assembly
Years 7 – 10 – Monday 14th December –
Commencing at 12:10pm

Alstonville High School Academic and Sporting Presentation Assembly for Years 7 to 10 is on Monday 14th December commencing at 12:10pm. Parents and carers are welcome to attend and should be seated before commencement time.

Year 10 Peer Support Training
Peer Support Training for Year 10 students was conducted at the Alstonville Baptist Centre on the 26th November. 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 40 leaders who will guide the Year 7 students next year. These students will be mentors to the new Year 7 students and will accompany them on the Peer Support Camp next year.

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

Anna John
Peer Support Co-ordinator

Camp Kokoda

Students in Year 9 were given an opportunity to live outside their comfort zone and build leadership skills by participating in the Camp Kokoda excursion from 2nd to 4th December. Thirteen Year 9 boys and girls and three Year 8 girls had an enjoyable and educational time in the bush near Boonah in Queensland. The students eagerly took part in activities like the High Rope Course, Sugar Glider and the Giant Swing which involved swinging off a giant cliff. The students nurtured current friendships and formed new ones by building tents, cooking their dinner and by playing “Mafia”.
It was a unique opportunity for the accompanying teachers to marvel at the resilience, team spirit and courage of our students.

The students and I would specially like to thank Mr White who accompanied us to the camp and instilled in us a love for Chemistry and Jeep.

Anna John
Year 9 Adviser

Gingerbread Houses
Year 10 Food Technology participated in making Gingerbread Houses for Christmas.

Year 10 Dreamworld Excursion

Sport News
Waterpolo
The NSWCHS Secondary Boys Waterpolo carnival was held from Monday 30th November to Thursday 3rd December at Taree. Alstonville High was represented in this team by Ben Galbraith yr11, Josh Galbraith yr11, Isaac Sheehan yr11, Josh Patston yr11, Daniel Sawyer yr10, Lockie Keir yr10, Jasper Mulcahy yr10 and Zachariah Maxwell yr10. The North Coast Boys Waterpolo team finished 6th, after they lost the play-off for 5th and 6th place to the team from the Riverina Region.

Daniel Sawyer of Year 10 was selected into the NSWCHS U/17s 2nds team. This is the second year in a row that Daniel has been selected into this State team and he will again represent the NSWCHS team at the NSW All-Schools Trials to be held early in 2016. Thank you to North Coast Open Boys Waterpolo Convener John Hair for selecting, coaching and managing the team.
Alstonville High School 2016 Swimming Carnival –

**Wednesday 3rd February**

A reminder to all parents, carers and students that the Alstonville High School Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 3rd February, 2016. All students are to go directly to Alstonville Pool in the morning, where Roll Call will be held in House Areas at 9:00am. Entry to the pool will cost $3.50 (or season pass). Students travelling on bus services will need to walk to the pool from Alstonville High School in the morning and back to school in the afternoon to catch their bus home. Students must walk to the pool via the front of the school / bus bay area (don't walk via Coral Street and don't go to Coles). Canteen facilities will be available on the day. No student is allowed to leave the pool enclosure and a Roll Call will be held at the completion of the carnival. Students are reminded to slip, slop, slap and wrap. Pool management has asked us to remind students that there will be NO water bombs, crepe paper, body paint, eskies, enclosed tents and cartons of soft drink. In the case of an extraordinary weather event, listen to Radio Stations 2LM or ZZZ from 7:00am for a cancellation announcement. If the carnival is cancelled bring books and equipment needed for school that day. I hope to see all Alstonville High School students bright and early at the pool for what is going to be another fantastic carnival. There is an event for everyone on the day. Good luck!

*Paul Francis / Sports Organiser*

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**2016 Year 7 Peer Support Program Save the Date – 11th March 2016**

The 2016 Peer Support program at Alstonville High School is designed to provide student with the ability and/or skills to be responsible for their own wellbeing, make informed and skilled contributions to their communities, and be able to manage their lives positively and safely and to be involved in and supported by their community. In 2016 our new Year 7 students accompanied with their Year 11 Peer Support leaders will have the opportunity to participate in a fulfilled day of activities that will strengthen these skills.

We are proposing a trip to Thunderbird Park in Term 1 2016. We are trying to keep the cost as low as possible and envisage this to be approximately $70. Students will leave Alstonville High School at 7:30am and return around 5:00pm, with lunch provided. They will participate in two adventurous activities that will challenge them whether it is leadership, delegation, team work, communication and strategic thinking. **The activities are designed to get your child thinking outside of the box.**

*Maria Bramley / Peer Support Organiser*

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**Progress New Primary Industries Area**
Welcome the world to your home!

Why not host an overseas exchange student with AFS Intercultural Programs? We have participants due to arrive in February and they require volunteer host families for their stay in New South Wales.

Make a friendship that can last a lifetime. Participants come for 5 months to 11 months and attend high schools and become an active member of the school, community and your family. They come from countries including France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Japan, Costa Rica, Argentina and Brazil.

If you are interested in going on an exchange overseas we would also love to hear from you to discuss the opportunity of becoming an exchange student.

For more information please call Sharon Toohey on 02 9215 0077, aus.hosting@afs.org or contact the AFS Hosting team on 1300 131 736 or visit www.afs.org.au/host to make an inquiry!

Wollongbar TAFE is planning to run a Certificate 2 in construction in 2016
Course will commence Monday 8th February 2016, Monday to Wednesday 8:30am – 3:45pm (20hrs week until 8th June 2016)

An Information day will be held:
When: 10:00am 28th Jan 2016
Where: P Block Wollongbar Campus

If any students are interested they need to contact our Customer Service Centre to register.
Phone 1300 628 233
Association of Far North Coast Ex-Service Organisations

Did you know that we are here to help all veterans and/or their families whose lives have been affected by their service?

**Far North Coast Legacy**

- Family Picnics
- Educational support for children
- Holiday camps for children
- Holiday accommodation for families
- Help linking with other ex-service organisations and relevant services
- Other: e.g. peer support, financial assistance*

*For support, please contact - Community Support Officer, welfare.fncl@gmail.com or on 02 6622 8113 or mobile 0414 499 113*