Alstonville High School Newsletter

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

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Issue 7

13 May 2015

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

Principal’s Report

NAPLAN Assessments

By the time this newsletter has been published all NAPLAN assessment tasks for Years 7 and 9 have been completed. There is always a lot of discussion over the value or otherwise of the NAPLAN assessments, but I believe there are two points that I stress to encourage students to participate. The first is that it allows the student a have a much broader “snap shot” of where they stand within a State cohort group as compared to the smaller year and class group of the school. Secondly part of the funding that the school receives in the following year is based on all results from the students who sat for the NAPLAN assessment. I congratulate all students who participated in this year’s NAPLAN assessments.

Year 7, 8 and 9 - Half Yearly Exams

Starting next week (week 5) all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be participating in half yearly assessments. Some of these assessments tasks will be held in the school hall as a year subject group. Other assessment tasks will be held in the normal timetabled period time and classroom. No matter where the assessment task is performed each task is important and is to be attempted seriously. I ask that every parent/carer speak with their student to encourage them in their preparation and completion of each task.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th – 14th</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing Year 7 and 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th May</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th -</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd May</td>
<td>- Fri</td>
<td>Heron Island Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>AHS Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th – 29th</td>
<td>Mon –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Years 7, 8 and 9 Half Yearly Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th May</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7pm – 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th June</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>North Coast Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th June</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Zone Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th June</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7pm – 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th June</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Last day Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th July</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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</tbody>
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Funds Promised to Alstonville High School

Many parents have approached the school and asked whether the monies announced by the Minister, prior to the State Elections, have been placed into the school financial accounts. The short answer to this question is “no”, however I am very confident that the announced funds will be forwarded to the school. Once these funds are received I will be sending out a survey for all students, parents/carers and staff to complete in further canvassing for ideas and to rank requests for expenditure of the funds. At all times the teaching and learning at Alstonville High School will be the driving force.

Excursion Notes and Monies

As you are aware there are many activities offered to the students at Alstonville High School to participate in, both in and outside of the school. I am requesting that all permission notes and payments be made by the due date stated on the activity form. For the majority of activities this at least 48 hours prior to the event.

P&C Meeting Wednesday 27th May 2015 – 7pm

May I once again encourage all parents and carers to attend the monthly P&C meeting, so that your voice is heard and acted upon in an open forum.

John Douglas - Principal
Careers News

ATTENTION Year 12 – Griffith Experience on campus days are being held NEXT week from 19th to 22nd May at each campus. Students need to register online and have your own transport / car pool to the campus you wish to enrol at. We had 10 to 12 people attend last year and received lots of valuable information about courses and campus support. Please see Ms Horne for further information.

K Horne / Careers Adviser

Hire of Drama / Dance Shed at Alstonville High School

The drama / dance shed is available for hire after school hours on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and weekends for groups. Space size is 11.7m x 8.6m with mirrored wall. For more information please contact Wendy Tolland on 6628 5222.

Sport News

Alstonville High School Cross Country Results

2015 Cross Country Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Champion Girl</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Champion Boy</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Jacqueline Day</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ivan Breugem</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13yrs</td>
<td>Aolani Ware</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jonathan King</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs</td>
<td>Anna Margraf</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Harry Hampson</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15yrs</td>
<td>Mikayla Hofmeyer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tait Collier</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs</td>
<td>Gabrielle Stanek</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>T.B.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17yrs</td>
<td>Chloe Hughes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Lachlan Bensley</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18yrs</td>
<td>Jessica Hauenstein</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tom Fleming</td>
<td>12</td>
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2015 Cross Country House Point score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Crawford (red)</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Lumley (green)</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Marshall (blue)</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Maguire (yellow)</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first six runners in each age division will now represent the school at the Northern Rivers Zone Cross Country carnival at Lismore Turf Club on Friday 15th May. Permission notes were handed out at the carnival to the first 6 competitors in each category. If you still need a permission note collect one from the PDHPE Staffroom.

Netball

Congratulations to Year 9 students Sarah Bransgrove and Charlotte Yager for being invited to trial for the NSWCHS 15yrs Girls Netball team. Sarah and Charlotte will travel to Menai to contest the 15yrs Girls Netball trials on Friday 22nd May. Good luck!

Touch Football

Year 9 student Lucy Turner recently competed as a representative of the North Coast 15yrs Girls Touch Football team at the NSWCHS 15yrs Touch Football Championships held in Mudgee. The North Coast team travelled and were very successful with many great performances at the State Carnival.

Basketball

Last week basketball player Zoe Hurley Year10 competed at the NSWCHS Girls Basketball State Carnival held at Penrith. The North Coast team played well and were competitive in most of their games. The North Coast team improved with each game played during the three day carnival and won their last game 33 to 20 against the Western Region. Well done.

Triathlon

Gabrielle Stanek of Year 10 recently competed at the 2015 School Sports Australia National Triathlon Championships held at Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith. Gabrielle competed in the Intermediate Girls 15yrs and 16yrs age category. This was the 3rd year in a row that Gabrielle has been selected in the NSW All-Schools Triathlon team to compete at the National Triathlon Championships.

Gabrielle raced really well to finish 4th out of the 29 athletes competing in the Intermediate age category. Gabrielle had the second fastest bike leg and was able to finish the race with a great run. Gabrielle raced really well to finish as the first NSW athlete in the race, and was only narrowly beaten by two Western Australian girls and one girl from Queensland.
Gabrielle also qualified for the NSW State Triathlon Relay team as the cyclist. The NSW team raced really well to finish 2nd to Western Australia. Gabrielle should be very proud of her results.

Gabrielle’s individual race results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Swim</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Run</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approx. Distance</td>
<td>600m</td>
<td>16km</td>
<td>4km</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>9:10</td>
<td>27:02</td>
<td>16:01</td>
<td>53:10</td>
</tr>
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Alstonville High Athletics Carnival – Thursday 21st May
The Alstonville High School Annual Athletics Carnival will be held next Thursday 21st May, 2015 (Week 5, 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 Oval and no student is permitted on the main street or at the plaza. No Roll Call at School, roll call will take place at Geoff Watt Oval at 8:53am (usual time). Students will be dismissed at 3:10pm, 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 either Mrs Crethar or Mrs O’Brien on the day to get a leave pass.

Extra Information:
- Students are encouraged to wear House colours, Crawford (Red): Rolls 1-8, Lumley (Green): Rolls 11-18, Maguire (Yellow): Rolls 21-28, Marshall (Blue): Rolls 31-38
- Wear correct sports shoes, suitable clothing and a hat to protect you from the sun
- 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
9 ENG 1 Protest Poem Competition

Last term, all Year 9 English classes studied a unit on Protest Poetry. As a competition aside from their assessment, I asked all my students within 9ENG1 to take part in a class competition to write a protest poem. Students could choose their topic to write about. Six finalists were chosen. Three poems are included within this newsletter, and another three will be included in next fortnight’s newsletter also.

Class teacher – Kelsey Knee

étoile briller

(star shine)

wishing on stars seems pathetic without someone to wish with someone deserving of love letters someonw for whom you would pull the moon from the sky

if only your life didn’t lack a wishing partner.

You wish labels and harsh words weren’t the things that defined you you wish that you could kiss girls and boys and people who are neither or both without being scorned

it does not seem to matter that you are a person too with hopes and dreams and fears it does not seem to matter that you are no more or less of a human being than the toxic people around you.

You wish that who you loved didn’t matter to anyone but yourself maybe if you weren’t so shattered by every word said against you if you weren’t so different to all the people around you maybe things would be different

b

u

t

you must remember this;

you are more than your labels more than harsh words spat across your skin like hot water more than numbers or names or people

you are worth more than the stars in the sky and the moon reflected on rushing water and the sound of laughter on a cold Sunday afternoon

you are more than those who abuse you more than unsent love letters and black, tear-stained pages

finding the right person to wish on stars with is important but not as important as accepting yourself

Written by Lucy Turner, 9ENG1

Teenagers

See that negativity in the papers? An out of control party A carjacking Vandalism Yes, a teenager took part NOT all teenagers took part

Society views teenagers as reckless and ungrateful As rowdy and hateful A robbery A fight Yes, a teenager took part NOT all teenagers took part

Despite this, as a teenager, I am A stereotype A media pawn So focused on bad behaving teenagers Where is the room for the good teenagers?

The teens that help out their neighbours The teens that carry groceries Or do the washing up. Why isn’t this in the paper? Yes, a teen took part. NOT all teens took part

The media doesn’t care about you, what you know They care about eye-catching stories Stories that will make you buy a paper or keep watching You wouldn’t feed your children biased knowledge, would you? Yet you consume it yourself.

Despite all of this, the vicious circle continues Round and round we go When is it time to stop? When is it time to say no?

Lets make society better today For the adults of tomorrow

Written by Jack Fletcher, 9ENG1
Coal Seam Gas

The green of the valley is rubbed away
As the farmer despairs; he has no say
The gritty air and endless dust
Choking the life, the beauty and the trust

The water is changing
The water is changing
The miners are here and
The water is changing

The monstrous drills gouged the earth
Seeking the gas that has ransoms’ worth
The protesters chant, the police hold the line
Fracturing the tranquility, all for a mine

The water is poisoned
The water is poisoned
The miners are here and
The water is poisoned

The process is harmless, the miners assure us
The greenies appose and the politicians bore us
With jobs, money, taxes and progress
But down on the farm the damage is heartless

The water is changing
The water is poisonous
Fracking is here and
The water is dead

The water is fracked with gas and debris
Wildlife struggling, the land is unfree
Gas fires and destruction rage underground
Into the future no answer can be found

The water is dead
The water is dead
Coal Seam Gas has arrived
And the water is dead

Written by Pavikshan Siribalamurali, 9ENG1
P&C, Canteen & Uniform News

P & C News

Well done to those who performed at last week’s Cross Country. The weather was kind and from reports received, a good day was had by all.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 27th May starting at 7pm**. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we began discussions on suggestions made on the ‘Wish List’. There is still a number of matters to be discussed & we would encourage you to attend to assist in the decision making process. These decisions impact the school and are for the benefit of our children.

Meetings are generally concluded by 8pm.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Andrew Philippzig-Mann
P & C President

Uniform News

Reminder: The uniform shop has stock of school jumpers & the correct winter attire.

If you have any questions about the uniform, please contact Shirley at the uniform shop on 66281797. The uniform shop is located on the southern end of the canteen.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**OPENING HOURS**

8am - 10am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or EFTPOS and lay-by is available.
Shirley also stocks quality second-hand uniforms.
Profits from sales in our uniform shop, as in our canteen, are directed back into the school – it is the ultimate form of ‘shop locally’.

Canteen

**We are in need of volunteers on a Friday to help in the canteen. Please call Robynne if you are able to help 66281797**

With the cooler months upon us, the wonderful staff of Robynne, Helen & Shirley are now serving hot soup at the Canteen 4 days a week (from 12pm) at a cost of $3.00.

This is in addition to the weekly specials board – in case your child is concerned about losing the Friday favourite ~ Enchiladas!
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www.studentexchange.org.au

1300 135 331 (cost of local call)