Alstonville High School Newsletter

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

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Issue 9

10 June 2015

Principal’s Report

It is hard to believe that this term has nearly ended with only two and a half weeks to go. By the end of this term it is planned that all mid-year reports will have been issued. This is a new reporting system for the school and any feedback both positive and negative would be very much appreciated.

Sickness at School

It is obvious that with the onset of winter the prevalence of cold and flu is very evident within the student body. At times the most appropriate healing is just rest; it is asked that students not be sent to school if they are ill. Of course for any absence a written note to the school is required explaining the reason, a copy of any medical certificate for extended absences is always appreciated. It is important that any leave that a student takes from school is appropriately explained even for the late arrival of a student to school of a morning.

Farewell

At the end of this term Mr Stephen Duncan, Head Teacher Mathematics, will be taking leave for retirement. Mr Duncan has been a positive educator in mathematics, leading the mathematics faculty with total professionalism. The school very much wishes Mr Duncan every success and happiness in the next stage of his life. Mr Aaron Perkins will be relieving as Head Teacher Mathematics for Terms 3 and 4.

Thank You to P&C

A large thank you must be extended to the P&C for providing funds for the school to purchase 10 commercial quality sewing machines and a shade shelter that can be used for sporting events. It is important to realise that the profits generated within the school canteen are spent on items for students within the school.

John Douglas
Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

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<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7pm – 8pm</td>
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<td>23rd July</td>
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<td>Year 11 VET Work Placement</td>
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<td>31st July</td>
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Student Profile Jordan Cosgrove – Year 11 - Outstanding Achievement in Science
I started getting interested in out of school, scientific activities around about this time last year with the Southern Cross University’s Engineering Challenge. It started out with the school’s support, but eventually, as I became more engrossed I found that there were so many opportunities which were completely separate from the school system. One of the biggest ones I’ve been involved in so far has been Head Start; where I have been doing a One Unit course of biology at Southern Cross University for four months. I finished that last week (apprehensively awaiting exam results!). This has aided me immeasurably in my biology and my confidence in the field of science. Recently, however, I applied for something called the ISS Big Science Competition. It’s not so much about working and gaining experience as it is about increasing enthusiasm. I get a fully paid trip, with airfare, accommodation and food for two weeks down to Sydney to participate in lectures by some of the greatest scientists of Australia, including Dr Carl and several physicists working on the Square Kilometre Array (radio telescope). It’s been amazing how much can come from a little digging in all of these experiences, working with the Lions Club or simply the school. They have all been free and have all been awesome to participate in. So if anyone is at all interested in any field of science there is nothing I’d recommend more than going out to look for things like these, because they are definitely out there.

Jordan Cosgrove

Sport News

Rugby Union
The NSWCHS Rugby Union Carnival was recently held in Wagga Wagga over three days. Alstonville High had three students: Robin Cubis yr12, William Chung yr11 and Travis Gifford yr12 in the North Coast Open Boys Rugby Union team. Organising private travel and accommodation to Wagga Wagga was a huge cost and commitment to these boys and their families. The boys enjoyed the experience of competing at the State Carnival and put in a strong effort as part of the North Coast team and played their best against the more experienced metropolitan competitors. The North Coast team were excellent representatives, maintaining a solid stance against teams with much more team training opportunities.

Hockey
Recently Year 12 student Isaac Layton returned from the NSW CHS Boys Hockey Carnival held at Bathurst. The state carnival included all ten regions in NSW competing in a round robin competition for the first 2 days. The North Coast team played exceptionally well with 4 wins and no losses placing them in the semi-finals on the final day. In the Semi Finals the North Coast team were defeated by the Western Region to finish 3rd at the carnival.

Touch
Mikayla Hofmeyer of Year 10 recently returned from The NSWCHS Secondary Girls Touch Carnival held at Inverell from 2nd - 4th June. This was the second year in a row that Mikayla has been selected into the North Coast team to compete at this carnival, so she had experience against the high standard of competition. The North Coast team played very well in the first two days with 5 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw putting them into the semi-finals on the final day. In the Semi Finals the North Coast team were defeated by Sydney North to finish 4th out of the 10 teams competing at the carnival.

Paul Francis / Sports

Careers News

Years 10, 11 and 12 and Parents
The annual Future Options Expo is being held on Tuesday 21st July (Week 2 Term 3) at Trinity Catholic College in Lismore. I will be booking a bus for this event made up of interested students from Years 10 to 12. There will be 40 exhibitors made up of NSW/QLD Universities, TAFE, Job Access Companies, Apprenticeship Centres, Defence Force, Police and other private organisations. A permission note and cost for the bus will be available by the end of next week from the Careers Office. As the expo is free entry, parents are welcome to attend anytime between 10am – 1pm. This is a great chance for Year 10 to help with options for 2016 and Years 11 and 12 for after school planning.

Year 12
This is an advance notice message. After the Trial HSC exams I will be holding post school interviews with all of Year 12 over a 2 – 3 week block. As much as possible I will use free/study periods to avoid clashes with lessons. I speak to 2 students per period on general information. After these initial talks I will then be available during the rest of Term 3 and 4 to help with individual applications for University, accommodation, scholarships, resumes/job seeking, TAFE etc. My contact email is karen.horne@det.nsw.edu.au for students, parents and carers.

Karen Horne / Careers Adviser
Engineering Challenge 2015

On June 4th 2015, a team of elite Alstonville High School year 9 and 10 students represented the school at the Science and Engineering Challenge, held at Southern Cross University. Students participated in a number of awesome activities which involved building models to solve various problems and challenges. Some of the different activities included: Mission to Mars, where students had to construct a Mars rover to manoeuvre across different terrains and Helter Skelter, which involved constructing a tower which had to hold various weights.

The major challenge of the day was bridge building. Using various limited materials, the students had to build a bridge to withstand different kinds of weight. An impressive looking bridge was made by Alstonville, but it failed to maintain structural integrity during the testing. There were a number of other schools participating at this event which made it an all-round great day, enjoyed by everyone. We came in third place for the day – continuing the improvement in performance that should result in a top finish next year!

Many thanks to Mr White for his organisation efforts and for his encouragement on the day. Thanks also to Mr Sharp for not wearing his hat!

Sarah Alcorn and Zahra Fox
**HERON ISLAND EXCURSION 2015**

Heron Island was one big adventure for everybody. Whether it was battling sharks, capturing crabs or braving the ‘bird poo’ forest, everyone had some sort of story to tell. It helped that the island was paradise with translucent water and warm weather, all of it surrounded by magical reefs filled with fish of every description. Manta rays, reef sharks, green and loggerhead turtles were just some of the extraordinary protectors of the coral.

Yet often it was the tiny, more innocent fish who would astound you as they flocked in great schools and engulfed swimmers entirely. Though it wasn’t just awesome sights, the education was equally noteworthy with PhD’s in sea cucumbers and documentaries starring budgie smugglers. The teachers were always sure to get some sort of knowledge through to every student. This unfortunately kept us up late and showed not ALL teenagers are night owls.

Overall, my favourite part had to be how close we all got as a group. Strangers shared shampoo and friendships were built as we experienced each other’s best and worst moments as a team.

*Kate Mitchell 2015 Biology*
Heron Island
2015
P & C News

Thank you to all those who attended last week’s meeting and special thanks for sticking through to the end. It was a lengthy meeting, but it resulted in the following purchases being made for the school:

- As suggested by the PDHPE Department – a Shade Pergola with the Alstonville High School logo
- New Sewing Machines for Textiles (valued at $14K)
- Installation of CrimSafe screens and an upgrade of the ventilation system in the Canteen (valued at $9K)

These purchases /donations to the School would not have been possible without your support and the hard work of the previous committees along with the profits earned from the Canteen.

Thank You!

A decision was also made to change the style of the shorts currently supplied in the Uniform Shop. The new style is a Microfiber, drawstring waist with 2 zip pockets including the School Logo. The biggest advantage with these shorts (other than being more comfortable to wear) is that they are unisex and are flattering to all body shapes and sizes. Thank you to Robynne for sourcing them.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24th June starting at 7pm. Meetings are generally concluded by 8pm.

Email address: If you have any matters that you wish to bring to our attention, and cannot attend the meetings - please send an email to: alstonvillehs.pc@gmail.com

Look forward to meeting you.

Andrew Philippzig-Mann
P&C President

Uniform News

URGENT Reminder: A large number of Year 10 Students have still not completed and returned their order forms for the End-Of-Year Shirts. You have until Friday 18th June to get the order in.

➢ Parents, if you are not aware of this, please feel free to ring Robynne in the Canteen or email her on ahscanteen@outlook.com.au for more information

SALE ITEM - With the cooler months now upon us, the Uniform Shop has good quality 60 Denier Black tights in Small, Medium & Large (Limited Stock of each size) on Sale for $10 each or 2 for $15.00. These are part of the accepted uniform for girls.

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
8am - 10am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

If you have any questions about the uniform, please contact Shirley at the uniform shop on 66281797. The Uniform Shop is located at the Southern end of the Canteen.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or EFTPOS and lay-by is available.

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’.
WEP Student Exchange – Learn and Discover the World!

WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Departments in NSW, QLD and VIC. Applications for short and long-term programs commencing from November 2015 onward are open now. Students can choose from over 25 countries to live with a volunteer WEP host family and attend an overseas high school for a summer, semester or year. To request program information for your family, visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

BOND UNIVERSITY
Year 11 and 12 - June Experience Days
Wednesday, June 17 – Psychology Day
Thursday, June 18 – Architecture Day
Thursday, June 18 – Environments, Planning and Urban Design Day
If students are interested in attending any of these Experience Days, please visit bond.edu.au/experience and ensure that you register to secure a place.