Dear Parents and Community Members,

**Swimming Carnival**
Last Wednesday we held the Alma Swimming Carnival. What a wonderful event! Thank you so much to all those parents who joined us for the carnival, particularly those who assisted with timekeeping etc. Thanks also to the staff, teaching and non-teaching, who all pitched in to ensure that the day ran smoothly under the leadership of Mr Bonsing.

**PLP Training**
Michael Johnstone and I attended some training on Thursday around Personalised Learning Plans for Aboriginal students. This is a mandatory requirement of the Department of Education and at Alma there have been several different processes to facilitate relevant and relaxed meetings between teachers, students and their parents. Michael and I will be meeting over the ideas and issues that were raised and we will be holding a get together for all Aboriginal parents later in the term for your input.

**Classroom Change**
In response to parent concerns, the Year 5 class has been moved to the top of A block. They will continue to use the senior playground and join with the other senior classes for group work.

**Speech Pathologist**
I met with Olwen Morgan last week who is new to town. She is a Speech Pathologist with 25 years experience as a paediatric specialist. I am aware that many parents who require speech support for their children are only able to access specialists in Adelaide. We are very fortunate to have the URDH students operating out of Alma several times a year, and they do wonderful work in assessing children with possible speech issues. Ms Morgan may be a resource that parents can then contact. (Please note: this is not an endorsement – I am simply letting you know that we now have a full time speech pathologist in town). I am happy to supply you with her details on request.

**School Uniform**
I would like to commend the students at Alma for their compliance in wearing our school uniform. The playground is a sea of red and white and most students are remembering their hats each day. Well done!

**Assistant Principal Position**
The panel has been formed to select the replacement for Mr Dougherty. We will be meeting this week to determine the criteria for the advertisement. My thanks to the staff, P&C and AECG for their nominations of panel members.

**Bugdlie Preschool - New Staff**
We welcome Shai-Lee Fargher to the staff at Alma. Shai has started a 2 year traineeship in Early Childhood and will be on staff at Bugdlie each Wednesday assisting Miss Symons and Auntie Barbara.

As soon as we finalise the Assistant Principal position for Alma Public School, I will also be forming a panel to select a permanent teacher at the preschool.

(Continued on page 2)
(Principal’s Report continued)

Training & Development
Part of a teacher’s responsibilities is to maintain their professional learning in areas that are relevant to what we do at school. Over the last few weeks various staff have attended training in: L3 (Kinder literacy), Behaviour management, spelling strategies, literacy and numeracy continuums, PE activities for Active After Schools, Child Protection, Personalised Learning Plans, anaphylaxis and code of conduct.

Before the end of term we will also be undertaking training in Maths Matters (a 2 year program to up skill staff in readiness for the National Curriculum,) Early Action for Success (the literacy and numeracy support provided by Mrs Pascoe), cricket and the National Curriculum overview in readiness for staff development activities being run on the first day of next term.

I will also be receiving professional development through our District meetings and a Regional meeting. There are huge changes coming down through the system and, as the Principal, I have to make sure that I know exactly what those changes will mean for Alma. The most immediate change is the ending of the National Partnerships program which has seen somewhere in the region of a million dollars come through the school over the last 6 years or so to support literacy and numeracy, staff training and special programs. With the end of this funding, Alma returns to our base funding line which is substantially smaller than we have previously had. As a result, many of our programs will need to be evaluated for efficiency, effectiveness and “bang for buck”. Some of these programs include the MultiLit program, Aboriginal Language program and the Kitchen/Garden program. Please keep an eye out for surveys, parent meetings etc later in the year. Your input will be absolutely vital.

PE

If there are any parents out there (or grandparents or uncles and aunts) who are able to assist Mr Bonsing with the PE being run across the school, please contact him. Perhaps you are pretty good at Tai Chi and would be happy to teach some to our students? Maybe you are a netballer or softballer or footy player with time on your hands who could come along and help out with some coaching? Do you know Pilates? Or line dancing? We are looking for people who would be willing to work with Mr Bonsing and the kids so that we can provide a varied, wide-ranging curriculum in PE, dance and movement throughout the year. He’d love to hear from you!

Have a great week, everyone.

Regards,
Glynis Lugnan

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Parent Information Meetings

KINDERGARTEN
When: TODAY Tuesday 26th February
Time: 3:15pm
Where: Kindergarten Classrooms 1-2A and 1-2H

When: Wednesday 27th February
Time: 3:15pm
Where: 1-2H Classroom

4C
When: Thursday 28th February
Time: 3:15pm
Where: 4C Classroom

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2013 SRC & Sports Captains Presentation Assembly

The first assembly for 2013 was held last Friday. The highlight of the assembly was the presentation of badges to the 2013 SRC and Sports Captains. Family members were invited to pin the badges on the recipients. Congratulations to all these students!

Pictured above: 2013 SRC members.
Out and about at Alma School!

Family members were invited to come along and pin badges on the successful Alma Public School SRC and Sports Captains. Pictured below are the 2013 Sport’s House Winners.

University of New South Wales Competitions-2013

If you would like your child to participate in any of these competitions:

- Complete the form below and place it inside an envelope with the correct money.
- Mark the envelope with: University Competition: Student’s Name and Class and return to your child’s class teacher.

Dates and Costs are as follows:-

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<th>Competition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>$8.00</td>
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Alma Public School

NSW University Competition

I would like my child __________________________________________________________________________ of class ______________ to participate

in the University of New South Wales Competition(s) in (Please tick):

Maths o Spelling o Writing o English o Computer o Science o

Enclosed is payment of $___________________

Signed ____________________________________ Date ______________
TIPS FOR PARENTS

Friendships to boost your child’s learning
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs.
Find out more:

Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school
A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom.
Find out more:

DAILY TOTAL STUDENT ABSENCE

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HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

Every day counts!

Please contact the school on 8088 2181 if your child is going to be away from school.