Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It’s great to be back at Alma after a wonderful holiday in America. I would like to thank Mrs DeGoumois, Mrs Morgan and Miss Marsh for taking on higher duties and running our school so well in my absence. I have missed all the smiley faces and the children have welcomed me back very warmly.

**Disco**

On Thursday 31st October, the P&C are holding a Halloween Disco with the assistance of the teachers at Alma. This will be held in the new hall.

*Years P-2 will attend from 5-6pm and Years 3-6 will attend from 6.30-8.00pm*

The P&C will sell the usual food and also some Halloween products. Entry is $2. We would love to see everyone attending this wonderful event.

**Alma Playgroup**

The Alma Playgroup in conjunction with Centacare, is running a playgroup in the bottom of G Block every second Tuesday. Last week was a great start and we look forward to seeing any Alma families next Tuesday between 9.00am and 10.45am.

**Stage 2 Excursion**

Next Wednesday, our Stage 2 students will be heading off to Lake Culluleraine for their 3 day excursion. There are some very excited students and teachers. We hope the weather will improve so that they can fully enjoy all the activities on offer.

**Prac Students**

Next week we will have 7 prac students arriving at Alma Public School. This is the second year that we have undertaken this type of prac experience and it was very successful last year. Two of the students will have the opportunity of joining Stage 2 on their excursion. Please welcome these student to Alma if you have the opportunity to speak to them.

**Kindergarten Orientation**

We have some very excited pre-schoolers joining us on Thursday for their first orientation at Alma Public School.

There will be 4 orientation sessions held at varying times over the next few weeks. Please make these students and parents welcome into our school.

Glynis Lugnan

PRINCIPAL
**OPERATION ART**

This year three students from Alma Public School participated in Operation Art. Kyle Mahoney, Dexqian Lehman-Jones and Heaven Celotto all produced fantastic artworks which were sent to Sydney and displayed at the Art Gallery of New South Wales to be judged. They are all to be commended on their efforts and talents.

**Congratulations to Kyle Mahoney**

whose artwork has been selected as one of 50, out of hundreds entered, for the 2014 Operation Art Touring Exhibition.

Kyle’s artwork will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 19th November to the 15th December and will then tour regional galleries in 2014 before returning to become part of the permanent collection at the Westmead Children’s Hospital.

This is an amazing achievement and a credit to a very talented artist. Well Done Kyle!

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**Scholastic**

We are having a Scholastic Book Fair next week. There is a fantastic range of books to choose from, and all purchases will benefit our school! We are having a preview day for each of the classes this Friday. This will give your child the opportunity to see what is on sale before the fair starts.

**Library News**

**Book Fair**

Opening Times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Before School</th>
<th>1st Lunch</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th November</td>
<td>8.30 – 8.55am</td>
<td>11.10 – 11.35am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th November</td>
<td>8.30 – 8.55am</td>
<td>11.10 – 11.35am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th November</td>
<td>8.30 – 8.55am</td>
<td>11.10 – 11.35am</td>
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**URGENT!**

**Swim School**

25th November-29th November (12.00pm-3.00pm)

Expression of Interest notes were sent home at the beginning of the term for the Department of Education and Communities Swimming School program.

**Students who are non-swimmers or who are unable to swim confidently unaided in deep water are eligible to participate in the learn to swim program. Students form Years 2-6 are eligible to participate.**

A limit of 30 places will be available and so far only 18 notes have been returned. If you are interested in your child participating in this program, **please return the permission note by this Friday 1st November.** More forms are available from the front office.

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**FUNDRAISER**

**Party Lite Candles**

Order forms have been sent home today for the P&C Party Lite Candles Fundraiser. 20% of all sales will go back to the school. Please return order forms to school, or to Chrissy Slattery, by Friday 8th November for processing so they will arrive before the end of term.
Out and about at Alma School!
WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

OCTOBER
Thursday 31st:
Kindergarten Orientation/Transition 9.15am -11.00am,
Halloween Disco

NOVEMBER
Friday 1st: Crazy Hair Day
Monday 4th - Wednesday 6th: Book Fair
Tuesday 5th: Kinder Orientation
Wednesday 6th: Stage 2 Excursion departs
Friday 8th: Stage 2 Excursion returns
Thursday 14th: Kinder Orientation
Tuesday 19th: P&C Meeting
Wednesday 20th: Kinder Orientation
Friday 22nd: Inter-School Golf Day
Friday 29th: Ulysses Toy Run
Monday 25th - Friday 29th: Swim School

DECEMBER
Thursday 5th: Carols by Candlelight
Monday 9th: Presentation Day Rehearsal
Tuesday 10th: Presentation Day 10.00am, Year 6 Farewell
Friday 13th: Class Christmas Parties
Monday 11th: Levels Rewards Day
Wednesday 18th: Term 4 Concludes 3pm

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students. These students arrive in February 2014 for 3, 5 or 10 month programs in Australia. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Finland, Canada, U.S.A, Colombia, Mexico and Japan will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

DON’T FORGET CRAZY HAIR DAY THIS FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER!

Play group is about engagement of families in the community and an opportunity for little kids (0 – 5yrs) to learn to play with other kids and their parents. Activities are set up so children can explore and use resources while being guided by their imagination and creativity.

Come to Alma play group to join in the experience!
Next group Tuesday 5th November , 9am – 10.45am, G Block.
Please bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea.

Ulysses Toy Run - Donations Wanted!
The Ulysses Motorcycle Club will be helping Santa to collect donations of hamper items and new or used toys that are complete.
Please dig deep and see if you are able to assist other families to also have a good Christmas.
Donations can be left in the decorated crate in the office foyer.

We will be coming to Alma Public School on Friday 29th November... so please keep the donations coming!