Dear Parents and Community Members,

ATTENDANCE
This week, we received the attendance data from the Department of Education & Communities for 2012 compared to the previous few years. Alma is a focus school for attendance, which means that we have been targeted for our student attendance rates because they are lower than state averages. At Alma, we have put a number of measures in place to monitor and increase student attendance, including:

- Regular newsletter reminders to parents to notify the school when a child is absent for any reason
- Newsletter – weekly statistics
- Daily class awards for 100% attendance
- Student certificates for 100% term attendance
- Clear processes to contact parents for extended or unexplained absences
- Engaging students in class through sport, kitchen, garden, computers, library etc and spreading those things across the week so that there is something exciting happening every day
- Adjusting the curriculum for reluctant students to ensure success at their level

Our attendance data shows a small increase (approx. 1%) in attendance but we are still below state averages. Kindergarten and Year 5 were the poorest attendees.

I would encourage parents to make sure that you contact the school if your child is going to be away. Insist that your children come to school every day unless they are sick or have a genuine reason for not attending (e.g. birthdays and shopping trips are NOT appropriate reasons to miss school). Try to make medical appointments after school. Talk school up – even if you had an awful time at school, be positive and excited about each school day so that your child arrives with an open mind.

NEW APPOINTMENT
It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Miss Gemma Symons to the permanent Preschool Teacher position at Bugdlie. Miss Symons has been relieving at the preschool since the beginning of the year. Congratulations, Gemma.

BEHAVIOUR
There have been a couple of incidents recently that involved name calling that was racist. Please note that racism will not be tolerated at Alma Public School. Aggressive play, particularly if it ends in an injury to anyone, is not acceptable at Alma. Students who persist in being rough or aggressive can be suspended under the DEC guidelines.

NAPLAN
Years 3 and 5 have started their NAPLAN testing. This morning went smoothly and I anticipate no problems. All those students have had plenty of practice over the last few weeks so are very familiar with the format of the tests and how to manage their time. If your child is absent during the week, we have an official “catch up” day on Friday.

TREES
In the last few weeks we have had to remove several large trees from the school (2 at Bugdlie and 1 at Comstock Street). The trees at the preschool were riddled with termites and presented some OHS issues with falling limbs. The tree removed from outside my office was dead and was in imminent danger of falling onto the roof of the admin block.

PRINCIPAL’S RESIDENCE
The demolition of the Principal’s residence near the library block was recently put out to tender. I expect that work will begin in the next few weeks to remove all the asbestos and then demolish the building and clear the site. I am urging parents to ensure that your children do not play in or near the site during that time, particularly after hours.

Originally the plan was to use the vacant block for staff parking but more recently we have been offered the opportunity to have a purpose built health hub located at our school, and the vacant block may be perfect for that. I will keep you informed as discussions progress.

Have a great week,
Glynis Lugnan
Principal

Semester One student reports go out towards the end of this term. Please make sure the school has your current mailing address so your child’s report doesn’t go astray!
### ASSEMBLY AWARDS

The following students received awards at Assembly last Friday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| KH    | Student of the Week: Millie Dalwood, Abbey Pinnuck, Max Roberts  
Bronze: Rueben Grantham, Maddison Harrap, Shaylan James, Malcolm-Jase King, Shyla Page-Speake, Maggie Swan |
| KW    | Student of the Week: Cameron Burrell, Kaitlyn Dumbleton, Bella Edge  
Bronze: Kaitlyn Dumbleton, Jesse Manoel |
| 1-2A  | Student of the Week: Adrianna Benedetti, Cooper Hannig, Luke White |
| 1-2H  | Student of the Week: Ella Howse, Lacee Jobson, Ella-Hope Jovanovic  
Bronze: Brandon Bessell-Grose, Dakotah Daddow, Ell-Jai Harvey, William James, Bri-Hanna Robinson, Rebecca Singleton |
| 3D    | Student of the Week: Shaina Burns, Harley Summers  
Bronze: Shaina Burns, Logan Dannatt, Amy Harrap, Danika Hoskins, Cayleb Jozanovic, Campbell Quintrell, Lisa Suckling |
| 4C    | Student of the Week: Tannya Everuss, Jamie Talan, Destiny Wheatley |
| 5J    | Student of the Week: Jake Boddington, Cian Ryan, Sammarah-Leah Williams  
Bronze: Caitlin Cameron, Ethan Daniele, Ella Gray, Deaken Treloar |
| 6M    | Student of the Week: Caitlin Burrell, Blake Gebhardt, Elyscia Mackiewicz |

---

**Term 2 Important Events**

**May**
- Monday 13th to Thursday 15th: NAPLAN - Year 3 & Year 5
- Friday 17th: Broken Hill Cross Country
- Tuesday 21st: Computer Skills Competition
- Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd: Barrier Soccer Bankstown
- Wednesday 29th to Thursday 30th: Barrier AFL Barooga

**June**
- Wednesday 5th: Science Competition
- Monday 10th: Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- Monday 17th: Writing Competition
- Tuesday 18th: Writing Competition
- Friday 21st & 28th: Gala Day
- Mon 24th-Wed 26th: Life Education / Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday 26th: Camp Quality Puppet Show

---

**Congratulations Mrs DeGoumois**

Primary school sport, and in particular, the Barrier Schools Sports Association and New South Wales Primary Schools Sports Association, have been very fortunate to have benefited from the involvement of Mrs Sharon DeGoumois in the sport of basketball.

Mrs DeGoumois has been involved with Banner basketball teams from 1985-2013, a total of 28 years.

Mrs DeGoumois received a New South Wales Primary School Sports Service Award in Sydney last week in recognition of her long term passion and commitment to basketball.

---

**Broken Hill Cross Country Carnival**

Friday 17th May 9.30am-2.00pm

Alma Public School will be providing the canteen service for the Broken Hill Cross Country Carnival which is being held at the Memorial Oval on Friday 17th May from 9.30 to 2.00pm

Any donations of cakes or help with canteen on the day would be absolutely fabulous.

Please contact the school on 80882181 or see Julie in the canteen if you are able to help with canteen at the oval. Cake donations can be taken straight to the oval.

---

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Ground Floor - G Block

**Opening Hours**
- Monday: 2:30pm – 3:15pm
- Thursday: 2:30pm – 3:15pm

New and Pre-loved uniforms available
Alma Students enjoying the EnviroMentors visit to school last week

Numbers are growing with the popularity of Mrs Baker’s Knitting group. Last week saw a total of 28 knitters in one session!

The Alma Public School Active After Schools Community program commences today. Students will be focusing on soccer skills on Tuesdays and golf skills on Wednesdays. Table tennis featured in the previous sessions.
Every day across Australia, dedicated teachers are guiding, mentoring and coaching our children using creativity, innovation and sometimes even a little money from their own pocket.

Do you know a Primary School Teacher who:
- Is passionate and enthusiastic about teaching?
- Inspires students?
- Is innovative in their approach to teaching?
- Goes above and beyond?
- Is an exceptional role model?

A Day Made Better is an international OfficeMax program that recognizes exceptional Primary School Teachers – it’s our way of celebrating the hard work of these individuals and providing them with the recognition they deserve.

If you know someone who demonstrates these qualities, let us help you recognize them for their outstanding contribution with $1,000 worth of OfficeMax supplies for their classroom!

Just head to adaymadebetter.com.au between the 6th May and 14th June 2013 to nominate your teacher.

Nominations open 6 May 2013

Alma Soccer Club

PLAYERS WANTED

We are a family-friendly based club who appreciate such things as sportsmanship, fitness and socialisation.

Junior Training
Located at Alma Oval from 4-5pm Wednesdays
(Under 6’s, 7’s, 8’s and 10’s)

Senior Training
Located at BH Soccer Grounds
5-6.30pm (Under 12’s and 14’s)
6-8pm (Cots, A-Grade, B-Grade and Women’s)

Phone David Hurley (Club President) for more details on 0403 675 999

Fire & Rescue NSW

Annual Open Day

This year Fire & Rescue NSW is hosting its Annual Open Day on Saturday 18 May, from 10am – 2pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for children and their parents to meet their local fire-fighters and learn all about fire safety in the home.

Our local Fire Station, Broken Hill, at Blende Street, will be opening its doors to celebrate Open Day with all sorts of fun activities planned for the kids, including fire demonstrations, being able to hop aboard a real fire truck and hold a working fire hose, and get a show bag full of goodies while chatting with real fire-fighters about what they do.

With the onset of winter just around the corner, learning as much as you can about home fire safety is really important – winter is the worst time of the year for house fires.

So make sure you reserve the date and head down to Broken Hill Fire Station on Saturday 18 May!

O.X. Dance

KIDS CLASSES HAVE NOW ARRIVED AT THE PCYC!!

COMMENCING FROM THE 20TH MAY
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
5.30PM - 6PM
$5 PER SESSION
MIXTURE OF HIP-HOP AND JAZZ
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE PCYC CLUB MEMBERS $10 FOR 12 MONTHS
AGES APPROX 7 TO 12 YEARS

PCYC BOXING FOR KIDS!

A great way for kids to burn some energy, have some fun and get active!

Boxing techniques and building core strength.

KIDS CLASSES:

BOXING FOR KIDS

MONDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
3.30PM - 5.30PM
$5.00 PER PERSON PER SESSION

BH PCYC Gypsum Street or Phone 8037 3723
All participants must be a PCYC Club Member, $20 for 12 months.