Dear Parents and Community Members,

This year we have 43 new Kindergarten enrolments as well as several others across Years 1-6, bringing our numbers to 237. Add in our preschool children and Alma Public School has a total enrolment of 266. This is fantastic!

We have had some changes in the staff. Mrs Katie Bassett-White is officially on staff now as Assistant Principal. Miss Rebecca Green has Year 1 allowing Mrs DeGoumois to be off class full time, Mr Brad Lardner replaces Miss James as Rural Area Relief, Mrs Wanda Whitmill replaces Mrs Byrnes as District Guidance Officer and Ms Helen Bub Connor is relieving for Ms Ewing as District Assistant Principal Learning. We also welcome back Mrs Gina Pearce who has been on leave and Ms Wendy Wilson who worked at District Office last year.

Last week, all the Kindergarten children met with their teachers for the Best Start assessment interviews. Thank you to all those parents who brought their children along to take part.

All staff spent Monday and Tuesday last week undertaking professional learning including mandatory child protection updates, code of conduct, the new Science syllabus, School Learning Support Officer roles and responsibilities, L3 and Best Start.

Today the Years 3-6 attended the school swimming carnival. Successful competitors have the opportunity to compete at the next level in a couple of weeks. Thanks to Mrs DeGoumois and Miss Jameson for their organisation.

Our new Kindergarten children had their photo taken for the BDT this morning. Please ensure your child has an Alma bucket hat each day they are at school for protection from the sun’s harmful rays. Caps will not be accepted.

To all our new and returning students and their families, a warm welcome back. 2015 promises to be just as busy as last year, with lots of opportunities for students to be the best they can be, for parents to become actively involved in their children’s education (either through support at home or assisting at school) and for staff to develop their skills to benefit your children.

I am looking forward to a positive, productive and exciting year.

Regards
Glynis Lugnan
PRINCIPAL
Current Staff and Classes for 2015

Principal: Glynis Lugnan
Assistant Principals: Sharon DeGoumois, Andree Morgan, Katie Bassett-White
Instructional Leader: Judy Henry
Preschool: Gemma Ackerman
AEO: Barbara Clark
SLSO: Chelcie Staker
Early Stage 1: Joanne McMahon, Mary-Anne Watson
Stage 1: Rebecca Green, Janet Mateer, Andree Morgan, Sam Small
Stage 2: Ashlee Jameson, Jessica Townsend
Stage 3: Sandra Clark, Danielle Marsh, David Mortimer
Computer Coordinator: Lauren Horwitz
Library: Lauren Horwitz
RFF: Christie Roe
Reading Recovery: Katie Bassett-White
Early Action for Success Intervention Support: Rita Hinchey
AEO: Michael Johnstone
LaST: Fran Lemay
LaST: Wendy Wilson
Rural Area Relief: Bradley Lardner
Assistant Principal DGO: Wanda Whitmill
Assistant Principal Behaviour/Learning & Engagement Officer: Helen Bub-Connor
Admin Manager: Sue Files
Admin Officers: Gail Braidie, Gina Pearce, Beth Howse, Marnie Howe
SLSO: Chelcie Staker, Angela Brown
SLSO/MultiLit: Narelle Harvey, Angela Saunders
MultiLit: Julie Holmes
Kitchen specialist: Angela Langdon
Garden Specialist: Sandwich Hopcraft
Canteen Manager: Barry Delbridge
General Assistant: Colin Daddow, Patricia Jonas, Nick Keher, Sandi Holmes
Cleaners: Colin Daddow, Patricia Jonas, Nick Keher, Sandi Holmes

2015 Captains
Olivia Harman
Connor Daddow

Vice Captains
Ella Hosking
Harry Butcher

Prefects
Olivia Gittoes
Destiny Wheatley
Lauren Hoysted
Aidan Slattery
Ty Johnston

SCHOOL TIMES
8:30am Children supervised in playground
8:55am Morning Assembly
9:00am Into class
1st Break - 11.00am - 11.40am
- 11:00am - 11.10am Eating Time
- 11.10am - 11.40am Play Time
2nd Break - 1.20pm - 1.50pm
- 1.20pm - 1.35pm Eating Time
- 1.35pm - 1.50pm Play Time
3:00pm School day ends
Bus Students:
Students catching the bus need to make their way to the bus pick-up area at 3.00pm.
URGENT!
Family Details, Student Information and Long Term Permission Forms

It is extremely important that these forms are returned to your child’s class teacher by this Friday 13th February.

If you did not receive either of these forms or need another one please call in to the front office and collect some new ones.

Medication

If your child requires prescribed medication to be given at school, please come to the front office or contact the school on 8088 2181 to discuss your child’s needs. These needs will be assessed from the information gathered and procedures put in place to ensure the utmost care is given to the safety and well-being of your child.

Staff are NOT permitted to administer any medication without proper authorisation. This includes regular medication which is required for a medical condition or medication which may be required when your child is sick eg: antibiotics, ventolin.

Don’t forget to check you have filled in ALL the required information.

Parents/carers of students with any allergies and/or medical conditions may be contacted soon for further information if necessary.

You must also contact the school if your child requires prescribed medication during school hours.

A big THANK YOU to Jane Johnston and Rose Watson for their donation of cleaning products for the Stephanie-Alexander Kitchen.

Mr Rudolf Alagich

Mr Rudolf Alagich passed away recently. Mr Alagich has been a strong supporter of Alma Public school for many, many years.

Mr Alagich made yearly donations to the Alma Public School Presentation Day in recognition of the Alma Public School Sportsperson of the Year.

The staff and students, past and present, offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Alagich.

Mrs DeGoumois will represent Alma Public School at the funeral service for Mr Alagich which is being held on Thursday.

Canteen News!

The canteen menu for 2015 was sent home yesterday. Please note that there has been some changes in price as well as the variety of food and drinks available.

Julie is also introducing fresh fruit cups and fresh fruit (bananas & apples) which will also be available to purchase for the fruit break.

Please note: If you pack your child’s lunch with items such as yoghurt etc, please ensure the you pack a spoon. Spoons can be purchased from the canteen for 10 cents each if necessary.

Please make sure your child knows road safety when going to and from school. This includes walking, riding a push bike or scooter and travelling by bus.

Above: Jorja and Logan with some of the delicious fruit cups available from the canteen.
We are encouraging all students to have their books covered at the start of the year and we would appreciate your help in this matter. There is a book policy in every classroom to improve the work from the students. We will be encouraging the children to take pride in their books and the work that will go into these books.

Have your books covered at the start of the year!
Take pride in your books and the work that goes into them!

On Monday, we welcomed our Kindergarten students to Alma Public School. Both Kindergarten classes will work together for the first week, to allow teachers time to form classes that are most cohesive.

Students will need a library bag for borrowing books from the school library. A plastic bag will be suitable.

We would like to welcome all of our Bugdlie students for 2015. Bugdlie Preschool still has vacancies for any child who turns 4 this year before 31st July. Please come to the office to enrol your students.

If there are any concerns you have regarding your child, please take the time to come to the office, make an appointment and we will endeavour to assist you.

2014 Browzer’s Presentation Day Gift Vouchers
All Browzer’s vouchers received from the 2014 Presentation Day MUST be redeemed by Saturday 28th February. Vouchers will be invalid after this date.
Student Attendance

Attendance is compulsory for all school age students up until they reach 17 years of age.

Alma Public School is a monitored attendance school. This means that we report regularly on student attendance, including persistent late arrivals.

Student absences, including late arrivals and early departures, are recorded daily and are monitored regularly by the Home School Liaison Officer. It is therefore extremely important that the correct procedure is followed at all times.

LATE ARRIVALS
School commences at 9.00am each day. It is important that you ensure your child arrives at school before 9.00am. Students arriving late MUST sign in at the Administration Office. A late arrival slip will then be issued which must be taken to the child’s teacher.

EARLY DEPARTURE
Parent/Caregivers that need to collect children from school during school hours for appointments etc must come to the Administration Office and sign the student out. An early departure slip will then be issued which must be taken to the child’s teacher to authorise departure. This also applies to students who need to go home due to illness.

ABSENCE
If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school on 8088 2181.

Mandatory reporting procedures require the school to contact parents/carers of students who have been absent from school for 3 days without notifying the school.

Changes to DEC attendance codes were brought into effect just before Christmas.

Please note the following:

- Exemptions no longer cover family holidays. These now come under leave.
- All absences must be explained, either in writing or by phone.
- Sick leave of longer than 3 days must be accompanied by a doctor’s certificate.
- Justified leave means that a parent has contacted the school with a legitimate reason for a child’s absence that is approved by the Principal. These do NOT include birthdays, haircuts or shopping trips to buy shoes etc.
- Unjustified/unauthorised leave will be recorded for absences that are not explained satisfactorily within a week.
- Partial leave (including late arrivals) is also recorded on the DEC system and without a written/oral explanation from a parent the children will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence.

If you have any queries about the new codes, please contact the school and speak with Gail Braidie or Glynis Lugnan.

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Newsletter & Website

Newsletters will be sent home on Tuesdays with the eldest child in each family. Please take time to read the newsletter each week as it contains information about events and activities happening at school including student achievements, reminders, meetings, P&C and canteen news and community notices. The newsletter can also be viewed on-line

[www.alma-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.alma-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au)

The Alma Public School website may also be viewed for other information about the school.
Why is arriving at school on time important?

It ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert...

It helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine..

It gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore...

...reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption!

Remember..... every day counts!

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and MUST be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence!

2..4..6..8...
Hurry to school and don’t be late!

The bell will ring to go to line..
DON’T FORGET..
school STARTS at 9!
**NETBALL**

"Netball season starts 24th Feb. West Flames Netball U11 team is looking to recruit 3 girls to join their team, preferably born 2004. Please call Tracy, 0439748011 if interested. If you need any more information from me, please contact me via email or the above Phone number.

Thanks, Tracy Herlihy

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**Music Education Australia**

Dear Parents,

We have an amazing opportunity to offer professional guitar and keyboard lessons to students. The lessons are conducted by Music Education Australia.

**Music Education Australia provides:**
- Professional Music Tutors
- Small Group Lessons (2-6 Students)
- Very Affordable = $110 Per Term (70% less than private tuition)
- Music Books Supplied During Lessons

**Instruments Supplied for Every Student During Lessons!**

**Enrolments Now Open**

If you would like your child to participate please enrol using one of the options below:

**Option 1: Enrol Online (Preferred)**

Please enrol online via www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au It takes 2 minutes and you will receive a confirmation email confirming your enrolment.

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**PEDAL playgroup @ ALMA School in Broken Hill**

**Time:** Every second Thursday from 9AM – 10.45AM

**Venue:** ALMA Primary School, Broken Hill, G Block

Thursday 5th February, 19th February, 5th March
Thursday 19th March and 2nd April 2015.

**PEDAL stands for Play, Explore, Discover And Learn.**

PEDAL groups are open to all families with children aged 0-5.

Play stimulates learning. It helps children gain a strong sense of identity, connectedness and well-being while becoming confident learners and effective communicators. At PEDAL group play experiences are set up in a way that children choose activities and explore and use resources while being guided by their imagination and creativity.

Parents are encouraged to join into their child’s play.

**What do you need to do?**

- Come in play clothes;
- Provide a piece of fruit for a shared fruit platter at morning tea time;
- Recycle and contribute resources (bottle lids, egg cartons, boxes);
- Help out when you can (i.e. with preparation of morning tea, pack up).

**Upon arrival sign in**

**For more information:**

Phone or visit the team at CentaCare Wilcannia-Forbes

1/261 Argent Street
PO Box 159
Broken Hill NSW 2880
p. 08 8087 3477

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**YWCA Girls Groups**

After school fun activities for girls 6 -13 yrs

Thursday's St James hall (behind the church) Wilson Street

Monday’s 349 Blende Street, starting 16th February 2015 - 4pm to 5.30pm

$2 for members/membership $12.50 per year $3.50 non members

For more information phone 80873573
Come for a Shocking Night Out!

Family Science Show

Electricity and Lightning

Thursday February 26, 2015
7.00 – 8.00 p.m.

Willyama High School, Broken Hill

For Keen Science Students (Primary and Secondary) and Parents/Guardians

Increase your Interest and Enjoyment in Learning

What is the difference between volts and amps? Which one is deadly?

Does a lightning flash travel upwards or downwards? Why shouldn’t you lie down on the ground when there is a thunder storm around?

Why do so many people die unnecessarily after an electrical accident or being struck by lightning?

And more.

Highly Visual and Entertaining

See the long sparks from a one-half-million-volt Tesla coil, the effect of electricity on your muscles (ouch!), how lightning caused an Italian church to explode, what happens when lightning strikes a car, and more, and hear some fascinating stories involving lightning.

Examine Interesting Phenomena Using Equipment

That is Not Readily Available

Study different types of lightning strikes to people and other animals, ways to protect yourself from being struck by lightning, why lightning can affect different types of trees in different ways, and more.

Cost: $12 per person (includes GST).

Presenter: Dr Peter H. Eastwell

As numbers are limited, places need to be filled on a first-in basis.

To Book

To book, please email the name(s) of those in your group wishing to attend, as well as the name of your school, to willyama@sciencetime.com.au by February 23. If places are still available, you will receive a subsequent message containing payment information. Booking is important to ensure that the show is not overbooked or that you are alerted in the event that bookings are insufficient to support the show.