Dear Parents and Community Members,

This week, I would like to mention some of the professional development that your teachers are involved with. Research shows that high quality school teachers and school leaders are absolutely fundamental to the success of students. Alma Public School has planned several key initiatives to develop teacher capacity over the next three years. Over the next week, all our teachers will be involved in whole stage planning days. This is a new approach to collaborative planning that will build the capacity of our teachers to deliver high quality lessons to your children. By sharing results and probing the reasons for success or otherwise of individual students, we are able to zoom in on specific supports that are required to assist a student to be a successful learner. We are hoping to run these once a term. Casual teachers will follow the classroom teachers program and there should be minimal disruption to your child’s routine.

Mrs Bassett-White and Miss Jameson have attended the first of seven master classes today for "Learn To Lead" which is aimed at developing leadership skills in aspiring and current executive staff. The cycle of poverty, emotional intelligence, managing difficult conversations, change management and professional reflection practices are all part of this program which is a two year commitment by these teachers.

On Monday afternoon, Mrs Wilson worked with 12 teaching staff on Behaviour Management. This course is a 12 hour course which will be run over several afternoons and is voluntary. Teachers will be asked to critically analyse their current behaviour management styles and develop a deeper understanding of successful strategies. Another course which teachers will undertake is Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN), lead by Mrs Henry (K-2 focus) and Taking off with Numeracy (TOWN) with Miss Marsh (3-6 focus).

As the Principal, I am also required to continually update my skills. Nine of the thirteen reforms from the Department of Education & Communities impact directly onto primary schools, so I am very conscious of the training that I need to attend to stay on top of the changes. Each term, I attend a half day meeting with all the principals in Broken Hill. Once a term, I meet with all the Far West Network principals for 2 days. This year, I have been voted in as the Far West delegate to the NSW Primary Principals Association which will involve 2 days a term in Sydney for State Council meetings. As one of the most important decision-making bodies in education, the NSW PPA has been instrumental in creating changes that benefit students and schools e.g. additional school counsellor positions, release for mentoring teachers, support for beginning teachers, etc. While you may not think these things relate directly to your child, it is important to remember that the greater capacity of the teacher means higher quality lessons and better outcomes for your children.

Normally, I am only out of the school attending local meetings or spending time at Bugdlie. It is unusual for me to be “away” so much (average of 5 days per term this year). In 2015, however, I will be away on two more occasions. In May I will be away for 2 weeks – my daughter is getting married in New Zealand. Around the beginning of August, I am needed in Brisbane when my daughter presents me with a granddaughter. Whenever I am away, one of my executive staff relieves in my position, so that things continue to run efficiently. Thank you for understanding that there are occasions when teachers will be off class to attend training - improving the skills of the staff is important and ultimately benefits your children.

Just a reminder that Kester Hall at the school is being used for the election on the weekend.

Regards
Glynis Lugnan
Principal
Mrs McMahon’s kindergarten class is having a blast with their photography skills. One of the prizes for getting to ‘outstanding’ is to be the 'Class Photographer'. The kids are having so much fun with it!

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**Crazy Hair Day**

The Alma school will be having a *crazy hair day fundraiser* **Thursday 26th March**

The Alma staff will be donating and the Alma P&C will be matching what the school raises.

We hope you can help us raise money for this great cause.

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**Lake Keepit Excursion Expression of Interest**

Expression of interest notes for the Year 5-6 excursion to Lake Keepit are due this **Friday 27th March**.

We are hoping to hold this excursion from Sunday 11th October until Friday 16th October 2015.

We need at least 40 students for the excursion to go ahead.

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**KM Photography**

Mrs McMahon’s kindergarten class is having a blast with their photography skills. One of the prizes for getting to ‘outstanding’ is to be the 'Class Photographer'. The kids are having so much fun with it!
Dear Parents/Caregivers

There is a lot of lost property located in the yellow bins out the front of the office.
Please check your child’s belongings and check out the lost property bin if you find anything missing.

Can You Help?

The Bugdlie Preschool is seeking donations of wooden cable, wooden spools or cotton reels.
All donations are appreciated and can be taken to the Bugdlie Preschool.

Can you help?
The P & C requires donations of Easter eggs to go towards their Easter raffle to help fundraise for our school.
Any donation big or small is greatly appreciated.
If you can help please hand in your donations to the front office.

Thank you for your support.

Attendance 'Matters'

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
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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!

Patton Street Easter Colouring Competition
The Easter colouring in competition is back!
Forms were sent home last Tuesday. Entries to be returned to Mrs Morgan by this Friday the 27th March

Plant Sale
ALL plants ONLY $2.00 each
Example of some of the plants for sale are:
Exotics
Natives
Herbs
Spices
Ground Covers
See Sandwich Hopcraft in the garden if you would like to purchase some plants!

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.

Easter Hat Parade
Start getting your Easter hats ready.
The Alma 2015 Easter Parade will be on Wednesday 1st April.
More information will be sent home this week.
University of New South Wales Competitions-2015

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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
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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):

Mathematics ☐   Spelling ☐   English ☐   Digital Technologies ☐   Science ☐

Enclosed is payment of $___________________

Signed ____________________________________  Date ______________