Dear Parents and Community Members,

Last week’s primary swimming carnival was a great success and I congratulate all the students on their efforts and fabulous behaviour. Thanks to all the staff for your enthusiasm and involvement. It was lovely to have parents and grandparents at our carnival and ‘well done’ to the parent team as winners of the novelty noodle race.

Yesterday afternoon, we hosted a Meet & Greet BBQ at school. Approximately 40 parents took the opportunity to come and say hello to the staff. Our dedicated P&C cooked the BBQ and there was an opportunity to sign children up for local AFL, netball, basketball, soccer and dance. Parents had a chance to put their names down for the P&C and canteen. We are very grateful to those parents who did! The P&C and canteen are vital parts of the school and I encourage anyone who hasn’t done so, to get involved in any way you can.

This morning, Mrs Braidie and I met with Mr Deacon who is the Home School Liaison Officer. He regular visits to go through the school attendance figures and to identify students not coming to school. In the past, a family holiday in school time was deemed a Justified Absence. An exemption was also possible for a family holiday. Recent changes to the Department of Education policy mean that this is no longer the case. A family holiday, during school time, will now be classed as an unjustified absence. There is a new type of leave that families can apply for through the Principal, though, providing you can supply an educational reason for the absence.

Parent Information Sessions will be held tomorrow and Thursday afternoons. Please see details in this newsletter. All parents are encouraged to attend.

This Friday, we will have a special assembly in Kester Hall to present badges to Student Representative Council (SRC) members and sporting house captains and vice captains. Everyone is invited to join us at 2 pm for the first assembly of 2016.

Well done, Kindergarten kids, for your very settled beginning to the first formal year of your schooling. This morning, I was told, by a Kindergarten boy, that caterpillars at the base of one of our trees huddled together to keep warm. I don’t know if that’s why they do it, but it is a lovely idea. Children have a view of the world that is full of wonder and cold logic.

Bugdlie preschool has also had a smooth start. Mrs Bassett-White, Jess Maddern and Auntie Barb are very pleased with the positive response from their children and very excited about working with our preschool parents.

In the next week, Alma will hold an Emergency Drill. We do two of these a year, every year, as part of our Workplace, Health and Safety policy. The preschool holds them one a term for each session. They are a mandatory part of school practice.

Regards
Glynis Lugnan
Principal

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.
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Students from Years 3 – 6 will participate in this survey

**Parent Information Meetings will be held this week for all stages.**

KINDERGARTEN (Early Stage 1)
Wednesday 17th February - 3.15pm
Kindergarten Classrooms

STAGE 1 (1-2A, 1-2R, 1-2S)
Thursday 18th February - 3.15pm
1-2A Classroom

STAGE 2 (3-4B, 3-4J, 3-4R)
Wednesday 17th February - 3.15pm
3-4B Classroom

STAGE 3 (5-6A, 5-6S)
Thursday 18th February - 3.15pm
Stage 3 Hall

**Student Information and Long Term Permission Forms**

It is extremely important for the safety and welfare of your children that a form is filled out for EACH child in the family that attends Alma Public School.

The Student Information and Long Term Permission Notes were due back to school last Friday. It is a matter of URGENCY that these forms are returned to the school. More forms are available from the front office if required.
We are now using the new LOOP Ordering system. This replaces the online credit card payment system previously used. Alternatively, you may still return your orders to the school with correct change.

Scan the QR code to watch a tutorial on how to order using LOOP.

**BOOK CLUB**

Orders are due back by this Thursday 18th February

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The Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival was held last Friday. Students had a great day at the pool. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day.

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Age champions and runners up are as follows:

**Junior Girls Champion**: Grace Payne  
**Runner Up**: Daphne Kennedy

**11 Years Girls Champion**: Airleigh Jones  
**Runner Up**: Ella McLeod

**Senior Girls Champion**: Imogen Jeffery  
**Runner Up**: Shaina Burns

**Junior Boys Champions**: Arana Jeffery  
**Runner Up**: Lachlan Everett

**11 Years Boys Champion**: Lucas Ferguson  
**Runner Up**: Marcus Purcell

**Senior Boys Champion**: B-Jay Adams  
**Runner Up**: Connor Ormsby & Logan Dannatt

Selected students will be participating in the Broken Hill Carnival in the afternoon on Thursday 25th February.

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**LIBRARY NEWS!**

The Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival was held last Friday. Students had a great day at the pool. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day.
The first assembly for 2016 will be held this Friday in Kester Hall. Kester Hall is located towards the Wilson Street end of the school grounds. Everyone is welcome to come along to the assemblies. The assemblies are hosted by the prefects and/or classes and a notice will go in the newsletter to let you know when the assembly will be on and who will be the hosts.

Student of the Week, Promotions and other awards are given out at the assemblies. A note will be sent home to parents/carers of children who will be receiving an award.

This week’s assembly will be badge presentation for House Captains and SRC.

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.

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

Every day counts!

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 9.00!

Don't FORGET!

Alma P&C

Uniform Shop
G Block
Ground Floor
(Entry via Comstock Street)

Opening Hours
Monday
3.00pm - 3.15pm

Thursday
3.00pm - 3.15pm

Donations of unwanted uniforms are greatly appreciated.