Dear Parents and Care Givers,

P&C AGM
The P&C AGM will be held in the school library at 7pm on Tuesday 29 March. As the Monday is Easter Monday the meeting has been moved to the Tuesday evening following. We welcome all parents to attend the meeting.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Will be taken on Wednesday 16 March. Can all families please return their money in the provided envelopes on the day. Envelopes will be handed directly to the photographic company.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
We welcome back Mr Steve Rollison who has returned from the Learning Engagement Officer role in District Office. Mr Rollison works at Alstonville PS on Tuesdays, Wednesday afternoons and Fridays. The remainder of the week Mr Rollison provides counselling support to Alstonville High School.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
If you prefer to read larger writing than that which appears on the SCHOOL STREAM APP each Friday, don’t forget you can also access our school newsletter on the school website www.alstonvill-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

FAREWELL SHARON WRIGHT OUR CANTEEN MANAGER
Sharon will be leaving us on March 26. On behalf of the staff and our school community I would like to thank Sharon for the wonderful job she has done managing the school canteen, for preparing thousands of lunches, stock ordering, payment and stocktakes, achieving outstanding ratings from council inspections and managing the uniform shop. Thank you Sharon. The staff and children will miss you.

CHILDREN’S SURNAMES USED IN THE NEWSLETTER
Recently I have had a few parents speak with me about the possibility of publishing the first and last name of the children in the school newsletter. I will shortly send home a permission note for this to occur. If we have a large majority of parents consenting to have their child’s names printed we will use both names. If we have a large number of parents not wishing for their children’s full names to be printed we will continue with our usual practice of first name only as it is very difficult to manage and very time consuming checking long lists of children each time we print information. I will advise parents shortly of the result.
Principal's report continued—

TISSUES and LIQUID SOAP
The most used items in classrooms are tissues and soap. If parents are happy to provide a bottle of soap and box of tissues to the class teacher your donations will be gratefully received and allow teachers to spend class resource money on other educational items. Thank you for your support with these items.

BACK CAR PARK
Just a reminder that the back teacher’s car park adjacent to the new hall is out of bounds for children. As it is not a designated entry point into the school approved by the Department of Education and Ballina Shire Council the school asks all children not to use the car park as a route into or out of the school. The children are asked to enter and leave the school grounds from the front of the school facing Main Street where the supervised crossings are and staff are on duty.

WATER BOTTLES
Each day we find that children are not drinking enough water and teachers have been encouraging children to have a water bottle on their desk which can stay in the classroom overnight and be available each day and a separate water bottle in their bag which can be accessed on the playground and on the way to and from school. If you are able, can you please provide another water bottle that can “live” at school. Parents who are experiencing financial difficulty can contact the school as we have a small supply of water bottles available.

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY – FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 4,5 AND 6
The student survey will be run between 14 March and 8 April. Consent forms have been sent out to all parents. Just a reminder to let us know if you do not wish to have your child participate in the survey. The survey is designed to gather data about student engagement in their learning. Approximately 1500 schools in NSW are participating.

SCHOOL CAPTAIN SPEECHES IN NEWSLETTER
Please enjoy reading the fine quality speeches of Delphi Duell and Aidan Rogers our Student Parliament Prime Ministers. I have included them in this week’s newsletter as they provide a snap shot of the high quality of the student leadership in the school and the important job that the Student Parliament does in representing “student voice” within school decision making.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Watching students this week construct a stair case of animal sounds that magically rang out as they stepped from one step to the next up the library stair well was an exciting adventure for the students and exemplified the Maker Space programs currently being run the library. Congratulations to our students who embark on the journey of new learning with coding computers to perform actions. Today we received our K-2 equipment. Lovely yellow lady beetles (bee-bots!) that respond to initiated actions from the children and move around a floor map of a town. Great fun is just about to be had by our youngest students. Stay tuned Mrs Beck will shortly be running Maker Space with “live” jewellery as a specialist workshop for those children interested. You may see Mrs Beck, Mrs Sipple and I wearing some new fashion accessories that will be “live” whilst we promote the workshops to the students.

SCHOOL SIGN
At the moment we are working toward the installation of a new school sign out the front of the Administration area. Our old sign was removed when the winch and pulley became broken and was no longer able to be fixed. We hope to have the sign up and operational this term to advise parents and the community of upcoming events.

TITANS VISIT
It was a pleasure to welcome members of the Titans team to speak with Stage 3 children last week. Team players reinforced the concepts of Anti Bullying, team building, setting and striving to achieve goals, never giving up and fitness.

POLICE VISIT
Year 6 spoke with the Police Youth Liaison Officer this week on the dangers of cyber bullying. Please chat with your children about the issues involved as we prepare them for High School next year and the broader cyber world.

This week I am again reminded just how busy schools are each day.

Mrs Catherine Moore
PRINCIPAL
Positive Behaviour 4 Learning - Weekly Award Winners

Congratulations to our five wonderful K-6 Positive Behaviour 4 Learning winners who were drawn from our barrel at the Monday morning assembly. Well done to everyone who received PB4L tokens, the barrel is almost full!

Congratulations Harley and Tai - 5 Mexico    Joel, Cedar and Harrison - K Finland

School Locker

School Locker have advised the school that the BYOD technology price list that was given to parents at the Stage 3 Meet the Teacher night has changed, as a device has been discontinued. Please visit the School Locker website for up to date prices and information. [http://www.theschoollocker.com.au/schools/alstonville-public-school/technology](http://www.theschoollocker.com.au/schools/alstonville-public-school/technology)

Maker Space @ Alstonville PS

Some projects our Year 5 and 6 students are programming using Scratch and Makey Makey controllers.
Alstonville Public School
Interrelate ‘Say No to Bullying’ Competition Winning Entries

Stage 3 students from Alstonville Public School entered the state wide Interrelate 2016 Say No to Bullying Primary School Poster Competition this term. We are very pleased to announce Tia from Year 6, has been selected as the regional winner. Maddy also from Year 6, has been awarded Highly Commended in the competition. Year 6 teacher Mrs Roberts is delighted that two students from her class have won such prestigious state wide awards. The competition complements the PDHPE Bullying Project the students are creating in class and to encourage open discussion on the important issues of bullying, diversity and differences and to raise awareness of the issue of bullying and violence in schools and the community. To enter the competition, students had to independently draw a picture depicting their interpretation of the competition theme *Differences Make Us Special. Don’t Bully.*

Over 5000 Stage 3 students entered the competition this year. Interrelate selects from the entries one winner, 10 regional finalists and Highly Commended entries. Both students and their families have been invited to attend a special Awards Ceremony on Friday, 18 March 2016 in Sydney, to mark the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Special guests at the Awards Ceremony will include The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, NSW Treasurer, representing the NSW Premier, Alistair McGibbon, Children’s e-Safety Commissioner and Ricardo Gonclaves, SBS World News Presenter among others. His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor of New South Wales, has also recorded a special video message for the children that will be played at the event.

Congratulations Tia and Maddy this is a wonderful achievement.
Police Youth Liaison Officer - Cyber safety talk

Stage 3 were fortunate enough to have Senior Constable Straun Presgrave from Lismore Police Station come in to school on Tuesday, to talk with students about the dangers and issues surrounding the use of devices, social media and the internet. The seminar was part of our Personal Development studies around proactive strategies to prevent bullying. All year 5 and 6 students were extremely engaged and asked loads of excellent questions. Well done students.

Parents, you may wish to gain more information on cyber safety here:

www.cybersmart.gov.au

School Debating

Debating is alive and well at Alstonville Public School. Today we worked on the idea of creating and presenting arguments based on the PEEL technique. We are so fortunate to be working with Finn, Riley, Jess, Charlotte, Evie, Eva and Chiara from Alstonville High School. The quality of our presentation and arguments is improving weekly and we are on track to compete in the school and Premier's Debating Challenge competitions.

Mrs Wheatland
Good morning staff and students.

I feel a mixture of excitement and nerves as I stand here in front of you all.

Over the past three years, I have listened to speeches by Year 6s standing onstage, hoping to earn the honour of being made a school leader. With the rest of the school, I would watch some of the grown-up kids confidently delivering their speeches, and wondered if I had what it takes to be a school leader. Some of you in Years 3, 4 and 5 may even be thinking of putting yourselves forward when the time comes. There are probably a handful of our future school leaders sitting here today.

How about the rest of you? Who don’t get the chance to become a school Prime-Minister? You are all as equally valuable as any school leader. Your ideas matter.

If elected as your school Prime-Minister, I will make sure that your ideas are given a voice. I am an approachable person. The youngest and oldest of our school community can be assured that I will listen. I will make sure that your voices are heard.

Six years ago, I started Kindergarten at this school. During my time here, I have tried to be involved in as many opportunities as possible – band, choir, being class representative, and debating. Now, in my final year at Alstonville Public School, I want to make a positive contribution, working with you and for you.

Now, you may be wondering why I included a moose on my voting poster. Apart from it being a good excuse to superimpose my head onto the body of a cartoon moose, the moose is a symbol of wisdom, the joy of achievement, and dependability – all qualities of a good leader. As your school Prime-Minister, you can count on me to be as wise as an eleven year old can be, to share the joy of your achievements, and to be somebody that you can depend on.

A good leader should also be honest. So perhaps I should be upfront with you at this point … I’m not perfect. I’m not a champion sportsperson, I still struggle with some of my times tables, sometimes I eat too many lollies, and I can get really cranky with my big brother.

So, if you want a school prime minister who is perfect, then maybe I’m not your number 1 choice. But, I will make every effort to do my absolute best.

For all of you.

A vote for Delphi is a vote for somebody who YOU can depend upon.

Don’t be a goose…vote for the moose.

Thank you.

Delphi
Speech for Alstonville Public School Prime-Minister – 2016
Aidan

Good morning everyone. My name is Aidan and I am new to your school. I have spent the last nine years of my life in another country called Papua New Guinea. People and a bad government. Many children in PNG are so poor that they can’t go to school. You guys are very lucky to be going to APS and the teachers here are wonderful.

The teachers are also very lucky to be teaching here. In PNG teachers often don’t get paid properly at all, and the schools families sometimes have to grow extra food in their gardens so that the teachers have enough to eat. So all you teachers here today should consider yourselves very lucky.

I would love to be your prime minister and represent Alstonville public at all the activities it participates in for example, ANZAC day. Why is ANZAC day so important to me? MY family has a strong tradition of participating in Anzac day ceremonies because both of my grandfathers have been in the army and have fought in wars. Since I was 4 I have been marching with my pop on Anzac day and for the last 2 years I have given speeches at Anzac day ceremonies.

I think that a good prime minister and leader is someone who:
- Listens
- Is good at public speaking
- Takes care of people
- Tries their best
- Has a go
- Is persistent and organised
- Sticks up for other people
- Has good values
- Is honest

I believe that I am all of these things and that’s why I think I will be a good prime minister for our school. THANKYOU FOR LISTENING.

Aidan
Dear parents,

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

**Listen** calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

**Reassure** your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, ‘That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.’ or ‘I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that's not fair at all’.

**Ask** your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

**Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

**Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

**Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

If you are looking for support for yourself to deal with a bullying situation, you will find ideas on the Bullying. No Way! website for parents. As well, please contact the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of our approach to preventing bullying.

Thanks for your support to make our school a great school for everyone.
say cheese

School Photo Day is
Wednesday 16th March 2016

Have your child’s school memories captured forever

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography order envelopes and remember these helpful points:

- Ensure your order is placed by photo day to avoid any late fees.
- Ordering online using your child’s Unique Shoot Key is the easiest, safest and most secure way to order. If you do not know their Unique Shoot Key, please call our office on the number below.
- Sibling photography envelopes are available for collection from your school office. Please read them carefully as appointments are limited.
- If enclosing payment inside an envelope, please ensure the correct money is provided as no change is given. Cash, cheques and money orders are accepted.
- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope, however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day. Please indicate on the child’s envelope that contains all sibling payments the names of the children you are paying for.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us on:

 e admin.gcnr@msp.com.au
 p 07 5668 9110    f 07 5520 2900
Alstonville Public School Newsletter

School Stream App—Keep Informed
Alstonville Public School has purchased a subscription to School Stream. This is an app that parents can download at no cost and receive updates from the school. There are many reasons to download this app:

- Receive the school newsletter weekly direct to your smartphone, iPad or tablet
- Receive notifications of postponed school events due to inclement weather
- Receive notifications of buses returning late or early from excursions
- Submit absentee forms to the school quickly and easily

More features will be added over the year.

Our school now has a free app to deliver school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone.

How to get the School Stream app on your mobile device
1. From your mobile device go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android), search for School Stream and download the app to your phone.
2. Make sure you agree to push notifications
3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search then select your school. For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download
4. Are your children attending different schools? Tap the school selector, select add a school, type the school name* into the search then add. Jump between your children’s schools by touching the school name/logo in the top blue bar, or switch schools from the slide-in menu.

*Any additional schools will need to be licensed  users of School Stream to appear in the app.

Choose what notifications you receive
1. Open the School Stream app on your mobile device
2. From the slide-in menu, go to Settings
3. Under Edit/Alerts select My Schools and select your School to open the Notifications page
4. Toggle notifications on or off individually (e.g. Alerts, Events, Newsletters, etc.)
5. When you have finished, use the Back button to return to the Settings page, then select Done to return to your School

Return at any time to change the notifications you receive.