



Alstonville High School Newsletter

Developing future citizens and leaders of the community – life long learning!

Cawley Close Alstonville

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Issue 18

20 November 2019

Alstonville High School

Our community values integrity
in all aspects of life

We value and support:

- A positive, healthy and safe learning environment
- Respectful attitudes and actions
- Diversity
- Pursuit of personal excellence
- Service to community
- Team work
- Quality learning and teaching
- Initiative, leadership and self-discipline

We aspire to be:

- Life-long learners
- Creative and critical thinkers
- Effective communicators
- Skilled in literacy and numeracy
- Independent and organised
- Competent and innovative with technology
- Environmentally, socially and culturally informed
- Caring and compassionate



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term 4

18 Nov	Mon – Fri	Year 7, 8 & 9 exams
21 Nov	Thursday	RRISK Year 12
27 Nov	Wednesday	Junior CAPA night
3 Dec	Tuesday	Orientation Day for Year 6 to 7 2020
12 Dec	Thursday	Cultural Festival
13 Dec	Friday	Year 9 Movieworld Excursion
16 Dec	Monday	Presentation Assembly
17 Dec	Tuesday	Movie and Lismore Pool

Our strategic guiding question?

How can we ensure that our students achieve at least one year's worth of learning growth from one year's worth of teaching?

Principal's report

Year 12 Formal

Thank you to Mr Thomas (year 12 adviser), Mrs Bramley-O'Connor and Ms Allan-Cameron, our 2020 year 12 students, parents and many other volunteers who helped out preparing for the year 12 formal last week. The weather was kind to us, the students looked amazing and the night ran really well. Mr Thomas and Mr Fay (year 12 parent) delivered some moving speeches and our departing captains demonstrated wit and confidence. Overall, it was another wonderful event celebrating an important milestone in the lives of our students, our school and our community.



Junior Examinations and Reports

Currently junior students are sitting their final examinations for 2019. Teachers will use these results and information gained during the semester to then write students reports. When completed these will be distributed to students and published to the SENCENTRAL portal.

School Elective Fees

A reminder to parents and caregivers that as the year draws to a close there is still a large percentage of elective fees outstanding for students in Years 9, 10 and 11. It is an expectation that these fees are paid as the students have elected to participate in these courses. By paying off each year then they do not accrue and become a large amount to be paid by the end of Year 12.

Professional Learning Update

On Tuesday 19th of November, our whole school team participated in an afternoon professional learning session regarding a review into the curriculum of NSW schools. The main context is about reviewing the:

- Content of the curriculum
- Structure of the curriculum
- Senior school curriculum

There is a separate information sheet for parents to consider and links to provide feedback if they wish to. I have also attached the link to the home page

<https://nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au/home/siteAreaContent/19e4f544-6d8b-4fbf-ba85-d3f9fc0b55e5>

On Monday 2nd December, the whole executive team will be evaluating our work during 2019 and looking ahead to what our strategies for 2020 might be. We will consider our school plan and the milestones that we map against, to ensure that our focus continues to reflect our guiding question. Students are the centre of any school and we need to ensure that we are meeting their needs and educating them to be capable and resourceful citizens of the 21st century.

End of term Planning

We are looking to end the school a little differently this year. On Thursday 12th December during periods 2, 3 and 4 we are running a cultural festival at school – more details to follow. Year 9 students will be on an excursion to Movieworld on Friday 13th December.

The end of year **presentation assembly will be on Monday 16th December** starting at 9:30am (finishing at approx. 11am). On Tuesday 17th December (the last day of school) students have the opportunity to travel to Lismore, initially seeing a movie and then progressing to the Lismore Pool where they will be able to use the full facilities. Students will then return to the school in the afternoon in time to catch regular buses.

John Parker, Relieving Principal

Canteen Volunteers

Remember:

Please volunteer for our school canteen. We need you – our students need your support!



Wanted Second Hand Uniforms

Our Uniform Shop is in need of any second hand uniforms.
If your child has outgrown any of their uniform could you please donate to our Uniform Shop

School Lockers Renewal for 2020

Locker payments are now overdue. If they wish to keep the locker for 2020 payment of \$25.00 needs to be paid to the office ASAP. If payment is not made the locker will be emptied by the General Assistant and offered to another student.



- ✚ **Battlebots** in the Library see post below!
- ✚ **ChessKid** - Learn and play chess with other kids around the world. This website comes recommended and is cybersafe. www.chesskid.com
- ✚ **Storyathon** - An exciting and free online writing challenge for Australian and New Zealand students from Year 3-8. Write a story that is EXACTLY 100 words. Register for free at www.storyathon.com
- ✚ Leo made it on to the ABC News Facebook page when I shared his 'work day.'



Agriculture

The agriculture department produced a horticultural display in the pavilion. A select group of year 8 students placed a number of horticultural entries into a variety of different classes of horticultural competitions and were awarded 6 first placings and 5 second placings. Thanks to Lucy Trease, Ally Wenban, Eliza Polak, Emma Leslie, Adalia Troncoso and Poppy Bailey-Tindley.



Members of the AHS cattle show team attended the stud cattle competitions with our breeding Red Angus herd. Our animals did not receive the same plane of nutrition as the steers at Lismore show and did not perform to their best on the day except for Jan our 22 month old heifer, led by Clara Tolman, who won first prize in her senior class and the reserve champion senior heifer ribbon.



Ben Holmes/Agriculture Dept

TAS

TAS continues to work closely with Crawford House Museum, we currently have a whole range of 2019 TAS projects on display. See the notes attached of when to visit and come along and support AHS students, either by looking through the museum display or book a ticket for upcoming launch and fashion parade 7th December (see notice below for details how to book).

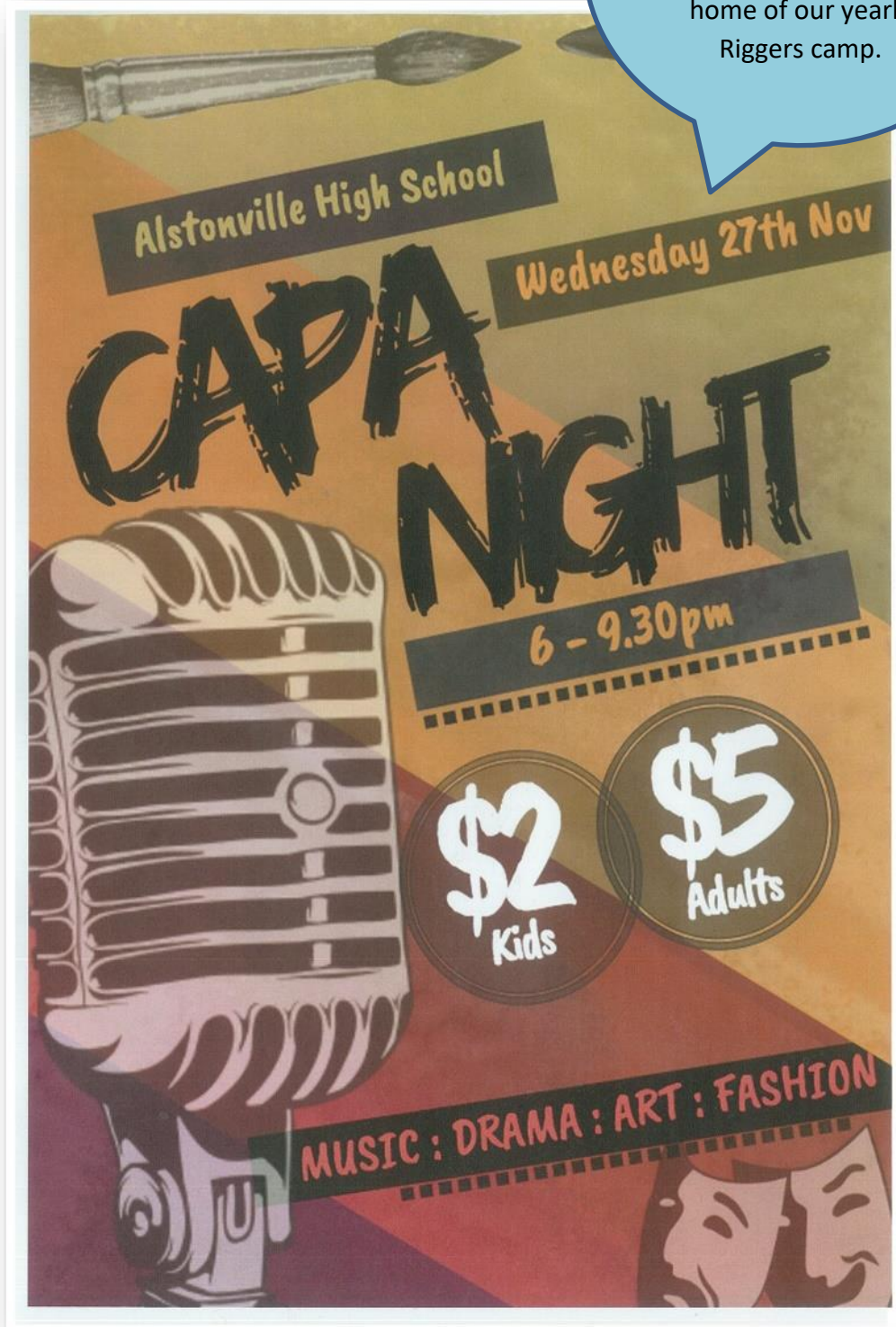
I also took the Year 11 Textiles and Design class to the museum and we enjoyed a talk all centred around the history of the museum and the change of clothing through the eras part of the HSC curriculum for Textiles and Design, it was a very hands on experiences with Lois Hennes, Ruth Povall and Laurella Tall. The talk was around supporting the students with the production of a Major Textile Project, with wonderful discussion on the eras of history.



<p>‘Designed to Inspire’</p> <p>You are invited to a Collaborative Exhibition: Frock Club and Alstonville High School Technological Applied Studies (TAS)</p> <p>Showcasing current students’ work from Alstonville High School 2019 and select pieces from the Museum’s Frock Club Collection. Support our TAS students. Delight in their potential. They are our future!</p>	<p>Exhibition Opening, Fashion Show & Garden Party</p> <p>Venue: Crawford House Museum 10 Wardell Rd, Alstonville</p> <p>Date: Saturday, 7 December 2019</p> <p>Time: 1:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$10 per person (BYO chair or rug) Children under 18 years free Light refreshments will be served</p> <p>Payment: Prepaid Tickets ONLY Eventbrite (online) Alstonville High School office 9am to 3pm weekdays</p> <p>Event will run rain, hail or shine – alternate venue BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW!!!!</p>
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Vanessa Christmas / Relieving TAS Head Teacher

All money raised will be donated to the fire damaged Nymboida Education Centre, home of our yearly Riggers camp.



Sports News

North Coast School Sport Association Awards for 2019

Congratulations to year 12 student Brooke Hofmeyer who has been recognised for her outstanding performances in school sport. Brooke Hofmeyer has been awarded a North Coast Honour Blues Award. The Honour Blues Award is the highest recognition you can receive in North Coast School Sport and Brooke is the only student in the North Coast Region to receive this award in 2019.

Through much dedication and determination Brooke has achieved outstanding performances when representing the North Coast at NSWCHS State Championships. Brooke completed with distinction at the National Youth Touch Championships as a member of the NSWCHS 18 Years Girls Touch Team in both 2018 and 2019.

Brooke has not only achieved in sport but have maintained excellent personal qualities including exceptional behaviour, dress and sportsmanship. I congratulate Brooke for her exceptional achievements in school sport this year.



Water Polo

Congratulations to the following girls selected in the North Coast Open Girls Water Polo Team. These girls will now travel to Wagga Wagga for the NSWCHS Girls Water Polo Championships to be held from Monday 25 to Thursday 28 November. Good Luck.

Lilly Scott yr 8	Amy Bransgrove yr 9	Hannah Gilmour yr 9
Grace Hadlow yr 9	Amalia Jobson yr 9	Erin Bryce yr 10
Eva Jones yr 10	Emma Bransgrove yr 11	Jessica Chate yr 11
Tess Gilmour yr 11	Charlotte Lopes yr 11	Mikayla Nelson yr 11

Paul Francis/Sports Organiser

Careers Communication

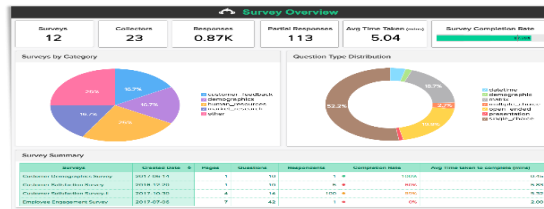
Resource for Job Seekers - <https://myfuture.edu.au/footer/assist-others/job-search-resources>

(Source: Cathy Danaher- Stakeholder and Partnerships Coordinator |myfuture|Careers)



REMINDER!

Parent Survey – Thank you to all parents of students at Alstonville High School who have already completed the short anonymous Careers Faculty survey sent out on school email addresses 2 weeks ago. If you wish to participate, please do so in the next couple of weeks. These results will be used to assist future Careers Planning and programs offered at Alstonville High. We often get comments and questions from parents, so this is an opportunity for you to have your say and support your child. If your email has changed please contact me on my school email below so I can forward the link direct to you.



Last chance - Still waiting for a large number of Year 12 to complete a short anonymous exit survey for Careers Adviser to help with forward planning. Link was sent out to school email late last term. Thanks in advance.

Other useful websites and information:

<https://www.lifelauncher.nsw.gov.au>

<https://alstonvillehighcareers.com>

<https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au>

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/documents/schooltowork/ParentsTalkingCareerChoices.pdf>

Information on school- based Apprenticeship and Traineeships -<https://sbatinnsw.info>



Karen Horne Careers Adviser

Email: Karen.horne@det.nsw.edu.au

Eye exams for children and young people are very important to ensure your child's eyes are healthy and that they have no vision problems that could interfere with school performance and potentially affect their safety.

Eye exams also are very important because children need the following visual skills that are essential for optimal learning (particularly for developing literacy, numeracy and practical skills):

- Excellent [visual acuity](#) at all distances
- Accurate and comfortable eye teaming skills
- Accurate eye movement skills

Accurate and comfortable focusing skills

All school-aged children should have an eye exam at least every two years if no vision correction is required. Children who wear glasses should be examined annually or as recommended by your eye doctor.

Deb Gale – Learning and Support Teacher

RRISK Year 12

Supervising your Learner Driver (L)



Learner drivers under 25

- Must have at least 120 hours of supervised on-road driving experience, including 20 hours at night time;
- One hour of structured driving tuition by a professional driving instructor will count as 3 hours in the Learner Driver Log Book to a maximum of 10 hours counting as 30 log book hours.
- Must hold an L licence for at least 12 months.
- For L and P1 drivers mobile phone use is prohibited, even hands-free or loudspeaker; and
- Learner drivers are allowed to travel up to 90km/h

Tips for Parents

- Safe driving takes time and practice – it is more than just operating a vehicle. Safe driving is about skills and attitudes.
- Don't rush teaching to drive. It takes many years to become a competent driver. Repeat safety messages and discuss safety strategies.
- Young drivers model the driving of parents and carers. Make sure your driving models careful, calm behaviour that follows the road rules.
- Plan for a variety of driving experiences (e.g. different road conditions, weather conditions) and vary the time of day.
- Shorter drives can be useful early on.
- Discuss risky behaviours and attitudes (such as speeding, drink driving, distraction, the influence of friends, impulsive or aggressive behaviour)
- Reduce the risk of distraction (e.g. turn off mobile phones)
- Keep instructions short and clear.
- Be positive and acknowledge when your teenager does well rather than criticise.
- At the end of a drive reinforce achievements and discuss areas to work on.
- Real on-road driving experience is more beneficial than 'advanced' or 'defensive' off-road driver training. Advanced or defensive driver courses can lead to overconfidence and increased risk-taking.
- You and your young driver should read the Road Users Handbook (NSW road rules) and understand the licence conditions.
- For helpful information, attend a free 'Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers Workshop' in your local area. Contact the Roads and Maritime Services on 13 22 13 or visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au
- Keep the log book accurate. Skimping on the log book will not improve the safety of young drivers.
- Keep a photocopy of the log book in case it is misplaced or damaged. Alternatively, keep a record on driving hours in a separate book in the car and transpose trip details into the log book that can be kept in a secure location at home.

For more information see <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/drivers/index.html>

Look for more information about the RRISK Program in this newsletter over the coming weeks.



Term 4 Homework Centre ONLY!

When: Every Monday

Time: 3.20pm to 5pm

Where: AHS Library

Come along please bring your latest H/W and assignment tasks

Provided: Fresh fruit and biscuits

Mrs Christmas TAS Head Teacher

Recycle 10c Bottles at school:

Please encourage your children to use the new 10c bottle collection cages located in the school. Return their used bottles and poppers at the end of recess and lunch. The school environmental group will collect and ensure that money is then used to improve the environment at Alstonville High School.

KEEP RECYCLING THOSE BOTTLES 😊

New Project – Compost bins around the school

Please encourage your children to use the new bins around the school at recess and lunch. The school environmental group will collect the compost and take down to the school set up for composting in the Agricultural plot.

The Environmental Group and Mrs Christmas/Ms Varela

WHAT DOES THE NSW CURRICULUM REVIEW INTERIM REPORT MEAN FOR ME? PARENTS

What has happened so far?

In May 2018, the NSW Government announced the launch of the NSW Curriculum Review (the Review). This was the first comprehensive review of the NSW primary and secondary curriculum since 1989, and aims to equip students to continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

Last year, we asked the NSW community to have their say on the key issues they felt the Review should address, consistent with its [Terms of Reference](#). Based on this input, the review lead Professor Geoff Masters has developed the [NSW Curriculum Review Interim Report](#) (the Interim Report).

What we heard from parents and carers

The initial public consultation received valuable feedback from parents, carers and peak representative stakeholder groups. Here are the key messages we heard.

Focusing on core skills and aptitudes

During the primary years of schooling, parents, carers and peak representative groups voiced support for a greater focus on developing students' core basic skills and competencies, such as literacy and numeracy. Throughout primary years, parents believe teachers should have a good understanding of students' performance in these key areas.

For the parents, our curriculum is overcrowded and doesn't allow for enough time to be spent [on basic literacy and numeracy] especially in the formative years... therefore there needs to be a stronger focus at school on these two main areas.
Parent

Parents and carers interested in how this has been incorporated into the Interim Report may wish to review [Reform Direction 4 – A common entitlement](#). This proposes every student in NSW is provided a 'common entitlement', specifying what every student is entitled and expected to learn while at school. This includes prioritising literacy, numeracy and social and emotional development for children who require this in the early years of school, and studying a specified range of subjects and achieving minimally acceptable standards in them by the completion of their schooling.

Challenging students to learn successfully

Parents, carers and peak representative groups also communicated that the purpose of schooling should be to challenge students to learn successfully. It was said that if students are challenged to learn successfully, they will possess the necessary skills and attributes to successfully meet life's challenges.

If we equip kids with the skills to reach their full potential no matter what area that may be in, we will be churning out young people who will be able to apply themselves and be versatile in whatever they choose to do after the schooling years.
Parent

Parents and carers interested in how this has been incorporated into the Interim Report may wish to review [Reform Direction 6 – Restructuring the Curriculum](#). This proposes restructuring and reducing curriculum content, allowing teachers the time to establish and understand where individuals are in their learning and targeting teaching accordingly.



www.nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au
NSW Education Standards Authority

WHAT DOES THE NSW CURRICULUM REVIEW INTERIM REPORT MEAN FOR ME? PARENTS

What we heard from parents and carers (continued)

Supporting students to build the foundations they need for a diversity of post-school work and study options

Many parents, carers and peak representative groups felt that the existing secondary school curriculum focuses too narrowly on student transition from senior school to university at the expense of other work and study pathways.

Currently there is a focus on ATAR and university as the ultimate pathway to success. However, only a minority of students go on to further study at university. There has been a de-emphasis on vocational pathways despite the fact that the majority of school leavers are not going on to university.
Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT

Parents and carers interested in how this has been incorporated into the Interim Report may wish to review [Reform Direction 11 – Creating a more integrated curriculum](#). This is committed to the development of a limited set of rigorous, high-quality 'advanced courses', each of which incorporates both theory and application and is designed to develop knowledge, understandings, skills and attributes for further learning, life and work. Balancing theory and application for all options in the senior secondary curriculum would be an important step towards recognising the value of both academic and vocational learning pathways.

What happens next?

We are now asking for public comment on the Interim Report to refine the key reform directions and prepare the final report. The final report will be presented to the NSW Government by Professor Geoff Masters in 2020.

The public consultation period will be open until 13 December 2019.



If you would like to comment on any of the reform directions mentioned here or in the Interim Report, information on how to make submissions can be found at www.nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au

Community Announcements



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Education



Information sessions for PARENTS and PROVIDERS

NDIS and its Interface with Education

The Department of Education together with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), would like to invite you to attend an Information Session for parents about the NDIS and the range of supports available including supports which assist young people to transition to post school life and employment.

The Information Session will cover:

- Understanding the NDIS
- Seeking access to the NDIS
- The participant pathway
- Post school pathways and employment supports
- Preparing for your planning appointment
- Let's Talk About Work booklet
- Meet Providers in your local area
- Q&A

Wednesday 27 November, 1 - 3pm
Toormina High School - COFFS HARBOUR
Armstrong Rd, Toormina NSW 2452

Thursday 28 November, 1 - 3pm
Southern Cross Public School - BALLINA
Chickiba Dr, East Ballina NSW 2478

Please contact Rowan Coombes on (02)6656 6644 OR email rowan.coombes@det.nsw.edu.au to confirm your attendance.



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