

## Alawa Primary School Newsletter

Welcome to the Alawa Primary School weekly newsletter

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<https://www.facebook.com/AlawaPrimary/>



### Principal Update

Welcome to Week 2 News!

We had a fabulous relatively smooth start to the year last week. Our students all settled into their new classrooms and started establishing relationships with their new teachers and their peers. The behaviour, attitudes and efforts were terrific to see - even navigating some wild, wet weather and a few absences.

#### Student Leadership Roles

Many of our student volunteers have already stepped into the roles as Microphone monitors, Clipboard monitors and house point collectors. By Wednesday this week students in Years 5 and 6 will be nominating if they wish to be considered for Captain or Vice School Captain. Week 3 those wishing to be considered for House Captains will share their thoughts at House Meetings on Friday 17th February.

#### Pep Talks

Last week I enjoyed my time in with cherubs from 4/5 Lawrence, 5/6 Henderson and 3 Smedley setting the scene for the year and focussing on our school priorities while checking in with them all about what excites them about the coming months. Not surprisingly camp and kitchen lessons are highlights for many of them. This week I have visited 5/6 Baines, 4/5 Block and 3/4 Bernardino.

Have a fantastic week,

**Sandy Cartwright** *[Principal of the Best School in the Multiverse]*



### Assistant Principal Update

I have had a delightful time visiting classrooms and getting to know the students. It has been wonderful talking with the students during break times and they have all made me feel so welcome here at Alawa Primary.

#### PEP Talks

Ms Cartwright and I have been busy with our PEP talks in class. It is a timely reminder to focus on our school values, ALLE's tools for learning and having a Growth Mindset. We discuss behaviours, awards, attendance, events from last term and what's happening this term. I was blown away by how articulate the student responses were.

#### Playgroup

I am pleased to announce that Playgroup will resume this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. As always, we are very excited to welcome any new families. I would like to thank Maria for her outstanding work facilitating Playgroup over the last few years. This year we welcome Erin to the role. Erin is enthusiastic and eager to begin and has some exciting activities planned for the weeks ahead.

#### NAPLAN

There has been a change to the testing schedule for NAPLAN for 2023. Students in Year 3 and 5 will participate in NAPLAN in Term 1 starting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March [weeks 7-9]. Bringing the test forward aims at provide schools with data earlier so that we can better target our teaching and learning strategies based on areas of improvement.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. NAPLAN tests four areas; reading, writing, conventions of language [spelling and grammar] and numeracy. I will provide regular updates in the upcoming weeks.

If parents wish to withdraw their students from NAPLAN testing, please feel free to come and discuss this with me.



Many thanks 😊

**Bianca Hyke [Assistant Principal]**

### **Introducing....Janelle Thorne**

Senior Teacher Early Years

I have lived in the Northern Territory for 28 years and taught in both urban and regional settings during this period. I am a passionate, committed teacher who believes every child can succeed when given authentic, appropriate, challenging, and diverse opportunities to learn. My expertise is in teaching and learning in the Early Years – understanding child development, the importance of developing strong relationships and engaging students in their learning, taking into consideration their interests and strengths. I appreciate working alongside my colleagues and believe as teachers we continue to build upon our knowledge every day. I thrive on watching children grow, develop and share their successes.

Personally, I enjoy the outdoors – riding, swimming, camping and general Darwin experiences. I am a passionate reader and love sewing in my spare time. I feel very privileged to be part of the amazing Alawa team and look forward to engaging with colleagues, students, parents / carers and the community throughout the year.



### **Introducing....Rachel Barnett**

Special Education Teacher

My name is Rachel Barnett and I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the staff and students at Alawa Primary School this year. I will be working as the Special Education Teacher across the school so I am lucky I get to work with lots of different classes. I have been a teacher for a long time in the Northern Territory, South Australia and even overseas. My last school was on Groote Eylandt. I loved living there as it is very beautiful and my family love fishing and camping. We moved to Darwin in the middle of last year and love being in the 'big city'... Well, compared to Groote Eylandt, anyway! Please say hello if you see me in the school. I look forward to meeting you all.



### **Events calendar**

Friday 10 February	Assembly hosted by the NT Learning Commission and Ms Cartwright	8:40am
Monday 13 February	School Council meeting	5:30pm
Friday 24 February	Assembly hosted by Year 3/4 Bernardino - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 3/4 Bernardino	8:40am
Wednesday 1 March	Meet the Teacher followed by Alawa Primary School AGM	5pm 6:30pm
Friday 3 March	Netball Gala day	All day
Saturday 4 March	Farm Working Bee	8:30am
Friday 10 March	Assembly hosted by Year 4/5 Block - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 4/5 Block	8:40am
Friday 10th March	Learning Commission Start up Day [Student Commissioners, Mrs Baines, Ms Katie & Ms Cartwright]	All day
Wednesday 15 - Friday 27 March	NAPLAN testing [Years 3& 5 only]	All day - timetabled
Friday 17 March	Primary Years Swimming Program [Year 3-6 only]	All day
Monday 20 March	School Council meeting	5:30pm

Friday 24 March	Assembly hosted by Year 1 Thorne-Baines - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 1 Thorne-Baines Primary Years Swimming Program [Year 3-6 only]	8:40am All day
Thursday 6 April	Soccer Gala day Last Day of Term 1	All day
Friday 7 April	Public Holiday - Good Friday	All day

### **Honour Awards - To be presented Friday 10th February.**

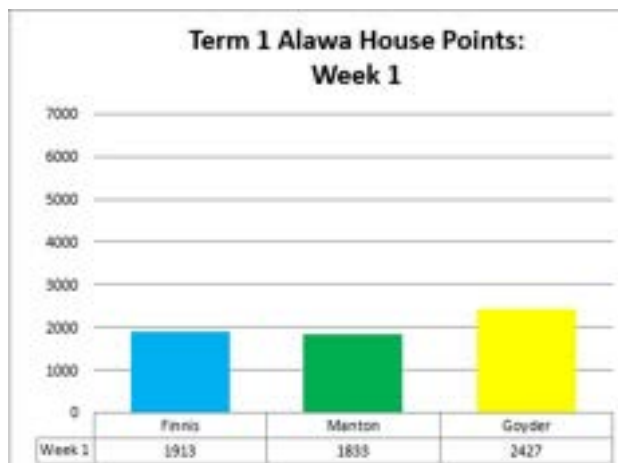
This Friday at Assembly 3 students will be presented with Honour Awards in recognition of receiving 10 Merit Awards - congratulations!

Taylor Bowman	William Coote	Aalayiah Favreau	
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### **House points**

Students at Alawa receive raffle tickets [house points] for their attitude and behaviour in the playground and out the front of the school at the end of the day. Students also can earn house points for having a go at the weekly quizz emailed out Monday mornings by Ms Cartwright. These points are then counted on a Friday along with the points for students in full uniform, wearing house shirts etc. At the end of each term we also include the points earned through the recycling project and water bottle checks.

**In Week 1 of Term 1 Goyder was ahead with 2427 points!**

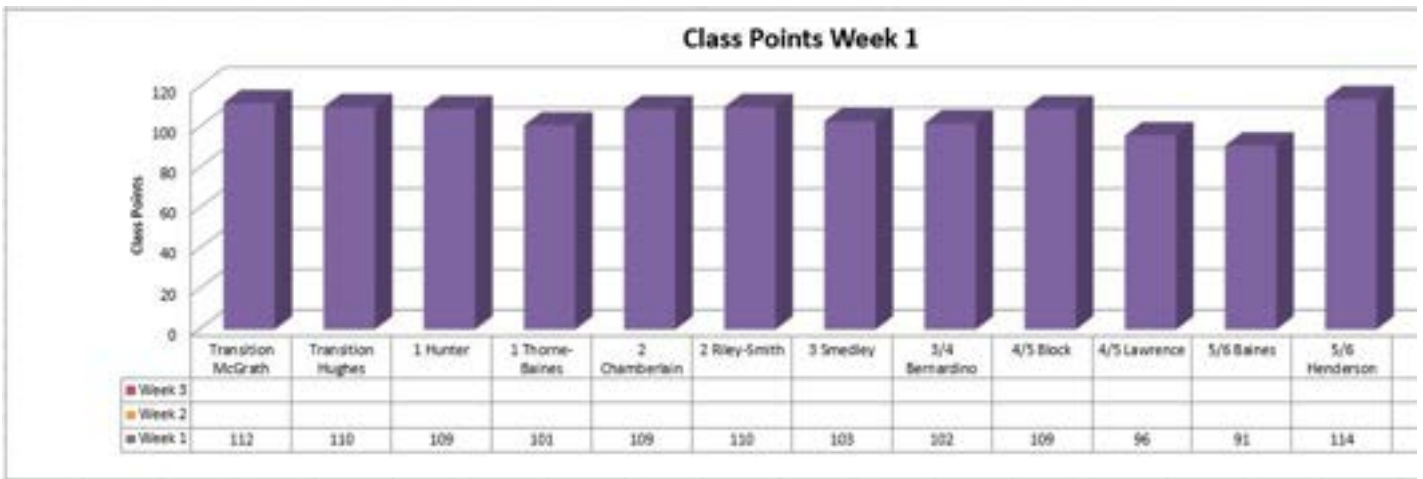


### **Class points**

Muster is held at Alawa after each recess and lunch break - this gives us an opportunity for everyone to settle from playtime, share any celebrations and work on consistency of messages and expectations.

Each week we allocate class points during Muster time recognising those students who were ready and waiting to go back to class calmly and quietly after break times. The winning class from each 3 weeks will receive ice-blocks from Ms Cartwright and get to choose 5 songs that will play before our bells for the following 3 weeks.

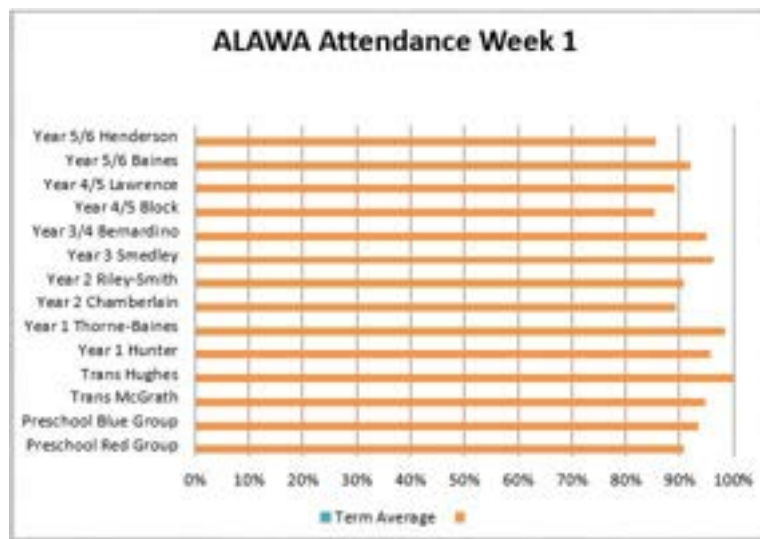
**The class with the most points in Week 1 of Term 1 was....5/6 Henderson with 114 points!!!**



## Attendance

Primary School Average for Week 1 Term 1: 92.60%

The class with the highest attendance for Week 7: Transition Hughes with 100%!!! Amazing job!!!

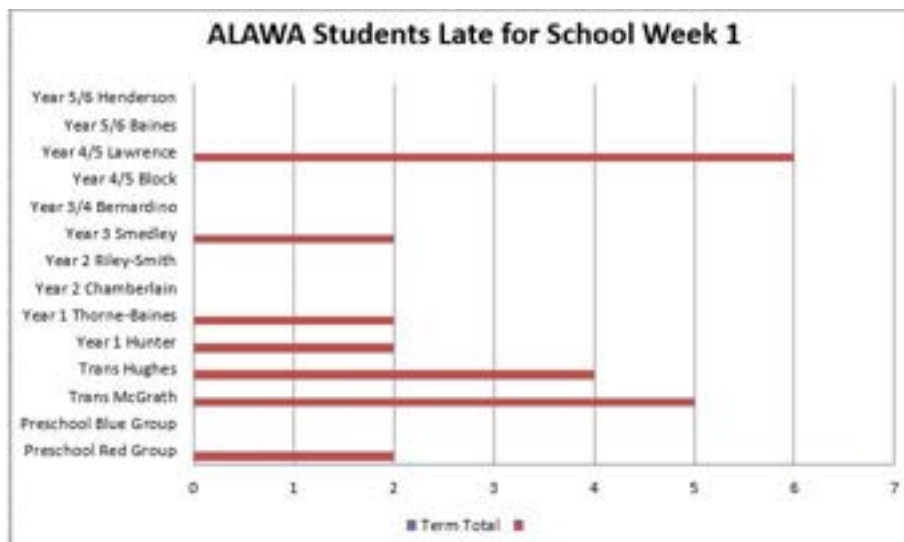


## Lates

Arriving late for school has a significant impact on your child's learning and engagement in the education program.

There were 23 late arrivals in Transition—Year 6 in Week 1 Term 1!

**For Week 7 the class with the least lates was: 2 Ward with 0 lates!!!**





# DOES ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTER

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much, but...

If your child misses:	That equals:	Which is:	Over 13 years that's:
 1/2 day per week	 20 days per year	 1 month per year	 1.5 years of school
 1 day per week	 40 days per year	 2 months per year	 2.5 years of school
 2 days per week	 80 days per year	 4 months per year	 5 years of school
 3 days per week	 120 days per year	 Over half a school year	 8 years of school

Every day counts!

## Preschool news

What a busy first week it has been! It has been so lovely meeting all our new children and families.

Preschool opens at 8:20, parents are able to leave at 8:30 when the bell rings. Don't forget to sign your child in and out each morning, this is a legal requirement, and helps us keep all children safe.

We are on the hunt for some donations to use with the children! So if you are ever cleaning out at home please keep us in mind. We are looking for the following things:

- cushions
- old toys
- wool
- dress ups
- clean boxes to use for box construction
- real kitchen supplies for our dramatic play areas such as, small plates, cutlery, serving spoons, mixing bowls, saucepans, tongs.

See you later, Alligator!

### Preschool Team

[Angela Henshke, Emma Churchman, Kelly Crawford and Flor Hodgson]



## Library news

It has been wonderful to see so many familiar and some new faces around the school and in the Library over the last week. I have had fun welcoming classes back into the Library and had the chance to read with some of them sharing the books Mister Seahorse and The Way of the Weedy Sea Dragon. I have also welcomed 9 Library Monitors on board for the coming year and have started introducing them to how the Library is run. Congratulations to: Lucinda, Cleo, Shannon, Finlay, Aria, Olivia, Maebe, Halle and Chloe on your role as Library Monitors. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year 😊

There are a number of books which were borrowed last year that still need to be returned. I will be sending out overdue notices this week and would appreciate your help in locating any books your child may still have outstanding. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful week and happy reading.

**Ms Sacha [Library and ICT Manager]**



### **Farm news**

Hello, I'm Mrs Cleary and alongside Mr Bob, the Farm Manager, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our wonderful Alawa School Community. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome in my new role as Alawa Farm Teacher.

The Farm has grown into a beautiful jungle over the wet season! Thank you so much to all the volunteers who fought through the rain, humidity and mud to support our Farm and the Alawa School Community. It really wouldn't be the rich learning space that it is without volunteers such as; Kath Whitfi Pearson, Kelly Crawford, Dione Aland, Chris Brady, Maria De Van Geest, Dee-Ann Vahlberg, and Christine Jeffries. We're so grateful to you all for your Christmas Break.

We are always looking for more parents and relatives to come into the Farm and support their little ones! Please let Mr Bob know if you want any more information.

The Alawa Farm has always had a strong hands-on focus in exploring healthy food and sustainable practices in science, with the support of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. Mr Bob and I have been very busy during the holidays re-organising the Farm learning areas, planning exciting programs and of course enjoying the surplus of limes and mint.



This first week, all the classes (except for Transition, due to the rain!) have had an orientation around the Farm and enjoyed meeting our newest feathered friends, Quails.

Next week, we will start our 'warriors against weeds' which will continue for a few weeks while the ground is soft. We hope to get new fish for the ac plant trays are prepped. Lastly, our Flow Hive has a newly established bee colony, and they seem to be happily buzzing about. Thank you, Mary, for your expertise in this area!

We are both feeling very excited about the year ahead and seeing you all!

**Mrs Cleary [Farm Teacher] and Bob Jenner [Farm Manager]**

### **Playgroup news**

Playgroup will resume this week - Friday Week 2, 10th February at 9:30am in the Preschool.

Everyone welcome.

**Miss Erin [Playgroup Coordinator]**



### **Volunteer Survey**

Our annual parent volunteer survey is now available by clicking the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlawaFamilyInvolvementSurvey>

At Alawa we value our Alawa school community and the support they provide us throughout the year in many various roles. We thank each of you for your commitment to our school and community and thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting the school on 8997 7666 or [alawa.school@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:alawa.school@education.nt.gov.au)

This survey will close Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

*\*Please note that all volunteers in schools must have an ochre card to be sighted by staff and added to our register*

## **Xuno Parent Portal**

This year we will be utilizing a new communication tool – the Xuno parent portal [Xuno Family].

You should have received an email with details and an invitation to join last Friday.

The Xuno family app will help make communication with the school quick and easy and can be downloaded to your phone in a few simple steps.

The app has a variety of features such as:

- allows you to send messages to the school and class teacher
- view the school calendar of events
- quick access to newsletter and school notices
- ability to book Student Led Conferences for late March [when open]
- view Semester 1 and 2 reports from 2022 [We were hoping to have these available from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February BUT will now be available next week]

If you do not receive the email please check your junk box before contacting the school.

Please be aware that we will **NOT** be utilizing all the standard features on the dashboard, so some areas will stay empty such as:

- attendance [as we record that in a different system mandated by the NTG]
- timetable

We have asked the developers to 'deactivate' / hide these but that has not been able to be done as yet.

## **Long sleeved uniform shirts**

Pre orders for our long sleeved shirts are now open. To order visit the front office during school hours. Orders will close Week 3, Friday 17th February.

Orders will take approximately 6 weeks so we expect delivery around the end of this term, ready to wear Term 2



## **Cafe**

Our Mission is to provide the Alawa School community with delicious healthy meals and snacks and to create meaningful links to our kitchen garden program. We will do our best to ensure we order the same products as advertised but occasionally have to change due to stock availability.

Available every day lunch only:

- mini beef burgers \$4.50
- spaghetti bolognese small serve \$4.50 or large serve \$6.50 /Gluten Free Spaghetti \$6.50 [Wed & Thu only]

**Wednesday – Beef Nachos - Large size \$6.50, Small \$4.50**

**Thursday – Chicken Stir Fry - Large size \$6.50, Small \$4.50**

**Friday – Homemade Beef Burgers - \$6.50**

A reminder that our school Cafe is open Wednesday to Friday ONLY. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Order online at [www.quickcliq.com.au](http://www.quickcliq.com.au)

## **Community notices**

**KIDS SPACE**  
 Children's Therapeutic Group

**NETSETGO 2023**

**FINDS NETBALL CLUBS**

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST 8WEEK PROGRAM OF 2023

NET (5/6 YRS)  
 NET (7/8 YRS)  
 NET (9/10 YRS)

8 WEEK PROGRAM  
 EVERY TUESDAY 9-9PM  
 BEGINNING 7TH FEBRUARY  
 \$180 PER PARTICIPANT

SPORTS VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

GoNets.com NT

**TRACY VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB**

**2023 SIGN ON DAY**

11am to 1pm **SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY**  
 Tracy Village Social Club, Tumbling Terrace Lyons

**SPORTS VOUCHERS ACCEPTED**

**JUNIORS (5 YEARS+ BOYS/GIRLS)**

**SENIORS MEN**

**SENIORS WOMEN**

**BEST FACILITIES**

**NEW JUNIOR GIRLS PLAY FREE**

Past, Current and New players welcome  
**FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND CRICKET!**  
 Junior Ph: 0418 817 825 Senior Ph: 0423 729 456  
 admin@tracyvillagecc.com.au

Find us on

**MINIROOS KICKOFF**

An introductory football program for GIRLS AGED 5-11 YEARS

STARTS 06 Feb 2023

Get active and learn to play football in a fun, safe and inclusive learning environment

7pm to 8pm **EVERY MONDAY**  
 at Barwin Football Stadium  
 \$125.00 for 8 sessions

For more information visit: [www.barwinfootballstadium.com.au](http://www.barwinfootballstadium.com.au)

**MINIROOS KICKOFF**

An introductory football program for BOYS AGED 6-11 YEARS

STARTS 06 FEB 2023

Get active and learn to play football in a fun, safe and inclusive learning environment

7pm to 8pm **EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
 at Barwin Football Stadium  
 \$125.00 for 8 sessions

For more information visit: [www.barwinfootballstadium.com.au](http://www.barwinfootballstadium.com.au)

**dtta**

**Want to play table tennis?**

Come to our Club Open Day and give table tennis a go!

Saturday 18 February, 10 to 12, free and fun activity for all ages including free BBQ

Devon Table Tennis Club Members will be on hand to tell you about the Club, equipment, opportunities for social play, age grade competitions, and our Junior Coaching Program

Demonstration by our top junior players at 10.30am BBQ starts 11.30am

No prior experience necessary, bats and balls provided, please wear tennis shoes with non-marking soles and bring your own bottle and water container

Our Open Day is all part of DTTA's Fit For program, so get involved, meet others, have fun, keep active and healthy!

More info Michael Hickey DTTA President 0427 888 128

Senior Members Multi Purpose Hall, 22 Kears Road, Mares

[www.devontabletennis.com.au](http://www.devontabletennis.com.au) DTTA Facebook @devontabletennis Email: [DevonTTA@gmail.com](mailto:DevonTTA@gmail.com)