Principal’s Corner

Congratulations to our new school and house captains. We were very proud of every student who nominated themselves for the school and house captain roles. Building leadership in all students is one of our most important goals. We are looking forward to working with our leaders and expanding their skills.

A big thank you to our Vacation Care staff for the wonderful service they provided over the school holidays. Thank you to Felicity and Jaime for their leadership. Jaime is now working as an integration aide at the school while she begins and completes her teaching degree.

School council elections will be held over the next two weeks. We have 3 parent positions available. Nomination forms are available at the office. You can either self nominate or have a nominator. The forms are also on the school’s website. The election will be held from 14th - 28th of February. If we have more than 3 nominations we will hold elections in the following week.

Thank you to the parents who helped at the school swimming team training and provided breakfast back at school afterwards. Parents are a very valued part of our school community. Thank you to Mr. Clarke for organising the training. I believe that 25 pieces of toast was the record for breakfast! Training was held at 7:30 am so it was quite a commitment for staff and families.

Mr. Rouse has been forming the school Rock Bands this week. The talent is amazing. Congratulations to all the students involved. I can’t wait to hear you sing at assembly.

The grade 4 students received their netbooks last week. They are very excited. It is so uplifting to see the difference having a netbook makes to student engagement and learning.

The Farmers Market is on this Saturday. There are lots of stall and fun activities. Come along and support the school. I will be at the market at around 10:00 a.m.

The following is an extract from the new DEECD guidelines on student attendance:

**Every day counts – school attendance**

We all want our students to get a great education. The building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.
Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

Let’s make sure that every child attends school on every possible day with the exception of days when they are unwell or have an appropriate appointment. Some students are rarely absent.

2014 has started brilliantly. We have a fabulous team of teachers and staff throughout the school committed to providing the best possible social, emotional, creative and academic education for every student. Good luck to our sports teams this Friday.

I will be starting school tours for prospective 2015 parents next week.

Have a great weekend

Kevin Enright

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**ASTHMA, ANAPHYLAXIS, ALLERGY, DIABETES, SEIZURE ACTION PLAN UPDATES**

It is imperative for us to have up to date medical information on our students and in particular for ASTHMA, ANAPHYLAXIS, ALLERGIES, DIABETES and SEIZURE Action Plans. All of these plans need to be updated annually. New plans have been sent home for Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Allergies. **Please have the new plans completed, signed by a doctor and returned to school by the end of February.**

If you have any concerns, please see Debbie Galvin.
DATES TO REMEMBER 2014

Wednesday February 19th
“Starting the Learning Partnership Meetings”
(Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings) 1.30pm-7.30pm
All children dismissed at 1pm

Tuesday 11th March
Marvelous Me Incursion - Preps

Wednesday 12th March
APS Cross Country Prep – 6 (9am – 11am)

Tuesday 18th March
School Photos
(whole school)

Thursday 20th – 31st March
Life Ed Van

Friday 4th April
Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 22nd April
First day of Term 2

Friday 25th April
Anzac Day – Public holiday

Congratulations to our School and House Captains

School Captains  James Lam & Alicia Vranes

House Captains  Red –  Gerry Bigolin & Lola Coombes
              Blue –  Skye Baker & Lachlan King
              Green –  Zoe Woods & Nick Prassinos
              Purple -  Abi Inglis & Liam Hanna
              Yellow -  Trent Buckner & Joy Lin
**Sports Corner**

**Swimming:**
Last week saw the start of our swimming campaign for 2014. It was great to have so many students put their hand up to try out this year. We had a great day at the pool getting through our trials on Thursday and have now picked the team to compete next Tuesday the 18th of Feb. Good luck to all those students involved.
Thankyou also to our Parent’s Club who have done an amazing job helping with our training breakfast. The students really enjoy this part of being in the swim team due to your hard work.

**Casey Tutungi:**

An update for everybody on the progress of Casey Tutungi (the footballer from Geelong who we did a fundraiser for last year). I believe that Casey has been going very well with his rehabilitation and is now back home after spending time at the rehab facility in Kew. Casey continues to work hard with his recovery and no doubt will continue to show great determination. Something we can all aim to do in times of adversity. He and his partner have also welcomed a new baby in to their family which I'm sure has given them great happiness.

Thankyou to all those families who donated to this great cause, we were able to raise over $500 as a school!! Great work everyone!

**Summer Sport:**
Good luck to all teams for summer sport which starts this Friday morning. Just a reminder that the Yellow team will have practice at school this week as Altona College had to cancel due to scheduling issues.

**Mr Clarke**

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**APS CROSS COUNTRY - HELPERS NOTE**

As you will be aware, our school cross country will be taking place on place on **Wednesday the 12th of March**
It is a great morning every year with all students in the school taking part in the event.
The day could not run without the invaluable support of our parents. So if you are available on that morning between the hours of 9:00am and 10:45am your help would be greatly appreciated. This is also a good opportunity to cheer on your child from different areas around the course.

As the event is coming around quite soon, it would be great if you are to complete and put the below slip in my pigeon hole by **Friday the 28th of February**

**PARENT NAME:..................................................................................................................**
**Time: (Please Circle)**
9:00am – 9:45am
9:45am – 10:45am
or
9:00am-10:45am (whole morning)
Dear Parents,

This year Altona Primary School will once again be offering parents the opportunity to take part in our PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (Literacy & Numeracy)

This program is designed for parents/caregivers who wish to assist in classrooms within the Literacy and Numeracy block and/or who wish to learn some strategies for helping their own children with Literacy/Numeracy at home. Please be aware that this Education Program is a requirement for all parents who wish to assist with Literacy and Numeracy within our classrooms. Participants will have the opportunity to explore how children learn and how, together with classroom teachers, parents/caregivers can continue to support their children's Literacy and Numeracy development. The program focuses on Literacy and Numeracy learning of all students; however it is particularly beneficial to parents/caregivers of Prep – 2 students and/or new families to the school.

Previous participants have ranged from Mums and Dads to Grandparents and/or other persons supporting student learning at home. Feedback from previous participants indicated that the program gave them a valuable insight into how students learn within the current educational context and strategies they can utilise at home.

The program will run over four weekly sessions the dates being:
Friday 28th February 2014
Friday 7th March 2014 (Numeracy)
Friday 14th March 2014 (Literacy)
Friday 21st March 2014 (Literacy)

These sessions will be held at the Altona RSL (31 Sargood Street, Altona) Sessions will commence at 9:15am and conclude at 11:15am.

If you are interested in participating, please fill in the expression of interest below and return it to your child's class teacher no later than Thursday 12th February 2014.

Please note: Unfortunately we are unable to cater for children (Toddlers and babies) during these sessions at this venue. We apologise if this causes any inconvenience.

We look forward to meeting and working with you.

Thank you

Strategic Leadership Team

Please return this slip to the office by Thursday 12th February 2014

Parent Education Program – Expression of Interest 2014
I wish to participate in the Parent Education Program commencing on Friday 28th February 2014

Participant Name: ________________________________
Child’s Name: ________________________________
Child’s Grade: ________________________________
Contact phone number: ________________________________
The Parent’s Club can be contacted anytime by email: APSParentClub@altonaps.vic.edu.au

THURSDAY
13th February, 2014

THE PARENTS CLUB

Altona Primary School Prents Club....
“Always there with a helping hand”

SHoppers cards

Please note that the old cards have expired and the NEW Shoppers cards are now available for ordering at a cost of $15 each. These are still and full of great new and old offers.

Orders can be placed by just filling in an order form and returning it with payment to your class teacher.

Farmer Market Dates for 2014

15 February
15 March
19 April
17 May
21 June
19 July
16 August
20 September
18 October
15 November
20 December

Swimmers Breakfast 2014

A big thank-you to all who helped give our Swimmers a hearty breakfast.
We wish all our Swimmers well for the upcoming competition!

ICY POLES – Start this Friday!!

The icy poles have returned and will be for sale every Friday, starting this week, at a cost of $1 each. All Paddle Pop orders need to be in by the second bell. Please choose your flavour on the order form located in your classroom.

AUSSIE FARMERS DIRECT

Want to sign up? Fill in the form available at the Office or call Rohan Day on 0419905544. Please also consider nominating Altona Primary School for a percentage of any orders you currently have with Aussie Farmers Direct!

NOTICEBOARD

PARENTS CLUB MEETINGS
The Minutes of our meetings are now available on our website. All are Welcome to attend.
Next Meeting: 4th March 2pm in the school canteen.
All parents and friends of APS are welcome to attend.

SHoppers cards

Please note that the old cards have expired and the NEW Shoppers cards are now available for ordering at a cost of $15 each. These are still and full of great new and old offers.
Orders can be placed by just filling in an order form and returning it with payment to your class teacher.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Farmers Market
  15 February 2014
- Icy Poles
  Start Friday 14 February 2014
- Parents Club Meeting
  4 March 2014 2pm

SCHOOL BANKING
Banking is done everyday Friday.

AUSSIE FARMERS DIRECT
Want to sign up? Fill in the form available at the Office or call Rohan Day on 0419905544. Please also consider nominating Altona Primary School for a percentage of any orders you currently have with Aussie Farmers Direct!
Altona Primary School Farmers’ Market
Saturday 15th February 2014

This Saturday, 15th February 2014, we will be holding our monthly Altona Primary School Farmers’ Market. Money raised over the previous few months has paid for an Interactive Whiteboard to be bought and installed in one of the new classrooms; an invaluable teaching resource for the school funded by you just by coming along and shopping at our markets. Please come along this Saturday to continue to support our school and get some tasty produce too!

COLOURING COMPETITION

To welcome our new Preps to our Farmers’ Market we are holding a special colouring competition and they have already received the entry form! Colouring-in entry forms will be available to all children attending the market, which they can complete whilst at the market and place it in the special box provided. Winners will be announced in the following week’s newsletter and prizes awarded in an assembly.

There will be a sheltered seating area, with tables set up for children to colour in. Perfect for settling down with a coffee and maybe a fresh baked croissant or ice cream from one of our stalls. Relax while the children have a go at the colouring competition, run on our new oval or even have a go on the bouncy castle!

We are always looking for more people to join our group of volunteers. It is a great way of meeting other parents and getting involved in the school and wider community. If you can give us an hour of your time on any of the following dates, please contact Anne and let her know – thank you!

Upcoming market dates: The remaining market dates for this year are: 15 February 15 March 19 April 17 May 21 June 19 July 16 August 20 Sept 18 Oct 15 Nov 20 Dec

For any queries/further info please contact
Anne Sheehan: warehouse@secon.com.au or mobile 0435 130-355

You are in for a treat when you visit an In Season Farmers Market; fresh seasonal produce, a great atmosphere and friendly people all around. It makes shopping for your groceries or that special treat an enjoyable and positive experience.

In Season Farmers Markets give local communities the opportunity to experience an authentic farmers market. We create farmers markets with a positive and welcoming environment and focus on sustainable living.

In Season Farmers Markets follow a strict stallholder participation criteria. All stallholders must be Victorian based and play a part in the production of the product they are selling. All ingredients are also generally sourced locally.