Principal’s Corner
Welcome back everyone. I hope all families had a wonderful two week break with their children and enjoyed the festivities of Easter. Many children shared their experiences with me over the past two days – camping, sleeping in, movies, sleep overs, interstate holidays, gardening, cooking, birthday parties and lots more.

Term 2 had a very cold, wet start. It is timely to ensure children come to school in appropriate clothing, including a warm jacket.

The OSHC Program ran a two week holiday program which was once again, very successful. Throughout the week there were up to 50 children a day. The OSHC staff planned and delivered exciting, engaging activities including roller skating, game show day and mastermind. On gardening day the children created a new vegetable patch at the front of the school.

**ANZAC DAY** – 25th April – is one of Australia’s most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. It is also a day of remembrance for all soldiers who died while fighting for their country.

**ANZAC** stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as Anzacs, and the pride they took in that name endures to this day.

During the 1920s Anzac Day became established as a national day of commemoration for the 60,000 Australians who had died during the war. By the mid-1930s, all the rituals we now associate with the day – dawn vigils, marches, memorial services, reunions, two-up games – were firmly established as part of Anzac Day culture.

Australians recognise 25th April as an occasion of national remembrance, which takes two forms. Commemorative **services** held at dawn – the time of the original landing – across the nation. Later in the day, ex-servicemen and women meet to take part in marches through the major cities and in many smaller centres. Commemorative **ceremonies** are more formal and are held at war memorials around the country. In these ways, Anzac Day is a time when Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

This afternoon our school captains Alicia and James, led the Anzac Day Service held at school. Staff and students came together to remember those who died fighting for their country. A very big thank you to our SRC for selling merchandise to support ANZAC Day.

School photos will be a pleasant surprise for families with lots of gorgeous smiles. Enjoy!

Have a great long weekend.

Debbie Galvin
DATES TO REMEMBER 2014

Friday 25th April
Anzac Day – Public holiday

Monday 28th April
Prep excursion to Melbourne Zoo

Friday 9th May
Parent’s Club Mother’s Day stall

Monday 12th May
Mini Beast Incursion Grade 1

Wednesday 4th June – Tuesday 12th August
ICAS Exams

Monday 9th June
Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday

Monday 16th June – Friday 20th June
Grade 3/4 Camp Wilkin
Grade 4’s will attend Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th June
Grade 3’s will attend Wednesday 18th June – Friday 20th June

Friday 27th June
Last day of Term 2

Dates for students participating in ICAS exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
<td>4 June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>16-20 June 2014*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>17 June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>29 July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
<td>12 August 2014</td>
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</tbody>
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SCHOOLPIX photos
The school photos were sent home yesterday, if you haven’t received your child’s please check their bags.
School and House captain and also the Robotech and Elearning Leaders had group photos taken, these are available in the office for viewing as are the order forms.
All order forms for these group photos must be returned to school with payment by FRIDAY 2ND MAY 2014.
LOOM JEWELLERY

Parents and students please note that the Loom jewellery being made by the children looks fabulous, however it cannot be worn at school as it is not part of our uniform.

Thank you

MSJ 2015
First round enrolment offers are posted to parents on 24th April 2014. Final date for acceptance of enrolment offers is 9th May 2014. Limited places are available for other year levels. Further information can be found at our website www.msj.vic.edu.au or by contacting the College Registrar at registrar@msj.vic.edu.au.

MSJ Golden Jubilee Dinner
MSJ proudly celebrates 50 years of educating and empowering young women. Past students and staff are warmly invited to join our celebration 3-course dinner on Friday 2nd May at Moonee Valley Racecourse. Drinks at bar prices; Tickets $60. Tables of 12 or individual tickets can be purchased at www.tickethost.com.au

MSJ Open Mornings - 9.30am – 10.30am (Thursday)
8th May, 29th May, 19th June, 31st July, 28th August, 11th September, 13th November 2014

MSJ Open Day 2014
Sunday 12th October, 11am – 2pm

125 Years of Old Laverton School
Saturday, 3rd May from 1.00pm Old Laverton School
43 Kiora Street, Altona Meadows

Free event

Much more than a school, Laverton State School No. 2857 has been a hive of social activity in its 125 year history. Come along and recreate that history with free and fun activities for all ages.

Actress, author and one-time teacher Jackie Kerin will perform heritage stories. Enjoy delicious scones, as once served by the Red Cross Society. Explore 1880s school life with old-style games and activities.

The Sounds of Silent will recreate the silent movie experience, playing live, improvised music to the hilarious Buster Keaton film The General.

The 125th anniversary celebration coincides with the National Trust Heritage Festival. To register for the free Jackie Kerin and The Sounds of Silent performances, phone 9932 4074 or visit www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au
Book now as places are limited.
ICAS Examinations

Altona Primary School students are offered the opportunity to compete in the annual ICAS examinations. These exams allow students to compete academically against high achieving students on the national and international stage. These examinations provide students with examination practice which can be useful for high school entrance tests and national testing (NAPLAN).

Once the exam has been marked, parents are provided with:

- Their child’s results and certificate of achievement.
- A detailed analysis of how their child has performed in comparison to their peers
- A copy of the exam questions and a list of the answers their child provided on the day.

Certificates of achievement are awarded as follows:

1. High Distinction to the top 1% of students
2. Distinction to the next 10% of students
3. Credit to the next 25% of students
4. Merit to the next 10% of students
5. Participation to all other students

About ICAS

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students.

ICAS exams are made available for students in Years 2-12; assessments are available in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing and Computer Skills. A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level by our team of subject matter experts. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students’ skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Some schools use ICAS as a placement test. Other schools use ICAS results as a component of a student’s overall academic achievement for the year. While still others offer ICAS as a psychometric test to better understand what students can and can’t do at a point in time.

Each test is sat at the student’s school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions. Administration Guidelines are provided to the schools with the ICAS papers to ensure that the same conditions are afforded to all students sitting ICAS.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

Registration forms are available from the school website or through your child’s classroom teacher.