



ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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MOTTO: Be True

VISION: Knowledge and Nurturing by the Bay

MISSION: *To provide a positive, challenging, innovative, caring and safe environment for our children, enabling them to learn academically, creatively, socially and emotionally in all aspects of life.*

NEWSLETTER

Date: 24/04/2008

Principal's Corner

After 3 late nights this week, 9:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, I am looking forward to the long weekend. Seeing the benefits to our students makes it all worthwhile. The parent input sessions on Monday morning and Tuesday evening were great opportunities for us to share the school data, inform parents how to interpret the data and what it means for our students. We also gained valuable parent feedback and input for the next 4 year plan. Twelve parents attended each of the sessions. We will be leaving the surveys and data on the walls of the performing arts centre until the end of next week for parents to wander in and look at. You might like to just look through the data. If you would like to contribute ideas for the future there will be a proforma provided to record your ideas and send them through to the school. We will also be giving you the opportunity to fill in a form attached to the newsletter to forward in any of your ideas. A big thank you to all of the parents who attended. We had some terrific conversations regarding the data and the school in general. Parent input is a vital and much appreciated part of our school. Thank you to Mrs. Vermezovic, Mrs. Costa and Mrs. Fridey for their work in preparing for and presenting at the review sessions. We are certainly lucky to have their expertise and dedication within our school. A very special thank you to Sam Smith and Elisha Kantar, two student leaders, who set up the performing arts centre, including the electronic computer presentation, for both parent sessions. Congratulations to Andrew Jarvis who came 4th in breast stroke and 8th in butterfly in the finals at the state swimming championships on Monday. This is a wonderful achievement.

Friday's curriculum day on oral language was very beneficial. Oral language development is fundamental to literacy skills. Oral discussion of books and experiences leads to greater understanding and the ability to articulate thoughts verbally and in written form. I look forward to seeing the results of implementing lots of new ideas in the classrooms. Speaking, reading and writing are so closely related and interdependent. Again a big thank you to Mrs. Vermezovic, Mrs. Costa and Mrs. Fridey for organising and running the curriculum day.

Congratulations to all of the children who represented the school in the district cross country yesterday. As usual we were very proud of their achievements and the exceptional way they represented themselves and the school. I have been asked some excellent questions by parents this week. Please contact me or your classroom teacher if you have any ideas or questions you would like answered. I certainly openly welcome questions, comments or criticisms at any time. At times we neglect to fully explain situations. The expressions of interest for the proposed 5/6 camp were exactly that. We wanted to gauge the interest level before going into the time consuming process of organising the camp. The quick response by students was extraordinary. Normally camps are prepared well in advance as we know that student interest will be high. The large cost of this camp meant we needed commitment before proceeding with the organisation.

We have had a fantastic response to parent helpers for the 3 / 4 camp. 27 parents have volunteered.

Have a great long weekend
Kevin Enright

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 25th April

Public Holiday-No School

Wednesday 30th April

WADSSA Cross Country Back up day

Friday 2nd May

National Walk to School Day

Wednesday 7th May

Maths Family Night – 6:30pm-8:30pm

Friday 9th May

Parents Club Mothers Day Stall

Wednesday 21st May

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Wednesday 28th May

Zone Cross Country

Friday 30th May

School Disco “Fancy Dress Theme”

Tues 10th June

Curriculum Day – Pupil Free Day

Wednesday 18th June

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Friday 27th June

End of Term – **early finish 2:30pm**

Monday 14th July

Term 3 begins

Tuesday 15th July

5/6 Hooptime

Wednesday 23rd July – Friday 25th July

3/4 Camp to Anglesea

Tuesday 5th August

3/4 Hooptime

Friday 15th August

APS Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 20th August

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Friday 22nd August

APS Athletics Carnival – back up day

Friday 5th September

Parents Club Fathers Day Stall

Tuesday 9th September

WADSSA Athletics Carnival

Friday 12th September

Whole school Disco “Sports Theme”

Tuesday 16th September

WADSSA Athletics Carnival – back up day

Wednesday 17th September

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Friday 19th September

End of Term 3 – **early finish 2:30pm**

Monday 6th October

First day of Term 4

Tuesday 14th October - Art Show opening

(Adults admission 7pm-9pm)

Wednesday 15th October

Art Show 4pm-8pm

Thursday 16th October

Art Show 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 22nd October

Regional Athletics Carnival

Monday 3rd November

Curriculum Day – Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 4th November

Public Holiday – Melbourne Cup

Wednesday 19th November

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Wednesday 17th December

School Council Meeting

Friday 19th December

End of Term 4 – **early finish**



Research over the past few years has shown there is a strong link between attendance at school and students' learning. Having a few days off each term greatly impacts on their learning experiences.

It is very important that children and their families develop habits of regular attendance at school from an early age, starting at Kindergarten.

Students who have a lot of time off school are at risk of not achieving their best in terms of educational and social outcomes. This may also affect the choices they have in the later years of their schooling and beyond.

So far this year at Altona Primary School, we have had an average of **37** children away **EACH** day since the start of the year. This is an alarming figure, considering we are only 3 weeks into Term 2. The children in Grade 5 have had the **BEST** attendance. Congratulations!! Unfortunately, children in Grade 2 have had the most number of days absent.

Book Club Issue 3 catalogues have gone out and orders are due back by **Friday May 2nd**. Remember to clearly name all order forms and return orders through your child's classroom teacher.

School Self-Evaluation & Review – Parent Survey

Over the past few days, we have had a number of parents take the opportunity to view our school's data. I would like to thank them for their time in attending these sessions and for the very valuable and insightful comments they shared.

We would like to give our parent community another opportunity to contribute to setting the future direction of our school as part of the School Self-Evaluation & Review process by completing a confidential survey asking for your views, thoughts and suggestions.

Please complete the survey below, and return it to school by **Friday 2nd May**.

1. What do you think we do well at Altona Primary School?

2. Which specialist subjects do you think are important to offer?

3. Is there anything in the curriculum you think we should change?

4. What would you like to see happen in the near future?

This may relate to other areas such as:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| - parent involvement | - student achievement |
| - student transition | - student wellbeing |
| - home/school partnerships | - parent communication |

5. How can we improve?

Please attach another piece of paper if you require more space to write your ideas.
Thank-you for your contribution

Michelle Costa
Curriculum Coordinator