



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: 09/02/2009

Principal's Corner

Welcome back to 2009. A special welcome to our new grade Prep students, their families and our new students and families in other grades. I hope you enjoy Altona P.S. as much as our current students, families and staff do.

We have had a lot of building occurring over the holidays. The sick bay area, including the shower and toilet, has been upgraded and increased in size. A new double portable has been placed on site for grade 5/6. The I.T. centre building has started with a completion date set for April 24th. Mrs. Luketic is teaching I.T. in the multipurpose room and the library will not be available until the start of term 2.

A big thank you to Vic Webster for his work over the holidays keeping our projects going and Sarah Spry for keeping our gardens alive.

We spent the three pupil free days with staff planning, looking at our strategic plan and Annual Implementation Plan, undertaking anaphylaxis training, and two whole day professional development days on positive education and teaching spelling and literacy. Thank you to Adam Hooley for facilitating the anaphylaxis training for staff during his holidays.

Our focus this year is on improving the literacy and numeracy levels of all students. Mrs. Vermezovic, Mrs. Fridey, Mrs Galvin and Ms Barbetta will be working with our teachers to continue to improve learning and teaching throughout the school.



Congratulations to Ms. Petalas who became engaged during the holidays. We wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs. Cain will go on family leave as of this Friday. We wish her all the very best with the birth of her first child.

We will include a list of staff members and grades in this newsletter.

Please consider joining the School Council for 2009. Nomination forms are available at the office. The closing date for nominations is February 13th. This year we are really looking for parents who would like to take an active part in the council and its sub committees. The first School Council meeting is February 18th.

We are aware of the problem with the wasps in the trees near the playground and we are looking into it. We request that children stay away from the area. It looks like being another fantastic year.

Kevin Enright
Principal.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Monday 9th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 13th March

Bayside Festival

Sunday 15th March

Bayside Festival Parade

UNIFORM NEWS

The uniform shop is open every Tuesday morning and afternoon, 8:45am-9:30am and 3:15pm-3:45pm.

If these times do not suit, we have an order form that can be left at the office (with the money in an envelope). The order will then be given to your child to bring home.

The purple rugby shorts have arrived, please see Lee or Maree if you were waiting on sizes.

NEW SCHOOL FOOD REGULATIONS

Over the last few years, the Victorian Government has been encouraging healthier eating practices at Victorian state schools. This year, all schools must comply with School Canteens and Other School Food Services Policy. This includes a ban on confectionery being provided by the school canteen or at any school events, and providing foods that reflect compliance with the *Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents in Australia* (National Health and Medical Research Council 2003). The school is currently reviewing the Healthy Eating Policy, and foods provided through the tuckshop, OHSC and other events to ensure compliance with this State Government regulation. The school will provide updated information to parents through the newsletter. If you would like to know more about this policy there is plenty of information available through the following link:

www.education.vic.gov.au/goforyourlife

The school canteen list is currently under review to ensure compliance with the new State Government Regulation and an updated list will be available to families in the next few weeks.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS SUMMER COMPETITION

Next week the summer interschool sports competition starts with Altona Primary playing Eastona Park Primary at home. I know the children are looking forward to this experience. All results will be published in next week's newsletter. The grade 5 sports program also starts with the children attending badminton lessons at the Altona North Badminton Centre.

TRY-athlon Weet-Bix Series 2009

I have received a number of entry forms for any child who is interested in participating in a triathlon on the 22nd of February at Catani Gardens in St Kilda (entries close 27th of Feb) or the 15th of March at Eastern Beach, Geelong (entries close 24th of Feb). Children aged 7 to 10 years swim 100m, cycle 3kms and run 500m. Children aged 11 to 15 years swim 200m, cycle 6 km and run 1 km. If you are interested, you can pick up an entry form at the office or go to www.weetbix.com.au I know a number of children from our school entered last year and had a whole lot of fun.

Stephen Fava
PE Teacher

MUSIC NEWS

Dear parents

I have been speaking to the children from grades 3 to 6 regarding recorders for this year's music program. Many children already have a recorder at home and are encouraged to bring this to school in the next few days so we can begin the program.

The recorder program provides the children with the opportunity to learn the basic theory of music through a very cheap but effective tool, this being the recorder.

I encourage children who do not have a recorder at home to purchase one from the music room before school for \$7

These recorders are a well known music brand and are very good quality. While the \$2 version may be OK, I do find children become frustrated with the quality of sound from the cheaper version.

I do have a few pre loved recorders that I am more than happy to give to students who are unable to purchase one.

The School Choir will be formed in the next couple of weeks. This is a wonderful opportunity for children from grades 3-6 to improve their singing skills and become part of a group working towards various performances throughout the year. I will talk to the children about making a commitment for the year, as it is very disappointing having children come and go all year and makes having an accomplished choir very difficult.

I do not hold auditions, as I want to give all children this opportunity, however again this makes it difficult to reach standards that may be required for special performances in the wider community.

School choir will be held in the music room during Tuesday lunch time.

Grade 5/6 children will also get the opportunity to learn the guitar during lunch time. Children do not need their own guitar, however they are most welcome to bring one from home for me to tune up regularly.

There is no cost involved in these lessons, however children will need a plastic folder to keep their music in.

Children will have a couple of weeks to decide whether they do in fact want to commit to lunch time guitar group, after which I will expect them to attend regularly not just whenever they feel like it. Again it is a commitment that they need to think about as it does make teaching very difficult when they come and go.

Please chat to your child about these opportunities.

Thanking you for your support

Julie Enright (music teacher)

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THE KEYS TO LIFE



Chorus:

THE KEYS TO LIFE ARE IN YOUR HAND
SO COME ON, GET WITH IT, JOIN THE BAND
WE'LL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT
STRONG
SO COME ON AND HELP US WITH THIS SONG

Verse 1.

CONFIDENCE IS A WAY OF LIFE
IF YOU'RE POSITIVE YOU'LL REALLY
THRIVE
HAVE A GO, BE OUT THERE, LEARN TO LIVE
YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE, IF YOU WANT TO
SURVIVE

Verse 2.

ORGANIZATION IS THE WAY TO GO
STEP BY STEP AND THEN YOU'LL GROW
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED AND YOU'RE
ON YOUR WAY
TO GET IT ALL DONE AND HAVE A GREAT
DAY

Verse 3.

PERSISTENCE IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
GRIT YOUR TEETH YOU DON'T HAVE TO
SHOUT
HEAD DOWN, CHIN UP, REFLECT A WHILE
YOU CAN DO IT, IN YOUR OWN STYLE

Verse 4.

GETTING ALONG AND BEING FRIENDS IS
BEST
SAYING SORRY FIRST IS A REALLY GOOD
TEST
LETS PLAY TOGETHER AND KEEP IN TUNE
GOING ROUND AND ROUND LIKE THE SUN
AND THE MOON

Verse 5.

RESILIENT IS WHAT WE NEED TO BE
BOUNCE BACK KEEP TRYING THAT'S THE
KEY
STAY STRONG AND FOCUSED IS THE PLAN
YOU CAN DO IT! YES YOU CAN!!

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR



AUSTRALIANS ALL LET US REJOICE
FOR WE ARE YOUNG AND FREE
WE'VE GOLDEN SOIL AND WEALTH FOR
TOIL

OUR HOME IS GIRT BY SEA
OUR LAND ABOUNDS IN NATURE'S GIFTS
OF BEAUTY RICH AND RARE
IN HISTORY'S PAGE LET EVERY STAGE
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

BENEATH OUR RADIANT SOUTHERN CROSS
WE'LL TOIL WITH HEARTS AND HANDS
TO MAKE THIS COMMONWEALTH OF OURS
RENOWNED OF ALL THE LANDS
FOR THOSE WHO'VE COME ACROSS THE
SEAS
WE'VE BOUNDLESS PLAINS TO SHARE
WITH COURAGE LET US ALL COMBINE
TO ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR



APS OATH

WE ARE STANDING WITH FRIENDS
WE CARE FOR AND RESPECT
WE MUST ALWAYS DO OUR BEST
THE FLAG REMINDS US THAT
AUSTRALIA IS OUR HOME
WE MUST DO WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT
TO MAKE AUSTRALIA SAFE AND FAIR FOR
EVERYONE

ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL SONG

WE STAND AND SING OUR SONG TODAY
FOR THE SCHOOL WE ALL REVERE
WE WILL TRY TO RAISE ITS STANDARDS
HIGH
AND HOLD ITS HONOUR DEAR
AT WORK AND PLAY OUR RULE SHALL BE
ALTONA ALL FOR YOU
BE TRUE SHALL BE OUR GUIDING STAR
AS WE GO THROUGH LIFE BE TRUE

BEFORE US LIES THE ROAD AHEAD
AS A FUTURE BRIGHT WE SEE
WE WILL TAKE OUR PLACE AND STRIVE TO
BUILD
OUR NATION PROUD AND FREE
THOUGH SCATTERED FAR BY WINDS OF
CHANGE
WE WILL KEEP THE GOLDEN RULE
BE TRUE THE LESSON THAT WE LEARN'T
AT ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL.

PARENTS CLUB NEWLETTER

Welcome to APS parents' club for 2009. Hope everyone had a fantastic break and is ready for a great year ahead. The first parents' club meeting is **NEXT TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY AT 9AM** in the multipurpose room. **ALL PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND CARERS** and pre-schoolers are very welcome. This meeting is an opportunity to be involved in planning for the year right from the start. With the introduction of the school's healthy eating policy (which is a Victorian Government regulation), and a few longstanding events having dwindling popularity last year, this year brings lots of opportunity for new and innovative ideas for social activities and fundraising.



Congratulations to Kylie and Darren Keech on the arrival of Jake on Friday 30th January. We all look forward to sharing cuddles as required at committee meetings!!



Late last year Parents Club organised a group booking to see **BILLY ELLIOT on Wednesday 29th APRIL 2009 at 7.30**, at Her Majesty's theatre 219 Exhibition Street Melbourne

The cost of the tickets are \$89.90 (normal cost \$109.90) if you are interested in attending, we need the **money by Monday 9th February at the latest**, please get a note to us via our Parents Club box; marked to Liz's attention, with full payment (cheques made payable to Altona Primary School) with how many tickets you would like, and your contact details. I know that it feels like a long time away – but we all know how quickly the years go!
The seats are in the Dress Circle.

We have tentatively organised a bus to and from APS, on the night of the 29th April which will leave approx 6pm and return approx 11.00pm The cost will be about \$10 per person as long as the bus is full – if we don't get a full bus then the cost will rise. We will request payment for the bus, once we have confirmed ticket numbers. Please indicate how many seats you would

require on the bus when expressing your interest in joining us.

The show has an "M" rating so although we aren't saying "no children" it may not be appropriate for Primary school age children. That is up to your discretion, but no unaccompanied children are allowed to this event. There are no "children's price" tickets available on this special group booking.

For all those who have paid their deposit – please get the balance to Parents Club by Monday as well



SWIMMERS BREAKFAST

Our dedicated swimming team will be training on Wednesday 11th Feb and Wednesday 18th Feb before school. They will need breakfast when they get to school, and parents' club need some parents to help serve this breakfast please. Please meet in the staff room at 9am if you are able to help on either of these mornings. Help is needed until about 10am - please come along and support our wonderful swimmers!!

