



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: 07/11/2008

### Principal's Corner

This week I have included a copy of the 2008 Parent Survey. A random sample of 77 questionnaires was sent home to families and 67 returned. Parent responses are posted to the Education Department unopened and are totally confidential. The response data informs our strategic planning for future years. We welcome all forms of feedback both positive and negative as this helps us to improve.

The 50% line is the state wide school mean. This includes both secondary and primary schools. According to parent opinion, this year's data shows an increase in 5 areas: approachability, teacher morale, parent input, extra-curricula, and general satisfaction. The data shows a significant decrease in; school improvement, reporting, learning focus, transitions, homework, student safety, classroom behaviour, connectedness to peers, student motivation, social skills and school connectedness.

In 2006 fifteen of these graphs were in the 4th percentile or above 75%. From a school perspective this is a worrying trend.

On the following page I have also included examples of 3 survey questions and parent responses to give a feel for how the data is answered and recorded. The score is on a 7 point scale.

The data compares Altona P.S. to all other schools in Victoria.

Daily qualitative data from casual relief teachers, parents who work in the school, parents who talk to teachers, parents in the school yard, our observations of children in the playground and in their classrooms, bus drivers, camps and places

that we visit indicates that the behaviour of Altona P.S. students is rated as among the best of any schools. This does not correlate with the survey data. The staff and I will work hard in 2009 in the areas highlighted to improve the survey data back to the level of 2006.

I would be very interested to hear comments from any families by phone, in conversation, letter or email( see email address above) with suggestions of what we might do or further clarification of what the problems might be. I hope all families had an enjoyable long weekend. Next year 3 curriculum days will be at the very start of term one before the students start and the fourth will be on Friday June 12th. These are set dates for all schools.

Enjoy the weekend

**Kevin Enright**  
**Principal.**

## **ALTONA PRIMARY** **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS** **FUNDRAISER**

Altona Primary School will be running a Christmas fundraiser in conjunction with Phoenix Trading who supports a number of international charities such as Can-Teen. Phoenix has a wonderful range of Christmas cards, wrap, thank you notes, ribbons, tags and Advent calendars. All these great products feature in the brochure available from the office with a price list/order form. Please place your orders at the office by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. All orders will be filled within 10 days.



## DATES TO REMEMBER



### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> November

Preps 2009 Orientation Program and  
APS students Grade Transition at school -  
2:15pm-3pm

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Parent Information Session for APS students  
Grade Transition  
6:30pm – 7:15pm Preps 2009  
7:30pm – 8:15pm 1/2 Team 2009

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

APS students Grade Transition at school –  
2:15pm-3pm  
Parents Information Evening for APS students  
Grade Transition –  
6:30pm-7:15pm 3/4 Team 2009  
7:30pm-8:15pm-5/6 Team 2009

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Preps 2009 Orientation program and  
APS students Grade Transition to 2009 Grades  
2:15pm-3pm

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Carols at APS

### Tues 16<sup>th</sup> December

Grade 6 Graduation – Altona Theatre

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Last day of Term 4 – early finish 1:30pm



## BOOKCLUB ISSUE 8 – FINAL ORDER FOR 2008

Issue 8 brochures have been sent home this week. Please see your classroom teacher if you have not received them.

All orders are due Friday November 21<sup>st</sup>, so that delivery is made in time for the holidays.

## ISSUE 7

Special orders can be collected from the office.  
We are still waiting for some late orders.

Thank you,

**Joanne Mathrick**  
**Room 20.**

## FREE CONCERT

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November there will be a FREE CONCERT during lunchtime.

A New Zealand band by the name of “BONJAH” will be playing some of their songs for all the students at Altona Primary School. The band will also be selecting some students to come up and perform with them. The band will be performing near the flagpole area on the bat-tennis courts from the beginning of lunchtime to the end.

Cool bananas, Mr. Gilpin.



## SPORTS CORNER

### **Bat Tennis Regional Semi-Final**

Last Friday, Altona Primary played Melton South Primary in the regional semi-final bat tennis match. The match was played at Altona Primary. The bat tennis team consisted of Callum Donohue, Brett Muirhead, Dannielle Calvi, Jerome Love, Anthony Lam, David Matic, Jack Nottlemann, Maria Banica, Taylah McWilliams, Dylan Moloney (captain), Jessie Davies, Kayden Popovic and Dillan Van Meersbergen.

A match consists of first to 9 games with 2 single matches and 4 double combinations. Once again, the team communicated well and set strategies early in the match which allowed APS to take control in the tight matches, winning 54 games to 22: Dylan won his singles match 9 games to 6; Brett won 9 games to 7; Jessie and Jerome won 9 games to 3; Dillan and David won 9 games to 3; Kayden and Anthony won 9 games to 3; and, Maria and Callum won 9 games to 0.

The bat tennis team is all fired up to play in the **Whitten Region final** match against Pasco Vale North Primary on Friday. This game will be

played away. The children are excited at the opportunity to put the skills they have learnt throughout the season to the test. It has been a terrific achievement by this group, as the Whitten Region is the biggest in the state and encompasses all schools from Footscray to Melton, Williamstown to Keilor and Werribee to Essendon. Quite a large area and a large amount of schools. Good luck team, APS is right behind you.

### **VPSSA State Athletics Championships**

All the best to Isaac Corvo who will compete in the state championships in Bendigo on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. He will compete in the shot put and high jump events in the 11 year old boys age group. What a fantastic opportunity and exciting time for Isaac and his family. Good luck Isaac, APS is right behind you.

**Stephen Fava**  
**PE Teacher**

### **FOOTSCRAY UNION RUGBY CLUB**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November the Footscray Rugby Union club are running a come and try evening 5:30pm – 6:30pm. For more information phone Jessie 9318 6838 or Gary 0407 827 276.

## **5/6 Mixed Hooptime Report**

On Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> November, eight children represented Altona Primary School in the Regional Mixed Hooptime final held at Werribee. The children earned this honour by winning the Hobsons Bay Hooptime Tournament early in Term 3. The children that participated were Kyra Brennan, Laura Costa, Jessica Bosnar, Capri Ngakete, Mitchell Dean, Dylan Moloney, Issac Corvo and Jerome Love. Schools from all over the Werribee area competed as did schools from as far as Gisbourne and Port Fairy so it was a wonderful achievement for the kids to be even competing in this event.

Throughout the day, the children did themselves extremely proud with the way they played, their sportsmanship, the way they listened to and carried out instructions and the way they represented the school with their behaviour. The children improved considerably with every match they played, winning their way through to the finals of this competition, where unfortunately they went down to a very strong team from Westgrove Primary School in Werribee. This meant that they were one game away from making the state finals in Dandenong, which is a wonderful achievement given that half of the team have never played basketball before.

I would like to thank the children for their dedication in training and during the games and congratulate them on an excellent day. I would also like to give a special thankyou to Robyn Dean who drove the kids down to Werribee and scored for the entire day, as well as the other parents and grandparents who came down to support the children. It was most appreciated by both the kids and myself.



