



ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL
BLYTH STREET,
ALTONA, Vic, 3018
PHONE: 9398 2925
Fax: 9398 5834
E-mail: altona.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.altonaps.vic.edu.au

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: 12/12/2008

Principal's Corner

Congratulations to our girls Kanga cricket team on their excellent win at the State finals held at the MCG on Monday. Mr Enright and I had the pleasure of being able to watch the grand final. The girls played an awesome game, demonstrating amazing skill. They embellished the wonderful opportunity they were given playing at the MCG and I'm sure this memory will stay with them forever. As well as the medals and beautiful cup, the girls also won a laptop computer for the school. A special thank you must also go to Mr Puhar for his coaching of the girls; needless to say he is so proud of them. Thank you also to all the parents who were in attendance, it really made for a very special day.

Yesterday was the last day of our P-6 transition sessions with the students going to their 2009 grades. It was wonderful to see all the happy, smiling faces ready and excited for the new challenges that lie ahead.

We are hoping to finalise our staffing by the end of the week with further interviews being held tomorrow. Hiring of staff is a very rigorous process as we endeavour to hire the best possible teachers for our school.

We look forward to sharing the joy this festive season brings with the whole school community at our Christmas Carols evening tonight commencing at 6:30pm.

As this will be my last newsletter piece for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for supporting me in my role this year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Sue Vermezovic
Assistant Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER



Thursday 11th December

Christmas Carols at APS – 6:30pm

Tues 16th December

Grade 6 Graduation – Altona Theatre

Friday 19th December

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

Monday 2nd February 2009

First day of Term 1 for **all students.**

END OF TERM

The last day of Term 4 is Friday 19th December, early finish 1:30pm.

FIRST DAY OF TERM 1

2009

All children (Prep-6) start back at school on **Monday 2nd February 2009.**

OFFICE NEWS

The office will be closed next Thursday and Friday 18th and 19th December, so that Kathy, Lee and Maree can finalise their end of year procedures.



INVITATION TO PARENT HELPERS

An invitation to all parents who have given their time throughout the year helping in classrooms, with excursions, photocopying etc: to attend a special morning tea on Wednesday 17th December in the Multipurpose Room. We would love to see you there to say a big thank you for your efforts.



As the year draws to a close I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude for all the wonderful support and well wishes following Vivienne's unfortunate accident:

To Karen and Darren Hindle whose continuing help has provided great comfort, nobody has better next door neighbours.

To Kathy Lowe and the wonderful Parents Club who have made the last couple of weeks a lot easier than they could have been – a big thank you.

To the staff of Altona Primary School and the wider school community whose concern and offers of support has been quite humbling. All the cards and flowers have made Vivienne smile, there can be no greater thanks.

Finally, Vivienne is doing really well and hopefully will be home early in the New Year. May God bless you all,

Merry Christmas,

Michael, Matthew and Christian Shaumberg.



INVITATION TO PREP - 2 PARENTS/FRIENDS/CARERS MONDAY 15th DECEMBER AT 1PM FOR A PICNIC LUNCH

We would like to invite you to have a **picnic lunch** with your child/children and teachers to celebrate the end of the year.

We will meet on the **small oval** near the prep rooms at 1pm.

Bring along a **special picnic lunch**, a rug and a hat.

Please note, no lunch orders on this day.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

From the Prep – 2 Team.

SPORTS CORNER

Kanga Cricket State Champions

On Monday, our girls Kanga Cricket team competed in the round robin state title, which was held at the holy grail of cricket, the **MCG**. What an amazing experience for Mr Puhar the coach and the team, which consisted of Jessie Davies, Briony Saunders, Shaelea Wade, Laura Costa, Kyra Brennan, Maria Banica, Capri Ngakete, Annelise Blazely and Arlie den Ouden.

The girls team competed in one of the two pools of 8, and in a very tight pool played impressively to make the final, winning 2 games out of 3. Their form just got better and under pressure they made the right decisions, winning the final match and becoming **STATE CHAMPIONS**. What a moment for the girls, Super Coach Mr Puhar and the parents who were involved. To be named state champions at the MCG, a moment forever held in the team's mind. A full report of the day is below. Well done girls. A champion effort by a champion team.

Kanga Cricket Girls team

On Monday the 8th of December the Kanga Cricket girls team arrived at 8:00am to for breakfast at school, it filled us up for our games at the MCG

(Melbourne Cricket Ground). When we got there we were nervous. As we hopped out of our mini bus we knew we were going to have a tough but fun day. Our first game was challenging. It wasn't our best game and that came at the cost of losing our first game. At that moment our hopes of winning were low. We had a break and relaxed and got ready for the next game. Our next game was much better. We played well and won. We needed to win the next game to have a chance of being in the finals. We won the game but there was still a chance of not being in the final. But, when we lined up to hear the lady announce who is in the final we saw our name first on the leader board. We were all excited! We had a small practise and then it was time. We won, it was the best game we had ever played. We couldn't believe we were state champs. The boys final was a draw so they had a bowl off. As we received our medals, trophy and laptop for the school we were still ecstatic. I would like to congratulate all the girls for playing so well. A big thanks to everyone for supporting us over the weeks and Mr. Puhar for training us.

By Maria and Annelise

Pacific School Games

Last week, Isaac Corvo travelled to Canberra to represent Victoria in the Pacific School Games. As mentioned in previous newsletter snips, Isaac represented the school and Victoria in the 11 year old boys High Jump event. He competed against children not just from Australia, but also New Zealand, Fiji, China etc.

Isaac jumped 1.35m, finishing about 7th in the Pacific which as an unbelievable achievement. What a terrific experience, being a part of the Victorian team and competing against and watching the best in the Pacific. Well done Isaac, APS is very proud of your efforts. Isaac has a full report below of the week he had.

Isaac's report

Last Saturday I flew to Canberra for the Pacific School Games. I was lucky enough to be able to stay with my grandparents who lived only a 5 minute drive from the stadium and was very spoilt during my stay. The following day was the opening ceremony at the Australian Institute of Sport stadium. Monday was competition day for me. My event was the 11 years high jump. I got to the track an hour and half before my event to do my warm up, and then I had to go to the marshalling tent for ten minutes. I started jumping at 1.20 m and ended up jumping 1.35 m which is 7cm below my personal best. I came 9th. I spent the rest of the week at the track watching other events, trading badges and some of my Victorian gear. I met people from all over the Asia pacific

area. Over all it was a great experience, one I will never forget.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mr Fava, Mr Enright, Miss Barbetta and everyone at school for all of their support.

Intra-School Bat Tennis Finals

Well done to the 150 plus children who entered the Grade 3 to 6 bat tennis tournament. It was great to see you out there learning the rules and skills and, most importantly, having fun.

Last week, the four finals were played. The results were:

In the 3/4 boys competition, Robin Matic defeated Nick Tamasoz in a great game, winning 6 games to 1. Well done to both of the players for getting to the final as the 3/4 boys competition was very competitive.

In the 3/4 girls competition, Megan Bosnar and Isabelle Mountford went game for game most of the way with some terrific rallies. In an epic last game, Megan prevailed 6 games to 4.

In the 5/6 boys competition, in a heavy weight hitting battle, Dylan Moloney and Brett Muirhead played a match worthy of any Australian Open Final. Dylan, although, just had the edge and won 6 games to 2.

In the 5/6 girls match, Maria Banica and Jessie Davies also had an unbelievable match, both trading blows and returning unbelievable shots. Maria won this match 6 games to 2. Well done girls.

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

