



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: 12/02/2009

### Principal's Corner

All of our teachers and students have had time to settle in. It is rewarding to walk around the school and see the grades working so well.

Our swimming team began their early morning training this week. They really enjoyed the breakfast, provided by the parents club, back at school. Thank you to all of the children who tried out for the team.

Good luck to our grade 5/6 interschool sports teams as they begin their summer season this week.

Grade 6 nominations for school and house captains are due this week. I have been very impressed by the student election posters in the corridors. If you have time I would recommend you come and read the posters.

Our sympathy goes out to families affected by the bushfires. On Friday we will be having an out of uniform day to raise money for one of the schools burnt down by the fires. We ask that children bring a gold coin donation. Thanks to the families who donated clothes or toys this week.

The library/ICT centre is progressing well. Next week the roof will be erected.

All the best to our grade 6 students and Ms Barbeta when they attend Somers Camp for ten days from next Monday. I am sure they will have a fabulous time and represent the school superbly.

Have a good weekend

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



## **Victorian Bushfire Appeal**

In regard to the devastating bushfires that have ravaged so many communities across Victoria, we hope that your family and friends are safe. We are sure that your thoughts as of those of the staff will be with the many families and communities that have been affected. Our students, your children, are very aware of the scale of the tragedy and as a result we will be initiating the following appeal.

**Altona Primary school**  
**Free Dress Day- Friday**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Cost: Gold Coin Donation**

Any further donations can be made at the office and will be passed onto the appropriate agencies.

### **Pier St donations to the Fire Appeal**

Brad from the Bicycle shop in Pier St. Altona will donate all the proceeds from any cups of coffee bought today and tomorrow to the Bushfire Appeal.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February

Somers Camp

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Parent/Teacher Interviews

#### **Early finish – 1pm**

OSHC will be running from 1pm

**School photos**

### Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>

School photos

### Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>

School photos

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Life Ed begins

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Labour Day Public Holiday

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Bayside Festival

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Bayside Festival Parade

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE

### ALLOWANCE

The EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for the EMA you must:

- Be the holder of a Health Care card or a pension card. Your card must be current as of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009.
- The EMA application must be submitted to **school by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009** for the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment.

If you have not already seen Kathy regarding the EMA, please do so as soon as possible.

## OSHC NEWS

The direct phone number of Outside School Hours Care is 9398 8310.

OSHC runs from 7:15am-8:45am and 3:15pm-6:15pm.



## Sale - PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

After assembly on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February we will be selling the pre-loved uniform items for \$1 each. This will take place wherever the assembly was held.

It is always good to have some extra uniform on hand so check out the bargains!!!!

## ICT News.

Whilst the wonderful new ICT room is being built we have re-located our computer lab to the multi-purpose room. I would like to thank Laura and her team at After School Care for being so supportive and understanding at this time. Altona Primary School has an important role in teaching our students to be prepared in our online world and therefore we are undertaking specific lessons highlighting safe and smart internet use. Throughout the whole year Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will be viewing and discussing CyberSafety issues. This semester we will continue to look at *golden rules* for using the internet; to search and to email. We also look at what children can do when they stumble across something inappropriate on the net. Research and studies have shown that children are *unlikely* to talk to their parents/supervisors about accidentally stumbling across inappropriate sites or emails if the consequences are *'being banned from the computer'*. Further information on the golden rules and the specific teaching approaches we are taking at APS can be found on our website (specialist programs) and at [www.cyberquoll.com.au](http://www.cyberquoll.com.au). The Parent page on the Cyberquoll website leads to many resources about safe home internet usage along with the Australian Government online safety program; [www.netalert.gov.au](http://www.netalert.gov.au) This

site directs you to family friendly search filters, Q & A's and advice for keeping children safe online.

The prep and grade 1/2 students will also be learning important messages about internet safety by using interactive play on Netty's world.

This site [www.nettysworld.com.au](http://www.nettysworld.com.au) has been specifically designed by the Australian Government for young children starting out on the internet.

With this newsletter you should also receive a Cybersafe leaflet to share with your family. SuperClubsPlus is a great way for children to create, chat and play safely online. Last year we began registering our students for free. Parent permission forms are still available from the office. Usernames and passwords (if not already received) will be available from their classroom teachers towards the end of February. ( [www.superclubsplus.com.au](http://www.superclubsplus.com.au) ) Children will be learning to use SuperClubsPlus throughout the year beginning term 2.

Along with all the CyberSafety rules the students at APS will continue learning to use interactive, creative and educational software such as Kahootz3, Photostory3, KidsPix Deluxe 4 etc. Students will also build upon their Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel knowledge. We teach and practise keyboard skills regularly in our ICT classroom and there are numerous online typing websites for beginners and experts. (Check out our links page at [www.altonaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.altonaps.vic.edu.au)).

Please feel free to arrange a time to chat with me with any concerns or questions you may have regarding your child's ICT education.

**Mrs Robyne Luketic**



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS**

Thank you to parents and teachers who have expressed an interest in becoming a member of school council. All nominations should be in by Friday, 13 February.

School council is the governance body that has responsibility for setting and overseeing the strategic direction of the school (it does not include managing day to day issues of the school– this is the principal's role).

School council members need to be able to work as a team, respect the different skills, knowledge and experience that each member brings to council, and share the workload and responsibility.

Responsibilities include:

- Regularly attending meetings (up to two per term in the evening)
- Staying focused on issues from a "whole of school" perspective
- Taking the opportunity to attend training to understand the role of school council
- Staying informed of strategic issues relating to the school
- Participating in sub-committees of school council (policy, finance, sustainability, out of school hours care etc) by attending meetings and contributing.

APS school council has always had a willing group of parents and teachers whose contribution and commitment to the school is greatly appreciated.



