



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: 19/03/2009

Principal's Corner

What a fabulous community weekend. The number of families and children who participated in the Hobsons Bay swimming and the parade on the weekend was amazing. Thank you to everyone involved and especially the teachers who again spent time away from their own families to attend.

One of the very special characteristics at Altona P.S. is the school community and our school community involvement in the local area.

I would like to thank and congratulate all of our staff for their exceptional work during the start of this year. Our teachers, office staff, integration aides and OSHC staff have been and are working extremely hard over and above the hours they are employed to do. The time and effort that goes into providing the best possible education for all children is inspiring. I see the level of time, effort and professional practice that teachers provide for the benefit of the children in their grades. A balance between work and personal life is critical for our staff.

Our region is expecting that all schools will focus their teaching to make sure that the academic achievement in the west improves significantly. As a high performing school, our intention is further improve our data in 2009. Literacy and numeracy skills are such an important indicator of future success.

At the same time we can't have a too narrow a focus as art, music, physical education, Japanese and I.T. enable the education of the whole child, add the creative flair and develop both sides of the brain.

We also acknowledge and celebrate that there are highly successful and desirable careers in non academic areas that our students will pursue.

Your work at home hearing your child read, helping their comprehension of what they read, and helping with their mathematics is invaluable to us.

We are very lucky to have fantastic students who engage in their learning and are motivated to work hard to improve. Providing an engaging curriculum, and focussed teaching is the conduit between the content of what is taught and the children actually learning it.

Have a great weekend.

It's Not OK to be Away

We realise that when children are not well they must be kept at home.

However, please consider assisting us in ensuring that children attend school each day.

All absences must be advised by a letter to the teacher or a phone call to the office.

The absenteeism for all grades so far this year is 625.

The grade absences for last week are as follows:

Prep M	6
Prep B	8
Prep T	2
Prep P	2
12C	0
12G	5
12H	1
12J	5
12L	2
12N	8
34A	2
34B	3
34H	11
34X	2
34S	2
45M	7
56F	1
56K	3
56M	10
56P	2
56S	5

Kevin Enright
Principal.

Sports Corner

INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS RESULTS

Last Friday we played Williamstown PS Gold team at home. The results were:

Team	ALTONA PRIMARY	Williamstown Primary Gold Team
Cricket	35 runs	88 runs
Newcombe	1 Set	2 Sets
T-Ball	12 runs	30 runs
Bat Tennis	54 games	13 games

THIS FRIDAY WE ARE PLAYING HOBSON'S BAY PRIMARY AWAY. GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS.



Bayside Swimming Carnival – 13th March, 2009

Last Friday night, around 40 to 50 children from Altona Primary School went to the Altona North Bayfit swimming centre for the Bayside Swimming Carnival.

There were 4 other schools competing: St Mary's, Seaholme, Queen of Peace and Altona Green. We were all ready to go by 7.30pm. Mrs Robinson called all the age groups one by one to compete in their individual 25m and 50m events. There were many heats for each age group and we had to wait to hear the final results in each event.

The first three places received either a gold, silver or bronze medal and the 4, 5 and 6 place getters received a ribbon. When all the individual events were done we moved on to the mixed relays. At this stage, Altona Primary School was coming first. The relays were fast and the race was on for first place.

The Altona Primary kids did a fantastic job and it showed on the night. Altona Primary School won the competition, coming first by 9 points. The final score was 179 for Altona, with Queen of Peace coming a close second on 170 points. It has been 7 years since Altona Primary has won this competition and the victory was all ours.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Thursday 5th – 23rd March

Life Ed begins

Friday 3rd April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 20th April

First day of Term 2

Friday 12th June

Curriculum Day - Pupil free Day



'Go for Your Life' - Information

Dear Parents,
Kerrie Taylor, the *Go for Your Life* representative

from Hobson's Bay City Council, will be presenting information on the *Go for your Life* program and school accreditation process at the next school council meeting **Wednesday March 25th at 7pm**. This is an open invitation for any interested parents to attend and learn more about the *Go for Your Life/ Healthy Eating* initiative.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information

Sue Vermezovic
Assistant Principal

I would like to thank all the parents who came down to support and cheer us on. A big thanks to Mr Fava, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Mathrick who did a fabulous job at organising all of us. The night concluded at 10.30pm. Well done Altona, you rock.

By Jordan Mountney 5/6K

Altona Primary Cross Country

The Altona Primary School cross country running event will be held on the 31st of March at Altona Primary School. The event is taking place between 9.00 am and 11.30 am. The whole school will be involved in this event. Grade 5/6 children will be running approximately 2.4kms, 3/4 children 1.8kms, grade 1/2 children 1.2kms and the prep children .6 of a km.

If you would like to help out on the morning as a marshal on the course for a short period of time, please fill in the below slip and return it to me ASAP. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

For those children who are interested, training for cross country running will be held on: **Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th of March**, from 8.25 am until 8.50 am. Training consists of a warm-up before running/walking a number of laps. Parents/Teachers are more than welcome to run with their children for added motivation. I strongly urge all children to do some training to make the run a little easier for themselves on the day.

WADSSA District Tennis Team

Well done to Brooke Aqualina and Robin Matic who both tried out for our district tennis team last week. Brooke and Robin both showed some excellent talent with Brooke being selected to represent our district and Robin selected as first emergency. Australian Open here they come!!

Regional Swimming Championships

Yesterday, we had a number of talented swimmers compete in the Regional Swimming Championships at Oak Park Swimming Pool.

Sam Paton was our first swimmer, swimming in the 11 year old boys 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly event. In both heats he jumped out of

the blocks and challenged the leaders, eventually finishing 3rd in our zone the 50m freestyle event and 4th in our zone in the 50m butterfly event. Super effort, Sam.

We also had four talented swimmers swim in the 11 year old boys 4 x 50m freestyle events. The team consisted of Sam Paton, Jack Robinson, Jake King and Jack Nolan. Jack Nolan swam an awesome first leg changing over with Jack Robinson in about second place, Jack swam very well and held his position, handing the reins to Jake King. Jake made up great ground in his leg and swapped with Sam who powered home in 3rd spot in our zone and 5th spot in our region. Top effort boys and a great team swim. It was a pleasure to watch you boys enjoy the experience and have fun along the way.

What a terrific effort by all our swimmers, you have done Altona Primary proud.

Premiers Active Family Challenge

The Premier's Active Families Challenge is run by the Victorian Government as part of the 'Go for your life' initiative to improve the physical activity, health and wellbeing of Victorian families.

The Challenge provides an opportunity for families to participate in an inclusive and achievable physical activity Challenge which is fun, easy, accessible and worthwhile.

To complete the Challenge, families register as a team to each do at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 minutes between 8 March and 19 April 2009. Participants can complete the activity on their own or together as a family, and don't have to be active every day throughout the Challenge – just 30 days over the six week Challenge period.

To help families complete the Challenge, they receive 15 free YMCA passes, 15 per cent off at Rebel Sport, tips and ideas on how to get active, details of events to attend and rewards and prizes to keep them motivated.

Registrations are now open. Families can register through the website of goforyourlife.vic.gov.au or by phone on **1300 73 98 99** and can also nominate their children's school to win up to \$3000 of sports equipment. The more families from your school who register, the better your school's chances of winning.

Tip two for this week: Go for a walk/run/ride up to the 100 Steps Reserve and enjoy the view.

Stephen Fava
PE Teacher

ALTONA AUSKICK 2009

Altona Auskick will be holding its Registration and Family Night on Friday 27th March from 4:30pm-7pm.

For more information phone Andrew McLaren 9398 4853.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the parents, staff and children who assisted in emptying out all the books and

shelving from our school library so that it can be refurbished. Your assistance was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Sue Vermezovic
Assistant Principal



Bayside Festival

On Sunday 15th March it was the Bayside Festival Parade. The theme was Fantasy and Magic.

Our school had lots of participants dressed up as fairies, wizards and all things magical.

Ms. Holmes and Mrs. Mathrick were dressed as fairies and Mrs. V was dressed as a witch.

Altona PS won the award for the Most Innovative float. It was a great day.

Bronte McIntosh
3/4S

