



ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
BLYTH STREET,  
ALTONA, Vic, 3018  
PHONE: 9398 2925  
Fax: 9398 5834  
E-mail: [altona.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:altona.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
Website: [www.altonaps.vic.edu.au](http://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: 27/02/2009

### Principal's Corner

Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent teacher interviews. The final interview finished at 8:00 p.m. Thank you to the teachers for giving up their evenings to talk with families. Our region is running compulsory Professional Development for Principals on a number of Mondays this term. The region's aim is to become the fastest improving region in Victoria. Principals are seen as key players in achieving this improvement. As a result I will be missing from some assemblies this term.

The 'love' tree, as the children refer to it, had a large branch overhanging a neighbour's garage and some dead wood removed during the week. 37 parents attended the literacy training for parents run by Mrs. Fridey this morning. We are very lucky to have such strong parent involvement.

The art work in the senior corridor looks fantastic. Come in and have a look if you haven't seen it already.

Absences are still a concern. We now have a total of 201 up from 118 last week. The breakdown is Prep; 20, Grade 1 / 2; 82, Grade 3 / 4; 50 Grade 4/5; 8, and Grade 5/6; 31. Our average for 2008 was 12 days per child, 136 days per week or 5,448 days of absenteeism in total.

Absenteeism has a negative effect on learning and teaching. I would like to see our school work on the premise; Its not o.k. to be away.

Two items parents and children can help us with; Children whose parents arrive late to pick them up after school should go to the office so they do

not wander off or are left unattended in the playground.

Please ring the After School Care (OSHC) and cancel if your child is booked in but not attending on a particular night. The OSHC staff go looking for children who fail to turn up as this is their duty of care.

The teachers have remarked how pleased they are with the way their grades are working this term. Keep up the great work!

Have a great weekend.

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

## **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.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Last day of Term 1

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

First day of Term 2



## MUSIC SEMESTER ONE PROGRAM OUTLINE

During semester one, the Prep and grade one and two children will experience a range of music activities including: singing, moving, playing tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments, dancing, and listening to a variety of musical styles.

Through these activities children will gain an understanding of Beat, Rhythm, Pitch, and Harmony, Style, Form, Dynamics Tone-color and Tempo.

This year I will be using the interactive white board to deliver parts of my program that will expose children to the latest technology.

Where possible songs will relate to school and classroom themes and celebrations.

In term 2 children will begin working on an item to perform at this years Windows on the West held at Highpoint shopping centre in Term 3.

During semester one, the children in grades 3,4,5,6, will take a musical journey playing the Recorder. Lessons on recorder are used to focus on reading music and understanding the theory of music.

Children will also be able to transfer their knowledge on to other instruments such as the keyboard, guitar, xylophone and glockenspiel. Children will sing a variety of songs from the 2009 ABC songbook and move, dance and listen to a variety of musical styles.

Children will have the opportunity to play musical games and extend their knowledge of music through programs using the Smart board. Grade 5/6 children will have the opportunity to explore music using computers, allowing them to create their own music through the Groovy music and O Generator programs and Acid Composing program.

Guitar and choir are the two areas children in the senior grades can participate in for musical enrichment and enjoyment.

Individual children across the school have an opportunity to perform for their class during music time and I encourage children to continue their private music tuition and share their special talents with their peers.

Individual classes will be encouraged to perform at Assemblies throughout the semester and there will be an opportunity for senior children to perform at a regional level later in the semester.

Mr. Ryan will be assisting with the music program this year, as the school has grown in size and we now need a part time teacher to take some of the classes.

Mr. Ryan has expertise in the area of music technology, having been a teacher at Carranballac P-9 College for 3 years. He is also a professional singer, guitarist and song writer.

Mr. Ryan also plays Drums and keyboard. He will bring a young, exciting, fresh approach to the music program at APS.

We look forward to taking all the children at APS on a fun, exciting and rewarding musical journey in 2009.



## **ASTHMA EDUCATION**

### **The Weather and Asthma**

**As the seasons change, the weather can have a considerable impact on people with asthma. A sudden change in temperature, cold air, windy days, poor air quality and hot, humid days are all known triggers for asthma.**

Take your usual dose of reliever inhaler before going out on cold, dry days. If it is cold and windy, wearing a scarf over your face will help to warm the air before you breathe it in. Try to avoid going out in the middle of the day on hot, smoggy days.

**Thunderstorms can result in large quantities of pollen, in very small particles, being released into the air as the raindrops break down pollen particles already in the air. This can trigger asthma attacks for many people. It is best to stay inside with the windows closed during thunderstorms.**

Clinical studies show that most people who are admitted to emergency departments following thunderstorms have an allergic sensitivity to rye grass pollens. Rye grass pollen ruptures in rainwater and small pollen particles are released into the atmosphere. These pollen particles are small enough to enter the airways and trigger asthma. A fifty-fold increase in these particles in the atmosphere in Melbourne has been found on days following rainfall. This sudden increase in allergens in the atmosphere may be the cause of 'epidemics' of asthma following thunderstorms. See the pollen count updated daily on the Asthma Foundation's website during the rye grass pollen season from September to December each year to determine your level of risk.

**To determine if weather change is a trigger that affects your asthma, visit your doctor. You should ensure your asthma is well under control at all times and take your medication as prescribed. You should also talk to your doctor about having a written Asthma Action Plan outlining what to do for your day-to-day asthma, what to do if your symptoms worsen and how to cope with an asthma emergency.**

### **Flu Vaccination**

As we head toward the cooler months, it is good to remind people to have their flu injection around April. People with asthma are at higher risk of developing complications from influenza. The Asthma Foundation of Victoria has a brochure 'Vaccine

Update for People with Asthma, COPD, Heart Disease and Diabetes'.

**For more information about any topic call the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or visit the website [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)**



### **O.S.H.C News**

This are moving along well in the Before and After School Care room.

We are still working on the children packing up after themselves and making sure they look after the room. We have also been enforcing that our feet and hands belong to us and should not be used to hurt other people.

Before School Care begins at 7.15am and After School Care finishes at 6.15pm. Breakfast in the morning is served until 8.15, after this time we begin to pack things up. It is too hard trying to prepare food after this time when we are trying to get the children ready for the day.

Our direct line to the After School Care office is 9398-8310. Please remember to let us know if your child will not be attending.

If you have not given me your date of birth please remember top do that as soon as possible.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to come and see me.

### **Laura and O.S.H.C Staff**



### **Needed in the Artroom -**

Clean plastic containers approx. 500gram size. Margarine containers or take away food containers would be perfect.

Please send them to school as soon as possible as we need at least 100 containers to complete an activity.

**Thank you.**



## Well Done APS!!! Rubbish Free Lunch Day



Thank you to the many families who carefully planned their child's lunch box to reduce the amount of waste that fills our school rubbish bins.

The children took time to consider which bin, Rubbish, Recycle or Compost, to place their waste in. Grade 4/5M weighed the rubbish from the children's lunch waste that was sent to our school dumper.

**It was 2.9kg of rubbish.**

Our goal is to half this amount of rubbish by June. Who knows maybe we can be a litter free school by December!

It was terrific to see the amount of recyclable containers and zip-lock bags being put away into lunch boxes.

If you think of any great ideas please share them with us for our next Rubbish Free Lunch Day, Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>. Ideas/suggestions can be sent to Mrs Mathrick in Room 2.



**Remember**  
**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**  
Sustainability & Community Committee



## Clean Up Australia Day Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March

The Hobsons Bay Council have a number of official sites around the community for individuals and community groups to work together. Join in & have fun while cleaning up our parklands and waterways that are not only precious to us but wildlife and marine life.

To date, Clean Up Australia Day volunteers right across Australia have collected more than 200,000 tonnes of rubbish.



## **ALTONA'S BAYSIDE FESTIVAL** **Theme: "Fantasy and Magic"**

Are you organising your best fantasy costume so you can join fellow APS students marching in the Grand Street Parade on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>?

It would look magical if all participants could bring small bottles of bubble blowing solution and blow bubbles as we float along waving our wands & hands to the crowd.

Don't Forget all colouring competition entries need to be returned to our school office by **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** or parents may drop their child's entry into the boxes at Altona Gate Shopping Centre.

## **LOST ☹**

Joy Lin from 1/2L has lost her purple fabric headband. It has flowers painted on it and Joy is very upset that it is missing. If found, please return to 1/2L.



## Activity Day

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware on Friday February the 27<sup>th</sup>, we were planning on having a Grade 5/6 Activity Day. Part of the original plan was to take the kids down to the park and beach for the afternoon. Looking at the weather forecast, the expected temperature at this stage is 38 degrees. With this in mind it may not be appropriate to have the children outdoors for this amount of time, so if the weather is deemed to be too unbearable, contingency plans and activities will be put in place.

Thanking you again for your support,  
The 5/6 Team

Your friend,

*Adam McPherson*

## Tim Nelson music Introduction to Piano/Keyboard

GROUP LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN IN PREP, 1/ 2'S

Lessons will be held during lunchtime (either Tuesday or Thursday) for 40 minutes, at a cost of \$10 per child per lesson. Classes will have a maximum of 4 children. Limited spaces available. Payment must be made for the

whole term before lessons can begin. Fees can be left at the front office. Please call Tim (9398 4464) for space availability and to arrange a lesson time, or if you have any enquiries. Individual lessons are also available.

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I wish to enrol my child in term \_\_\_\_ on (day)\_\_\_\_\_ for

**Introduction to Piano/ Keyboard lessons.**

Name of child\_\_\_\_\_

Class\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/  
Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_

Contact no. ( home)\_\_\_\_\_  
(mob)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ lessons at \$10 per lesson: cheque cash

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(Cheques can be made payable to Tim Nelson)*

