



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: 07/08/2008

Principal Corner

The school choir were fantastic at the Williamstown Town Hall on Sunday. Congratulations to Mrs. Enright, the children involved and the proud parents who attended. Congratulations also to Bridgette who sang with the state choir.

I had the honour of speaking at our past crossing supervisor; Norm Dean's, funeral yesterday. I was very proud of our students, Sam and Rhiannon, who also spoke. The family appreciated the school's gesture of Norm's funeral procession stopping at the school crossing one last time with the children outside showing their last respects.

Congratulations to the children, staff and parents who attended last week's grade 3/4 camp. All week, the teachers have been talking about how proud they were of the children. The camp management also commented on how wonderful the children were.

The school self evaluation and the draft of the new strategic plan are both on the school's website to inform parents. We welcome any feedback. Mrs. Vermezovic, Mrs. Fridey, Mrs. Costa and I have spent 3 full days writing up the draft of the Strategic Plan and putting everyone's ideas into the document. Thank you to Mrs. Costa for her work in collating all of the ideas and keeping us on track.

Mrs. Nicole Friday will be Acting Assistant Principal for the last 4 weeks of this term while Mrs. Vermezovic is Acting Principal.

Last week at the Western Region Principals' conference we were introduced to the work of Professor Martin Seligman. His work on the New Positive Psychology is very powerful and

looks at creating happiness through working on the signature strengths that a person has. Professor Seligman had previously won an international award for his work in 'mainstream' psychology. The website is <http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/Default.aspx>. The website discusses the classification of the character strengths and virtues as well as psychological interventions that increase individual happiness. The idea of creating happiness and this complimenting learning and well being really appealed to me. A big thank you to Hanna, Peta and Casey who made the space outfits for Mrs. Vermezovic and me to wear to the "Jetsons" theme dinner on the Thursday night. We won a prize for the outfits. Mrs. Enright's band Double Chance were the feature of the night.

Have a great weekend

Kevin Enright
Principal.



JEANS FOR GENES DAY

Friday 1st August is Jeans For Genes Day. Please wear your jeans or something denim if you have it and bring a gold coin donation.

Merchandise is available for sale.

Thank you.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 1st August

Genes for Jeans Day – wear your jeans or something denim if you have it – **gold coin** donation

Tuesday 5th August

3/4 Hooptime

Friday 15th August

APS Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 20th August

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Friday 22nd August

APS Athletics Carnival – back up day

Friday 5th September

Parents Club Fathers Day Stall

Tuesday 9th September

WADSSA Athletics Carnival

Friday 12th September

Whole school Disco “Sports Theme”

Tuesday 16th September

WADSSA Athletics Carnival – back up day

Wednesday 17th September

School Council Meeting 7:30pm

Friday 19th September

End of Term 3 – **early finish 2:30pm**

Monday 6th October

First day of Term 4

Tuesday 14th October - Art Show opening

(Adults only admission 7pm-9pm)

Wednesday 15th October

Art Show 4pm-8pm

Thursday 16th October

Art Show 4pm-6pm

Sports Corner

APS Athletics Carnival For Grades 3 to 6 – Parent Helpers Needed

The Altona PS Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday, **15th of August 2008** at the Newport Athletics Track, The Strand, Williamstown.

To run the carnival smoothly, we need at least **thirty** parent helpers and so we hope that you can be generous with your time. Teachers will run each event, but we need parent helpers to measure, record and supervise the children.

We prefer volunteers to commit to attending the full day, however, if you are only able to help for half the day, we can offer morning or afternoon timeslots. If you can help, please fill in the attached section and return it to school **before 1st** of August. This will enable us to make a roster and distribute it prior to the day of the carnival. Unfortunately, if we do not get enough helpers, we may have to cancel the carnival.

PARENT HELPERS

I am able to attend the Athletics Carnival on 15th of August 2008 as a Parent Helper.

Helper's name:.....

Child's name:.....

Grade:.....

Time available to help (please circle one)

Full Day (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

11:45 am to 2:30 pm

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 the **14th July 2008**.
- The EMA application must be submitted to **school before the 1st August 2008** for the 2nd instalment.

If you are new to the school or you now hold a Health Care card or Pension card and did not apply for the 1st half of the year you need to see Kathy in the office.

GATES

The gates around the school are locked after 9am and remain closed until 3pm. They will not be opened before 3pm for the safety of the children. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.



LITTLE TACKER TENNIS

The tennis program is running again from Monday 28th July – Monday 8th September. If you would like your child to participate, please collect a form from the office.

OOPS!!!

**Book Club Issue 5 (not 6)
Orders due Aug. 1st**

Issue 5 catalogues went home last week. If you didn't get the catalogues ask your child's classroom teacher or see Mrs Mathrick in Room 20.

All orders must be returned to school by Friday August 1st.

Remember to clearly name all order forms and return orders through your child's classroom teacher.



Premier's Reading Challenge 2008

We are well on our way with more & more children completing their challenge target and still reading. Well done!!!

Remember all reading must be completed and recorded by August 31st.

For further information visit;

www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

**Happy Reading
Joanne Mathrick**



Lost Property



Jumpers Grey Vest Lunch Boxes Drink Bottles

These items are waiting to be claimed in lost property.

There is also a pair of black school shoes!

None are named!

Please **clearly name or re-name** your child's belongings.

Also please check your child has brought home their own item of clothing. We have a number of families looking for clearly named jumpers & jackets that have mysteriously disappeared from our classrooms and school grounds.



Large Tins Wanted



Mrs Barry wants large empty (approx. 825gm) fruit / spaghetti / bake bean tins for an Art activity. Please deliver washed tins to the Art Room.

PE Overview Semester 2



Prep overview

This semester, the Prep children will participate in physical activities, following rules and procedures, sharing equipment and using space safely. They will learn to perform basic motor skills (catching, throwing) and movement patterns (leaping, jumping, hopping and skipping with a short and long skipping rope). They will also be introduced to the sport of athletics and some of its events (long jump, hurdles and projection). They will regularly engage in periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Grade 1/2 overview

This semester, the 1/2 children will be aiming to adapt motor skills learnt throughout the semester (such as punting, kicking off the ground and two hand strike) to game situations. They will be working towards an understanding of why rules and procedures are used in games and activities, including an understanding of safe use of equipment and space. They will keep working towards displaying supportive, encouraging behaviour in partner, group and game situations.

The 1/2 children will also be working on athletics skills such as jumping, throwing and leaping, as well as basic gymnastics skills.

Grade 3/4 overview

This semester, the 3/4 children will work on improving a variety of skills (overhand throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling, forehand striking) and applying them to basic, sport-specific games such as tee-ball, netball and bat tennis. They will explore the use of sport specific game strategies and the movement skills of leading, evading and defending. They will work on further ingraining supportive and encouraging behaviour, good sportsmanship and respect for roles of officials in partner, group and game situations. The 3/4 children will be working on athletics skills such as jumping, throwing, running and leaping, which will put them in good stead for the 3 to 6 APS Athletics Carnival. Also, the 3/4 children will learn some basic gymnastics skills.

Grade 5/6 overview

This semester, the 5/6 children will work on improving a variety of skills (overhand throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling, forehand striking) and applying them to basic, sport-specific games such as tee-ball, netball and bat tennis. They will explore the use of sport specific game strategies and the movement skills of leading, evading and defending. They will work on further ingraining supportive and encouraging behaviour, good sportsmanship and respect for roles of officials in partner, group and game situations. The 5/6 children will also be working on athletics skills such as jumping, throwing, running and leaping, which will put them in good stead for the 3 to 6 APS Athletics Carnival. Also, the 5/6 children will learn some basic gymnastics skills.

I look forward to working with all the children at APS and watching their development socially, academically and physically.

Stephen Fava
PE Teacher



MUSIC PROGRAM OUTLINE

SEMESTER 2

The **grade 5/6** children will focus on their Recorder skills, developing their understanding of music theory and the elements of music, in particular Rhythm and Melody.

There will be a focus on Musical Styles and the instruments that are common to these styles. Children will learn songs and dances that relate to some of these styles, developing an appreciation for different kinds of music.

Children will experience playing a range of percussion tuned and non tuned instruments, reinforcing the key concepts in music.

In term 4 the children will again visit music technology and create and compose music using the O Generator program.

Grade 3/4 children will be introduced to music technology through the Groovy Jungle program. In this program they will learn about various musical elements, such as Rhythm, Melody, Tempo and Dynamics, and then apply this knowledge when composing their own music in the program.

There will be a focus on Musical Styles and the instruments that are common to these styles. Children will learn songs and dances that relate to some of these styles, developing an appreciation for different kinds of music.

They will continue their understanding of music theory through playing the Recorder while developing their technique and range of notes.

Grade 1/2 children will begin learning music theory by playing the keyboard and tuned percussion instruments, reading the music to play simple songs.

They will also play a range of percussion instruments to reinforce the concepts of Beat, Rhythm, Tempo and Dynamics.

Children will continue focusing on singing and dancing to different styles of music.

They will work on items for Windows on the West and F.O.P.A. Our theme being:

“So you think you can dance Altona”

There will be a focus on Tone-Color and a study of the Instruments of the Orchestra, learning about the different sections and how sounds are produced on various instruments.

Children will also experience music technology through the use of the Smart Board and the Groovy Music Program.

The **Prep** children will continue working on all elements of music, including Beat, Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Tempo, Dynamics, Tone-Color and Style.

They will learn songs and dances relating to classroom themes and a variety of styles of music.

They will learn about the tone qualities of various instruments while playing and listening to music.

They will be introduced to the smart board and play some music games and learn about various elements of music through the Groovy music program.

All grades will work on an item to present at our end of year Christmas concert in December.

Another jam packed musical semester!!!

Visual Arts – Semester 2 – an overview

Our school Art Show, a major event on our triennial calendar will be a major component of this semester's art program for all grades. This event, taking place in the second week of term 4 will display the artistic talents of all our children not only to our school community but also visitors from the wider area.

All children will have two art pieces, one completed with their classroom teacher and one worked on during art sessions, displayed throughout our extensive gallery area.

This event not only supports the making of visual arts pieces but also provides the children with the opportunity to view their own and other's works in a gallery experience. Parents are encouraged to make their visit to the art show with their children a quality experience where all works are viewed, discussed and appreciated.

Term 2 also has a major literacy thrust with both Literacy Week and Book Week taking place this term. The art program has incorporated many connections with quality children's literature.

Many art activities will have been inspired by current or previously selected books from the Children's Book Council Awards.

Current classroom themes and the Olympic Games will also be used as a basis for art pieces that continue to allow the children to develop their art skills, explore art elements and experience the wide variety of art materials available.

It is a very busy and productive term in the Art room as preparations are made for the 2008 Art Show which promises to be a celebration of the children's artistic skills and creative flair.

Please enjoy this wonderful school community event.

More information to follow in the school newsletter closer to the date.

IN OUR ICT CLASSROOM

The 1/2 grades this term will be spending one hour a week learning the Kid Pix 4 program. This program is very creative and gives the students an opportunity to learn how to manipulate graphics and text, and how to open and save their files. They use tools within Kid Pix 4 to create backgrounds, animations, stamps, stickers and painting. These skills are invaluable to learn and are used throughout their ICT learning life.

Regards,
Robyne Luketic

SPOTSWOOD CRICKET CLUB

The club will be holding its Junior Registration Day on Saturday 9th August 10am-12pm at the Cricket Club Spotswood.