Principal’s Corner

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a great holiday with their families. It is exciting to start 2015 with all of our new preps and their families and our current students. It is such a pleasure to work at Altona P.S.

The Preps have really started the year well, settling into their rooms and getting down to work. I walked through the prep rooms this morning to see them all settled at their desks and engaged in work at 8:55 a.m.

Our grade 6 students will be nominating themselves for the School Captain and Vice Captain positions tomorrow morning. They present a poster and make a speech highlighting their skills for the role. In my opinion they are all worthy leaders and true role models for the rest of the students.

The 2015 School council elections are now open. The elections close on Friday February 26th. There are 4 parent positions available. School council meets 8 times a year at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It is a fabulous way to get involved in the school and contribute to the education of all students. Parents can either self nominate or be nominated. Nomination forms are available at the office. Parents could also join the school council sub committees which have unlimited membership. The more parents we have involved and helping the better the school operates.

All OSHC payments will now need to be paid online using HubWorks only. Our OSHC staff can help families with the process. It is too difficult to run two separate payment systems.

A list of the grades and teachers is attached. This is the first year we have not employed any new staff members. We have an amazing group of very talented teachers.

Congratulations to Ms. Christina and Mr. Rouse who are now engaged to their respective partners.

This years grade 4 netbooks will be rolled out next week. Most of our students have never had their netbooks in for any issues over the entire 3 years. The main repair issues we have had with netbooks are; viruses downloaded at home, missing keyboard parts pried off at home, and broken screens and hinges from mishandling. Please make sure you follow all of the internet and netbook safety procedures. The netbook program has made an incredible difference to learning and teaching.

This year is our 100th year. We have many celebration and community events planned over the year. All of our fundraising will go towards a centenary playground. The proposed playground image is attached to this newsletter. We need to raise $50,000 to build it. We will be looking for donations of any size to raise this money over the year. We are particularly interested in business or corporate sponsorship if any of our families have any connections or their own business.

We intend to build a paved brick path from Blyth Street to the front door of the school. Families will be able to buy a brick and have their names engraved on it. It will be similar to the engraved pathway next to the main building. Many past and current families will be keen to have their names on the path for the future. I know many families who missed the last opportunity have already shown a keen interest especially in our 100th year.

Please consider our neighbours when parking around the school. We need to consider the safety of all students and our neighbours even when we are in a hurry.

Can all families check their children for head lice this weekend. We can start the year head lice free throughout the school.

I have been really proud and pleased with the way all the grades have begun the year. It is a privilege to be part of a team that makes such a significant difference to the lives of our students.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Kevin Enright
DATES TO REMEMBER 2015

Monday 9th February
Assembly 9am to 9:30am:
2015 School and House Captains announce
2:45pm-3:15pm:
Special assembly to launch our Centenary Year.
All families are welcome and encouraged to attend both assemblies.

Monday 16th -20th February
Grade 5/6’s Social Media program – Internet safety

Tuesday 17th February
ADSSA Swimming Carnival

Monday 23rd February
Whole school photo day – no assembly

Wednesday 4th March
Whole school Japanese Cultural Day

Monday 9th March
Public holiday

Wednesday 11th March
APS Cross country – whole school

Tuesday 19th March
Whole school Muddy Madness fundraiser for Centenary Playground

Monday 23rd March – Thursday 26th March
Grade 5/6 camp

Friday 27th March
End of Term One

Monday 13th April
First day of Term 2

Thursday 17th September
APS Concert

Monday 19th October -24th October
Centenary Week Celebrations
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Melissa Wendt (TL)</td>
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<td>Prep N</td>
<td>Jess Nichols</td>
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<td>Hannah Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Prep M</td>
<td>Joanne Mathrick</td>
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<td>Prep S</td>
<td>Christina Sakellarides</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Lainee Barwise (TL)</td>
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<td>Robyne Luketic</td>
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<td>1P</td>
<td>Athena Petalas</td>
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<td>Hannah Wilkinson (Friday)</td>
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<td>2H</td>
<td>Natascha Hruschka</td>
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<td>Nicole Nicolin</td>
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<td>Kerryn Massey (TL)</td>
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<td>3AV</td>
<td>Martina Aird</td>
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<td>Tiffany Verwoert</td>
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<td>3H</td>
<td>Tim Hargreaves</td>
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<td>3/4 M</td>
<td>Jess McDonald (TL)</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>Kate Beckman</td>
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<td>4C</td>
<td>Ash Craig</td>
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<td>4J</td>
<td>Kaela Johnson</td>
<td>LS8</td>
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<td>5/6 G</td>
<td>Andrew Gilpin (TL)</td>
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<td>5/6 K</td>
<td>Shonelle Kent</td>
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<td>Reading recovery</td>
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<td>Nicole Friday</td>
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<td>Debbie Galvin</td>
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<td>Liz Brown</td>
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<td>Tammie Thompson</td>
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<td>Leading Teacher</td>
<td>Adam McPherson</td>
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<td>Office</td>
<td>Maree Wilson, Lee Ogden, Lisa McKay</td>
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<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Karyn Lyon</td>
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<td>IT Support</td>
<td>Leigh Enright, Chi and Thi</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>Lauren Bird &amp; Nicole Magowan</td>
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Dear Parents and Carers,

SAVE THE DATE!!

ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL MUDDY MADNESS

Thursday 19th March 2015

As part of our Centenary Year Celebrations and to raise funds for our planned New Centenary Playground, Altona Primary School is hosting a sponsored 'Muddy Madness' fundraising event to take place Thursday 19th March. Add this date to your calendar as it will be one of the events of the year.

The fundraising event “Altona Muddy Madness' is a 'Tough Mudder' style obstacle course set around the school grounds. It will be a fun filled event where the participants are guaranteed to get wet, dirty and have lots of laughs. Students of Altona Primary School will be asked to seek sponsorship for their participation in the event.

The obstacles will be of varying difficulty to meet the needs of all our ages from Prep-6, however it is designed to be challenging and for the students to test themselves.

On the day of the event we will be opening the course to our parents, staff and sponsors to take on the Altona Muddy Madness challenge, so everyone can be involved.
The Obstacles are able to be sponsored by businesses. More sponsorship information will be sent out in the coming weeks. Save the date, come along as a participant or to cheer on our participants. This is bound to be an event to remember.

Thank you,

The Centenary 'Muddy Madness Focus Group'
Nicole Fridey
Adam McPherson
Thashnee Ramkilawan
Hannah Wilkinson
Erin Douglas
Tiffany Verwoert
Simon Clark
This week Book Club catalogues for Issue #1, 2015 have been sent home. This year Scholastic has redesigned their catalogue format so students will receive one catalogue aimed at their grade level.

You are not obligated to purchase books; this is a service offered to all schools. Return order forms with your child’s name & grade on each & correct money, cheques or credit card receipt details in an envelope to your classroom teacher so all money can go through the cashbook.

**Cheques are to be made payable to ‘Scholastic’**.

The one credit card payment can be made direct to Scholastic or one cheque can be written for your complete order from different catalogues and/or sibling’s orders. Please place all order forms in the same envelope with the cheque.

**Please write your child’s name & grade clearly on the order form.**

If you wish to order items from Book Club as a present, clearly write ‘Gift’ or ‘Present’ on the order forms & a contact phone number. We will contact you when these special orders can be collected from the office.

Book club Issue #1 orders are required no later than **Friday, 20th February**.

Delivery of the books will be approximately two - three weeks.

Should you have any queries, please speak to me,
Joanne Mathrick  Room 9 Prep M
mathrick.joanne.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Book Club Co-ordinator.
Need help managing stress or anxiety?

If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8-17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.

HARD COPY NEWSLETTER

We encourage all parents to view the newsletter online, however if you require a hard copy to be sent home every Thursday please fill in the slip below and return to the office.
You must send in your request even if you requested a hard copy last year.

Hard copy newsletter requested:

Eldest Child’s name........................................................................................................

Grade..................................................................................................................
At Altona Primary School we have developed a culture where parents, teachers and students work together collectively to create a supportive learning environment with a community atmosphere.

At Altona Primary School we are committed to the ongoing development of a supportive and effective home/school partnership. We value the support of parents in their children’s learning and acknowledge the significant contributions that parents do and can make to their child’s literacy learning both at school and home.

The purpose of our Parent Literacy Education Program is to further support parents and families in helping their child’s ongoing literacy development and ultimately develop a love of literacy learning. We endeavour to provide information, practical support and strategies to utilise at home across a range of literacy areas including speaking and listening, reading and writing. The program allows parents to be actively involved in their child’s education and provides a platform for parents to network and support each other and assist in classroom literacy sessions.
Dear Parents,

This year Altona Primary School will once again be offering parents the opportunity to take part in our PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (Literacy & Numeracy)

This program is designed for parents/caregivers who wish to assist in classrooms within the Literacy and Numeracy block and/or who wish to learn some strategies for helping their own children with Literacy/Numeracy at home. Please be aware that this Education Program is a requirement for all parents who wish to assist with Literacy and Numeracy within our classrooms. Participants will have the opportunity to explore how children learn and how, together with classroom teachers, parents/caregivers can continue to support their children's Literacy and Numeracy development. The program focuses on Literacy and Numeracy learning of all students; however it is particularly beneficial to parents/caregivers of Prep – 2 students and/or new families to the school.

Previous participants have ranged from Mums and Dads to Grandparents and/or other persons supporting student learning at home. Feedback from previous participants indicated that the program gave them a valuable insight into how students learn within the current educational context and strategies they can utilise at home.

The program will run over four weekly sessions the dates being:
Thursday 19th February 2015
Thursday 26th February 2015 (Literacy)
Thursday 5th March 2015 (Numeracy)
Thursday 12th March 2015 (Literacy)

These sessions will be held at the Altona RSL (31 Sargood Street, Altona) Sessions will commence at 9:15am and conclude at 11:15am.

If you are interested in participating, please fill in the expression of interest below and return it to your child's class teacher no later than Monday 9th February 2015.

Please note: Unfortunately we are unable to cater for children (Toddlers and babies) during these sessions at this venue. We apologise if this causes any inconvenience.

We look forward to meeting and working with you.
Thank you
Strategic Leadership Team

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Parent Education Program – Expression of Interest 2015

I wish to participate in the Parent Education Program commencing on Thursday 19th February 2015

Participant Name: _______________________________________
Child’s Name: _______________________________________
Child’s Grade: _______________________________________
Contact phone number: _________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________
Dear Parents,

The B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission is an organisation dedicated to promoting tolerance, justice and multiculturalism and tackling issues of racism, hatred and anti-Semitism. We do this in many ways, one of which is through educational programs and services.

**During the week beginning 16th February** we will be visiting your school to present grade 5/6 children with our social media program— Click against Hate. Click against Hate engages with students and teaches them how to be safe when they are on line. We will be covering a range of topics, including how to deal with cyber bullying, how to determine if a website is credible, invasion of privacy, racism and defamation.

The presenter is a trained educator with more than 20 years’ experience in the classroom. Your children will not be exposed to any graphic images but will be taught how to navigate the internet safely, what it means to be an innocent by-stander, a victim of bullying or a bully. The classroom teacher will be present throughout the session.

This is a free program to your school.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me on 9272 5677.

Yours sincerely,

Edna Lipson
Development and Project Manager

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**SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS COMING**

**SCHOOLPIX** will be visiting us on Monday 23rd February 2015

**PHOTO DAY TIPS:**

**Dress:** Clean and tidy as per school uniform guidelines

**Hair:** Neat and swept off face

**Manual Orders:** Complete your order form and return with payment to school on photography day

**Online Orders:** To pre-order online, take your personal Order and ID Numbers found on your order form and go to [www.schoolpix.com.au](http://www.schoolpix.com.au). Orders can be placed online up to 3 working days after photography. You do not need to return the order form if you order online.

**Remember:** All orders placed online will receive a free 20cm x 25cm black and white portrait print.

PO Box 5222, Hallam VIC 3803
Ph: 1300 766 055
Email: info@schoolpix.com.au
Attention Families,
We will be holding two special assemblies on Monday 9th February.

**Assembly One: 9am to 9:30am**
This will be a normal assembly where we will be presenting student awards. We will also be announcing our 2015 School and House Captains.

**Assembly Two: 2:45pm-3:15pm**
During this time we will be having a special assembly to launch our Centenary Year.
Sports Corner 2015
I would like to just say welcome back to all students, parents, and staff for 2015. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break.
As usual, we will be hitting the ground running with sport this year. Here are some key dates for Term 1:

- APS Swim Trials: Thursday the 5th of Feb
- APS Swim Team Training: Tuesday the 10th Feb/ Thursday the 12th Feb
- Summer Sport Round 1: Friday the 13th Feb
- ADSSA Swimming Carnival: Tuesday the 17th of Feb
- Cross Country Training: Thursday the 19th of Feb
- Summer Sport Round 2: Friday the 20th of Feb
- Cross Country Training: Tuesday the 24th of Feb
- Cross Country Training: Thursday the 26th of Feb
- Summer Sport Round 3: Friday the 27th of Feb
- Cross Country Training: Tuesday the 3rd of Mar
- Cross Country Training: Thursday the 5th of Mar
- Summer Sport Round 4: Friday the 6th of Mar
- APS Cross Country: Wednesday the 11th of Mar
- Summer Sport Round 5: Friday the 13th of Mar
- Cross Country Team Training: Tuesday 17th of Mar
- Cross Country Team Training: Thursday 19th of Mar
- Summer Sport Round 6: Friday the 20th of Mar
- Cross Country Team Training: Tuesday 24th of Mar
- Cross Country Team Training: Thursday 26th of Mar
- Summer Sport Finals: Dates and Times TBA

Have a great term everyone.
Mr Clarke
Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing break! Well the Parents Club have some new faces this year as well as some old ones, but it’s never too late to become a member.

**HAPPY CENTENARY YEAR.**

**PARENTS CLUB 2015 – WELCOME**

Welcome to all the new Prep parents and new families to Altona Primary School. This year is a very exciting year for Altona Primary School. **It turns 100 years old.**

If you would like to be involved in fundraising for this exciting year, please join our Parents Club.

The Parents Club is run by a dedicated volunteer committee who hold many events during the year - any money raised goes straight back into the school.

We will be holding our first Parents Club Meeting next **Wednesday 11 February at 9:00** in the school canteen. – Everyone is welcome to our meetings – Parents, grandparents, toddlers & babies – EVERYONE!! We have a cuppa and discuss fundraising ideas – plan events and chat about fun things to do at the school.

You don’t have to be a Committee Member to come along – but if you would like to be a committee member, you would get to have a say on events, organise events and get to vote on any issue needing a majority decision.

Please fill in the attached form and leave it at the office.

Parents Club is just a group of Mums and Dads just like you who want to make Altona Primary School even better than it already is – by raising money and forming a school community bond.

Kind Regards
Thashnee Ramkilawan
President – Parents Club 2015.

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**PARENTS’ CLUB NOMINATION FORM 2015**

Full Name: _______________________________________________________

Child’s Name: _______________________________________________________

Contact Number: __________________________ Mob: ________________________

Contact Email: _______________________________________________________

I, ................................................................., would like to nominate myself for the

............................................................................................................ position on the 2015 Altona Primary School Parents’ Club Committee.

Signature: ................................................................. Date: .......................