Well, it certainly has been another big and busy week at Altona Primary School. The week started with a jam-packed assembly where our eLearning Leaders, SRC Representatives and Environment Captains were announced and presented with their certificates and badges. Students had to apply within their grades for these positions. It was fantastic to see so many worthy applicants put their hands up for these positions. We are confident that the students selected will enjoy the responsibility that comes with these positions, take the roles seriously and put a lot of effort into them.

Assemblies like Monday serve as a reminder that our students from Prep to Grade 6 consistently display fantastic leadership qualities that are nurtured by their parents and teachers, regardless of whether they have official titles. The Centenary awards that so many students received show that the students really are leaders of their own learning and that all members of our school community work very hard.

Our Japanese ‘homestay’ students have spent their second and final week with us this week. It has been a pleasure having them at A.P.S. The culmination of this visit was a highly successful Japanese Cultural Day on Wednesday where the students were immersed in some traditional Japanese activities run by our visitors. The girls also provided an entertaining performance prior to our parade, and as always, when it came time to dress up, our students were in their element. Our kids definitely know how to rock a dress up day!

We also had the Principal of Moonee Ponds Primary School and his school leaders come to A.P.S. to meet with our leadership team to observe how we run Professional Learning meetings with our staff. This was a fantastic opportunity for our staff to share with others what we do ‘behind the scenes’ that makes us a high performing school and helps lead to the fantastic student outcomes that we are so proud of. We look forward to continuing this professional relationship with Moonee Ponds Primary.

I would like to congratulate the following Parents who have been elected as 2015 School Councillors: Ed Geraghty, Rebecca Letson, Pratyusha Chebolu, Karen Hudson, Peter Roberts and Claire Carson who will take up their position on School Council from Wednesday 18th March 2015.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn’t remind everyone about ‘Muddy Madness’ on Thursday, March 19th. A lot of planning and preparation is going on to making this a unique and fun experience for the students. The excitement and anticipation from the students who are looking forward to tackling the course and water bombing the teachers has been brilliant to see, even if there are a few ‘precious’ teachers who are nervous about getting dirty and getting their hair wet!

I’m looking forward to an exciting last few weeks of Term 1.

Adam McPherson
Leading Teacher
DATES TO REMEMBER 2015

**Monday 9th March**
Public holiday

**Wednesday 11th March**
APS Cross country

**Friday 13th March**
National Ride to School Day

**Thursday 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

**Monday 19th October**
Centenary Week Celebrations

**Thursday 17th September**
APS Concert

NETBOOK PAYMENTS FOR TERM ONE
Thank you to those parents who have already paid their 2015 Netbook payment for Term 1 for Grade 4, 5 and 6, which was due last Friday 27th February. However, there are a large number of payments which are now overdue.
Please send payment immediately to avoid the netbook being taken off your child.
Dear Parents,

Altona Primary School students are offered the opportunity to compete in the annual ICAS examinations. These exams allow students to compete academically against high achieving students on the national and international stage. These examinations provide students with examination practice which can be useful for high school entrance tests and national testing (NAPLAN).

Once the exam has been marked, parents are provided with:

- Their child’s results and certificate of achievement.
- A detailed analysis of how their child has performed in comparison to their peers
- A copy of the exam questions and a list of the answers their child provided on the day.

Certificates of achievement are awarded as follows:

1. **High Distinction** to the top 1% of students
2. **Distinction** to the next 10% of students
3. **Credit** to the next 25% of students
4. **Merit** to the next 10% of students
5. **Participation** to all other students

**About ICAS**

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students.

ICAS exams are made available for students in Years 2-12; assessments are available in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing and Computer Skills. A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level by our team of subject matter experts. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students’ skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Some schools use ICAS as a placement test. Other schools use ICAS results as a component of a student’s overall academic achievement for the year. While still others offer ICAS as a psychometric test to better understand what students can and can’t do at a point in time.

Each test is sat at the student’s school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions.

Administration Guidelines are provided to the schools with the ICAS papers to ensure that the same conditions are afforded to all students sitting ICAS.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

**To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form and return it, with your entry fees, to your school by 30th March 2015. Please note that no late entries will be accepted.**

For more information about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au, contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or send an email to info@eaa.unsw.edu.au Your child can also prepare for ICAS using Practice Online. Practice Online tests are available for English, Mathematics and Science. Find out more about Practice Online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online

Yours sincerely,

Mr Corroon
2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Registration Form

Please return this form to your child’s school

I give permission for my child ________________ of ________________

Child’s name Class

to participate in the following 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS):

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Years</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee, incl. GST</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>3–10</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 May 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2–12</td>
<td>Wednesday 3 June 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3–12</td>
<td>15–19 June 2015</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3–7</td>
<td>Tuesday 16 June 2015</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2–12</td>
<td>Tuesday 28 July 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2–12</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 August 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL

Please find enclosed __________________________ total entry fee.

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian __________________________ Date __________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian __________________________
Thank you to everyone that dressed up for Japanese Cultural Day, you all looked fantastic! Our Japanese exchange students did a fabulous job teaching us traditional games and activities.

National Ride 2 School Day Friday 13th March

“Hands up Count” - is done in conjunction with National Ride 2 School day. Children who have actively travelled to school will be counted and numbers will be added onto Bicycle network database for Altona Primary School. Currently we are at 35% active travel, and hope to reach at more than 50% on that day. “Hands up Count” - days are usually every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next dates will be: Wednesday 15th April, Wednesday 13th May, Wednesday 10th June.

Thanks
Sally Leung
THANK YOU TO THE ALTONA RSL

The Altona RSL has a historic partnership with Altona Primary School and continues to support the school in a variety of way. Our school community acknowledges the support given for our students, our Muddy Madness Event and once again for providing a wonderful space in which to hold our Parent Education Program.

2015 PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

We have had varying enquires regarding the expansion of this program in other possible formats such as an evening, weekend program and condensed versions of the program. As a school we absolutely value the impact of this program, hence our commitment to it for the past 10 years. Unfortunately due to a wide range of reasons such as facilitation, time commitments, cost, staffing, venue and accommodating a time frame which caters for all parents, we are unable to offer this program again throughout the year and for the integrity of the program cannot offer it in a condensed version.

To maximise the impact of the program it is imperative that it is held at the beginning of the year to have the desired impact for the remainder of the school year. We currently have a commitment of 50 parents completing the course and we thank them for their time commitment and participation. We do recognise that a number of parents are unable to access the program at this time and we do encourage their participation in our school in a different capacity other than the Literacy/Numeracy classroom sessions.

With thanks,
Debbie Galvin/Nicole Fridey.

BOOKCLUB

Bookclub is due this Friday 6th March. If your order is for a gift, please mark this on the envelope and give it to the classroom teacher.
Japanese Homestay Program 22nd February – 10th March 2015

Congratulations to our 8 host families - Mathrick, Parsons, Pollock, Giles-Holmes, Sheehan, Ritchie, McNamara and Meakin.

We thank you all for opening up your homes to these wonderful girls who have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with you and your family.

Thank you to our teaching staff for welcoming our Japanese guests into our school and their classrooms.

**Wednesday 4th March 2015  Japanese Cultural Day**

Our Japanese Student Teachers planned some exciting activities for the whole on our Japanese Cultural Day.

The day began with a parade with children and staff dressing up in Japanese costumes.

We were entertained by our Japanese Students singing a traditional song.

A very big thank you to Tanya Walker for her planning and implementation of the ESL classes and Shelley Golz for leading our Assembly.

**Japanese Farewell Performance at Williamstown Town Hall, Friday March 7th 2015 at 7:00pm**

All Altona Primary School families are invited to the Japanese Student’s Farewell Performance at Williamstown Town Hall.

This performance is to show their appreciation for our support and hospitality.

Please come and enjoy the student’s performance.

**CENTENARY CELEBRATION WATER BOTTLES**

Water bottles are available through your child’s classroom. Just send $5 in a marked envelope to the classroom teacher.
ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL MUDDY MADNESS
Thursday 19th March
There is a buzz of eager anticipation around the school for our Muddy Madness
day. We have had a positive response to our family and business sponsorship
opportunities. We greatly appreciate all sponsorship and donations and there are
still opportunities to do so. If your family or business would like to take up this
opportunity, please complete the sponsorship/donation forms and return them to
the front office. The Friends and Families Committee are actively seeking
volunteers to assist us prior to and on the day of the event. If you can assist in
anyway please fill out the volunteers form and return it to the school office. We
thank those parents who have already offered their time however we still require
more volunteers. Please Note: All children require signed permission to
participate in this event and the forms are due back at school NO LATER
THAN Thursday 12th of March along with sponsorship forms and money. Keep
a look out in next week’s newsletter for more details regarding the course and
events on the day. We are all looking forward to a fun filled day. Unfortunately
we have not been able to secure the Altona Fire Brigade on the day as
advertised. Special Lunch order forms for the Muddy Madness BBQ will be
coming home on Tuesday 10th of March. Orders are to be placed before Monday
16th of March. Numerous teachers have put their names forward to participate in
the obstacle course and the Water Bomb the Teacher event, look out for the list
of names of who will be involved. We are all looking forward to this fun filled
event.
### WEEK 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 30th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>Japanese Day</strong></td>
<td>Today we will be culturally transformed to enjoy a range of Japanese activities, games and cooking experiences. We will be making our very own sushi, paper lanterns and Japanese Koi creating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 31st March</strong></td>
<td><strong>Magic Day</strong></td>
<td>Come and get involved in magical mayhem where we will be learning some cool magic tricks as well as some circus secrets! Having a special guest magician who knows his tricks just a little too well. Be prepared to be amazed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 1st April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fun City</strong></td>
<td>What better way to spend a Wednesday than at Fun City for a day of super charged fun! We will be partaking in a day filled with entertaining and skill testing games and activities. Oh and did we mention they’re FUN!!! We will have three hours of unlimited access to Darkzone Laser Tag, Laser Entrapment, the Bungeerun, Balladium and the Fun City Haunted House. Be sure to bring all of your energetic stamina because today, you will need it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 2nd April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eggstravaganza- Easter day</strong></td>
<td>Easter may have passed but be sure that the Easter bunny did not forget OSHC! He’s hidden chocolate eggs around the school and it’s our job to find them. As well as going on an Easter hunt, Easter games and arts and crafts we’ll make us wish Easter was every day!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 3rd April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Program</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Please note that in the event an Excursion or an Incursion is cancelled due to do unexpected circumstances, the activity will either be postponed or an alternative activity of equal value will be provided.
- Days that involve incursions/excursions children are required to be at the program by 9am.
- All toys and technology devices are not to be brought to the program.
- *Food which requires heating or cooking should not be given.*

**Program Times:** 7.15am – 6.15pm

**COSTS INVOLVED:**
- **Daily rate:** $50.00
- **Incursion:** $60.00
- **Excursion:** $65.00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 6th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 7th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Silence is Golden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turn the volume down and get ready to experience a world full of silence. Create and star in your very own silent movie, be a part of the latest party craze – the SILENT DISCO as well as quietly be blown away by the amazing silent karaoke with the guest star of..YOU!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 8th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beach Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pray for sun!!!! We are hitting the beach to enjoy the sun, sand and surf with an afternoon full of games, sports and relaxing. We will enjoy our lunch together whilst watching the waves roll in and splashing our feet in the water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 9th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fun Fields</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are you ready to hit up one of Australia’s best amusement parks again? Travelling to the other side of town will be well worth the while. From water rides, like the ultimate typhoon and bumper boats to everyone’s favourite toboggan. Experience high speeds on the burnout roller-coaster and even a chance to ride the pony xpress! It’s a day not to be missed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 10th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Film Fun Friday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ever wanted to be a famous actor or actress or even movie director? Well today you will get to be all of those things and star in your very own feature movie! We will spend the day working in groups to script, rehearse and film your very own movies. We will then relax in our OSHC style cinema to kick up our feet and premier all of our feature films.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

****PLEASE NOTE****

Unfortunately, due to large numbers of children attending our program, we can now only accept Altona PS students for Vacation Care. Bookings can ONLY be made via OSHC or the school office. In order to secure a booking, full payment must be made within 24 hours.

If your child is attending an excursion day there must be a form filled out as a formal permission form for ALL children to attend on those days. You can collect & return these to the OSHC office.
Muddy Madness
19 March 2015

Altona Muddy Madness

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
- Thursday 5 February
  Friends and Families Committee next meeting
- Thursday 19 March 2015
  Muddy Madness
- Monday 16 March 2015
  Cadbury Fundraiser Drive

SHOPPERS CARDS
If you require our new shoppers card, it can be purchased from the office at the cost of $10:00

School Banking
School banking is done every Friday.

ICY POLES
Every Wednesday for a $1:00

Orders have now closed for the Easter Drive. Thank you to everyone for their orders.
ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL MUDDY MADNESS
Thursday 19th March

VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THIS FABULOUS EVENT

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.

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.

We are seeking volunteers to help set up, supervise and pack away the obstacles.

I ___________________________________________________________________________ would like to volunteer to assist with the Muddy Madness Event. I am available;

Wednesday 18th of March (the day before to help set up) between _____________am and _____________pm

and/or

Thursday 19th of March (the day of the event) _____________am and _____________pm

Please return this form to the office no later than Tuesday 10th of March.
Farewell to our Farmers’ Market

It is with some sadness that we announce that our monthly APS Farmers’ Market in conjunction with Inseasons markets has ceased.

The market, run by a dedicated group of parent volunteers, has been operating since September 2012 and has been a wonderful opportunity for the school to make connections with the wider community. Many people looked forward to the market and, I am sure, will miss the stallholders and the produce they brought with them. Unfortunately falling gate entries and customers meant a reduced number of stalls attending and a decision was made together with Inseasons (the company responsible for co-ordinating the market stallholders) to cancel the market, with immediate effect. Inseasons have noted their appreciation to the school and the community for the support shown to the market over this time.

Over the two and a half years that the market has run, over $15,000 has been raised for the school through gate coin donations, sausage sizzles, cream teas, soup sales, crazy hair spray and the book stall. This money has been used to provide interactive whiteboards, build bike sheds, buy plants for the veggie patch as well as providing funding for each grade to buy resources of their own choosing.

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped out with the market, all of the volunteers and those behind the scenes co-ordinating and planning and to all of you who attended and supported our venture. We look forward to our centenary celebrations this year and other ways to maintain our engagement with the community.
Coloring Competition

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Farmers' Market and entered the colouring competition. Everyone put a lot of effort into their entries and it was nice to see new Prep faces coming through the gates. Winners were presented with a prize in assembly.

Congratulations to:
Charlotte Robbie - Prep N
Miranda McNamara - Prep M
Scarlett Darrington - Prep S
Liam Walls - Prep W
Ty Cox - 2N