

Altona Primary School Newsletter



18th DECEMBER: TERM 4 WEEK 12



Principal's Report

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to our whole community for what has been a very successful year at APS. Our amazing students have benefited immensely from the continued commitment our staff bring to their work everyday and from the support they receive at home.

This year we have seen incredible performance across all of our measures. We have met or exceeded the targets that were established within our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and we continue to see increasing percentages of our students performing above standard across the curriculum.

Here are some of our results in reference to our specific AIP targets:

- 46% of students are performing above standard in Number (Mathematics) with our target being 44%
- Positive responses in the Student Attitudes to School Survey have improved in the areas of:
 - 'Student Voice and Agency' has increased from 53% in 2022 to 64% in 2023
 - 'Stimulated Learning' has increased from 73% in 2022 to 81% in 2023
 - 'Sense of Connectedness' has increased from 78% in 2022 to 80% in 2023
- Positive responses in our Parent Opinion Survey have remained the same in the measure of 'Effective Teaching', with our goal being to maintain this.

Along with our very positive and strong NAPLAN results this year, there is lots to celebrate. 2024 will see a continued focus on improvement and our goals will be shared with the community in the new year.

Dates to Remember

20th December
Last Day of Term 4
1.00 ASSEMBLY
1.30 Dismissal

29th January
Staff Return - Curriculum Day

30th January
Students in Grade 1-6 first day

5th February
Preps first day of school

7th and 8th February
Learning Partnership Meetings

19th-21st February
Grade 6 CAMP

12th March
School Photos

13th March - 22nd March
NAPLAN

28th March
Last Day of Term 1
2.30 Dismissal

PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL OTHER DATES



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP 2024

At our recent assembly, our student leadership group for next year was announced. 44 students confidently nominated themselves for the roles, giving a speech to their peers around their suitability for the role and ideas for the school. Following a peer vote, 22 students were then interviewed by our Principal team and current school captains. Following this selection process, I am pleased to share that our captains for 2024 are:

SCHOOL CAPTAINS:

Maya, Helina and Cristian

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

BORRACK: Ayra and Spencer

BROMLEY: Maddie and Jonas

FLEMING: Lottie and Aarav

ENRIGHT: Kiki and Will

BLYTH: Amelia and Viaan



STAFFING

I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to those staff leaving APS at the end of 2023. Whitney Buckley, Kate Puhar and Marissa Kearney have all been successful in obtaining ongoing positions in other schools. We wish them well. Hannah Wilkinson is also leaving to commence a position at another school in 2024. Hannah has been a teacher at APS for many years and we wish her the best of luck. Next year we welcome one new member to our staff, Vesna Craig, who is an experienced teacher joining our 3/4 team. Vesna has visited the school for planning and our transition sessions and is a welcome addition to our team.

XMAS VISIT TO THE PORT PHILLIP RETIREMENT HOME



Earlier this month, a small group of our students were accompanied by Mrs Mathrick to deliver Xmas cards to the residents at the Port Phillip Retirement Village. Students from across the school wrote cards to individual residents, who have since hand delivered and responded with returned cards. This humbling experience has demonstrated the importance of connection within our community and one which are very proud to have strengthened this year.

PARENT HELPERS

Last week we welcomed a large group of parents to share in a morning tea as a token of our appreciation for the support that has been given to the school this year. If you have helped in any way this year in our classrooms, on camps or excursions, with resources or any of our stalls, canteen days or fundraising events, we are incredibly grateful for the time volunteered. There are many things that cannot be achieved in schools without the support of our parents/carers and community members, and we are so fortunate to have willing volunteers to enable these experiences for our students and community.

2024 PARENT PAYMENTS

Over January, parents/carers will be able to pay school contributions via Compass. We strongly encourage families to attend to these payments early in the year, however they can be made at any stage. All contributions will support our school to continue to provide high quality resources and materials for our students across all curriculum areas. We thank families for their continued support and for their contributions that have supported us tremendously this year



GRADE 6 GRADUATION

On Tuesday last week we celebrated our Grade 6 cohort at their Graduation ceremony. This was a great evening for all that attended to share with our students as they reflected on their time at APS. We farewell this cohort on Wednesday at our end of year assembly commencing at 1pm. We wish all of our Grade 6 students the very best as they finish their primary schooling and move onto various secondary schools. We are so proud of them all and know they will go on to achieve great things in the future.



NEW TOILET BLOCK AND CLASSROOM ALLOCATIONS

Over the January holiday period, our new toilet block will be landed onsite. All things going to plan we should see this functional and ready for the beginning of the school year. In 2024, Grade 5 and Grade 6 classrooms are located in close proximity to this space, enabling us to have a separate toilet block for our 'senior' students. Grade Prep, 1 and 2 classrooms will all be located in the Learning Street, while Grade 3/4s will be housed in the main building and Rooms 12 and 13. Classroom placements for 2024 provide a closer 'geographical' distance for each year level, enabling year levels to gather in the spaces surrounding their classrooms and then move into the yard for the breaks within close proximity to each other.

As this will be our last newsletter for the year, on behalf of our staff, I would like to wish our whole community an enjoyable and safe holiday period. If this is your family's last year at APS, we wish you the best of luck as you move onto a new chapter in your child's schooling.

For those celebrating, I wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

We are looking forward to welcoming our 2024 students and families back to school on Tuesday the 30th of January, 2024.

Take care,
Sarah

COMMUNICATION AT APS

COMPASS: Ongoing communication. Newsfeed items contain reminders and timely information. All payments and consent for events and activities are made through Compass.

NEWSLETTER: Reports what is happening and coming up at APS. Published monthly via Compass and the school website.

YEAR LEVEL NEWSLETTERS: Outlines the learning program of each year level. Published twice per term.

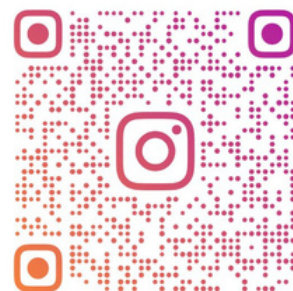
SCHOOL WEBSITE: Information about the school, parent info and whole school calendar.

INSTAGRAM: Visual reminders and photographic updates. Posts updated weekly.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@altonaPrimaryschool



ALTONAPRIMARYSCHOOL

TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

Summer Passport

Summer Holiday Program

The place to be these holidays!

Movie Time

Splishtacular

Cultural Drumming

STEM Bubbles

Book now at theircare.com.au
Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy

Holiday Program Important Information!

What to bring

- A healthy morning tea and lunch
- A labelled drink bottle for water
- Suitable clothing for an active day – closed toe shoes and jacket if wet/cold
- SunSmart hat for Spring and Summer holidays
- Medical Management Plan & Medication if applicable – see below for details

Don't forget!

- Keep your lunchbox nut-free to keep everyone safe
- Do not include food items that need to be reheated
- Label all items with child's name!
- Bus departure and arrival times are indicative only. For an accurate estimated time of arrival and departure please contact your service directly.

Personal belongings

Electronic devices, money and other valuables should be left at home.

If brought to the service, these items remain the responsibility of the family. TheirCare does not accept responsibility for loss or damage.

TheirCare provides

- Breakfast and afternoon tea snack
- Sunscreen
- Water to refill bottles

Child Care Subsidy

Please note that subsidised hours are calculated and allocated by Centrelink on a fortnightly basis. Check Centrelink for eligibility. Each session is calculated using the full service operational hours, not the hours attended by the child.

Unexpected changes to activities

In the unlikely event that an activity is unable to run, an alternative activity will be provided. Activities and times are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather or provider availability. If an alternative cannot be sourced we will update your invoice to reflect this.

Serious stuff!
Medical Management Plan & Medication

All children who have been diagnosed with a medical condition including allergies, food/chemical intolerances, anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy will need to provide:

- a completed Medical Management Plan with a colour photo
- necessary medication

Please note it is a legal requirement under the Education & Care National Regulations and the Terms and Conditions for booking that these are provided.

In the interests of child safety, care may be refused on the day should the appropriate documentation or medication or medication not be supplied.

Changes to your booking

Simply log into your account anytime to make the relevant changes or call us between 6:30am - 9:00pm weekdays on 1300 072 410.

Fees for changes to your booking

More than 5 days	Less than 5 days*	On the day
No Charge	\$10.00	Full Fee

*Less than 5 days from the start of the booking (120 hours from the start of the session).

When making additional bookings, the \$10.00 fee is eligible for the Child Care Subsidy, which means you may only need to pay the gap, depending on your families' circumstances.

If you have any questions, please speak with one of our friendly Educators or call Customer Support on 1300 072 410.

TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

TheirCare Where Kids love to be!

Altona Primary School
Times 7:00 am - 6:15 pm
Location 109 Blyth St, ALTONA VIC 3018
Call 0419 126 837

Excursion Super Excursion Special Activities In-house Fun Public Holiday

With the maximum CHILD CARE SUBSIDY. **Without the CHILD CARE SUBSIDY.

Excursion & Super Excursions days: Arrive at the service by 9:00 am. Pick-up after 2:30 pm. Wear runners & socks.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 JAN Public Holiday!	2 JAN Passport to Summer Pack your bags and fasten your seatbelts! Today, you'll be creating your very own passport to summer to explore all the corners of the earth. This, challenge your friends in the "Around the World" group game, and express your creativity with the Rainbow Weaving Plate activity. Let's fly away on this summer journey! From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**	3 JAN Shoo Fly Hats G'day mate! Let's go on an Aussie adventure today. Make and take home shoo fly TheirCare hats with cork! Get crafty with Frilled Neck Lizard and Hatching Platypus crafts. Then it's group game time with a traditional Yalunga Kangaroo Games and an old favourite three-legged race. From as low as \$8.32* Full Fee \$83.14**	4 JAN Bowl-a-rama Strike up fun at Wynicity Thomaston! Put on your bowling shoes and put your skills to the test! In addition to awesome bowling fun, slide, strike and laugh in a group game of Human Bowling. Then let your creativity shine with crafted Paper Plate Lady Bugs and try Popsicle Stick Basket Weaving. It's a Bowlamama Bonanza! From as low as \$18.32* Full Fee \$183.07**	5 JAN Ancient Egypt Step back in time to the land of pharaohs and pyramids with our Ancient Egyptian adventure! Build magnificent pyramid sand art, create Egyptian clay cartouches, and craft papyrus paper. Dress up in Egyptian costumes, complete with a Cleopatra necklace and Pharaoh headdress. Then, play a strategic game of Forbidden Desert! From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**	8 JAN Mexican Fiesta Hola! Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Mexico with a fiesta extravaganza! Enjoy a fun filled day with activities like Pass the Sombroso and Mexican Kick Ball! Unleash your creativity with your very own Mexican sombrero and Fantastico craft activities. Then savour the day and making your very own DIY Nachos! From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**	9 JAN Slam Dunk Conquer the Table Top Basketball Challenge and build your very own basketball goal and score the winning shot! Explore the wonders of the USA in a fun game of Blob Tag, where players link elbows and create growing Blobs in a test of strategy and teamwork! It's a slam dunk of fun and STEM learning! From as low as \$18.32* Full Fee \$183.07**	10 JAN Zoo Explorers Embark on an wild journey to Wembley Zoo! Get up close with friendly animals and learn all about these fascinating creatures. But that's not all. Dive into a realm of endless fun with activities such as vibrant sidewalk chalk art, create mesmerising bubble paintings, and engage in friendly competitions with sponge toss games! From as low as \$18.32* Full Fee \$183.07**	11 JAN Bubble - O - Fun Don't burst your bubble! Nurture your creativity, innovation, and imagination with our special STEM Bubble Machines! But that's not all. Dive into a realm of endless fun with activities such as vibrant sidewalk chalk art, create mesmerising bubble paintings, and engage in friendly competitions with sponge toss games! From as low as \$8.32* Full Fee \$83.14**	12 JAN Japanese Journey Konnichiwa! Get ready for an enchanting Japanese journey! Dive into the art of Sushi Making and Rice Paper Crafting. Embrace tradition with the mesmerising Kabuki Dance. Adorn yourself in Kimono Art, and master the art of crafting Paper Ninja Stars. It's a cultural adventure like no other! From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
15 JAN Soap Box Derby! Let's get Build and race Billy Carts in the TheirCare Soap Box Derby! The all-American fun continues with Eagle and Mouse group game and build a car with square wheels. STEM craft activity. Let's keep racing with mini-Olympics and make paper plate Olympic rings and medals! From as low as \$8.97* Full Fee \$89.77**	16 JAN Scottish Charm Och aye! Experience the charm of Scotland with an array of engaging activities! Engage in homemade Highland Games, craft Loch Ness Monsters from Playdough, create your very own Bonnie Baggies from paper bags and recycled gift wrap rolls. Dive into Tartan Paper Weaving and Loch Ness Monster Puppets. From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**	17 JAN Matilda's Let's go Matilda! Pay tribute to the iconic Australian Women's Soccer team. Decorate and take home your very own Matilda's branded sports bag and tag! Get soccer crafty with soccer finger puppets, soccer ball photo frame, soccer goal launcher and pom pom craft. Work up a sweat with an energetic game of soccer ball freeze tag! From as low as \$8.32* Full Fee \$83.14**	18 JAN Movie Magic Set in the kingdom of Rosas, where Asha, a sharp-witted idealist, makes a wish so powerful that it's answered by a cosmic force - a ball of boundless energy called Star. They confront the formidable King Magnifico to prove that when the will of one courageous human connects with the magic of the stars, wondrous things can happen. From as low as \$18.32* Full Fee \$183.07**	19 JAN Super JumpSide Feel the adrenaline rush as TheirCare takes over JumpSide's Ninja Park! Bounce and dive as you take on the Ninja Course and Trampoline. Then jump into creating your very own Somo Wrestler Origami, Cherry Blossom Tree and Koinobori Flying Carp. Then it's time to play some super fun group games, like Blinded Ninja and Dragon Nest! From as low as \$12.46* Full Fee \$124.58**	22 JAN Spray Dye Panda Ni Hao! Today we celebrate the wonder of China. You'll get to create and take home your own Te Dye Panda! We'll get crafty with Tenacotta Clay Warriors and Panda bookmarks. Let's construct our very own Great Wall of China! Then it's game time with two trusted favourites, Red Rover and the Streets, Alleys and Lamp Posts. From as low as \$8.32* Full Fee \$83.14**	23 JAN World of Inflatables Dive into a world of bouncy fun at Inflatables World! Channel your inner ninja and use your stealthy skills in the Tuck and Duck challenge, craft vibrant creations with our Rainbow Tube Workshop, and enjoy a unique twist on a sporting favourite with Football Tennis. A day filled with fun, creativity, and active enjoyment awaits! From as low as \$18.32* Full Fee \$183.07**	24 JAN Bollywood by Storm! Take a trip to India! It's time for an interactive Bollywood dance experience. Learn the moves, the vibrant rhythms, and melodies of this modern Indian artform. Craft your own paper Indian paper lanterns, and engage in a number of elephant related Indian games and challenges! From as low as \$8.97* Full Fee \$89.77**	25 JAN Hawaiian Luau Aloha! Dive into a Hawaiian adventure with a spirited Luau celebration. Craft leis and imaginative Recycled Sea Creatures, then challenge friends to a lively game of Crab Soccer and Limbo. To cap it off, whip up your own refreshing Tropical Punch. An island-inspired day of endless excitement awaits! From as low as \$748* Full Fee \$74.81**	26 JAN Public Holiday!