Dear Parents

We had lots of smiling faces at school today as the children walked from the hall after purchasing those wonderful gifts for their dads (or the significant male in their life). Thank you to Madeline Didenkowski and Michelle Green for their organisation of the Father’s Day Stall on behalf of the Parents & Friends. Thank you also to the many parents who assisted at the preparation afternoon and/or with the selling on the day.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER CONTACT:
On Monday 16th September we are holding a Parent / Student / Teacher Contact Afternoon from 3.20 pm to 5.00 pm. It is an opportunity for parents and students, if appropriate, to meet with classroom teachers to discuss issues related to their child and their learning. All parents and students DO NOT have to attend this meeting, only those who have a concern. Teachers wishing to see parents and students regarding their learning will contact parents to arrange a time on this afternoon. Should you have any questions please contact either yourself or your child’s classroom teacher.

ONLINE PROCESS: Parents will need to make a booking online for all appointments. Go to our school website for a direct link (click Interviews) or go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the simple instructions.

The SCHOOL EVENT CODE is: XMHQR
For parents who cannot make a booking online you are welcome to use a designated computer in the TRI Centre.

Bookings Close: Tuesday 10th September

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEYS:
Once again Insight SRC is conducting a survey on behalf of the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne and our school. Sixty randomly selected parents will receive an envelope containing instructions and the survey early next week. You can choose to complete it online or a paper copy. The online version is open until Friday 20th September while the paper version needs to be returned to the school office sealed in the supplied envelope by Friday 20th September. Any surveys returned after this date cannot be included. Participation in this survey, while strongly encouraged, is completely voluntary. If you receive a survey and you do not wish to participate you can return it immediately to school and we can offer it to another family. All staff and our Year 5/6 students will also complete a survey over the next week or so.

We are seeking the support of our parents as we believe our parent voice is important to help shape the ongoing improvement of our school. The main aim of the survey is to identify factors that contribute to the organisational health of your child/children’s school and provide valuable information about what is going well and not so well and the ways in which this may be improved and built upon. We are consulting families to gather your input to shape the future development of our school. Please remember your individual responses will remain confidential and can only be accessed by Insight SRC. Feedback will be provided to us, based on the collective answers of all parents who participate in this survey.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE:
Mrs Gwenda Burnett has taken 4 weeks Long Service Leave commencing Monday 2nd September. She will return to work at the beginning of week two of term four. Gwenda is travelling overseas with her husband Gary. We hope they have a very enjoyable and relaxing trip.

FOOTY TIPPING:
Congratulations to Alysha Yacono and Jim Rees who both correctly picked all 9 winners last round - $20.00 each. After 22 Rounds of tipping we have 8 people within 2 of the lead so good luck to all involved.

FATHER’S DAY INVITATION
A special invitation for all St. Mary’s families to attend our Parish celebration of Father’s Day on Sunday 1st September at 9.00 am. A wonderful way to start the day and say thank you to all our Dads/Granddads/Uncles and to remember and pray for all Fathers who may be sick or who have gone before us to rest in God’s care. So let’s gather as a parish community and say thank you to those special men in our lives.

One dad will speak at the mass about the joy of being a father. A couple of children will speak about their dads. Thank you to Olive Chodowski, our Religious Education Co-ordinator for her preparation and organisation of this Mass.

Happy Father’s Day.

David Kelly.
Principal.
ST. MARY’S IS PLANNING FOR 2014
To help us with planning for 2014 please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the School Office as soon as possible. Copies of this form will be available under Notes & Forms on the School Website or in the School Office Foyer.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:
Congratulations to the following children who received Principals Awards on Monday: Harrison Nugent, Claire Jones, Lachland Green, Ronan Vandeligt, Sienna Tanti, Jack Dowling, Mulunesh Taklo, Portia Fenech, Nicole Papadopoulos, Riley Ianna and Alec Tavila.

A Father’s Day Prayer
Dear Heavenly Father,
We pray that Your Holy Spirit will touch the lives of our fathers, That you will strengthen them to stand firm and tall in our world today, That you will give them wisdom, revelation and courage to live in your truth and righteousness. We pray that you will give your strength to all our fathers so they will be shining examples to their families of Godly character and integrity. Bless them Father and strengthen and encourage them as they endeavour to live their lives in a way that brings glory and honour to you. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
* All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.

Olive Chodowski
Religious Education Coordinator

DATES TO NOTE

SEPTEMBER
1st Father’s Day Parish Mass – 9.00 am
2nd Prayer Assembly Father’s Day Prep S & Prep H – 2.40 pm
4th Parents & Friends Meeting – 7.30 pm
5th Final School Fee Payment Due and Payable
6th Year 5/6 Hoop time Year 3 Sovereign Hill Excursion
9th School Captains Assembly – 2.30 pm
13th Walk/Ride to School Day
16th Assembly 3/4S – 2.30 pm
20th End of Term Three

OCTOBER
7th Assembly School Captains – 2.30 pm
14th Prayer Assembly – 1/2H, 1/2K & 1/2M – 2.40 pm
16th Victoria Walks/Ride to School Day
21st Assembly 3/4T – 2.30 pm
28th Assembly 3/4F – 2.30 pm

NOVEMBER
4th School Closure Day
5th Melbourne Cup Day – No School
11th Assembly 5/6L – 2.30 pm Swimming Program – Prep, Year 1 & 2
18th Assembly School Captains & Guitar Group – 2.30 pm
21st Walk/Ride to School Day
25th Prayer Assembly 5/6C – 2.40 pm

DECEMBER
2nd Assembly Prep S & Prep H – 2.30 pm
9th Assembly 5/6G – 2.30 pm
10th Walk/Ride to School Day
16th Staff Assembly

ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER
Saturday 31st August at 6.30 pm
Matthew Hussey and Ben Hussey
Sunday 1st September at 9.00 am
Rowan Cucanic and Quan Nguyen

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE ONLY
12 DAYS TO GO…. SO GET READING AND BECOME A CHAMP!
Check the front page of our school website and find out WHO is a CHAMP and also see our champs faces on the door to the TRI Centre. Hope to see your name and face there soon.
Congratulations to our NEW Premiers Reading Challenge Champs….WELL DONE!
Prep H – Joshua
Year 1/2H – Betty, Erin, Gabriel, Grace, Marcus, Olivia, Shawn, Dylan, Kate, Mitchell, Nicolina, Thomas & Noah
Year 1/2M – Jasmin
Year 3/4T – Isabelle
Year 5/6C – Joey, Adam & Joseph

GREAT JOB YEAR 1/2H on being the FIRST CLASS to have ALL children become Premier Reading Challenge Champs……I wonder which class will be next?

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE- YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT! The Challenge finishes early September so GET READING!

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ – D.E.A.R.
WOW! What a FANTASTIC response we had by students who read and put in their D.E.A.R. slips. We had 270 slips returned. All students who put in their slips have helped their House Teams earn points and also improved their reading. TERRIFIC WORK. The points you helped your team receive are:
BLUE HOUSE – 900
RED HOUSE – 760
GREEN HOUSE – 580
YELLOW HOUSE – 460

Y FACTOR
CONGRATULATIONS to ALL the students who entered the Yellow House Team ‘Y Factor’ event. We had over 50 children who wanted to take part and so had four very entertaining lunch times.
There were singers, dancers, plays, comedians and piano players who all performed very well and entertained an enthusiastic audience. Thank you to our Year 6 judges for their very encouraging comments to all the performers. A HUGE thank you also to Ella and Adam, the Yellow House Team Captains, for in doing an EXTRAORDINARY job in organizing and running the event. Photos of the performers can be seen near the House Team Boards.

Gwenda Burnett
Literacy Leader.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 2nd September
Thursday Catherine Thornycroft
Friday Julie Whatman
Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Do you have a broken zipper on your bag? Does the zip not close? The supplier will be attending the school on Wednesday 18th September with a nifty little tool and will fix the bag for you (for free of course). There will be more information to follow in coming weeks.

Summer Uniform Time Is Fast Approaching! Does yours fit? Remember you will need a hat. Please place your summer uniform orders at the uniform shop as soon as possible to ensure you have it ready for Term Four. If you are not able to make it to the Uniform Shop on a Wednesday you can leave an order at the School Office. If you have any question or are not sure about something you may leave a message at the School Office and one of our VOLUNTEERS will call you.

DOING IT RIGHT

Congratulations to the following children who were “Doing it Right” at St Mary’s last week. They were seen getting along with others, helping people, sharing school values by being fair and responsible and loads of other great things.

Well done...
Prep H: Michael M, Jett, David
Prep S: Summer, Tjay, Tahlia, Luke
1/2M: Mia, Ally S, Giles, Liam, Sienna, Cooper, Jacob and Luca
1/2K: Luke, Lilly
1/2H: Betty
3/4F: Jessica, Joaquin
3/4T: Ethan F
5/6C: Jade
5/6G: Cadel

NORMIE THE GNOME
Normie the Gnome is awarded to the House Team who keeps their part of the yard the cleanest. This week’s winner is:

BLUE TEAM

WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY
& FAMILY SKIP ALONG

Thanks to everyone who joined in last week. Most Active Grade was Year 3/4T. Well done! Next Walk / Ride to School Day is Friday 13th September.

YEAR 5/6 SPORT TOPS

I was so pleased this week to receive two sport tops back after they had been missing for a year. Thanks to the family that returned them.

We are still missing a couple from this year. Soccer tops Numbers 4 & 14. Softball top Number. 4. There are a couple of footy tops missing too but I don’t have the numbers. Can you please look through the cupboards and see what you can find? It would be great to get the tops back so we have full sets again for next year.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent St Mary’s at the ADSSA Athletics carnival on 3rd September at the Newport Park Athletics track. Special congratulations to Sam Currie and Aliyah Defina who have been named team captains.


Margaret Masseni
Physical Education & Sports Coordinator

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS COLLEGE
Presents The Wizard of Oz All Welcome! Students from Year 7 – 12 have been busy preparing the last few months and are very proud to present The Wizard of Oz to you and your families. Come along for a fun night! Tickets: Adults $18.00
Student-Concession-Pensioner: $15.00 Dates: 6th & 7th September, 2013 Time: 7.00pm Venue: Caroline Chisholm Catholic College The Quin Auditorium 204 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook Vic 3019 For More Information call 8398 2000, Tickets can be purchased on www.tickethost.com.au

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
**St. Mary’s School Altona - Planning for 2014**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

To help us with planning for 2014 please complete the form below and return it to the School Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

**FAMILY NAME:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**CHILD/CHILDREN’S NAME/S:** ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**2013 CLASS/ES:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Please tick as appropriate

- My child/children will be returning to St Mary’s in 2014 [ ]
- My child/children will not be returning to St Mary’s in 2014 [ ]
- I am still undecided if my children are returning to St Mary’s in 2014 [ ]

Signed………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...  Date / / 2013.

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter

“Caring Catholic Community in Education”