Dear Parents

Thank you to Gary Hills who spoke so eloquently in relation to how he feels about being a dad at our School and Parish at the Father’s Day Mass last Sunday. Gary was followed by Maddison Azzopardi (Year 5/6G) and Olivia Vella (Year 5/6L) who both spoke beautifully about their dads Peter and Paul respectively.

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 would have received an envelope yesterday or today containing instructions and the survey. You can choose to complete it online or as 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

FOOTY TIPPING:
Congratulations to the 3 winners of our Footy Tipping Competition, Erin Logan, Saxon Davidson and myself. There was $680.00 left in the kitty, so the 3 winners shared $339.00 and the remainder $341.00 was donated to the school. Thank you to everyone that was involved.

SCHOOL FEES:
Thank you to all those families who have settled their accounts in full and to those who have committed to a regular direct debit plan. If you are not one of these families or one that has a special arrangement with myself or the School Office, your school fees should have been paid in full by yesterday Thursday 5th September. If you are experiencing difficulties with your fees, please contact me to discuss the matter.

David Kelly.
Principal.

REMINDER NO HAT NO PLAY IN TERM FOUR
In Term Four No Hat No Play policy will be in place. Please ensure that all children have a school hat for Term Four. If your child does not have a hat they are available for purchase from our Uniform Shop.

ST. MARY’S IS PLANNING FOR 2014
Thank you to those parents that have already completed the planning form for 2014. If you have not yet completed the form could you please do so as soon as possible. Copies of this form will be available under Notes & Forms on the School Website or in the School Office Foyer.

REMINDER EARLY FINISH
Last day of Term Friday 20th September SCHOOL FINISHES at 2.30pm please ensure that all children are collected on time. Children who are not collected will be sent to OSHC and a fee will apply. To make an arrangement for OSHC please contact Camp Australia on 1300 105 343.

Prayer and Intercession for Peace in Syria
God of Compassion, 
Hear the cries of the people of Syria 
Comfort those who suffer violence 
Console those who mourn the dead 
Give strength to Syria’s neighbouring countries to welcome the refugees 
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms 
And protect those who are committed to peace.

God of hope, 
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with their enemies 
Inflate the Universal Church with compassion for the people of Syria 
And give us hope for a future built on justice for all
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and Light of the world.

Amen

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

Olive Chodowski
Religious Education Coordinator

ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER
Saturday 7th September at 6.30 pm Maddison Azzopardi and Grace Bosnar
Sunday 8th September at 9.00 am Wubit Tsegay and Brianna Mercuri

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
### Caring Catholic Community in Education

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter

#### UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Prep 2014 Uniforms are now ready for collection.

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.

### Parents and Friends News

#### SCHOOL DISCO NIGHT

Preparations for our school disco are under way! We are looking for people to help with organising this event. If you are interested, please contact one of the Parents and Friends Members and watch this space for more details.

#### BUNNINGS BBQ

Our Annual Bunnings BBQ will be held on the 30th November. Save the date and make a trip down to Altona Bunnings and grab a sausage, with all proceeds going to our school and kids. We will be looking for helpers closer to the day.

#### BRAINSTORMING MEETING ALL WELCOME

For anyone who is interested in helping or adding ideas, we are having an informal meeting over afternoon tea in the hall meeting room on Thursday 12th September (next week) at 2.30 pm. Hope to see you there.

#### DOING IT RIGHT

Congratulations to the following children who were “Doing It Right” at St Mary’s last week. They were seen using good manners by holding the door for others, being a good friend, being caring and compassionate, helping someone who was hurt, being fair, going out in a game without arguing, doing office duty and loads of other great things! Well done...

Prep S: Gabriel

1/2M: Mia, Nicholas, Liam

1/2K: Nitro, Jemma, Sunita, Lilly

1/2H: Betty

3/4S: Tam, Destiny, Ella, Marie

5/6C: Alexander, Xander, Kathleen, Amy, Jade, Olivia A, Bethany, Mikey

5/6L: Olivia Y, Isabella K, Olivia V, Jazmine, Aliyah, Zara, Ciara, Olivia L

5/6G: Abbey, Renee, Madison

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#### TUCKSHOP HELPERS -  Week beginning 9th September

**Manager:** Eva Coppola  **Tel:** 9315 0799

**Friday:** Elaine Stewart

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#### HEALTHY FAMILY CHALLENGE

We are having a meeting to discuss the possibilities for this year’s Healthy Family Challenge next Friday 13th September at 2.30pm in the staff room.

Please come along to have a chat or offer your support. If you aren’t sure what the Healthy Family Challenge is...come along and find out.

The more the merrier...

ALL WELCOME! (toddlers too!)

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St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter

“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
**WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY & FAMILY SKIP ALONG**
**FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

**DISTRICT ATHLETICS**
Congratulations to everyone who represented St Mary’s at the ADSSA Athletics carnival on Tuesday 3rd September at the Newport Park Athletics track. Thanks to our staff and parent helpers: Anthea Zimmerman, Eleanor and Julian Yacono, Kylie Sullivan, Grant Simonds and Karolyenne Ianna. Thanks also to Sam Currie and Aliyah Defina, our team captains who worked hard on the day helping with marshalling as well as competing in their own events.

Special congratulations to the following children who received ribbons for their performances on the day...Madison – 2nd in 100m & 3rd in 200m, Olivia Y – 1st in 800m, hurdles, 200m & Long Jump and 2nd in the relay, Luke W – 1st in hurdles, triple and long jump and 2nd in 100m, Matthew H – 1st in 200m & 800m, Ryan S – 3rd in 800m, Megan W – 1st in triple jump, 2nd in hurdles and the relay and 3rd in 100m & long jump, Chloe S – 2nd in triple jump, Khiem N – 2nd in long jump, Grace B – 2nd in hurdles & 3rd in triple jump, Khyie A – 2nd in 100m, Trent M – 2nd in discus, Kathleen S – 2nd in the relay and Leah - 2nd in the relay.

A number of these children will go on to compete at the Divisional Athletics Championships on 19th September. More details later.

Overall we came 6th and we came 3rd in the 'Smaller Schools’ Trophy.

**EMMANUEL COLLEGE OPEN DAY ON**
**SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2013**
St. Paul’s Campus – 10.30 am – 1.30 pm
423 Blackshaws Road, Altona North

Notre Dame Campus - 11.00 am – 2.00 pm
2-40 Foxwood Drive, Point Cook

For more information contact us on www.ecmelb.catholic.edu.au or call 8325 5100.

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**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/CHILDRENS 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”

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**JOSEPH’S CORNER - BOOK SALE**
**MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES**

- **Date:** Sunday 20th October, 2013
- **Where:** Queen Of Peace Hall
- **Time:** 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

**ALL BOOKS $1.00 EACH**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

Melbourne Playgrounds is a free on-line guide to thousands of Melbourne activities for the entire family! Activities cover playgrounds (more than 3800 reviewed with photos), Play Centres, Aquatic Centres, Skate Parks, BMX tracks, miniature train rides, sport and recreation, nature activities, museum and science, educational pursuits, indoor activities, hobbies and cultural activities such as music and dance. Melbourne Playgrounds is unique in that it provides reviews, ratings and photos of activities.

There is also an extensive list of family activities outside Melbourne covering all of Victoria which is useful when planning a day trip or longer holidays within the State. The website is: [http://www.MelbournePlaygrounds.com.au](http://www.MelbournePlaygrounds.com.au)

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**SEPTEMBER SESSION 2013 IS COMING MINI “GATOR” BASKETBALL**

Boys & Girls ….. Would you like to Learn Basketball

5 – 10 year old Girls & Boys

**When:** Friday Afternoon 4.15 pm – 5.00 pm

**Where:** Altona Sports Centre

Queen Street, Altona Meadows

**Duration:** Eight Weekly sessions of 45 minutes

**Cost:** $50.00 per participant

Includes: Coaching, plus a Basketball for each participant.

**Commemences:** Friday 20th September, 2013

**Registration must be made on Friday 13th September,**
**2013 between 4.30 pm – 5.00 pm to reserve a place.** For further information, contact Altona Sports Centre on 9360-9288.
Save the date!
Wednesday 9th October 2013
7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

St Mary’s presents Rob Vingerhoets

Rob Vingerhoets is an experienced and highly effective educator who has recently returned after working with teachers and students in New York City (Brooklyn) from 2004 to 2006. Prior to this he was a primary school principal, curriculum coordinator and classroom teacher. He is an experienced teacher and author, having written a number of best-selling maths resource books and numerous articles.

Rob is a popular and engaging presenter of hands-on and engaging maths ideas and practices to teachers and students in Catholic, State and Independent schools over many years and he essentially believes and teaches by his credo that "maths doesn't have to hurt". Rob is back permanently in Australia and is now operating his own educational consultancy business working with students, teachers, administration and parents within individual and clusters of schools.

Stay tuned.......more details to follow.

Josie Kirby
Numeracy Leader