Dear Parents

Amazingly we completed all the athletic events at our school sports before the rain arrived last Friday. It was then a little bit crazy getting everyone safely back to school so we could continue with the ‘Chants’ and the ‘Song & Dance’ competitions. Thanks to the help of many parents we were able to achieve this. We then had an enthusiastic and thunderous competition in the hall. Green won the ‘Chant’ competition. Red won the ‘Song and Dance’ competition. Well done to all four teams.

The overall placing on our Sports Day was: YELLOW, GREEN, RED and BLUE.

Thank you and congratulations to Mrs Margaret Masseni for organising and co-ordinating the whole day. Thank you and congratulations to the children for enthusiastically participating in all the events and showing great sportsmanship.

Thank you to all of the staff for their assistance prior to the day as well as throughout the day. Thank you to the parents who assisted with the set up before hand, helped with an activity, helped pack up or just attended to support the children. Well Done to everyone involved!

Congratulations Yellow team.

CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2014:

Presently teachers are very busy writing Reports but will soon begin the task of organising children into their class groupings for 2014. This is a lengthy process as many things are taken into consideration. The following guidelines are used to assist us in creating the most effective classroom structures possible so that all children are given the opportunity to succeed and to achieve their full potential educationally, socially, spiritually, emotionally and physically. Things we consider are: Friendship Groups, Academic Ability, Behaviour, Gender Balance, Immediate/Extended Family, Maturity Level, Number of children on LNSLN Funding, Personality, Prior History (eg. Previous Teachers, Oldest or Youngest in the group) and Social Skills.

If you have a request about your child’s placement or some information you think will assist us in making these decisions then please put it in writing or email me by next Thursday 22nd November (dkelly@smaltona.catholic.edu.au). Please do not make verbal requests to teachers. The only requests that will be considered at all are the ones I receive in writing or by email. I thank you for your support in this matter.

ARTS SPECTACULAR:

This is one of the highlights of the year and especially for new parents NOT TO BE MISSED.

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: Tuesday 10th December commencing at 6.00 pm. in the Church.

The concert is titled "Christmas Star" and will involve each class performing a part of the story of Jesus’ birth and all the excitement and wonder which surrounds this special time, using drama, movement, instruments, vocals and colour. All children are expected to attend.

The duration of the concert is approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Please be seated in the church by 5.55 pm. The children will be sitting with their teachers on the night at the front of the Church. All children need to come dressed in their School Summer Uniform. Please contact Mrs Morag Zun if you need anything clarified.

Following the concert all families are invited to join us in the school grounds for a picnic dinner. There will be tables and chairs set up on the basketball court or bring your picnic rug. The Parents & Friends will be running a bar from the canteen where beer, wine and soft drink can be purchased.

BUT THERE IS STILL MORE: Venture into our TRI Centre, both upstairs and downstairs and marvel at the outstanding Art work that will be on display. Every child in the school will have some of their Art work displayed.

Going on past displays it is certainly worth spending some time at our Art Show. Please contact Mrs Anthea Zimmerman if you have any questions or are able to assist with the set up.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Olivia Yacono who has been selected in the Victorian Athletic team to compete at the National Championships which will be held in Brisbane at the end of November. Olivia will compete in the multi-event this includes 100m, 800m, Shot Put and Long Jump.

UPDATED SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Early this week we launched our brand new mobile friendly website which means that you’ll be able to access all our news on your mobile phone. Check out the video on our website to see how you can save dates directly into your mobile phones calendar with a simple click. Earlier this year we conducted a communications survey which provided some great suggestions that you’ll see immediately with the new mobile friendly website. Over the next 12 months we will be making progressive improvements to make connecting with us simple and effective. Keep the suggestions coming.
POPE CALLS FOR VIEWS OF MELBOURNE CATHOLICS ON THE FAMILY:

Pope Francis has invited parishioners from every diocese in the world, including the Archdiocese of Melbourne, to participate in a worldwide catholic questionnaire on the many challenges facing the family today. It covers: faith in family life, marriage, divorce, annulment and natural family planning. To participate: Visit www.cam.org.au/synod or speak to your parish priest. Due Friday 6th December. No need to answer all questions, just those you feel are important.

SCHOOL FEES:
Currently there is $40,577.59 outstanding. Thank you to those families that have settled their accounts or have contacted me to make other arrangements. All accounts were due and payable at the end of Term Three. If you are having some difficulty please contact me so we can make some mutually acceptable arrangement otherwise please settle your account IMMEDIATELY! Thank you.

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:
Congratulations to the following children who received Principals Awards on Monday: Michael Morda, Rafael Umana, Shawn Pendlebury, Sunita Daravong, Ryan Dawson, Alessia Abate, Sienna Cutajar, Nicky Yeager, Samuel Jeffery, Matthew Hussey and Shannon Coldrey.

O God, our ruler and guide,
In whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
We give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
And for those who laid down their lives to defend them;
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
Gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
May have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
Of generosity, and of peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. AMEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
*School families whose loved ones gave up their lives to save others in times of war. May God hold them in his peace.
*All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.
*In our thoughts, in our prayers--the people of the Philippines

Olive Chodowski
REC

NATIVITY PLAY

Once again, as part of the 7.00 pm Vigil Mass this year we will be having a Nativity Play. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday 1st, 15th & 22nd December from 10.00 am to 11.00 am in the Church. Children will be given their parts and costumes on Sunday 1st December after the 9.00 am Mass. Children are expected to attend all three rehearsals, however if this is a problem please let a member of the Children’s Liturgy know or phone Lucy at the Parish House on 9398 2964. Permission Forms are available from the Narthex, School Office or Parish House. Completed forms may be left in the box provided in the Narthex, School Office or placed in the Parish House letterbox (marked attention Lucy) by no later than Sunday 24th November, 2013.

G.A.G.S – Getting A Good Start…… For School

Our first two G.A.G.S. sessions for our 2014 Prep students were held this Tuesday and Thursday. We had over 21 children and their parents attend both sessions. The program is aimed at helping familiarise students with school and at the same time skill parents with ways they can help their child to get ready for school. I hope you can make one or more of the sessions over the next two weeks. If you have any questions about the session or cannot make them but would like some of the articles given out on things parents can do to help with the preparing their child with Literacy and Maths learning prior to coming to school please contact me by phone or email. gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Gwenda Burnett
Literacy Leader.

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:

GREEN TEAM

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
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Parents and Friends News

DISCO FEVER
The takings have been banked and we are pleased to report that the disco made a profit of $1230.00. Thanks to all the parents that helped out and to the kids that danced like crazy.

BUNNINGS BBQ
The BBQ is on Saturday 30th November. We are still looking for volunteers to help with this major fundraising event. Please complete the form attached at the end of the newsletter and forward to the School Office as soon as possible.

CRAZY CAMEL CALENDARS
The orders have closed for the calendars. We expect them back by the end of the month or early December.

ART SPECTACULAR
The Arts Spectacular is on the 10th December. The Parents & Friends will once again be running a bar at the family picnic and organising a scavenger hunt for the children. Look out for the note in the coming newsletters as we’ll need a few extra hands to help out on the night.

DOING IT RIGHT – WEEK 5 TERM 4
Congratulations to the following children who were “Doing it Right” at St Mary’s. They were seen handing in money, helping Mrs Vella, being responsible, helping with the apple slinkies, solving a problem well and loads of other great things.
Prep H: Alana, Thomas
1/2K: Luke, Sara, Chloe Z, Sunita, Bridie, Ben, Killian, Emma, Lynda
3/4F: Jack,
3/4T: Ethan
5/6C: Bethany, Nicole, Ella
5/6G: Alana,

MARKET FRESH SCHOOLS ‘FRUIT & VEG’ PROGRAM
Did you know that your taste buds change every 14 – 28 days? No excuses for not trying things a few times before you say you don’t like them!
Thanks to the many parents who came along to help out with preparing the fruit and vegies for the children to taste.

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
ALTONA KINDERGARTEN FETE
Saturday 16th November
10.00 am – 3.00 pm
89 Blyth Street, Altona
All Welcome. Come down and have some fun with the whole family. There are lots of activities lined up for the day such as: Face Painting, Jumping Castle, Petting Zoo, Pre-loved Toys, Crafts, Sand Picture Art, Devonshire Tea, Sausage Sizzle and lots more. Hope to see you there!

ARCHIE THOMPSON SCHOOL OF SOCCER
Archie Thompson School of Soccer is a three day program running from Tuesday 21st January to Thursday 23rd January, 2014 at Emmanuel College, St. Pauls Campus, Altona North. The camps are aimed at boys and girls (aged 8-17) who are already playing at school or club or just keen to give soccer a try. For more information visit www.schoolofsoccer.com.au and save 20% before Christmas by taking advantage of our AMAZING ATSOS ‘Early Bird’ offer before it runs out – a saving of $60.00.

ALL FOR KIDS MARKET
All for Kids Market will be held on Saturday 23rd November. The market is a great way for families to purchase pre-loved clothing, shoes, toys, books and more for the fraction of the price at a retail store. Families also have the opportunity to hire a stall and sell some of their own pre-loved items to pass onto another family and add some extra money to their family budget. For more information please contact Michelle Parton on 0431 710 786 or www.allforkidsmarket.com.au

WALKING SCHOOL BUS for the
HEALTHY FAMILY CHALLENGE

Part of the Way...is OKAY!

21ST NOVEMBER – WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY and 26TH NOVEMBER – HFC: WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Two Meeting points:
- Esplanade & Cnr Sargood St (beach side of the road) AND
- Cnr of Mc Intyre Drive & Civic Pde

Meeting Time: 8.05 am
Walk Starting Time: 8.15 am
We have organised parents to supervise the walk so you can drop your children at the meeting point and know that they will get to school safely OR
Join in the walk yourself. Parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, dogs and prams...everyone welcome! (Have a coffee with some other parents on your way back to get the car!)

(We do ask that your children don’t ride bikes or scooters unless you are with them – this would be much harder for other parents to supervise)

Please complete the form below and return it to school as soon as possible. so we will know how many children and adults are joining in.

WALK TO SCHOOL in NOVEMBER (Return to Mrs Masseni)
We will be there!!!!
CIRCLE YOUR DATES: 15TH NOV, 21ST NOV, 26TH NOV

Family name: _______________________________ Contact Phone No.:_____________________________
No of children: _____________________________ No. of Adults______________________________

I CAN HELP TO SUPERVISE – NAME........................................................................................................

Do you have a working with Children Check? Yes or No
You can now apply online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au if you require assistance we are able to help just ask at the School Office.

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter
“Caring Catholic Community in Education”
Parents and Friends

Bunnings BBQ – Saturday 30th November 2013

The annual St Mary’s Bunnings BBQ is one of the major fundraisers for our school. The more volunteers we have the easier it is for everyone and the more money we can raise for school supplies. Due to the generous organisation skills of Alan Mercer, Lisa Curran and Jarrod Pye, we only need volunteers on the day itself.

No experience is necessary in BBQing or money handling. Have a look at the time slots below and the amount of volunteers needed. You can either join up with a couple of mates at a time slot or put your name down and take the opportunity to meet some other parents over a hot griddle.

The easiest way to get on the roster is to text me (Ellie) on 0412 809 116 with name/s and time. You could also email me at ecorbo@melbpc.org.au or, of course you can take the traditional route of filling in the form below and returning it to the office.

All help is greatly appreciated, if you can only help for part of a time slot, that’s ok. We will contact you in the week leading up to the BBQ to confirm your time.

Please fill in the form below and return to the School Office.

Bunnings BBQ Roster – Saturday 30th November 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Volunteers Needed</th>
<th>Name/s and Contact number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am-10am</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm-2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30pm-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4pm – Clean up</td>
<td>3</td>
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