



St. Mary's School, Altona

Newsletter 2017

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Principal: David Kelly Phone: 9398 4842 www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Shabin Phone: 9398 2964 altona@cam.org.au



Dear Parents

No.1 3 February 2017

There is an enormous amount of information in this newsletter so please take your time to read all of it. It may also be worthwhile to keep it somewhere that you can refer back to it.

It was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents, friends and past students on the netball court for the beginning of the school year, including our Parish Priest, Fr. Shabin. There seemed more excitement and anxiousness on some of the parents faces than the children's. Thank you to the many parents, both new and existing, who joined us for a cuppa afterwards, it was great to catch up. Thank you to Patrice Cassar and her helpers for their organisation of the morning tea and scrumptious food.

Moving around all of the classrooms it is amazing how quickly the children settle into their new classrooms. The staff and I are looking forward to working with you in partnership to make 2017 a very enjoyable and successful year.

SWIMMING LESSONS: Years 1, 2, & 3.

These make up sessions from last year will take place next Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

SPECIALIST CLASSES START NEXT WEEK:

Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Physical Education

Children wear their sports uniform on this day.

Tuesday – Year 3/4

Wednesday Year 1/2

Thursday Year 5/6

You will be notified of Prep Specialist Timetable in next week's newsletter

A Special welcome to our forty-three Prep children and their families.

There were a couple of tears with some of our young ones but they were all settled and happy within a short period of time.

Twenty of our Preps are new families to our school.

They are: Abela Cooper, Rush Augustini, Jody Bodestyne, Logan Busuttil, Luca Buttazzoni, Gianluca Carniato, Ivan Dedic, Isabella Falzon, Hannah Licciardello, Lachlan McKenzie, Georgia McNaughton, Sienna Moten, Jack Muller, Louis Nguyen, Jayden O'Halloran, Ava Reismanis, Minh-Phi Tran, Ania Wiecekiewicz, Charlie Wright and Leila Zuvela.

These Preps have or have had older siblings at St. Mary's:

Michael Cassar, Adam Ciavarella, Eva De Luca, Benjamin Dowling, Tashana, Edwards, Claudia Engler, Samara Fallace, Rafael Fantuz, Roland Hicks, Silas Holland, Ethan Le Faucheur, Keira Long, Ruby McGill, Isobel Mercer, Anthony Merola, Ethan pace, Mackenzie Papal, Chloe Pendlebury, James Slattery, Jamie Surbevski, Denise Teshomi, Grace Tucker, and Thomas Yacono.

NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FOR THE NEXT THREE WEDNESDAYS.

A Special Welcome to our one new staff member:

Ms. Jane Kirkwood: Year 5/6K

AND

Ms Rowena Talbot: Year 1/2HT (Thursdays & Fridays). Returning from Maternity Leave.

GOOD LUCK:

To Mrs Erin Mithen who begins her Maternity Leave today. We wish Erin and Paul all the best for the upcoming birth of their first child.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2017:

Jazmin Dowd and Millie Pilditch. Liam Denys and Luke Vella.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2017:

Sara Adani and Kyle Escobar.

WELLBEING LEADERS for 2017:

Ally Smedley and Tegan Sortino.

HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2017:

Blue: Madeline Mickovski and Taj Tanti.

Green: Gabrielle Montebello and Kane Sortino.

Red: Ava Robertson and Noah Defina.

Yellow: Elizabeth Teshomi and Liam Curran.

CHOIR LEADER for 2017:

Isla McAvoy

SCHOOL FEES:

“After consultation with Fr. Shabin the per child Curriculum Levy and Excursion/Incursion Levies have remained the same as 2016 however the per family School Fee has increased by \$50 to \$1450.00

School Fees (per family)	-	\$ 1450.00
Curriculum Levy (per child)	-	\$ 220.00
Excursion/Incursion Levy (per child)	-	\$ 60.00

Please be aware the Curriculum Levy (\$220 per child) and the Excursion/Incursion Levy (\$60.00 per child) are DUE & PAYABLE by 17th March.

The School Fees (\$1450 per family) can be paid in full initially, or in three instalments of roughly a third.

First Instalment: due End of Term One (Friday 31st March).

Second Instalment: due End of Term Two (Friday 30th June).

Third & Final Instalment: due End of Term Three (Friday 22nd September).

Therefore ALL MONIES are DUE & PAYABLE by Friday 22nd September (End of Term Three) including all additional year based costs such as: Sacraments, Camps etc.

School Fee Statements will be sent home soon, together with comprehensive details of our payment options which include Direct Debit.

We appreciate your co-operation in meeting these deadlines. Please contact the School Office if you have any difficulties with any of the above and mutually agreeable arrangements can be put in place.

IMPORTANT:

Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute "Getting to Know You" interviews will be held between 3.15 – 5.30 pm. next Monday 6th February.

The purpose of this meeting is to learn as much as we can about your child from you. It is NOT a progress report but rather a sharing of information meeting.

We ask ALL parents to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting we ask you to arrange with your child's teacher another mutual date and time to meet in the near future.

You can book interviews at times that suit your family best.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website.

THE SCHOOL EVENT CODE IS: mpayr

BOOKINGS ARE CURRENTLY OPEN AND CLOSE ON SUNDAY 5th FEB 2017 AT 5.00 PM.

Below are some questions you may wish to talk with your child's teacher about:

How does your child socialise with other children?

What does your child enjoy about school?

What special needs your child has eg. medical etc.

Is there any extra information which you think we should know about your child to make their year enjoyable?

There will also be a Local Excursion School Permission Form and a Photograph/Video Permission Form for you to read and sign outside each classroom.

If your child has the same teacher as last year and circumstances haven't changed you do not have to make an appointment.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS AND GET TOGETHER:

NEXT THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY - 6.00 pm.

This is traditionally one of the highlights of the school year.

It begins with Mass in the church at 6.00 pm.

Our new Preps will sing a special Reflection song after Communion.

All families and friends are then invited to join the staff for a BYO dinner in the school grounds. There will be tables and chairs set up on the basketball court or you can bring a picnic rug for the oval or synthetic grass area adjacent to the hall.

The Parents & Friends will run a bar where beer, wine and soft drinks can be purchased.

SCHOOL WEBSITE, APP & FACEBOOK PAGE:

Can I remind parents to regularly check our **School Website** at www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au for regular updates and interesting information and photos about what is going on at St. Mary's.

Please ensure you are subscribed to the newsletter by clicking on the 'subscribe now' button on our school website.

Our **School App** (update-ed, which can be downloaded from the App or Google Play store) is a great way for us to get information about events to you.

Our **School Facebook Page** is a great way to keep you up to date with what is happening around the school. For new parents to our school you can access our Facebook Page directly from our school website, just click on the link. **All new members will need to read our Facebook Code of Conduct to be aware of what is acceptable and not acceptable on our Facebook Page.** This Code of Conduct can be accessed from our school website, News, Notes & Forms.

CARE MONKEY:

A reminder to ensure you have completed a Care Monkey profile for your child/children. We are still waiting on 101 Care Monkey profiles. You should have received an email over the holidays to do so. If you have not received an email or are having difficulty please email Ronnie Tucker:

vtucker@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

PARENTS & FRIENDS FIRST MEETING:

This will be held in the school staffroom commencing at 7.30 on Wednesday 22nd February. Welcome back to all current members. PLEASE consider this a personal invitation to any existing and especially new families to come along and see what is involved. No obligation or commitment involved.



CONDOLENCES:

Please keep the Tizzani family (Alyssa 3/4 HK), the Long family (Aidan 3/4 V & Keira Prep D) and The Pels (Eliza 3/4M & Sam 3/4HK) in your thoughts and prayers after the sad passing of their Grandfathers recently.

David Kelly.
Principal.

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Sacramental Dates for 2017

Reconciliation: Term 1. Wednesday, 22nd March at 7pm.

First Eucharist: Term 2. Sunday 18th June at 3pm.

Confirmation: Term 3. Friday, 18th August 2017 at 7pm.

(The Sponsor must be a baptised Catholic over the age of 16).

Lord, as we come together
to form our new school
community for 2017,
Empower us to be generous,
confirming and obliging.
May the gifts of Your Spirit be alive
and practiced in every aspect
of our school life,
as we live it together.
Amen



Welcome to our 2017 school year, throughout this year, our community will come together to participate in a variety of school activities and events that celebrate our Catholic faith. I hope to see many school families participating in all these special moments and together with all staff we look forward to journeying with you in the faith development of your child/ren during the year.

Beginning of Year Mass

Date: Thursday 9th February

Time: 6pm

Weekly Class Mass

On Friday 17th February

Year 3/4V will be attending the 9:15am parish mass.

Family and friends are invited to sit with, celebrate and join the children in prayer.

See you there.

**'Give birth again to the dream...
take it into the palm of your hands...
mould it...sculpt it...'**

Maya Angelou 1993

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.
- * A most successful and safe 2017 for all our St. Mary's students, staff, families and friends.



Parish News



My contract as the Chaplain of Australian Catholic University at St. Patrick's Campus formally ends on 5th of March 2017. However my last day at the campus will be Thursday, 16th of February 2017, after which I will be fully available in our community. It was a great opportunity and honour for me to serve the campus for the last three years and I thank Archbishop Denis Hart for giving me such an opportunity to work amongst the young people and staff of the Australian Catholic University. Fr. Shabin

Fr Longinus Onyechesi was born in Nigeria; studied Philosophy and Theology and was ordained a priest in August 2002. He has been a school principal, teacher and Parish Priest in Nigeria before he travelled to Belgium to further his studies in 2009. He arrived in Australia in 2011 and has served in the Parishes of Laverton, Noble Park/Keysborough, Upper Heidelberg and is currently Parish Priest of the Parish of Yea, Alexandra and Eildon. Fr Longinus has written a book, published by FREEDOM Publishing Books, called "Keeping it Real". It is full of inspirational quotes and complimented by illustrative pictures. The book retails for \$25 and you can get a copy by enquiring at the Parish Office or call 0402 516 163 for your copy.

Bulletin deliveries - We have quite a few streets that still need deliveries, if any parishioner can spare some time during the week delivering to any of the following streets, it would be very much appreciated: Akuna; Bell; Belmar; Burt; Cambridge; Chorley; Civic (part of); Cowra; David; Dove; Emery; Emu; Frazer; Grieve; Hammond; Kearney; Kookaburra; Lark; Lowe; Lugg; MaAlpine; McBain; McIntyre; Millers; Purnell; Queen; Rayner; Romawi; Sussex; Upton; Waters. Please ring Lucy at the parish house if you can help out. Thank you

Prayer & Spirituality 2017

'Writing for Raksmei A Story of Cambodia' - by Joan Healy, launched in November 2016 ... invites you to meet Cambodian women and men who, despite the terrible times of their lives, grow in courage, compassion and humour. God's grace shines in the beauty of it. There is something here for each of us.

Prayer & Spirituality 2017 Date: 16th February

Time: 1.30-3pm; repeated at 7.30-9pm

Where: 16 Esplanade Williamstown

Donation: \$20, concession \$15

RSVP: by 15th February admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au or 9397 6012

Monthly Holy Hour

All welcome to share in our Holy Hour on **Monday 6 February at 7.30pm** to pray for peace & reconciliation in the world. Rosary, Exposition and Prayers through the intercession of **ST. PIO** will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Christian Meditation

takes place every Thursday at St. Mary's. If you are interested in joining this group please phone Lucy at the Parish House on 9398 2964. **MARANATHA**

ASTHMA PLANS

If you have a child diagnosed with Asthma, the school needs a new Asthma Management Plan signed by your GP each new school year. Please forward it to the school Office once obtained.

DISTRICT SWIMMING 2017

We are holding two more training / trialling sessions for our District Swimming Team in 2017.

Where: BayFit Leisure Centre in Mason St, Altona North

When: 7th & 8th February: 7am - 8am.

Breakfast: will be provided back at school

Transport: back to school will be via mini bus and private cars.

Cost: \$6 per session.

If you wish to attend these sessions and you haven't completed a Permission Form these can be completed upon arrival at the pool.



UNIFORM SHOP

In 2017 the uniform shop will be open: Thursdays 2.30 - 3.30 pm.

With Term One being a relatively short term, we are turning our attention to winter uniforms. To ensure that we can order in a timely manner for Term Two, please visit the shop to order your winter uniform. To receive your winter uniform by end of Term One, orders must be placed by Friday 17th February.

For those that are unable to make it to the shop, the order forms are available on the School Website, News, Notes & Forms. These can be sent through to stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com. Payment can be made via direct deposit or cash in an envelope dropped off to the school office. Uniforms once ordered and paid for will be sent home in your child's school bag.

If the sizes are not correct, and the labels are still attached, return them to the office with a note and contact number, and we will endeavour to correct it for you.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event	Time
6/2	I, 2 & 3 year Swimming program	11am – 3pm
	Parents & Teacher meeting	3.20pm – 5.30pm
	School Captains Assembly	2.20pm – 2.50pm
7/2	District Swimming training	7am – 8am
	I, 2 & 3 year Swimming program	11am – 3pm
8/2	District Swimming training	7am – 8am
	I, 2 & 3 year Swimming program	11am – 3pm
9/2	Opening School Mass& Picnic	6pm – 9pm
10/2	Inter school sports Rd 1 @ Home Vs Altona Nth	9am – 11am
13/2	Class Assembly 5/6C	2.20pm – 3.00pm
14/2	District Swimming Carnival	
17/2	Inter school sports Rd 2 @ away Vs Altona	9am – 11am
20/2	Class Assembly 3/4V	2.20pm – 3.00pm
25/2	Reconciliation & 1 st Eucharist Rite of Acceptance Mass	6.00pm
26/2	Reconciliation & 1 st Eucharist Rite of Acceptance Mass	10.30am – 11.30am
27/2	Class Assembly 3/4M	2.20pm – 3.00pm
1/3	Ash Wednesday Mass	9.15am – 10.15am
3/3	Inter school sports Rd 3 @ Home Vs Williamstown G	9am – 11am
6/3	Prayer Assembly 3/4 HK	2.30pm – 3.00pm
7/3	School Photos	8.30am – 1.30pm
8/3	Reconciliation Family Workshop	7pm – 8.30pm
10/3	Inter school sports Rd 4 @ away Vs Seaholme	9am – 11am
13/3	Labour Day Holiday	
14/3	School Closure Day	
16/3	Divisional Swimming	9am – 3.30pm
17/3	Inter school sports Rd 5 @ Home Vs Williamstown Nth	
20/3	Class Assembly 1/2S	2.20pm -3.00pm
22/3	Sacrament of Reconciliation	7pm – 8pm
24/3	Inter school sports Round Robin Final	
27/3	Class Assembly 1/2N	2.20pm – 3.00pm
	Parents & Teacher conferences	3.15pm – 5.30pm
28/3	WMR Swimming	9am – 3.30pm
31/3	End of Term One	2.30pm

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

WELCOME MORNING TEA

The Parents and Friends were thrilled to see so many new families attend the Welcome Morning Tea on Tuesday. We were impressed by the numbers of existing families who turned up to welcome our new members into our school community. Thank you to all those families who baked or bought the scrumptious morning tea we all feasted on. I'm sure the staff also appreciated the left overs. Thanks to Patrice Cassar (Jeremy and Isabelle's mum) for organizing the parents who helped with this event.



Past Student hits the big time!

Alyssa was a student here at St. Mary's. She always showed great talent in sport and was known for her great sportsmanship. Well done Alyssa!



Boys, Girls, Men & Women

The **Altona Lacrosse Club** is seeking players, male and female, of all ages for the 2016 Season. All beginners welcome.

Training: Tuesday & Thursday

- 6:00pm Juniors
- 6:30pm Seniors.

Venue: PJ LYNCH RESERVE, Paisley Park, Mason Street, Altona North.

For more information email recruitment@altonalacrosse.com.au



What is your story?

We all have a story to tell

Join us at **Joseph's corner**

Venue: Cnr Campbell and Bellin St
Laverton

Time: 10am – 12noon

Dates: 15th & 22nd Feb 2017

1st, 8th & 15th March (5 weeks)

Cost: Gold coin donation



Emmanuel College

Emmanuel College warmly welcomes all families of students to our Information Morning on **Saturday 11 February**. The College is very excited to talk to families about the opportunities that exist within the school. This event is open to all families, however, contains important information for students commencing Year 7 in 2018. Please confirm attendance with the College Registrar on 8325 5119.

Notre Dame		St. Paul's	
Location	2-40 Foxwood Dr, Point Cook	Location	423 Blackshaws Rd, Altona North
Time	9.00 am	Time	10.30 am

Enrolment applications;

Year 7, 2018: close on February 17, 2017

Year 7, 2019: close on August 25, 2017

Learn music here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, here at St. Mary's Altona.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$16.20 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2017.

Interested parents should call Fiona during office hours on 9818 2333 or email fiona@creativemusic.com.au



Creative Music

www.creativemusic.com.au



TUCKSHOP HELPERS

Week beginning 6th February 2017

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Marylinda Abate

Manager: Eva Coppola

Tel: 9315 0799

New Tuckshop list and prices are on school website