Dear Parents

ARTS SPECTACULAR – ALL CHILDREN INVOLVED.
Our ARTS SPECTACULAR is on NEXT WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER. It is a FANTASTIC night and one NOT to be missed. It commences at 6.30 pm. with a concert in the church when ALL CHILDREN will be involved in performing songs that celebrate music from the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s till now. They are all very excited about performing for their family and friends. After the concert all families are invited to join us in the school grounds for a BYO picnic. The Parents and Friends will be running a bar where beer, wine and soft drink can be purchased. There will also be a raffle for a magnificent Christmas Hamper. During this time our Art Show will open. You will be in AWE of the wonderful art work that is on display and your children will love showing you their creative talents and the masterpieces they have made. The art will be displayed both upstairs and downstairs in the TRI Centre. We hope that many of our school families and friends can join us for what will be one of the highlights of the year!

THANK YOU:
For your support of our “DRESS UP YOUR SHOES DAY” last Wednesday. There was an incredible array of decoration on shoes from Prep to Year Six as well as staff. Thank you also for the tremendous response we had to our request for old shoes which we will pass onto the “IN YOUR SHOES FOUNDATION” who will distribute them to needy families. We have collected over 300 pairs of shoes that we will pass on. Thank you again.

CONGRATULATIONS:
To our 2015 Preps who completed their Group Interviews, participated in the Open Week and have enjoyed their “Getting A Good Start” sessions. Next Monday OR Tuesday they will spend the morning with their teacher for next year, and some of their classmates, in the classroom they will be in. They will also get to meet their Buddy for next year. Thank you to Mrs Gwenda Burnett, Mrs Cathy Sims, Mrs Carol Hicks and Mrs Joyce Lalor for their participation throughout this program.

STAFF LEAVING:
It is with a great sense of sadness that I inform you that two of our staff will be leaving St. Mary’s at the end of this year. Mrs Morag Zun after 19 ½ years at St. Mary’s has decided it’s time to retire. So on behalf of all staff, students and parents past and present I sincerely thank Morag for her amazing contribution to our school and we wish her every happiness in the next stage of her life.
Mrs Josie Kirby after 14 years at St. Mary’s has decided she needs to share her many talents with another school community. So again on behalf of all staff, students and parents past and present I sincerely thank Josie for her incredible contribution to our school and we wish her every happiness in her new position as Year One teacher at Queen of Peace, Altona Meadows.

BIKE EDUCATION:
Congratulations to our Year 3/4 children who over the last three weeks have all successfully completed our Bike Education Safety program. The focus has been on learning how to care for themselves when cycling and how to look after their bike. Thank you for your support in making sure all children had access to a bike at school over the two days of their program.

SCHOOL FEES:
Thank you to those parents that have settled their accounts however there is still $34,000 outstanding. If you have an outstanding amount please settle it as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty please contact me and we can make some mutually acceptable arrangements.

David Kelly.
Principal.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

DECEMBER
Monday 1st
Year 5/6V Assembly – 2.30 pm
2015 Prep Orientation Morning 9.00 – 10.50 am
Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program – Day 4

Tuesday 2nd
2015 Prep Orientation Morning 9.00 – 10.50 am
Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program – Day 5

Wednesday 3rd
Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program – Day 6
Arts Spectacular 6.30 – 9.00 pm
Caring Catholic Community in Education

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter

SEASON. THANK YOU.

LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED OVER THE FESTIVE HAMPER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR (Assistant).

and leave a like to participate please ring the presbytery on 9398 2964

practice with the children at 7.10

Carols by Candlelight at Logan Reserve, Alto

dramatisation of the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus at

All students from Years 1 to 4 are invited to take part in a

letterbox (marked Attention Lucy).

Altona-Laverton Council of Churches

All students from Years 1 to 4 are invited to take part in a dramatisation of the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus at Carols by Candlelight at Logan Reserve, Altona beginning at 7.30 pm on Sunday 14 December. The dramatisation is very simple. There are no lines to learn. There will be a practice with the children at 7.10 pm. If your child would like to participate please ring the presbytery on 9398 2964 and leave a message for Richard Hallett (Pastoral Assistant).

This Sunday, is the First Sunday of Advent. It marks the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Church. For the next twenty-three days, we turn our attention to the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the wilderness the paths of our God” (40:3).

ADVENT LITURGIES

Every classroom will be involved in a school Advent Liturgy in the coming weeks. Please make an effort to attend your child’s prayer celebration at our church, as we wait and hope in the Birth of Jesus.

Advent Liturgy Week 2

Friday 5th December - 2.30 pm - 1/2K, 3/4M, 5/6G.

EACH CLASSROOM NOW HAS AN EMPTY CHRISTMAS HAMPER WHICH WE HOPE TO FILL FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL, ALTONA. PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SEND SOMETHING ALONG WITH YOUR CHILD FOR THE HAMPER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON. THANK YOU.

Olive Chodowski - REL

“Enjoy yourselves and be happy above all.”

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1874

ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER

Saturday 29th November at 6.30 pm
Grace Bosnar and Justin Nguyen

Sunday 30th November at 9.00 am
Alessia Abate and Brianna Mercuri

DECEMBER

Monday 8th School Assembly 3/4S – 2.30 pm
Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program - Day 7
Parent Thank You Afternoon Tea
3.00 - 4.00 pm

Tuesday 9th Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program - Day 8

Wednesday 10th Prep, Year 1 & 2 Swimming Program - Day 9

Thursday 11th Walk and Ride to School Day
Prep Breakfast – 8.00 am
Chair & Table Cleaning Day
9.00 – 11.00am

Monday 15th Captains & Staff Assembly

Tuesday 16th Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner – 6.00 pm

Thursday 18th End of Year Mass – 9.15am
End of School Year For Children – 3.20 pm

Friday 19th Last Day for Staff

ADVENT PREPARATION - FOR CHRISTMAS 2014

Sun 14 Dec 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight Logan Reserve, Queen St Altona

Wed 16 Dec 6.00pm St. Mary’s School Graduation Mass

Thurs 18 Dec 9.15am End of Year School Mass

RECONCILIATION

Wed 17 Dec 4-5pm Maltese & English Confessions 1st Rite

Fri 19 Dec 7.00pm Reconciliation 2nd Rite

Sat 20 Dec 6.00 to 6.15pm 1st Rite (Individual Confessions)

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Wed 24 Dec 6.30 pm Carols/Nativity Play
7.00 pm Family Mass
11.30 pm Carols

Thurs 25 Dec 12.00 am Midnight Mass
10.00 am Christmas Day Mass

CHANGE FOR SPECIALIST DAYS FOR Year 1/2 and Year 3/4

Due to our junior swimming program being held in Weeks 8, 9 and 10 the Year 3/4 children will be having their specialist subjects on Tuesday and the Year 1/2 children will be having their specialists on Thursday. PLEASE NOTE that children will need to wear their sports uniform on the changed day.

HELP NEEDED BY PARENTS AND PAST STUDENTS

On Thursday 11th December from 9.00 – 11.00 am we are taking on the mighty task of cleaning 300 classroom chairs and 150 tables…and YES we need help. All cleaning products and materials will be provided. This annual event is open to all past students who usually have a great time catching up with each other and do a little…sorry lots of cleaning too. We would also welcome parents to come and help with cleaning the tables. If you can assist please contact School Office or myself. Thank you for your help. gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Gwenda Burnett
Deputy Principal / 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:

**RED TEAM**

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 1st December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Alicia Galea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Maria Charalambous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Tania Mizzi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manager: Eva Coppola  Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN
WEDNESDAYS AFTERNOONS ONLY 3.00 – 3.30 PM

If you are unable to visit our shop, order forms can be collected from the School Foyer and complete with payment left at the School Office anytime. Orders will be filled on the next open day and can be left for collection at the School Office or sent to your child’s classroom.

Leah Byrne Co-ordinator

Parents and Friends News

ARTS SPECTACULAR
St. Mary’s Art Spectacular will be held on Wednesday 3rd December, if you are able to help with this event please complete the form at the end of this newsletter or contact Garry Hills via email on hillsrenovations@bigpond.com.

HEALTHY FAMILY CHALLENGE
GREAT JOB to everyone who has participated in the Challenge. We’ve had some great photos and stories about kids and their families who have taken the Challenge. Remember to return your calendar next week (boxes outside the staffroom) so that you can let us know what you’ve been up to and also to get your house points!
Well done Hugo (Prep H) for trying to eat lots of veggies! Check out our Facebook page to see a photo of Hugo and his healthy platter!

DRESS UP YOUR SHOES – 26TH NOVEMBER
More than 300 pairs of shoes were collected‼️ GREAT JOB ST. MARY’S COMMUNITY!
Thanks to everyone who helped or participated in some way – entering the competitions, donating shoes, organising events, collecting and counting shoes – a real team effort!

ACTIVE TRANSPORT
Our next Walk / Ride to School Day is on 11th DECEMBER
(Last week I advertised the wrong date – sorry!)

NEW MICHAEL GROSE ARTICLE
Some kids just hate to do anything in public for fear of being noticed and perhaps laughed at. They think, quite wrongly, that everyone is looking at them. The truth of the matter is that most people aren’t looking at them.
Help your child conquer SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS by following the tips in Michael Grose’s latest article.
It can be accessed on the school website - Wellbeing:
RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Margaret Masseni
Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader

Emmanuel College
An invitation to the Stairways project presentations to be conducted on 3rd December from 7.00 pm when students in this outstanding achievers program will display the culmination of their year’s work. A wide variety of projects will be presented through interactive displays in areas such as Sports, the Arts, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, The Brain, Aerospace and Aerodynamics.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE AT ST. MARYS
Camp Australia
WE MAKE KIDS SMILE!

Phone: 1300 105 343 / (03) 9398 4065
www.campaustralia.com.au
1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146
info@campaustralia.com.au
Fax: (03) 8610 2044
For Out of School Hours Care at St. Marys (CAMP AUSTRALIA) bookings or cancellations please contact them direct.

BUNNINGS FAMILY NIGHT
Bunnings Christmas Family Night
Thursday 4th December 6.00 – 8.00 pm
Bring the family along for a great night of fun Santa’s little helper workshops, Gift wrapping service, Meet Santa in store, light refreshments will be provided.
Colouring Competition sheets available outside staff room.
Bookings recommended: For more information or to book ask one of our team in-store or visit www.bunnings.com.au

TACKERS
Altona Yacht Club
Saturday mornings – 9.00 am – 12.00 pm, for kids 7 – 12
Information: www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers
Enrol: www.altonayachtclub.org.au
Enquiries – Craig Turner craggles9@gmail.com or 0408 878 954
PARENT THANK YOU
AFTERNOON TEA

Thank you for your help and support during the year.

We invite you to join the staff for
Afternoon Tea
on
Monday 8th December
At 3.00 – 4.00 pm
in
the school hall
(children will be supervised outside)

The Staff of St. Mary’s

ARTS SPECTACULAR

Please complete and return to Parents and Friends via School Office or text Garry Hills on hillsrenovations@bigpond.com by Tuesday 2nd December.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Eldest Child’s Name: _________________________ Class: ________________

I am available to help during the Arts Spectacular on Wednesday 3rd December:

Please tick:

- Set Up (3.15 pm)
- Bar
- Selling Raffle Tickets
- Pack Up

Do you have a working with Children Check? YES or NO (Please Circle)