Dear Parents

What a SPECTACULAR evening we had on Wednesday night. Luckily the weather held off until most people had left although a few people got thoroughly drenched. It was amazing to see the church packed to the rafters and to see all the children having such a fantastic time performing. From Prep to Year 6 the smiles were contagious. Then to walk out onto the school grounds and see so many of our school community having such a great time. It was very rewarding that so many of our school families and friends were able to remain after the children’s performance and visit the Art Show. I’m sure everyone was impressed with the quality and variety of the Art work that was on display in the TRI Centre.

Such a successful night as this doesn’t just happen without a lot of effort from a lot of people. A very, very sincere THANK YOU to the following people who made a significant contribution to this wonderful evening:

- Mrs Morag Zun for her creation and organisation of the children’s concert.
- Mrs Anthea Zimmerman for her Art Show organisation and presentation.
- All of the Staff of St. Mary’s School.
- Garry Hills and the Parents & Friends that worked in the bar, prepared the magnificent hamper, sold raffle tickets and organised the lolly car competition (Mrs Marg. Masseni won the Christmas hamper and Mr Adrian Denys won the lolly jar).
- to the many parents that assisted in the packing up of the chairs and tables at the end of the night.

This has traditionally been a very successful evening, and thanks to YOU I believe it was again a fantastic evening. THANK YOU and WELL DONE To All Involved.

PARENT THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA:
I invite all parents / carers to join the staff for a THANK YOU Afternoon Tea on Monday 8th December in the school hall from 3.00 – 4.00 pm. Children will be supervised on the playground. All parents are welcome to attend. We hope you will be able to join us.

SCHOOL FEES:
Thank you again to the majority of parents who have either settled their account or have contacted me to put some other arrangements in place HOWEVER there is still $32,000.00 OUTSTANDING. Please settle these accounts immediately or contact me otherwise we may need to involve an outside agency to retrieve these monies.

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:
Congratulations to the following children who received Principals Awards on Monday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>James Lac and Nathan Caruana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2K</td>
<td>Tyson Dobbyn and Anna Adani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2D</td>
<td>Noah Ligudzinski and Jacob Yacono</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Luke Cooper and Mulunesh Teshomi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4S</td>
<td>Jade Azzopardi and Sienna Cutajar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4L</td>
<td>Tegan Sortino and Peter Azzopardi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Kathleen Sullivan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6V</td>
<td>Isabella Kirby and Olivia Yacono</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6G</td>
<td>Ethan Perry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER
Saturday 6th December at 6.30 pm
Madison Azzopardi, Jade Azzopardi and Grace Bosnar
Sunday 7th December at 9.00 am
Brianna Mercuri, Rowan Cucanic and Megan Whatman
EDUCATION IN FAITH

PARISH NEWS
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).

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 3
Friday 12th December - 2.30 pm - 1/2H, 3/4L, 5/6V.

EACH CLASSROOM HAS A 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.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES
Loving God you sent Your Son amongst us that we might have life and have it to the full. It is in and through our families and communities that each of us is formed to live life to the fullest of our potential. In these days, as families face many pressures we ask that your fullest blessing be upon us this Advent season as we seek to support and nurture families as the cornerstone and basic unit of our society.

(Fr Joe Caddy (CEO, CatholicCare)

Olive Chodowski - REL
“Make allowances for those who do not see as you do.”
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1867

SURVEY of HOME COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE
As part of our planning for the 2015 school year we would like parents to complete this online survey which should take no longer than five minutes. The survey will allow us to collect information about:

- Computer and internet use at home.
- How often you access our school webpage.
- What information you are looking for when accessing the school website.
- Receiving the school newsletters via email
- How you get information from other organisations (sports clubs etc)

Filling in this survey will be greatly appreciated.

http://goo.gl/forms/3CtlzGhkdh (please copy and paste this into google) a link is also available on the school website.

Please note: If using Internet Explorer you may need to type the address into the browser twice. If using Chrome it will open straight away.

Ronnie Tucker
ICT Leader

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

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
Free Dress Day
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 – 9.15 am
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

Tue 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

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

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter

**TUCKSHOP HELPERS** - Week beginning 8th December

- **Tuesday** – Anne Cooper
- **Wednesday** – Pauline Luppino
- **Thursday** – Marylinda Abate
- **Friday** – Julie Whatman

Manager: Eva Coppola  Tel: 9315 0799

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**
The last Uniform Shop Open day will be Wednesday 10th December at 3.00 pm.
It will re-open on the Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January, 2015 at 3.00 pm. Please note the Uniform Shop accepts payment by either cash or cheque.

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MORNING TEA**
The Parents and Friends Committee need your help in welcoming our new parents to our lovely school in 2015. If you are able to help please complete the form at the end of this newsletter or a copy can be download from our school website “NEWS” NOTES & FORMS” and return it to the School Office as soon possible.

**PAST STUDENTS HELPING IN FINAL WEEKS**
If your child has finished secondary school and is interested in helping in school over the next two weeks they MUST contact myself or Mrs Pedley prior to coming so that we can let them know if help is needed. We will also ask them for the following details: a time they will be at the school and the time they are leaving and an emergency contact number. Sorry NO children will be allowed to come into the school just to visit friends.

**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

**FREE DRESS DAY**
J.S.C. students have organised a FREE DRESS DAY
on Thursday 11th December.

If you want to…. DON’T WEAR your school uniform...... wear your favourite clothes.

Make sure you have a sunsmart hat.

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

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**Literacy News**

**HOBSONS BAY LIBRARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES.**

- **Summer Reading Club** – It is a fun program that helps children enjoy reading over summer. Books read over summer are recorded on a Reading Log and prizes given. There will be a PARTY to celebrate at the end and to meet other readers. A form can be collected from the School Office or go to http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
- **REMEMBER 10 minutes READING** even over summer can make a BIG difference to your child’s reading skills.

**ATTENTION ALL WRITERS**
- **The Friends of Williamstown and Newport Libraries 2014 – 2015 Summer Writing Competition Prep to Year 12.**
  - Young writers are invited to enter their short story and / or poem into the competition. Perhaps you could enter something you have written this year at school. There are LOTS of prizes for ALL year levels. Let me know if you enter and how you go!....YOU have to be in it to WIN. Submit your entry at any Hobsons Bay Library branch, collect a form from the School Office or go to http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
- **Visit the library website for a HUGE list of GREAT things to do over January.**

Gwenda Burnett
Deputy Principal / Literacy Leader.

**Kids Matter**

**Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative**

**DOING IT RIGHT - Week 8 Term 4**
Prep H: Joshua, Aidan, Angus, Ashvin, Zai, Stella, Amber, Toby, Saxon, Andrew, Keely, Isabelle, Lila, Bella, Izzy, Eyob, Jeremy, Allegra, Ryan, Jamison,
1/2H: Nathan
1/2K: Lachlan, Caitlyn, Rafael U, Raphael H, James, Sofia, Mrs Kirby,
1/2D: Jacob, Kiani, Eliza
5/6C: Xander, Marie, Chante, Blake, Laura, Isabelle, Victoria, Leah, Dominic, William, Olivia LeG, Kathleen
5/6V: Angelique, Scarlett, Dakota
5/6G: Ben, Grace, Brianna
For: working hard, helping others, being good role models, handling in money, solving problems well, helping with the In Your Shoes collection, helping teachers solve computer problems and loads of other great things!

**AUSSIE OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2014**
Jesse Longaretti – Schreppel for his mature and responsible attitude towards his learning and friendships. He has been an asset to the classroom and to the playground.
Sunita Daravong for consistently trying her hardest during class time, always making good choices and being a great friend to everyone.
Khiem Nguyen for being a hardworking and polite student. Khiem is a cheerful and sensible member of 5/6V. We all enjoy his company!

HEALTHY FAMILY CHALLENGE
Thanks to the many families who returned their calendars. We hope you had fun completing the challenge. Your certificates and house points will be given next week.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT
Our next Walk / Ride to School Day is on this Thursday 11th DECEMBER.

NEW MICHAEL GROSE ARTICLE
A new Michael Grose has been posted on the website - home page and in Wellbeing: Resources for Parents - entitled “ARE YOU AMONGST THE 10% OF SMART PARENTS?”
Parenting is challenging but you don’t need to go it alone. We all need help from time to time. Michael Grose offers some ideas to help parents build their support network.

TEAM VIC
Olivia Y competed at the National Athletics Championships in Tasmania last weekend.
She came 2nd in the 4 x 100m relay, 5th in long jump, 5th in her heat of the 100m and 1st in a team long jump event and 3rd in similar shot put and 200m events. All that as well as being Team Vic team Vice Captain!
Well done Liv. You’ve been a great ambassador for St. Mary’s and Team Vic over the years.

2015 YEAR 3 – 6 STUDENTS.....ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE ST MARY’S SWIMMING TEAM TO COMPETE IN THE ADSSA COMPETITION IN 2015?
We are looking at holding four training / trialling sessions at the BayFit Leisure Centre in Mason St, Altona North during February 2015. Sessions will begin at 7am and finish at 8am. Breakfast will be provided back at school after each session for those who are interested. Transport back to school will be via mini bus and private cars.
All 2015 Year 3 – 6 students who are interested are welcome to attend these sessions. Trialling and timing will take place at all of the sessions. Students need to attend at least two sessions to be considered for the team.
Expression of interest note was sent home this week but is still available on the school website – NEWS: Notes & Forms. Please return to me by Thursday 11th December.

Margaret Masseni
Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader

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

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.
First Day of School Morning Tea  
9.00 – 10.00am  
In The School Hall

The Parents & Friends would like to host a morning tea on behalf of St Mary’s School Community to welcome all the new and existing parents of 2015.
So, come along and join us in the hall after drop off on the first day of school and catch up with old friends & meet some new people.
We really need your support to help make this event a success. We’ll need helpers to set up and then pack up the hall, and we’ll need lots of scrumptious items to serve. So, if you enjoy baking we’d greatly appreciate a cake, slice, biscuits or scones. If you could please bring them cut up and ready to serve and drop them off at the school hall
If you are able assist with any of the following please complete this form and return it as soon as possible.
If you have any queries please contact Patrice Cassar: jpc.pec@bigpond.com

I AM ABLE TO HELP WITH THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MORNING TEA

☐ I can help set up in the hall … 8.20 – 8.45 am (all or part of that time)

☐ I can bake or purchase a plate of cakes, biscuits or slices and drop them off pre-cut to the hall by 8.45 am.

☐ I can help to pack up and clean up … 10.00 – 10.45 am

Helper’s Name ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Child’s Name & Grade …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Contact No. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Email ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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