



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2017

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

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

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



Dear Parents,

No.14 19th May, 2017

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of information in the media about the Turnbull Government's *Quality Schools* funding package and its impact on catholic school fees. The package proposed by the Government is a 10 year funding model, which will see significant changes to how Catholic schools are funded in the future.

Like the majority of Catholic schools, St. Mary's aims to be open and accessible to all families seeking a Catholic education. That means we aim to be affordable as well. One of the big impacts of the Turnbull Government's funding package is that Catholic school fees will have to rise. This won't happen tomorrow, but over the next 10 years, cuts to school funding will mean fees will gradually increase.

Catholic education leaders across Australia have been working hard to make sure the Government and the Opposition understand that our students will be disadvantaged by this funding model. Everything is being done to make sure the Turnbull Government's funding package does not become law.

That's where the St. Mary's community comes in. In coming weeks, please keep an eye out in the newsletter for information about how you can add your voice to help prevent unreasonable fee increases. We need to step up. Unreasonable fee increases are only a possibility at this stage - not a certainty.

Parents in nearly 500 Catholic schools in Victoria have also been asked to get ready and join the campaign. With your help, we can make sure our politicians in Canberra are listening to catholic schools.

WELCOME:

We warmly welcome Mrs Mirjana Sawyer to our St. Mary's staff as a Learning Support Officer. Mirjana has previously worked in this role at St. Francis of Assissi, Tarneit.

SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

This semester we will be introducing a new format for the reports that come home to you. We are hoping that they will be more informative. New regulations around reporting from the government have given us more autonomy in how we set up the reports. They will look different to what they have in the past.

We will be assessing against the standards set out in the *Victorian Curriculum*. The design of the Victorian Curriculum is set out in two parts, Learning Areas and Capabilities. The Learning Areas are arranged in a discipline based approach to learning and include English, Mathematics, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Languages and Technologies. The Capabilities are a set of knowledge and skills that are taught explicitly through the Learning Areas and include Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Capability, Intercultural Capability and Personal and Social Capability. For more information about the Victorian Curriculum click on the following link:

<http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

Three Way Learning Conversations will be held in the last week of Term 2 to celebrate your child's learning. I encourage all parents and caregivers to attend these conversations with your child. It is a great time to celebrate learning and also to discuss how your child can take his/her learning further in Terms 3 and 4.



We are getting some great feedback from parents and teachers about the convenience and ease of use of CareMonkey. Just a reminder that notices via CareMonkey will originate in your email, so it is important to check you email regularly. Also, we have a number of student profiles on CareMonkey that only have parent contact information. Could you please ensure you have at least 2 other emergency contacts in the student profiles. Thanks



We use our school App regularly to send out alerts and reminders to parents. **To ensure you get these important alerts you will need to check your settings and notifications on your phone.** Once your notifications are set correctly for the App you will not miss out on any important information from the school.

DAD'S NIGHT:

All school dads are invited to our second "Dad's Night" tonight, 19th May commencing at 7.30 pm. in the school hall. Enter via gate on McBain Street. Activities include, table tennis, darts, pool & slot cars and a few drinks. Come along and meet some other dads.

FOOTY TIPPING:

No one correctly selected all 9 winners last round so the Jackpot this week is \$20.00. Good Luck!

David Kelly,
Principal.

How to Create a Mindful Generation

Hear from the CEO of Smiling Mind

FREE EVENT: Tuesday 23rd May

6 – 7pm at the University of Melbourne

Together with the Melbourne University School of Positive Psychology interest group our CEO Dr Addie Wooten, will talk about the journey of Smiling Mind as an organisation. The Smiling Mind app was launched in 2012 and now had more than 1.8 million downloads and 25,000 educators using our programs in classrooms across Australia. What has resonated to create such engagement and momentum? Come and find out.

Discussion points: the challenges of a small start-up ono-profit

The impact of the Smiling Mind programs

And the potential to create a mindful generation. **[Register for the event here.](#)**



PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS



Our next Parents and Friends Meeting will on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30pm in the staff room.

We need the continued support of families in the school community to keep the P & F going.

You can just attend the occasional meeting.

It's a great way to get to know some other parents and become familiar with and engaged in your children's school.

So grab a friend and come along to the next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you – thanks for your time!

mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au



TAKE HOME READERS STOCK TAKE

We would love some help to go through our take home readers in the Junior Building.

Working Bee – Friday 2nd June @ 12.30pm in the hall.

Email or catch up with Cathy Sims if you are able to come along. csims@smaltona.catholic.edu.au



LEGO DRIVE for a LEGO CLUB

We would like to build up a supply of Lego to use in the library at lunchtime. If you have any Lego at home that is no longer being used or you see any going cheap, please see / contact Marg Masseni

EDUCATION IN FAITH

2017 SACRAMENT DATES



First Eucharist Dates

Family Workshop: Wednesday, 31st May. 7pm
Shared Meal/Practice Session: Wednesday 14th June. 7pm.
Sacrament of First Eucharist: Sunday, 18th June. 3pm.



Confirmation Date

Rite of Acceptance Mass Weekend:

Saturday 24th June – 6pm/Sunday 25th June – 10.30am
Wednesday 19th July - Confirmation Family Workshop
Friday 18th August - Sacrament of Confirmation



**In the month of May,
we honour Mary
in special ways.**



**All families and friends are invited
to celebrate the feast day of
Our Lady, Help of Christians
next Wednesday, 24th May at 9.15am.**

Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



*"May God bless and keep you
all."*

16.5.1873

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Our Year 3 students as they prepare to celebrate their First Eucharist.
- * All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.
- * Joyce Lalor who has this week become a Grandmother to her 29th Grandchild – 'Lorna Joyce'. A wonderful Blessing!

Weekly Class Mass:

**On Friday 26th May Year 1/2G
will be attending the 9:15am
parish mass. Family and friends
are invited to celebrate and join
the children in prayer.**



Social Justice News

Term Two Social Justice initiative:

We continue to raise money for our World Vision school sponsored child 'Win Naing.'
Each classroom has a money box for students to donate their coins into.

Thank-you.

Sara Adani & Kyle Escobar
(Social Justice Leaders)

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS 2017

We welcome you to meet our Principal, talk to our teachers and join a student-led tour of the College.

TWILIGHT OPEN EVENING

Thursday 9 February 4:00pm-8:00pm
Principal's address at 5:00pm & 7:00pm

OPEN DAY

Sunday 28 May 10:00am – 2:00pm
Principal's address at 11:00am & 1:00pm

Register online at www.msj.vic.edu.au

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2017, 2018 & 2019

Educating Today, Shaping Tomorrow. MSJ

Enrolment form – www.msj.vic.edu.au or contacting the school 8398 2000 or Sherri Collins – College Registrar
registrar@msj.vic.edu.au

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE

OPEN MORNINGS 2017

We invite you to visit us during the school day.

Meet the Principal, join a student-led tour of the College and see learning in action in the classrooms.

Visiting time: 9:30am – 10:30am

Dates:

- Monday 13 February
- Thursday 10 August
- Thursday 9 March
- Thursday 11 May
- Thursday 8 June
- Thursday 12 October
- Thursday 9 November

Register online at www.msj.vic.edu.au

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2017, 2018 & 2019

Educating Today, Shaping Tomorrow. MSJ

133 Maldstone Street, Altona 3018 | 05 8398 2000 | www.msj.vic.edu.au

Applications for Year 7, 2019 will
Close on 25th August 2017.
Limited places available for 2017 & 2018



ST. MARY'S CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to all the members of our choir who sang for our parish Mother's Day Mass last week. You truly helped make the celebration joy-filled (and all your mums there very proud!!)

Our choir will again be leading the singing **next Wednesday at 9.15am** for our Parish Feast Day Mass - Mary, Help of Christians, and a couple of weeks later the choir will be singing for our Year 3 students who will be celebrating their **First Eucharist on Sunday, 18th June at 3pm.**

Their commitment to practice each week and to being a part of our celebrations is truly wonderful.

Mrs. Angela Hamilton - Performing Arts Specialist

ahamilton@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
And return to the school office asap.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS Week beginning 22nd May 2017



Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday Cynthia Bitaks
Thursday
Friday Paula Luppino

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Last Tuesday 30 students from grades 3-6 represented our school at the Altona District Cross Country carnival against 10 other schools. All the students done a great job and had a wonderful day. Overall we finished 8th place which is a fantastic job considering our school number compared to some of the other schools. Special mention to Shannon Williams for winning her race (10 year old girls) and Oscar Devetak for finishing 3rd in the 10 year old boys. Both Shannon and Oscar will now move on to the Hobson Bay, Western Ranges and Wyndham divisional championships on Wednesday 31st May at Presidents Park Werribee. Good luck to both those students.



LIFE TO THE FULL

**Emmanuel
College**

If you have families that were unable to attend but would like a tour, please feel free to have them contact me directly at – gdeller@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au

Just a reminder of the following enrolment date information Year 7 / 2019
Friday 25th August, 2017

ROUND 6



WILLIAMSTOWN
SEAGULLS
EST. 1864

RICHMOND
EST 1885

Sunday 21st May - Burbank Oval
73 Morris Street, Williamstown
Seniors - 2pm

WATERLINE PLACE
WILLIAMSTOWN 3016

FREE KIDS ACTIVITY ZONE

- ★ Chair-o-Plane
- ★ Inflatable Football Activity Zone
- ★ Animal Farm
- ★ Speccie the Seagull
- ★ Canteen

