



# St. Mary's School, Altona

## Newsletter 2018

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Principal: David Kelly Phone: 9398 4842 [www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest: Fr. Shabin Phone: 9398 2964 [altona@cam.org.au](mailto:altona@cam.org.au)



Dear Parents

No.1 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January was the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of our school. The original school shared the Catholic hall (located on the west corner of Rayner Street and Railway Street North) that also served as church, dancehall, meeting place and cinema. In a letter to the Cathedral written that day, Fr. Flannery, Parish Priest, stated that he had counted 50 children in attendance. Four months later the Inspector of Schools reported an enrolment of 86 pupils graded from Infants to Grade 8.

The first nuns to teach in Altona were Sister Damien (Principal) and Sister Leon who arrived by train from the Newport convent each day wearing the brown habit of Australia's Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 1950 a new St. Mary's church-school, built at a cost of 25,000 pounds (\$50,000) opened on our current site in Railway Street.

We had a school photo taken this week involving all children and staff forming the number 90 on the netball court to celebrate the occasion.

**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 Meryl Fischer & Susie Holland and their 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 2018 a very enjoyable and successful year.

**A Special welcome to our forty-eight 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.

**Eighteen of our Preps are new families to our school:**

They are: Angelina Azar, Miller Dadswell, Rafael DeRezende Hoffman, Miles Derham, Laughlin Dimech, Jordan Harri, Harry McCall, Thomas Mugliett, Jackson Nguyen, Lily Nguyen, Tina Nguyen, Hayden Pye, Amelia Qureshi, Alisha Sapla, Ava Scerri, Charlotte Smith & Jakub Williams.

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

Chloe Agius, Anya Ahlgren, Tia Azzopardi, Gracie Bitaks, Mila Bitaks, Lily Borg, Alessio Buttazzoni, Ezekiel-John Cheung, Joshua Coghlan, Elliot Cowap, Dario Dias, Olivia Fenech, Daniel Giardina, Claudia Jack, Jeremie Le, Chloe Matina, Ronan Nguyen, Nikki Pham, Samuel Pye, Naya Rajapakse, Ashton Ramsay, Ariadne Rodriguez Canache, Ava Schembri, Rebekah Shafik-Eid, Archer Tanti, Mark Teinovic, Max Threatt, Manh-Phi Tran & Truc-Phi Tran.

**NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEDNESDAYS.**

**A Special Welcome to our four new staff members:**

Ms. Hayleigh Davis: Year 1/2D, Ms. Caitlyn Gallagher: Year 1/2G, Ms Stefanie Harvey: Year 5/6H and Ms Carolyn McGuffie: Administration.

Also Mrs Erin Mithen: Year 5/6C Returning from Maternity Leave.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2018:**

Sofia Bitaks, Chloe Zuvela, James Hills and Jacob Yacono

**SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2018:**

Ciara O'Connor and Anthony Briffa

**WELLBEING LEADERS for 2018:**

Olivia Charalambous and Grace Moon

**HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2018:**

**Blue:** Sienna Tanti and Lucas Mickovski

**Green:** Emma Hussey and Daniel Armeri

**Red:** Mia Attana and Jordan Schrembri

**Yellow:** Erin Cucanic and Lachland Green

**CHOIR LEADER for 2018:**

Marcus Kruger

**SCHOOL FEES:**

Curriculum Levy will remain the same for 2018. However the Family Fee and Excursion fee have increased:

<b>Family Fee (per family)</b>	-	<b>\$ 1500.00</b>
<b>Curriculum Levy (per child)</b>	-	<b>\$ 220.00</b>
<b>Excursion Levy (per child)</b>	-	<b>\$ 70.00</b>

Additional charges for Camps, Sacraments etc will be added to your school fees dependant on the year level of your child/ren.

Please note in a change from past years, one third of your total school fee is to be paid by the end of Term 1 (29/03/2018), two thirds of the total fee by the end of Term 2 (29/06/2018) and the final third paid by the end of Term 3 (21/09/2018). Failure to do so will result in your account being placed in arrears.

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

**IMPORTANT:**

Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute "Getting to Know You" interviews will be held between 3.20 – 5.30 pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website. The booking code is "dh9kx"

**BOOKINGS CLOSE – 5.00 pm Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

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

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? (e.g. medical etc.)

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

**FAREWELL TO FR. SHABIN:**

The Parish Farewell will take place this Sunday at the 10.30 am Mass followed by a Get Together in the School Hall. All school families are invited to attend.

The School Farewell will take place next Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at the 9.15 am Mass. All parents are welcome to join us.

**BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS AND GET TOGETHER BBQ:**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH - 6.00 pm. (Please note change of date)**

**This will also be an opportunity to meet our new Parish Priest Fr. Michael Kalka.**

**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 BBQ in the school grounds.**

**More information will follow in the coming weeks. Please mark this date in your diary.**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE, APP & FACEBOOK PAGE:**

Can I remind parents to regularly check our **School Website** at [www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://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 Store or Google Play) 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.

**CAREMONKEY:**

A reminder to ensure you have completed a CareMonkey profile for your child/children. 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](mailto:vtucker@smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

## PARENTS & FRIENDS FIRST MEETING:

This will be held in the school staffroom commencing at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**David Kelly.**  
**Principal.**



## **WEEK TWO: LITERACY ASSESSMENT WEEK**

In 2017, all staff were involved in looking at a new reading assessment tool called the Benchmark Assessment System otherwise known as the BAS.

The BAS is a tool that identifies not only a child's reading level but also his/her ability to **comprehend** what they have read. The information gained from this assessment will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses in the students which teachers will be able to address when planning lessons.

**Therefore in Week 2, all students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be assessed using the BAS.** This requires teachers to work one on one with each student for 40 minutes. To enable this to happen, all classroom teachers will be given 3 days to complete this testing with a part of a fourth day available if necessary.

Staff who do not have a classroom such as support staff and the specialist teachers etc. will be working in classrooms but we have also employed a number of Emergency Teachers to assist with this process. As a result there will be no Performing Arts, Creative Arts or Physical Education sessions next week.

Implementing the BAS has required a lot of time, money and organisation but we feel the benefits will far outweigh the costs.

If you have any queries please feel free to see either of us.

**Cathy Sims and Lisa Vella**  
**Literacy Leaders**

## **ANAPHYLAXIS AND ASTHMA PLANS**

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

## **DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS 2018**

For students in Years 3-6 there will be three swim training sessions:

**Where:** BayFit Leisure Centre in Mason St, Altona North

**When:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7.00-8.00 am

**Breakfast:** will be provided back at school

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

Cost: \$7 per session.

If you wish to attend these sessions the permission form can be found on CareMonkey.



## **UNIFORM SHOP**

**In 2018 the uniform shop will be open: Monday 8.30-9.00 am and Wednesday 2.30-3.00 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. For those that are unable to make it to the shop, the order forms will be available on the School Website, News, Notes & Forms next week. These can be sent through to [stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### 2018 Sacrament Dates

#### TERM ONE:

**Confirmation: – Rite of Acceptance Masses weekend:  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb-6pm OR Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb-10.30am**

**Confirmation: - Family Workshop: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. School Hall: 7pm**

**Confirmation: - Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, at 7pm  
(The Sponsor must be a baptised Catholic over the age of 16)**

### Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder  
of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they  
begin  
a new school year in 2018.  
Bless them, their teachers  
and all our staff.  
Give wisdom and knowledge  
to their minds as they search  
for understanding;  
and peace and zeal in their  
hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

Amen



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

\* All members of our community who are  
sick or in need of our prayerful support.

### Farewell Masses For Fr. Shabin:

***All school families and friends are invited to celebrate and  
farewell Fr. Shabin this  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am.***



***A special school mass to farewell  
Fr Shabin will be celebrated next Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. ALL classes  
will attend the parish mass at 9.15am. Please join your children  
in this special mass to thank and farewell Fr Shabin.***



*"Gratitude is the memory of the heart." 1907*



**Please note there will be NO 8.30am Mass this  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. A Farewell Mass for  
Fr. Shabin will take place at the usual  
10.30am Mass followed by a farewell  
celebration in the School Hall. Please bring a  
plate to share.**

**Rosters for Special Ministers; Lectors &  
Offertory Procession** have been emailed to all  
those with an email address on our records. The  
rest have been either delivered via bulletin  
delivery or posted. If you do not receive yours by  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February please let Lucy know at the  
parish office. Thank you.

**Ash Wednesday – 14<sup>th</sup> February - Mass Times:  
9.15am & 7pm.**

**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**

**Monthly Holy Hour** - All welcome to share in our Holy  
Hour on **Monday 5 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.  
All Welcome.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event	Time
5/2	School Captains Assembly	2.20pm
5/2	Parents & Teacher meeting	3.20pm – 5.30pm
6/2	District Swimming training	7am – 8am
9/2	Farewell Mass for Fr. Shabin – whole school	9.15 am
9/2	Class Mass 3/4V	9.15am
12/2	Class Assembly 5/6C	2.20pm
13/2	District Swimming training	7am – 8am
14/2	Ash Wednesday Mass Year 1 - 6	9.15am
19/2	Class Assembly 1/2S	2.20pm
20/2	District Swimming training	7am – 8am
23/2	Inter school sports Rd 1 @ Sacred Heart PS	9am – 11am
24/2	Confirmation Rite of Acceptance Mass	6pm
25/2	Confirmation Rite of Acceptance Mass	10.30am
26/2	Class Assembly 1/2K	2.20pm
1/3	Opening School Mass & Picnic	6pm
2/3	Inter school sports Rd 2 @ Altona North PS	9am – 11am
5/3	Prayer Assembly 5/6L	2.20pm
6/3	School Photo Day	
7/3	Confirmation Family Workshop	7.00pm
9/3	Inter school sports Rd 3 @ Seaholme PS	9am – 11am
12/3	Labour Day Holiday - No School	
16/3	Inter school sports Rd 4 @ Home Vs Altona College	9am – 11 am
16/3	Class Mass 3/4 HK	9.15am
19/3	Class Assembly 3/4M	2.20pm
23/3	Class Mass 1/2K	9.15am
23/03	Sacrament of Confirmation	7pm
24/3	Inter school sports Rd 5 @ Home Vs Spotswood PS	9am – 11am
26/3	Class Assembly 3/4HK	2.20pm
29/3	Prayer Assembly 3/4V	2.20pm
29/3	End of Term One	2.30pm
16/4	Start of Term Two	8.50am
20/4	Inter school sports – Finals	

## **TUCKSHOP HELPERS**

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Friday:** Paula Luppino

**Manager:** Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799



***Tuckshop list and prices are on the school website***

## **GUITAR LESSONS 2018**

Guitar lessons will commence in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Term 1 – the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> February. The day of the week will be either Wednesday or Thursday or both depending on the number of students who apply for guitar lessons this year and the School's Specialists timetable. All parents wishing their children to be involved in the guitar program need to fill in the Expression of Interest Form, which can be downloaded from our school website: News, Notes & Forms. Please send the form to the School Office no later than Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

If you have any queries, please contact me on 0432 392 120.

**HENRY ZUN**  
**GUITAR TEACHER**





## PARENTS & FRIENDS

### Bunnings BBQ – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018



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 some of the parents, we only need volunteers on the day itself.

No experience is necessary in BBQing or money handling. You can either join up with a couple of mates or put your name down and take the opportunity to meet some other parents over a hot grill. The easiest way to get on the roster is to complete the form on CareMonkey or text Jarrod Pye on 0428 502 815 with your name/s, time and contact number, or email Jarrod at [Jarrod\\_Pye@firststatesuper.com.au](mailto:Jarrod_Pye@firststatesuper.com.au)

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

### 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 chil-  
dren 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, 2018.

Interested parents should call Fiona during  
office hours on 9818 2333 or email  
[fiona@creativemusic.com.au](mailto:fiona@creativemusic.com.au)

 **Creative Music**  
[www.creativemusic.com.au](http://www.creativemusic.com.au)

