



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

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No: 1. 30th January, 2015



Dear Parents

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 where 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. Thankyou to Patrice and Madeline for their organisation of the morning tea and to the many parents who supplied the 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 2015 a very enjoyable and successful year.

NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEDNESDAYS.

SPECIALIST CLASSES START NEXT WEEK:

Art, Music and Physical Education

Children wear their sports uniform on this day

Tuesday – Year 1/2's

Wednesday Year 5/6's

Thursday Year 3/4's and Preps

A Special welcome to our forty-nine 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 five minutes. The same could not be said for some of the parents.

Twenty-nine of our Preps are new families to our school.

They are: **Xavier Barry, Jack Brkljacic,,**

Maddison Burns, Daniel Ciavarella, Amelie Cowap,

Shiloh Cucanic, Matilda Delany, Gisella De Luca,

Senan Dias, Trinity Edwards, Susannah Engler,

Akelan Evans, Isaiah Holland, Augusta Georgiadis,

Christos Gionis, Thomas Hicks, Fernando Jimena,

Astin Kirk, Aidan Krishna, Charlotte Le-Faucheur,

Jourdan Lipic-Kindler, Jade McGill, Amelia Pham,

Georgia Rada, Ruby Ramsay, Zara Reis, Mia Teinovic,

Toby Thompson and Lucas Zun .

These Preps have or have had older siblings at St. Mary's: **Jonathon Adani, Isabelle Cassar, Sarah Cassar, Ava Cooper, Jack Curran, Oscar Fischer, Zali Howell, Mia Jesaulenko, Maggie London, Jai LeRoux, Gabriella Luppino, Finian Mercer, Alison Misquitta, Milli Nugent, Lexi Robertson, Xavier Rietveld, Charlie Sarai, Gabriella Umana and Joshua Van Zyl.**

Another Special Welcome to the following children and their families who have joined our school community at St. Mary's in classes other than Prep:

Bianca Singh – Year 1/2D,

Callum Tucker – Year 1/2ST.

Cody Harris – Year 5/6VT.

Finally a Special Welcome to our two new staff members:

Mrs Angela Hamilton – Music.

Mrs Teresa Prismall – Library Technician.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2015:

Girl Captains: Madison Cutajar and Jessica Offen.

Boy Captains: Dominic Azzopardi and Trent Micheli

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2015:

Mairead F and Marie H.

WELLBEING LEADERS for 2015:

Emily Kakoullis and Isabella Pisani.

HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2015:

Blue: Jelena Huynh and Ryan Said.

Green: Destiny Mizzi and Ben Hussey.

Red: Ella Longretti-Schreppel and Zane Azzopardi.

Yellow: Dibanchi Teshomi and Fikre Tsegay.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS AND GET TOGETHER:

Wednesday 11th 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 dinner and drinks in the school grounds. More details will follow in the coming weeks. But please mark this date in your diary.

SCHOOL FEES:

After consultation with the School Education Board the School Fees for 2015 are as follows:

School Fees (per family)	-	\$ 1200.00
Curriculum Levy (per child)	-	\$ 220.00
Excursion/Incursion Levy (per child)-		\$ 60.00

The per family School Fee has increased from last year due in part to a reduction in government funding as a result of our social – economic rating increasing. The Curriculum Levy and Excursion/Incursion Levy have remained the same.

Please be aware the Curriculum Levy (\$220 per child) and the Excursion/Incursion Levy (\$60.00 per child) are DUE & PAYABLE by Friday 6th March.

The School Fees (\$1200 per family) can be paid in full, or over a number of instalments but is DUE & PAYABLE by Friday 11th September (2nd last week of Term Three).

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

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.

EARLY NOTICE OF KEY DATES FOR 2015: PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES.

Monday 2nd February - 3.15 – 5.30 pm.
“Getting To Know You” Parent / Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 3rd March – School Closure Day

Wednesday 4th February - 7.30 pm.
Parents & Friends Meeting in School Staffroom

Wednesday 11th February - 6.00 pm.
Beginning of the School Year Mass & Get Together

Wednesday 11th March - School Photos

Sunday 22nd March - 3.00 pm.
Sacrament of Confirmation

Friday 27th March - 2.30 pm.
End of Term One

START OF TERM TWO

Monday 13th April - 8.45 am.

Wednesday 3rd June - 7.00 pm.
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday 8th June
Queen’s Birthday – School Closure Day

Friday 26th June - 2.30 pm.
End of Term Two

START OF TERM THREE

Monday 13th July - 8.45 am.

Friday 24th July - Grandparents Day
Saturday 22nd August - 6.00 pm.
Sacrament of First Eucharist

Sunday 23rd August - 10.30 am.
Sacrament of First Eucharist

Friday 18th September - 2.30 pm.
End of Term Three

START OF TERM FOUR

Monday 5th October - 8.45 am.

Monday 2nd November – School Closure Day
Tuesday 3rd November – Melbourne Cup Day

Tuesday 15th December - 6.00 pm.
Year 6 Graduation

Thursday 17th December - 9.15 am.
End of School Year Mass

Thursday 17th December - 3.20 pm.
End of School Year

PARENT TEACHER CONTACT AFTERNOON:

As you would know our Parent / Teacher Contact afternoon is being held on Monday 2nd February from 3.15 – 5.30 pm.

The School Event Code is: QR7L6. If you haven’t selected a time online you will need to do so tomorrow bookings close Saturday 31st January at 3.00 pm. The aim of this first meeting is to learn as much as we can about your child from you. Meetings will last approximately five minutes. It is NOT a progress report or an interview, but rather a sharing of information to help us to get to know your child.

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 Photograph/Video Permission Form for you to read and sign outside each classroom.

SCHOOL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE:

Can I remind parents to regularly check our **School Website** at www.smaltone.catholic.edu.au for regular updates and interesting information and photos about what is going on at St. Mary’s. The newsletter and all notes and permission forms can be accessed from the ‘News, Notes & Forms’ section of the website.

Our **School Facebook Page** is a more immediate way you can automatically receive information about what is going on at our school and also make a comment. For new parents to our school you can access our Facebook Page directly from our school website, just click on the link. If you are already a Facebook member you can simply click on the “like” icon and you will receive all updates and be able to make comments. If you are not a member of Facebook you will need to click the “Join” icon and then the “like” icon to receive the updates and make comments. **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.

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences go to the Rietveld family (Alexandra 1/2ST and Xavier PrepHM) on the recent death of their grandmother. Please keep this family in your prayers.

David Kelly.
Principal.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 3rd February



Wednesday Karoline Fanjek
Thursday Lilia Sougleris
Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

TUCKSHOP NEWS

HELP NEEDED the Tuckshop needs your help on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday 12.30 – 2.00 pm. If you are able to assist on any of these days or would like more information, please contact the School Office. Thank you.

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Welcome to our 2015 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.

NEW SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Fr. Shabin would like to thank all parishioners who completed the Survey Form for the new Mass Times in 2015. Just under 300 forms were received and collated, resulting in the following Mass Times to commence on this weekend - 31st January & 1st February 2015.

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am & 10.30am

Sacramental Dates for 2015.

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, 22nd March 3pm
RECONCILIATION: Wednesday, 3rd June 7:00pm
FIRST EUCHARIST: Saturday, 22nd Aug – 6.00 pm
Sunday, 23rd Aug – 10:30 am

(Further information for the relevant year levels will follow closer to each date)



On Friday 6th February Year 5/6C will be attending the 9:15 morning mass.

Please come, celebrate, sit with and join your children in prayer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Olive Chodowski - REL

"God has done wonders for us"

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1890

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

WELCOME MORNING TEA

The Parents and Friends were thrilled to see so many new families attend the Welcome Morning Tea yesterday. 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 this.

DISCO

Saturday 21st March 80's Disco. Parents grab your friends, crimp your hair and reach for that fluro. Put on your pointy shoes and ready to dance as the DJ spins classics from the decade that bought us one hit wonders like "Mickey", "Love Shack" and "U Can't Touch This" and unforgettable tunes like "Tainted Love", "Blue Monday" and "September". 7.30pm – 12.00 am at Altona RSL, finger food will be provided with drinks at club prices and 80s influenced cocktails at \$10.00. Tickets are \$25.00. No fundraising on the night, just loads of laughs and dancing. There will be a large seated area for those who aren't feeling foot loose. A prize will be awarded for the best dressed, so start thinking up your 80s inspired costumes.

COCKTAIL PARTY

Saturday 10th October Cocktail Party
Last years Cocktail Party was such a huge success, we're doing it again, so put this date on your calendars and book your babysitters.

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE

Twilight Open Evening – Year 7, 2016

Tuesday 17th February, 3.00 - 7.00 pm

Parent Information Evening

7.00 – 7.45 pm

Applications must Close 27th February, 2015

Join a student leader for a College tour

Meet Staff and hear our Principal

133 Maidstone Street, Altona

Phone: 8398 2000

www.msj.vic.edu.au

Education Today. Shaping Tomorrow.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE INFORMATION MORNING

An information morning for prospective parents, including tours, will be conducted at Notre Dame Campus, Pt. Cook at 9.00 am and St. Paul's Campus, Altona at 10.30 am on Saturday 7th February. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the College Prospectus, please contact the College Registrar, Donna Grech, on 8325 5119. The closing date for applications for Year 7, 2016 is Friday 27th February, 2015.

GUITAR LESSONS 2015

Guitar Lessons will commence in the 3rd week (week commencing 16th February) for Term One. All parents wishing their children to be involved in the guitar program need to fill in the attached Expression of Interest Form and lodge at the School Office no later than Thursday 12th February, 2015.

This form can also be downloaded from our school website: "News", Notes & Forms.

Henry Zun
Guitar Teacher

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ALTONA

95A Railway St Altona 3018

29th January 2015

Fees for Guitar Lessons, 2015

This letter is to advise you of the number of guitar lessons to be provided for each Term in 2015 and of the corresponding fees as follows:

Term 1 – 5 lessons - \$115

Term 2 – 9 lessons - \$207

Term 3 – 8 lessons - \$184

Term 4 -10 lessons - \$230

The Term fees need to be paid **within the first three weeks** of each term, otherwise your child will not be able to continue with guitar lessons. An Invoice will be provided at the start of lessons each term with information regarding method of payment.

To remind you also that if there are lessons lost through illness, timetable changes or short holiday period with none of these extending beyond two timetabled lessons, these lessons will be made up in the last week of each term. If any holidays are planned during a school term, I need to be notified in advance in writing. If your child will be absent for a long or extended period of time, please let me know the dates in advance, and whether you wish to have those lessons made up or not.

Could you please acknowledge receipt of this letter and information contained therein by filling out and signing the form below. Please return the form to the office no later than **Thursday 12th February 2015**.

HENRY ZUN
Guitar Teacher.

✂ _____

GUITAR LESSONS 2015
ATTENTION: HENRY ZUN

Child's Name: _____

Year Level: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

I have read the letter dated 29th January 2015 and the information concerning guitar lessons and fees and having understood the information wish that my child undertakes guitar lessons in 2015.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____