



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2016

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

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

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



No.1 29 January, 2016

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 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 Patrice Cassar and her 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 2016 a very enjoyable and successful year.

NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEDNESDAYS.

SPECIALIST CLASSES START NEXT WEEK:

Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Physical Education
Children wear their sports uniform on this day.
Tuesday – Year 3/4 plus Prep Performing & Creative Arts
Wednesday Year 5/6
Thursday Year 1/2 plus Prep PE

A Special welcome to our forty-six 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.

Twenty-three of our Preps are new families to our school. They are: Ethan Agius, Skye Ahlgren, Zara Azzopardi, William Bainger, Sophie Belton, Andre Braganza, Amelie Callejo, Leyla Fenech, Anderson Jack, Lorenzo Jimena, Tiana Matina, Isabella Meddis, Zoe Nisbet, Eilidh Plumb, Sienna Polo, Tahlia Rajapakse, William Slattery, Daniel Surbevski, Liam Teh, Cooper Thomas and Ruby Williams.

These Preps have or have had older siblings at St. Mary's: Isobelle Appleby, Xavier Azzopardi, Jackson Boyd, Samantha Coghlan, Alegra Da Silva, Zoe De Bono, Luca Devetak, Judah Didenkowski, Aaliyah Fallace, Xavier Herd, Segolene Houlihan, Jacquelyn Le, Isabelle Manguiat, Anika Manton, Mark Morda, Natalie Myers, Mason Schembri, Elisha Shafik-Eid, Ethan Singh, Oscar Thompson, Ashley & Nathan Torre, Amanial Tsegay and Ryan Tucker

Another Special Welcome to Joel Knight and his family who has joined our school community at St. Mary's in Year 3/4S.

And Welcome back to Miley Polo Yr 1/2D & Summa Polo Yr 3/4V who joined us for the last couple of weeks last year.

Finally a Special Welcome to our three new staff members:

Ms. Alyce McConnell: Year 3/4M
Mr. Tim Lappin Physical Education
Ms. Ruth Stanley Release Teacher

SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2016:

Alannah Briffa, Michelle Nassim,
Thomas Kruger and Justin Nguyen.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2016:

Tahlia Sepsic and Kate Ealem.

WELLBEING LEADERS for 2016:

Isabella Cassar and Ella Longaretti-Schreppel.

HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2016:

Blue: Hannah Jesaulenko and Tam Nguyen.

Green: Sienna Cutajar and Cody Harris.

Red: Tanvi Arora and Michael Cassar.

Yellow: Mulunesh Teshomi and James Curran.

SCHOOL FEES:

After consultation with the School Education Board the School Fees for 2016 are as follows:

School Fees (per family)	-	\$ 1400.00
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 18th March.

The School Fees (\$1400 per family) can be paid in full, or over a number of instalments but is **DUE & PAYABLE** by Friday 9th September (2nd last week of Term Three).

School Fee Statements will be sent home soon, 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.

IMPORTANT:

Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute “Getting to Know You” interviews will be held between 3.15 – 5.30 pm. next Monday 1st 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.

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.

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

You can book interviews at times that suit your family best. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website.

THE SCHOOL EVENT CODE IS: B9R75

BOOKINGS ARE CURRENTLY OPENED AND CLOSE ON SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2016 AT 3.00 PM.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS AND GET TOGETHER:

Wednesday 17th February – 6.00 pm.3

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.

EARLY NOTICE OF KEY DATES FOR 2016: PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES.

Monday 1st February: 3.15pm – 5.30 pm

Parent / Teacher contact afternoon

Wednesday 3rd February - Confirmation information sessions (Parents) 2pm– 3pm & 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Wednesday 10th February: 9:15am – 10:15am

Ash Wednesday – Whole school mass

Wednesday 17th February - 6.00pm .

Opening School Year Mass & Get Together

Wednesday 24th February: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Confirmation workshop with Sr Lorraine Testa

Saturday 27th 6pm & Sunday 28th February 10:30am

Confirmation Rite of Election Masses

Sunday, 6th March - 3pm

Confirmation Mass

Thursday 17th March: St Patrick’s Day–Student Leaders

Friday 18th March – Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Monday 21st March: 3:15pm – 5:00 pm

Parent / Teacher contact afternoon

Thursday 24th March - 2.30 pm

End of Term One

Term One: Class & Prayer Assembly

1st Feb School Captains

8th Feb 5/6C

15th Feb 3/4VH

22nd Feb 3/4S

29th Feb 5/6M (Confirmation)
Prayer Assembly

7th March 3/4M

14th March Labour Day Holiday

21st March 5/6L (Holy Week)
Prayer Assembly

SCHOOL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE:

Can I remind parents to regularly check our **School Website** at www.smaltona.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.

PARENTS & FRIENDS FIRST MEETING:

This will be held in the school staffroom commencing at 7.30 next Wednesday 3rd 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.

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences go to the Longaretti family (Ella 5/6C and Jesse 3/4S) on the recent death of their grandmother.
The Brkljacic family (Jack 1/2D) also lost a grandparent during the holidays.
Please keep both families in your prayers.

David Kelly.
Principal.

EDUCATION IN FAITH



Welcome to our 2016 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 our staff we look forward to journeying with you in the faith development of your child/ren during the year.

Sacramental Dates for 2016.

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, 6th March 3pm
RECONCILIATION: Wednesday, 8th June 7:00pm
FIRST EUCHARIST: Saturday, 20th Aug – 6.00 pm
Sunday, 21st Aug – 10:30 am
(Further information for the relevant year levels will follow closer to each date)

On Friday 5th 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:

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

Olive Chodowski - REL

'God's love is too deep for words to express.'
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1870

ASTHMA PLANS

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

DISTRICT SWIMMING 2016

We are holding four training / trialling sessions for our District Swimming Team in 2016.

Where: BayFit Leisure Centre in Mason St, Altona North

When: 1st, 3rd, 5th & 8th February - 7am - 8am.

Breakfast: will be provided back at school

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

Cost: \$6 per session

Notes were handed out yesterday.

If you missed out please email Mrs Masseni (mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au) with your expression of interest.

A copy of the note is on the school website.

Permission notes can be brought along to the first session.

UNIFORM SHOP

In 2016 the uniform shop will be open:

Monday 8.30am - 9.00am

Wednesday 2.30pm - 3.00pm

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. To receive your winter uniform by end of Term One, orders must be placed by February 8th.

For those that are unable to make it to the shop, order forms are available in the School Foyer. These can be filled out and paid for at the office or online and will be delivered to your child to be sent home. 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.

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 the parents who helped with this event.

GUITAR LESSONS 2016

Guitar lessons will commence on Wednesday 17th February 2016. All parents wishing their children to be involved in the guitar program need to fill in the attached Expression of Interest Form and lodge it at the School Office no later than Thursday 11th February 2016.

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

If you have any queries, please contact me on
0432 392 120
Henry Zun
Guitar

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 1st February



Friday

Paula Luppino

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

TUCKSHOP NEWS

HELP NEEDED - the Tuckshop needs your help on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday 12.30pm – 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.

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ALTONA
95A Railway St Altona 3018

28th January 2016

Fees for Guitar Lessons, 2016

This letter is to advise you of the number of guitar lessons to be provided for each Term in 2016 and of the corresponding fees as follows:

Term 1 – 6 lessons - \$138

Term 2 – 7 lessons - \$161

Term 3 – 9 lessons - \$207

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 11th February 2016**. Lessons will commence on Wednesday 17th February 2016.

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

HENRY ZUN
Guitar Teacher.

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GUITAR LESSONS 2016
ATTENTION: HENRY ZUN

Child's Name:-----

Year Level:-----

Parent's Name:-----

Contact Number:_____

I have read the letter dated 28th January 2016 and the information concerning guitar lessons and fees and having understood the information wish that my child undertakes guitar lessons in 2016.

Parent Signature::-----

Parent Signature::-----