

# St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Phone: 9398 4842

[www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

No: 3. 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015



## Dear Parents

Thank you to the many families and friends that attended our Opening of the School Year Mass and then joined us in the school grounds for a BBQ. Hopefully our new families experienced the welcoming community that is St. Mary's. to come together as a school community and celebrate the Eucharist is always a special occasion. This was even better with the performance of the Preps who did such a magnificent job with the Reflection at the end of Mass. It was a pleasure to present our School Leaders, House Captains and Junior School Council Representatives with their respective leadership badges.

A successful night like this doesn't just happen but is the result of a lot of planning and preparation by a number of people.

A very special THANK YOU to:

Mrs Olive Chodowski (our Religious Education Co-ordinator) for her planning and overall co-ordination of the Mass.

Mrs Angela Hamilton (Performing Arts Specialist) for her co-ordination of the music for the Mass as well as the Prep Reflection song (an unbelievable effort considering the Preps have only had two music lessons in which to prepare and Angela has only been at our school for two weeks.

Thanks also to our Prep teachers, Mrs Carol Hicks, Mrs Dani Molloy and Mrs Cathy Sims for their assistance). Thank you to the staff for their work and support in preparing for the night.

Again to all our school families who made the effort to come along and be involved, Thank you, especially the Parents & Friends members and helpers for preparing and cooking the BBQ, selling of the drinks and helping to pack up at the end of the night.

I believe we have something special here at St. Mary's but we do need to continue to build on it. I look forward to strengthening this partnership with you throughout the year.

## TEACHER / PARENT FORUMS:

**WHAT WILL YOU HEAR / SEE:** Teachers at each Level of the school: Prep (including Specialist Teachers), Year One and Two, Year Three and Four and Year Five and Six will explain in some detail how we go about improving the educational development of your children at each of these levels. We hope these sessions will give you a greater understanding and insight into your child/rens' education.

## WHEN:

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.**

Prep: 6.30 – 7.15 pm.

Year One and Two: 7.30 – 8.15 pm.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

Year Three and Four: 6.30 – 7.15 pm.

Year Five and ix: 7.30 – 8.15 pm.

**WHERE:** Upstairs in the TRI Centre. Parking is available on the Netball Court for parents who are attending both sessions on the one night. Parking is also available in Sargood and Railway Streets. Pedestrian entry is via the double or single gates off Sargood Street or the gate between the church and the school. There will be NO Access through the main office doors.

**BABYSITTING:** Is being offered downstairs in the TRI Centre (4 year old onwards). Please notify the School Office by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February if you wish to use this service so we can cater for numbers.

We would encourage ALL parents to attend the sessions that are relevant to your child/ren. We hope, and it is certainly our intention, to make the sessions as relevant and informative as we can.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE & 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. The calendar on our Home Page now includes all relevant dates for the year and is being regularly updated. I encourage you to regularly check this calendar. 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. **Can I inform new members and remind existing members 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.

## PREP AND YEAR 6 BUDDY FAMILY NIGHT:

This will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00 – 8.00 pm. In the area outside the hall. A family invitation was sent home today. This has traditionally been a fantastic night. Come along and meet some new families. Between 7.00 - 7.45 pm. our Year 6 Leaders will organise some fun activities for all the children.

## SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS:

School Fee Statements will be sent home next week. If you do not receive a statement, please contact Mrs Pedley in the School Office. A growing number of families now choose to opt for direct debit plans. Application forms for these plans will be included with your fee statements along with a 2015 Fee Timeline. Copies of the forms will also be available outside the School Office.

A reminder that if you choose not to contract to a direct debit plan, your Curriculum (\$220.00 per child) and Excursion (\$60.00 per child) levies **are due and payable in full by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

David Kelly.  
Principal.

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### New School Year Mass Celebration:

Thank you to all school families for their prayerful response to our Eucharistic celebration yesterday and to the children leading the readings, prayers and singing. A big thank-you to all staff for their time and commitment in the preparation for this celebration.

### Confirmation

*Thank you to all the Year Six parents who attended the Information and Registration session last week run by Richard Hallett Pastoral Associate for St Mary's Parish. A wonderful response.*

*Calling Year Six parents/guardians/friends who are able to help with the placement of Names on the Confirmation Stoles. Please see Nicole Singleton. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.*

*Just a reminder to ALL Confirmation Candidates and parents about our Rite of Election Mass weekend. Notes were given out to the Year Six students with regards to attending ONE mass this weekend. Either Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00pm or Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am.*

### The Journey Begins

*As we step into this new year,  
Restore our spirits.*

*Renew our passion for sharing your wisdom  
And nurture our compassion  
for those in need of greater support.*

*Transform us as we seek to transform:  
Guide us as we seek to guide;*

*Open our minds and hearts  
As we seek to open minds and hearts  
To the Good News of justice and peace.*

*Help us listen more deeply  
To the world and to your Word,  
So we can walk with those in our care,  
Attentive to the Wisdom that  
Calls us all to the Kingdom of God.*

• Jane Deren,

<http://www.educationforjustice.org>



**On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**Years 1 – 6 students will be attending the 9:15am**

**Ash Wednesday mass.**

**Please come and join your children as we prepare for the Lenten journey ahead.**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

*Olive Chodowski - REL*

*"Let God's Spirit guide you in your choice."*

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1898

### PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

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

PREP HM	Matilda (Tilly) Delany
PREP S	Sarah Cassar
1/2HK	Luke Hale
1/2ST	Callum Tucker
1/2D	Bianca Singh
2/3S	Lucas Galea
3/4M	Gabrielle Montebello
3/4L	Kane Sortino
4/5G	Ronan Vandelight
5/6VT	Hannah DeSimone
5/6C	Mairead F

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

### FEBRUARY

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly 3/4M – 2.30pm  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Prep Parent Forum 6.30 - 7.15 pm  
Year 1 & 2 Parent Forum – 7.30 – 8.15 pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Mass – 9.15 am  
Year 3 & 4 Parent Forum – 6.30 – 7.15 pm  
Year 5 & 6 Parent Forum – 7.30 – 8.15 pm  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Year 2,3 & 4 History Walk in Altona – 9.00 am



### ST MARY'S UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is now open on

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

**2.30pm – 3.00pm.** We are still looking

for volunteers who would like to join us in running this service for our school community. Please leave your name with the School Office if you are interested and one of us will contact you for a no obligation chat!

With Term One quickly disappearing, we are turning our attention to Winter Uniforms. To ensure we can order in a timely manner for Term 2, please visit our shop to order your winter uniform. If you are sure of your sizes, simply leave an order form at the School Office. To ensure you receive your uniform items before the start of Term Two, **orders MUST be placed before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. We are unable to guarantee order delivery times after that date. Thank you.**

**St Marys Uniform Shop Co-Op**

## TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> February



Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

Pauline Luppino  
Marylinda Abate  
Anne Cooper

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

## TUCKSHOP NEWS

The Tuckshop needs your help. We are looking for a Volunteer to help in the Tuckshop for one Friday a month from about 12.30 – 2.00 pm if you are able to help please leave your details with the School Office or contact the Tuckshop direct.



## NORMIE THE GNOME

Normie the Gnome is awarded to the House Team who keeps their part of the yard the cleanest.

This week's winner is:

**ALL TEAMS**



## LITERACY NEWS

### CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE PREP AND YEAR ONE / TWO

We invite all parents to attend one of our two Classroom Helpers Courses being held on either **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** or **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February** at **9.00 to 10.00am**.

You DO NOT have to have a child in one of these classes to help. If you have been to a course before you are most welcome to attend again but it is not necessary.

If you would like to attend this course please complete the form at the end of this newsletter or on School Website. "News", (Notes & Forms) indicating which of the sessions you wish to attend and return by **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**. We will meet in Building Two outside Prep HM room.

**Prep and Year one Two students have all received a note about the Classroom Helpers Course.**

Please see me if you have any questions.

**Gwenda Burnett**  
Literacy Leader



## WEDNESDAY FUN AND FITNESS

Starting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Fun fitness games & activities!  
Come along and join in! Kids & Adults ... All Welcome!  
Wear your runners & bring a water bottle.  
Held on the school basketball court.  
8.00 – 8.30 am Every Wednesday morning!!!

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter  
"Caring Catholic Community in Education"



## ACTIVE TRANSPORT

**Thanks to everyone who joined in with our first WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY and SKIP ALONG for 2015 on WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY!** It was great to see so many bikes,

scooters and people walking along! Just over half of our community came to school in an active way. Well done Year 5/6 C who were our Most Active Grade.

**NATIONAL RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY – 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH.** We will run WALKING SCHOOL BUSES on this day.

## DISTRICT SWIMMING TEAM

Congratulations to our team captains – Isabella Pisani and Mia Vuleta. Good luck to all swimmers for next Tuesday. Ben H, Bridie O'C, Ciara O'C, Dominic A, Emma H, Erin C, Gabrielle M, Grace M, Hannah E, Isabella P, Isla M, Jacob Y, James C, Jasmin W, Joaquin M, Justin N, Kate E, Lachland G, Liam C, Mia V, Michael P, Mickayla N, Sara A, Thomas K and Trent M. Thanks for parents and staff who helped out with swim training.

## MINI GATORS

Registrations for the March sessions of Mini Gators will be taken on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Sessions start on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Forms available on the school website. Representatives from Mini Gators will do clinics for the Prep – Year 2 students on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March. Children will receive flyers to bring home.

## ADSSA ATHLETICS TEAM

This year we will be running trials for our Athletics team in a slightly different way. Preparation and learning of skills will take place in Term 1 Physical Education lessons. As the students learn and practice a skill they will then be trialled. Results from these trials will be used to select out Athletics team for the carnival in September. Before school practice sessions will be held prior to the carnival which will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> September. If you have any queries regarding our process please contact me.

## ADSSA CROSS COUNTRY

Training for our school Cross Country team will begin on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Notes were sent home this week to children in Years 3 – 6 who indicated interest. If you missed out on a note they are available on the school website – NEWS: Notes and Forms and also on the table outside the staff room.

## BRAIN FOOD – FRUIT AND VEGETABLE!

### Did you know?

Only one third of Australian children eat enough vegetables. Less than half of Australian children eat enough fruit. Children eat one-third of their food at school.

Packing a healthy school lunch with plenty of fruit **and vegetables** is a great way to help children get the nutrients they need to grow up fit and healthy. The average school lunch contains one & a half serves of 'sometimes' foods, and no vegetables. Adding fillings such as lettuce, grated carrot, cucumber and avocado to sandwiches, and including vegetable snacks like carrot, celery and cherry tomatoes with low fat dip, will help to increase the daily vegetable intake.

We need two serves of fruit and five serves of veggies each day. Our Brain Food breaks are a great way to add fruit and veggies to your children's diets. Cutting it up into bite sized pieces is a great way to go. Nice and easy for them to eat!



### BRAIN FOOD – FRUIT AND VEGETABLE! (Cont.)

Generally classes have a brain food break at 10am. In some classes children are allowed to graze on brain food throughout the day. Check with your child's class teacher if you are unsure.

### WHILE WE ARE ON HEALTHY EATING .....

Altona College, (Civic Pde) are running a BUNCHES OF LUNCHES workshop.

Saturday 14th Feb, 11.00 am – 2.00 pm

This workshop will show you how to make a week's worth of healthy food options for school lunches that are simple to prepare. Participants take home 5 lunch items, recipes and lots of inspiration. Entry by donation (\$5.00 per person).

Contact the office 9250 8050.

**Margaret Masseni (Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader)**



## Don't risk your child's life

Never call your child from across the road. Excited children often dash out onto the road and forget to look for traffic.

Children cannot accurately judge traffic speed.

**ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS BEGINS WITH YOU!**

### GUITAR LESSONS REMINDER

Have you remembered to return expression of interest forms to the School office?

Lessons start next week! Thank You.

Henry Zun.

### OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE AT ST. MARYS

Access for users of OSHC is via the McBain Street gate.

**Camp Australia**

**WE MAKE KIDS SMILE!**

**Phone: 1300 105 343 / (03) 9398 4065**

[www.campaustalia.com.au](http://www.campaustalia.com.au)

**1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146**

[info@campaustralia.com.au](mailto: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.



Congratulations to our Year 7s on their excellent start. Books are safely stored in lockers, subject timetables recorded and their new laptops are being well utilized. Homework has begun and the three day camp program at Portsea has commenced. Students are looking forward to personal best performances in the upcoming College Athletics day.

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter

*"Caring Catholic Community in Education"*

## PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

### OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND BBQ

It was great to see so many families from our school community at the Opening School Mass on Wednesday. We were thrilled by the large number of you who stayed to enjoy the BBQ. A special thank you to Baker's Delight in Footscray for donating all of the bread for the night and to Sandra Camilleri for organizing such a generous donation, also our gratitude to Coles Altona for donating a \$30.00 gift card to help purchase all the sauces and serviettes. Thank you to all of the families that helped to make the night a success. Thank you to all of our Barbequers who together cooked 240 hamburgers, 50 veggie burgers and over 350 sausages, Tal Adani, Steve and Joseph Cooper, Sandra Deller, Adrian Deny, Dave Howell and Ethan Perry. Thank you to our food servers, cashiers, bar attendants and everyone who helped in the weeks of preparation for the event. Jason and Patrice Cassar, Anne Cooper, Madeline Didenkowski, Jessica Deller, Emma Denys, Michelle Green, Andrea Herd, Gary and Cathy Hills, Monique H, Anna Pitt, Jarrod Pye and Cheri Steen. Finally, thank you to all of you who braved the change in the weather and helped pack up at the end of the night, we really appreciated all of your help and assistance. It was a great night enjoyed by all.

### 80's DISCO: SATURDAY 21st MARCH

TICKET ARE NOW ON SALE \$25 each, finger food provided & drinks at club prices.

To purchase your tickets please complete the RSVP slip on the flyer from last week's newsletter or download from our School Website under "News" Notes & Forms (or you can pick one up from the School Office) and return it to school with (exact) cash payment by the 5th of March. No tickets can be sold after the 5th of March for catering purposes at the venue.

Family and friends are welcome, so grab a group and get creative with an 80s inspired group costume (i.e. The Smurfs, Ghostbusters, The Go Gos, Devo, Star Wars etc.). There will be prizes for the best dressed Girl, Guy, Group or Couple.

Looking for inspiration, think back to 80s movies like Pretty in Pink, Desperately Seeking Susan, The Lost Boys, Raiders of The Lost Ark, Top Gun, Nightmare on Elm Street, Flashdance and Scarface.

### MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE

#### MSJ Year 12 Jubilarians Shine

Congratulations to all our girls, their teachers, and their parents for another strong, academic year at MSJ. We congratulate Kathryn Hovenden (ATAR 99.2), Jessica Daley (ATAR 97.75) and Emily Moloney (ATAR 96.4).

We are proud of our Year 12 Jubilarians.

#### Twilight Open Evening – Year 7, 2016

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 3.00 - 7.00 pm

**Parent Information Evening - 7.00 – 8.00 pm**

Applications must Close 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.msj.vic.edu.au)

**Education Today. Shaping Tomorrow.**

**CBC (Christian Brothers College) St Kilda - OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February 12.00 – 3.00 pm.**

.../4.

**CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE – 2015**  
**Return to Mrs Burnett – By Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Or email: [gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend the following Classroom Helpers Course.

(Please Circle)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
9.00 – 10.00 am

or

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
9.00 – 10.00 am

**REMINDER:**

You MUST have a Working with Children Check and have shown/ copy given to the School Office to work in classrooms.






✂



**Asthma**  
Foundation  
Victoria

## Help your kids manage their asthma

### Checklist for Parents

	<p><b>Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?</b></p> <p>The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child's asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated &amp; signed by the doctor on an annual basis.</p>
	<p><b>Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?</b></p> <p>Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)</p>
	<p><b>Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?</b></p> <p>Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?</p>
	<p><b>Do you listen to what your child says?</b></p> <p>They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.</p>
	<p><b>Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?</b></p> <p>Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.</p>

