



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2014

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Phone: 9398 4842

www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

No: 3. 14th February, 2014



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 family picnic. 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 Morag Zun (Music 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).

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. Especially the parents that assisted with the putting away of all the tables and chairs.

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/Two, Year Three/Four and Year Five/Six will explain in some detail about 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 25th February.

Prep: 6.45 – 7.30 pm.

Year One/Two: 7.45 – 8.30 pm.

Wednesday 26th February.

Year Three/Four: 6.45 – 7.30 pm.

Year Five/Six: 7.45 – 8.30 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.

DO I HAVE TO COME: We cannot make you but 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.

BABYSITTING: Is being offered downstairs in the TRI Centre (4 year old onwards). Please notify the Office by Friday 21st February if you wish to use this service so we can cater for numbers.

PREP AND YEAR 6 BUDDY FAMILY NIGHT:

This will be held on Friday 14th March from 6.00 – 8.00 pm. A family invitation will follow with details but please mark this date in your diary.

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS:

School Fee Statements were sent home on Tuesday of this week. If you have not received your statement, please contact Mrs Pedley in the School Office.

Thank you to a growing number of families who have chosen to opt for direct debit plans. Application forms for these plans were included with your fee statements. Copies of the forms are also available outside the School Office.

A reminder that if you choose not to contract to a direct debit plan, your Curriculum and Excursion levies are due and payable in full by 27th March 2014.

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

Congratulations to the following children who received Principals Awards on Monday: Brodie Cousins, Jasmine DeThierry, Lila Boyd, Anna Adani, Anthony Briffa, Tanvi Arora, Isabella Cassar, Elizabeth Teshomi, Joel Sortino, Stella Clowes and Louis Nguyen.

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.

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 Friday 21st February Year 3/4/5 will be attending the 9:15 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.

Olivia Chodowski - REL

"Let God's Spirit guide you in your choice."
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1898

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday 17th February - Assembly 3/4/5 - 2.30 pm

Tuesday 18th February - ADSSA Swimming Carnival

Friday 21st February - Walk/Ride to School Day

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT DATES

5th March: Parents & Friends Meeting - 7.30 pm

14th March: Prep and Year 6 Buddy Family Night

29th August: Footy Fun Day



LITERACY NEWS

CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE PREP & YEAR ONE / TWO

We invite all parents to attend one of our two Classroom Helpers Courses being held on either **Thursday 20th February or Monday 24th 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 **Wednesday 19th February**. We will meet in Building Two outside Prep H.

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 Co-ordinator

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:

BLUE TEAM

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 17th February



Friday

Julie Whatman

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

It is time to think about winter uniforms. Winter uniforms are worn at the commencement of term two. We will be placing orders for **GIRLS WINTER TUNICS** by **Friday 21st February**. If you need one now is the time to order. There is only one winter tunic order each year so if you fail to order by **21st February** we may not be able to guarantee your child will have a winter tunic. Please visit the uniform shop or leave a completed order at school reception.

Our Uniform Shop Co-ordinator Penny Ealem and Assistant Linda Wakfer will be retiring at the end of Term Three this year. So we are looking for someone or a couple of people to take over. Please chat with Penny and/or Linda to see what is involved. If you are interested then please put in an Expression of Interest to myself at the School Office or by email - dkelly@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN

WEDNESDAYS 8.30 AM - 9.00 AM & 3.00 PM - 3.30 PM

**Penny Ealem Co-ordinator and
Assisted by Linda Wakfer**

Parents and Friends News

The Parents and Friends Social Committee would like to invite all parents to become involved in the upcoming events for this year.

We had a very successful and rewarding time last year and hope to have a repeat in 2014.

A loyal core group of parents help keep things running along and have already started to organise this year's events.

However we would love to see some fresh faces and ideas join our team of parents/volunteers. The more people that get involved means we all have less to do.

Volunteering should be a bit of fun as well so every second meeting this year will be at a venue for drinks or a meal. It's a great way to get to know the parents of your child's friends and have a few laughs without too much hard work. I personally have had many parents say how much they and their children enjoyed the Disco and the Movie night in particular.

These events are run by volunteers. All you need to do is offer a few hours of your time a year.

Please leave your details with Valda Pedley at the School Office.

Alternatively you may contact Garry Hills (President) on 0400 971 101 (phone / text) or hillsrenovations@bigpond.com

Our first meeting is on **Wednesday 5th March, 7.30 pm in the staffroom**. Drinks and nibbles will be supplied. Bring a friend, come along and see what is involved. We think you will be pleasantly surprised. Your attendance does not mean any commitment. We look forward to seeing you.

**Garry Hills – President
Parents and Friends**



DOING IT RIGHT: Week 1 and 2, Term 1

Many children have been seen Doing It Right around the school this week. They were helping Mrs Hicks, caring for equipment, helping others, sharing school values and asking great questions. Great job everyone!

1/2K: Ethan,
1/2D: Jacob,
3/4M: Mulunesh
3/4L: Luke, Amelie
5/6C: Dominic, Marie, Max, Mairead, Olivia LeGal, Joel, Mikey
5/6G: Ethan P

INTER SCHOOL SPORT

Our Year 5/6 students played their first game of Interschool Sport this week at Home V Williamstown Gold. Next week they will play at home once again, this time against Williamstown Red. Results for today's games will be posted in next week's newsletter and announced at assembly on Monday.



DISTRICT SWIMMING TEAM – CONGRATULATIONS!

Well done to the following children who have been named in the St Mary's District Swimming team. They will compete against nine other district schools on Tuesday 18th February at the Werribee Outdoor Pool in Watton Street. Good luck everyone.

Sara A, Dominic A, Ally C, James C, Liam C, Scarlett D, Isabelle D, Kate E, Ben H, Emma K, Isabella K, Ella L – S, Giles M, Mia M, Trent M, Gabrielle M, Lucie M, Angelique M, Joaquin M, Madeleine N, Quan N, Maria N, Blake N, Mickayla N, Isabella P, Michael P, Ally S, Maxim W, Jasmin W, Megan W, Olivia Y and Nicholas Y. Congratulations to our swim captains – Lucie Montebello and Quan Nguyen.

Thank you to the many parents and staff members who helped out with our swim training and trialling – making and cleaning up breakfast, driving and walking children back to school, timing, collecting money and coaching! Many hands make light work. Your help was much appreciated. Thank you to Ray Patton of Sweeney's Swim School who provided a free training session for our students this week. It's great to have our community behind us. Thanks Ray!

LAVERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE & NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Anger Management for Men

When: Thursday 29th February 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Where: Laverton Community Centre
95-105 Railway Avenue, Laverton
(Located in Community Hub)

Cost: \$100.00 (six weeks)

This practical six week course will look at why do you get angry? When is anger a problem? Ways to manage your anger and the opportunity to practice your anger management skills in a safe environment with your peers. Facilitated by a member of the International Counsellors Association. Bookings are essential. Phone: 8368 0177.

Margaret Masseni

Physical Education/Student Wellbeing Leader



Emmanuel College Enrolment for Year 7 2015

The closing date for applications for Year 7, 2015 at Emmanuel College is **Friday 28th February, 2014.**

Application forms and a copy of the College prospectus can be obtained by contacting

Donna Grech (Registrar) on 83255119 or email enrolments@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au.

Alternatively copies of the College prospectus and application form can be downloaded from our website on www.ecmelb.catholic.edu.au



**MOUNT ST JOSEPH GIRLS COLLEGE
TWILIGHT OPEN EVENING AND YEAR 7 2015
APPLICATIONS**

Mount St. Joseph Girls College would like to invite you to a
Twilight Open Evening on **WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**
4.00 – 7.00 PM.

**Year 7 2015 Information Evening on Wednesday 19th
February 7.00 – 7.45 pm.**

**Year 7 2015 Applications must Close 28th February,
2014.**

Join a student leader for a College tour. Experience our
NEW Science, VCAL and Technology Centre. Meet Staff
and Students. 133 Maidstone Street, Altona

www.msj.vic.edu.au

**FREE COME AND TRY DAY - MILO T20 BLAST
CRICKET**

WILLIAMSTOWN CRICKET CLUB

SUNDAY 16TH & 23RD FEBRUARY

9.00 – 10.30am

Contact Darren Driscoll – 0414 689 045

Darren.Driscoll@cricket.com.au / or Duncan Harrison –
0428 382 349 for further information.

HOBSONS BAY NEWS

Free Art Classes with artist Helen Pollard at the Louis Joel
Arts and Community Centre. This fantastic new program
will introduce your budding artist to a variety of fun drawing,
painting and sculptural processes. Suitable for children
between 5 and 12 years of age. Tuesday session one
3.45 - 5.00 pm session two 5.00 - 6.15 pm. Find out more
by contacting Helen directly on 0415039791 or
mini.picassos.artprogram@gmail.com Louise Joel Arts and
Community Centre 5 Sargood Street, Altona

ON...THIS SATURDAY

ALTONA
FARMERS
MARKET

Into your hand straight from the land
3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9AM-1PM
ALTONA PRIMARY SCHOOL
109 BLYTH STREET ALTONA

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CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE – 2014
Return to Mrs Burnett – By Wednesday 19th February

Name: _____

Child's Name _____ Year Level _____

I would like to attend the following Classroom Helpers Course.

(Please Circle)

Thursday 20th February
9.00 – 10.00 am

or

Monday 24th February
9.00 – 10.00 am

Do you have a working with children check? Yes or No (please circle)
If not, we can help