



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Phone: 9398 4842

www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

No: 32. 30th October, 2015



Dear Parents

CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2016:

The teachers will soon begin the very involved task of organising children into their class groupings for 2016. This is a lengthy process as many things are taken into consideration. The following guidelines are used to assist us in creating the most effective classroom structures possible so that all children are given the opportunity to succeed and to achieve their full potential educationally, socially, spiritually, emotionally and physically. Things we consider are: Friendship Groups, Academic Ability, Behaviour, Gender Balance, Immediate/Extended Family, Maturity Level, Number of children on LNSLN Funding, Personality, Prior History (eg. Previous Teachers, Oldest or Youngest in the group) and Social Skills. If you have a request about your child's placement or some information you think will assist us in making these decisions then please put it in writing or email me by Monday 17th November (dkelly@smaltona.catholic.edu.au). **Please do not make verbal or written requests to teachers as this places unfair pressure on them. The only requests that will be considered at all are the ones I receive in writing or by email and are of a valid and relevant nature.** I thank you for your support in this matter.

BOOK FAIR:

A HUGE THANK YOU to Beryl Henry who organised our **WONDERFUL** book fair last week. We had **LOTS** of students and their parents looking over the **TERRIFIC** selection of books and posters. Due to the generosity of families purchasing books each classroom was given new books for their class library, additional Literacy resources and books for the school library. A **SPECIAL** thank you to **Dakota in 5/6VT** who helped 'Cranky Bear' visit us at our school assembly.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To all the children in our St. Mary's Choir. They performed magnificently on Wednesday at the Hobsons Bay Children's Week Picnic at Logan Reserve. Beautifully introduced by Isabella Pisani and Jade Azzopardi. They then backed up on Thursday to sing the song "Gold" with many other school choirs at Federation Square as part of the state celebration of Music Count Us In. Thank you and Well Done to our Performing Arts teacher Mrs Angela Hamilton for her co-ordination of our involvement in both these events.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL SPORTS:

Is on this Friday 6th November. The day kicks off at 9.20 am. with a welcome and events begin at 9.30 and run through till 2.15 pm approximately. **WE NEED HELP WITH SET UP FROM 8.00 - 9.00 am** if you can spare some time.

ARTS SPECTACULAR:

As a result of a discussion at a recent Parents & Friends meeting we would like your opinion. At our Arts Spectacular on Wednesday 2nd December would you like a BBQ or a BYO picnic? The Parents & Friends will run a bar either way. For the BBQ to happen we need 8 to 10 parents willing to assist with the cooking and distributing of the food. Please email your response to principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au by the end of next week.

PLEASE NOTE:

Monday 2nd November: SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY.
Tuesday 3rd November: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Friday 6th November: No Tuckshop Today

RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

We will soon begin organising children into class groupings for 2016 please notify us ASAP if your child/ren **WILL NOT** be returning to St. Mary's in 2016 (children currently in Prep - Year 5). principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

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

PREP HM	Milli N
PREP S	Lexi R
1/2HK	Isabella M
1/2ST	Stella L
1/2D	Noah L
2/3S	Jesse L
3/4M	Grace M
3/4L	Anthony B
4/5G	Ava S
5/6VT	Luke C
5/6C	Zane A

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Term 4 Dates to Remember

Our Advent Liturgies are as follows:
Make this a special preparation time for the
Coming of the Messiah.

Week 1: Year 5/6C

- Monday 23rd November at 2:40 pm.

Week 2: Year1/2HK, 3/4M, 5/6VT

- Friday 4th December at 2:30 pm.

Week 3: Year1/2D, 3/4L, 4/5G

- Friday 11th December at 2:30 pm.

Week 4: Prep HM, Prep S, Year1/2ST, 2/3S

- Wednesday 16th December at 12:30am.

Year 6 Graduation Mass:

Tuesday 15th December at 6.00 pm.

End of Year Mass: Thursday 17th December
Time: T.B.A.

Social Justice News

At last Monday's assembly, Marie and Mairead our Year 6 Social Justice leaders presented Mr Brian Dalton (representing St Vincent de Paul Society) a cheque for \$2219.40. An amazing amount raised by our Year 5/6 students over only three days of hard work. This money will go towards helping vulnerable people in our local community. A big thank-you to our wonderful senior students, their fabulous and hard working parents and finally Marie and Mairead who helped organise the event.

On the feast of **All Saints - Sunday 1st November** we are asked to reflect on the lives of the saints. We can often think of saints as perfect people, but their greatest witness is how they coped with the ordinary difficulties of their life, and how they courageously showed the love of God to others.



We also remember and pray for all those who have died on the feast of **All Souls Day - Monday 2nd November**

Some of these people may only be known to God.

Others are people whose love, sacrifice and fidelity we have seen for ourselves and who have inspired us. They saw God in this world and are now fully alive to him in the next.



No class mass due to Sports Day
Please pray for:

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

Olive Chodowski REL

"Be without fear, do your work humbly in sweet charity."

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1873.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

NOVEMBER

Monday 2 nd	School Closure Day
Tuesday 3 rd	Melbourne Cup Day
Friday 6 th	School Sports Day



Year Prep – 2 TAKE HOME READERS

PLEASE return Take Home Readers, even though we have LOTS of books we seem to be running low, possibly because some parents have taken more than two or three books. Thanks for your help.

TINY TIMMY: SOCCER SUPERSTAR WRITING COMPETITION

Write in 25 words or less what your favourite thing about Tim Cahill is. Email your answer to competitions@scholastic.com.au by 30th November 2015. Lots of great prizes.

YEAR 3/4 GARDENERS

Our Year 3/4 students picked the first of their veggies this season and sold them on Friday to many keen parent customers. There was a great range of herbs and veggies: broad beans, lettuce, broccoli, spring onions, carrots, beetroot, rosemary and parsley. We raised \$62.80 which was donated to St. Vincent De Paul Society Altona.

WATCH OUT for the next sale and photos in the Office foyer.



JSC NEWS

Each month members of our St. Mary's Junior School Council attend a meeting at the Hobsons Bay council along with other schools in our area to talk about what has been happening in our schools and raise issues or concerns with the council

Thank you to our JSC representatives, Lana, Emily K, Millie, Keith and Dominic attended the September Hobson Bay Junior School Council meeting. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and will share what they heard with our school JSC group at our next meeting. A special thanks to Lana who spoke on the schools behalf.

JSC purchased earlier this year new sandpit equipment and have been replacing broken equipment throughout the year. The sandpit is a VERY popular playing area and the equipment is in GREAT demand. The JSC reps have just put out new items and hopes everyone takes good care of the equipment and enjoys using it. Thank you to Michael M, Will and Eliza for organising the clearing of old and putting out the new equipment.

Gwenda Burnett

Deputy Principal & Literacy Leader.

gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au



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:

YELLOW TEAM

TUCKSHOP HELPERS NEEDED!

Tuckshop helpers are needed, your help is required for only a couple of hours a month, you will be on a roster for more information or if you can help please leave your name and number at the School Office or contact Eva Coppola direct.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS -

Week beginning 2nd November

Monday	School Closure Day
Tuesday	Melbourne Cup
Wednesday	Maria Charalambous
Friday	School Sports Day – No Tuckshop



Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP HELPER NEEDED!

The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday Afternoons 3.00 -3.30 pm. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with the Uniform shop if you are interested please contact Mrs Valda Pedley at the School Office.

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 2.30 – 3.00 PM

Parents and Friends News

CALENDARS

Thank you to the families that have already sent back the forms and money. The cost is \$12.00 per calendar and the cut-off date for placing orders will be 20th November. No orders will be accepted after this date. Please send the form which was in newsletter of 16th October along with the correct money to the school office as soon as possible.

BUNNINGS BBQ

The Bunnings BBQ is on Saturday 7th November helpers are still needed for this event. If you can help please contact Jarrod Pye on 0428 502 815. Please come along to the Altona Bunnings Store and support our wonderful school on this day.



AUSSIE OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER

Zali Mc A for her kind and considerate nature, her willingness to support and assist her class mates and her focus on following the school rules. Emma H for her positive attitude and enthusiasm in class and her ability to help others to solve problems. Alannah B for always being an extremely kind, caring, helpful and hardworking member of Year 4/5G.



“Child Safety Day” Friday 30th October

Thanks to everyone who wore a splash of RED to show their support for highlighting the importance of Child Safety.

We had a great assembly at which students read their class' safety message. We attached these messages to helium balloons and released them into the sky, symbolic of us spreading the important messages that our children are special and need to be kept safe. Remember this is not just for one day and continue to reinforce the safety messages we had in last week's newsletter.



WELLBEING ARTICLES

Look out for the latest Wellbeing Article on the School Website (Home page & WELLBEING: Resources for Parents) and also on our Facebook page.

New article: MANAGE LIKE A CAT, NURTURE LIKE A DOG - This week's article from Michael Grose is about getting the mix of firmness and nurturing right when communicating with young people.

HEALTHY BREAKFAST

When: 18th November

Time: 7.30am

Where: School Hall



Why: To show you how quick and simple a healthy breakfast can be!

Afterwards join in for **Fun & Fitness** - 8am on the basketball court

RSVP Essential by Tuesday 10th November (if you don't RSVP we can't guarantee a breakfast)

***Form available on the school website NEWS: Notes & Forms or email mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

T 20 BLAST CRICKET

Some of our Year 4, 5 & 6s participated in a Cricket Tournament on Wednesday of this week run by Cricket Victoria. Great fun was had by all and some new skills learnt. Thanks to Mark, Terry, Catherine and Ellie who coached and supervised the teams on the day. Two of our teams will go on to further competition on 16th November. Congratulations!

WALK TO SCHOOL OCTOBER

Thanks to the many families who participated in WALK TO SCHOOL OCTOBER. Over the coming week we will prepare your certificates.

Great effort everyone!!!

A special thank you goes to **Alannah B, Issabella L, Gabby L, Peter A, Isabella P and Cody H** who worked in the mornings to help everyone get their stickers.

Thanks for your hard work!

And another thank you to our Walking School Bus supervisors – Tania S, Penny E, Kim S, Cathy & Gary H, Cheri S, Peter P and Mike F for your dedication to our program.

Margaret Masseni

Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader

mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

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

1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

info@campaustalia.com.au

Fax: (03) 8610 2044

For Out of School Hours Care at St. Marys

(CAMP AUSTRALIA) bookings or cancellations please contact them direct.

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE

MSJ OPEN MORNINGS – 9.30 – 10.30 am (Thursday)

12th November

MSJ 2016

Limited places are available for 2016. Further information can be found at our website www.msj.vic.edu.au or by

contacting the College Registrar at

registrar@msj.vic.edu.au or Ph: 8398 2007.

We've found a new date!!!

Building Resilience for Successful Transitions

Parent Seminar

Transition Together



Do you want resilient Children?

Where: St Mary's School Altona

When: Wednesday 18th November 2015

Time: 7pm — 8pm



Child minding available

Enter via Sargood St. Parking available on the netball court or in Sargood & Railway Sts.

Transition is the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

Successful school transitions are crucial to the development of a young person's academic and social emotional wellbeing. Building resilience assists young people in better managing the exciting yet unsettling process of change of school transitions.

This session will assist parents in supporting young people to address the common issues and concerns underpinning school transition.

The session will offer parents steps they can take to help support their child during key transitions at school (kinder to Prep / year level to year level / primary to secondary), as well as suggest strategies to support children's educational resilience, enhancing opportunities for school success.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lynette Longaretti (Mum to Ella Year 5 & Jesse Year 3)

Lynette is an expert in the area of educational resilience, school transition and the promotion of positive youth development. Her PhD in the area of resilience focused on the perspectives of young adolescents as they navigate the social, emotional and academic demands during the transition from primary to secondary school.

“Building Resilience for Successful Transition” Parent Seminar – 18th Nov.
Yes I am coming.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Number of children: _____ **(Child minding)**

PLEASE RSVP: by 10th November either by returning this form to MARG MASSENI
or email Marg - mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au