



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Phone: 9398 4842

www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

No: 33. 13th November, 2015



Dear Parents

Our annual ARTS SPECTACULAR is fast approaching. **WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER**. This is definitely one of the highlights of the year. It commences at 6.30 pm. with a concert in the church. Each class will present an aspect of the Christmas Star Play with everyone joining in for a final song. After the concert all families are invited to join us in the school grounds for a BYO Picnic (There was equal support for BBQ & Picnic - 2 for each). The Parents & Friends will be running a bar where beer, wine and soft drink can be purchased. During this time our Art Show will open. Don't miss seeing the amazing art work your children have produced throughout the year. This is all displayed both upstairs and downstairs in the TRI Centre. Some of our talented guitarists and organists will entertain you in this area. This is a great night not to be missed. Looking forward to seeing you on the night.

CONSUTATIVE COMMITTEE:

The Consultative Committee which consists of myself and five staff members (Gwenda Burnett, Marg Masseni, Cathy Sims, Megan Loft and Lisa Said) have had a number of meetings and have recommended the following class structure for 2016. I have agreed with and accepted this recommendation and thank the Committee for their time, effort and care.

Preps	-	Two classes (24, 24)
Year 1/2	-	Four classes (23, 23, 22, 22)
Year 3/4	-	Three classes (26, 26, 27)
Year 5/6	-	Three classes (25, 25, 25)

This is an increase from eleven classes in 2015 to twelve in 2016.

CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2016:

As detailed in our last newsletter (which can be accessed from our website) teachers are beginning to organise children into their class groupings for 2016. If you have any important information that you think will assist us in this process then please put it in writing or email me by next Tuesday 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 information that will be considered at all is the information I receive in writing or by email and is of a valid and relevant nature. I thank you for your support in this matter.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

As stated above we are beginning to organise children into class groupings for 2016 so 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

DONS (Dads Of Newport & Surrounds):

Is a local community group. The DONS is all about having fun, connecting local dads, and creating a stronger community through fundraising and initiatives (they have dads from Newport, Altona, Williamstown, Spotswood, Yarraville and Seddon). When a dad is happy, engaged and connected there's a better chance of him being a positive role model within his family.

They are running a fun end of year function for just mums and dads on Friday 27th November. It doubles as a fundraiser for White Ribbon (Men saying no to violence against women).

They are offering local schools the opportunity to receive \$5 from every ticket that is sold through our school.

There is an order form which contains more information attached to this newsletter. If you are interested please fill in the form and return it to the school office: CASH ONLY - NO CHEQUES.

FACEBOOK:

Please **DO NOT** message us on Facebook as our filters block us from accessing it. Email is the most effective way to message us: principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE:

At 362 Albert Street East Melbourne, will open on Saturday, 21 November from 10.00 am. - 4.00 pm., to enable visitors to prepare for the Christmas season with a visit to the Mary Mackillop Museum and Chapel. A special morning/afternoon tea with Christmas cake and mince pies will be available and a guided Mary Mackillop Walking tour will take place at 11.00 am. Religious Christmas Gifts, cards, books and decorations, including Peruvian items will be available in the gift shop.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Mrs Rowena Talbot, (1/2ST) husband Chris and daughter Lillian on the safe and healthy arrival of Isla Mae born on 7th November, 2015.

David Kelly.

Principal.

principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Term 4 Dates

Our Advent Liturgies begin soon:

Make this a special preparation time as we wait for the Coming of the Messiah.

Week 1: Year 5/6C

- Monday 23rd November at 2:40pm.

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

- Friday 4th December at 2:30pm.

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

- Friday 11th December at 2:30pm.

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 at 9.15am

Remembrance Day Prayer



O God,
You sent your Son, the Prince of Peace into our world to be the example of how to love one another. We remember today all people who have given their lives for peace and freedom. May we continue to follow the example of Christ through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit working towards peace on earth. Amen.

Social Justice News

This month our main focus will be raising funds for Win Naing - our World Vision sponsor child. Each classroom has a money box and we will be collecting these boxes on a fortnightly basis. Please encourage students to donate e.g. spare change from lunch orders, etc. Thank you.

Marie and Mairead - Social Justice Leaders



Year 1/2D will be attending our Parish Mass on Friday 20th Nov at 9:15am. Please come, 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.

Olive Chodowski REL

"God will take care of us all."

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1871.

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences go to the Mickovski family on the passing of their grandmother. (Lucas 2/3S and Madeline 4/5G). Please keep this family in your prayers.

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter

"Caring Catholic Community in Education"

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

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

PREP HM	Gabriella L & Jonathan A
PREP S	Finian M & Jack B
1/2HK	Saxon A & Thomas W
1/2ST	Gemma D & Isabelle N
1/2D	Cooper D & Bianca S
2/3S	Summer L & Tyson D
3/4M	Daniel A & Livinia P
3/4L	Anthony B & Elizabeth T
4/5G	Emma K & Michael P
5/6VT	Tam N & Portia F
5/6C	Dominic A & Angelique M

NATIVITY PLAY – Once again, as part of the Vigil Mass this year we will be having a Nativity Play. **Rehearsals will take place on Sunday 6th, 13th & 20th December from 11.30am to 12.30pm in the Church. Children will be given their parts for the play on Sunday 29th November after the 10.30am Mass.** Children are expected to attend all three rehearsals, however if this is a problem please let a member of the Children's Liturgy know or phone Lucy at the Parish House on 9398 2964. Permission Forms are available from the Narthex, School Office or Parish House. Completed forms may be left in the box provided in the Narthex, School Office or placed in the Parish House letterbox (marked attention Lucy) by no later than **Tuesday 24th November, 2015.**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

NOVEMBER

Monday 16th

Tuesday 17th

Wednesday 18th

Thursday 19th

Friday 20th

Assembly 3/4L - 2.30 pm

Incursion Prep Fire Brigade Visit

GAGS Session – 2.45 pm

Health Breakfast – 7.30 am

Prep 2016 - Group Interviews

Parent Information Session -

Building Resilience for Successful

Transitions 7.00 – 8.00 pm

GAGS Session – 2.45 pm

Big Day Out for Year 5 Students

Year 4 Soccer Clinics



UNDERSTANDING AND IDENTIFYING DYSLEXIA – INFORMATION SESSION

Dyslexia is the forgotten learning difficulty. The incidences of dyslexia is more widespread than realised and it is estimated that there are between 3 – 5 students with dyslexia in every classroom.

A session is being held on **TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER** at **St. Mary's from 7.00 – 8.30pm**. Attached is a flyer with more details. It will be a **VERY INFORMATIVE EVENING.**

G.A.G.S. – 2016 PREP STUDENTS GETTING A GOOD START TO SCHOOL.

We had a **GREAT** number of our new prep students along with their parents and other family members come along to our G.A.G.S. sessions on Tuesday and Thursday this week. It is a **WONDERFUL** opportunity for the students to become more familiar with school and the parents to learn a little more about how to prepare their child for school. The sessions will run for the next two weeks.....**so come along.**
Time: 2.45 – 3.15pm.

.../2.

SWIMMING REMINDER:

Swimming for Preps and Year 1/2 students starts on Monday 23rd November. Year 2/3 and Year 3/4 students will have specialist subjects on Tuesday in these weeks. Students in Year 1/2 will have Specialists on Thursday.

YEAR PREP – 2 TAKE HOME READERS – 100 BOOKS MISSING.

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.

HOBSONS BAY SUMMER WRITING PRIZE.

Young writers are invited to enter their short stories and /or poems into the Summer Writing Prize. Writers can submit one entry in both the short story and the poetry categories. Short story entries for primary levels must not exceed 500 words for Prep to Year Three or 1000 words for Years Four to Six. Poetry entries must not exceed 16 lines. Submit your entry by Monday 29th February 2016 via the Library website, at any Hobsons Bay Library Branch or post to: Summer Writing Prize 2015-2016 C/- Altona Library 123 Queen Street, Altona 3018. Come on EVERYONE START WRITING!

YEAR 3/4 GARDENERS

Our Year 3/4 gardening students sold more vegetables last week and again through their efforts raised more money for St. Vincent De Paul Society Altona. There was a great range of herbs and veggies: broad beans, lettuce, broccoli, spring onions, carrots, beetroot, rosemary and parsley. We raised \$62.30. **LOOK OUT** for the next sale and photos in the Office



JSC NEWS

WELL DONE to the JSC students who organised a FREE dress day for all students today. Everyone enjoyed choosing their own clothes to wear rather than the school uniform.

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:



BLUE 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 16th November



Wednesday
Friday

Caroline Cassar
Rosemary Ciavarella

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP HELPER NEEDED!

The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday Afternoons 2.30 -3.00 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.



ST MARY'S SCHOOL SPORTS

Thanks everyone for your great work at the sports last week. Aside from the threat of rain the day went off without a hitch – well nearly!

Congratulations to BLUE team on winning this year's shield and to YELLOW for winning the best song and GREEN for winning the best chant. Well done to our House Captains who prepared their teams so well for the day.



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: RAISING MIGHTY BOYS

HEALTHY BREAKFAST

When: 18th November

Time: 7.30am

Where: School Hall



Thanks to those who have agreed to make muffins. Bring them along on the day.



WALK TO SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone for participating in our WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY yesterday.

Our MOST ACTIVE GRADE was 3/4M

Thanks to our Walking School Bus supervisors – Cheri S and Peter P, Tania S, Kim S, Cathy & Garry H.

Our next WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY is on Monday 7th December. Our Walking School Buses will run on this day.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL ASYLUM SEEKER CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

We are in need of new, unwrapped presents for children aged 0-15

Collecting from Monday 2 November –
Monday 14 December

Donated to an asylum seeker child this holiday season

DROP OFF

Louis Joel
Arts & Community Centre
5 Sargood St, Altona
9398 2511

info@westwelcomewagon.org.au
www.westwelcomewagon.org.au

DROP OFF

246 Mason St
Altona North
8 am – 8 pm
any day

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.



Players Wanted!

We have places available for new players for most age groups welcome:-

For further information contact our Club Registrar: Rebekah Keeghan 0439 840 805

registrar@altonapirates.com.au



Building Resilience for
Successful Transitions

Parent Seminar

Do you want resilient Children?

Where: St Mary's School Altona

When: Wednesday 18th November 2015

Time: 7.00 — 8.00 pm

IN YOUR SHOES – SHOE COLLECTION 27th NOVEMBER.

Once again this year we will collect shoes for the Kids Off the Kerb, In Your Shoes program.

We will have our main collection date on 27th November.

In the meantime, clean out your wardrobes and bag up those shoes that don't get worn anymore.

More information to follow.

Margaret Masseni

Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader

mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

ALTONA KINDERGARTEN FETE

Saturday 21st November, 2105

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

89 Blyth Street, Altona

Santa, Jumping castle, pony rides, petting zoo, toys, sausage sizzle, cake stall and more.

Pre purchase your kids activity ticket for \$8.00 or pay \$10.00 on the day! Go to trybooking.com/158010

For updates go to Facebook.com/altonakinderfete



TWILIGHT TALK AND TOUR

Emmanuel College is holding a Meet the Principal and Tour for parents of prospective students of the College on:

Notre Dame Campus Tuesday 17 November - 6.00pm

If you are unable to attend, please contact our College Registrar to arrange a visit on 8325 5119 or email

enrolments@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au



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.

UNDERSTANDING AND IDENTIFYING DYSLEXIA FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS

Dyslexia is the forgotten learning difficulty. The incidence of dyslexia is more widespread than realised and it is estimated that there are between 3 – 5 students with dyslexia in every classroom.

Outside the Square is a series of three education documentary films aimed to increase awareness and understanding of dyslexia in our education system.



FILM ONE will be shown and discussed on this evening.

THE FILM WILL:

- *provide the knowledge needed to identify children at risk.
- *share personal experiences of students and parents to help understand daily school and home struggles.
- *discuss the nature of dyslexia, key indicators and associated difficulties directed by Australia's leading researchers and educators

*****Time will be provided for personal questions and discussion. *****

WHEN: Tuesday 24th November 2015

TIME: 7.00 – 8.30pm

WHERE: ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – TRI CENTRE

95A Railway Street Altona (Enter via Sargood Street - Melways:Map 54 G 10)

SESSION IS CONDUCTED through ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & BY

GUEST SPEAKER Kristin Anthian (Dip.T(EC), B.Ed(P), PGDip.Ed.St(ECI), M.Ed(SE.I&EI)

Educational and Developmental Consultant / Supporting Diverse and Exceptional Learners
Learning Difficulties Australia (LDA) Consultant and Council Member.

RSVP: Gwenda Burnett at gburnett@smaltona.catholic.edu.au or phone St. Mary's P.S. on

9398 4842 leaving name, number of attendees & phone number.

COFFEE & TEA PROVIDED - GOLD COIN DONATION on ENTRY.