



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Phone: 9398 4842

www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

No: 34. 20th November, 2015



Dear Parents

Recently Mrs Gwenda Burnett informed me that she would be resigning from St. Mary's at the end of this year. Gwenda has been a staff member at St. Mary's for 27 Years, the last 21 as Deputy Principal and Literacy Leader. Gwenda's contribution to St. Mary's students, parents and staff has been of the highest quality so while we are very, very sad that she is leaving we sincerely wish her every joy and happiness in whatever she decides to do going forward.

ARTS SPECTACULAR:

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. 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. This is a great night not to be missed. Looking forward to seeing you on the night.

CAR PARKING

It has come to our attention on a number of occasions from surrounding residents that during school drop offs and pickups parents/guardians are parking their cars in front of residents' driveways not allowing the owners of these properties to exit their houses. Please obey the parking signs and road rules.

David Kelly.

Principal.

principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

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

PREP HM	Daniel C
PREP S	Akelan E
1/2HK	Julie W
1/2ST	Ethan L
1/2D	Kiani H
2/3S	Gabby K
3/4M	Lynda A
3/4L	Liam D
4/5G	Jack D
5/6VT	Mickayla N
5/6C	Ella L

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 11.30 am to 12.30 pm in the Church. Children will be given their parts for the play on Sunday 29th November after the 10.30 am 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.**

ST. MARY'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Christmas Rehearsals: Sunday 13th December 11.30 am and Saturday 19th December 2.00 pm. New members are welcome! Rehearsals are for Christmas Eve Family Mass and Christmas Morning 10.30am Mass (your involvement in both or either Mass is welcomed)!

Fr. Shabin.

Parish Priest.

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Term 4 Dates

Our Advent Liturgies begin next week:

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

Week 1: Year 5/6C

- Monday 23rd November at 2:40 pm.

Week 2: Year 1/2HK, 3/4M, 5/6VT

- Friday 4th December at 2:30 pm.

Week 3: Year 1/2D, 3/4L, 4/5G

- Friday 11th December at 2:30 pm.

Week 4: Prep HM, Prep S, Year 1/2ST, 2/3S

- Wednesday 16th December at 12:30 am.

Year 6 Graduation Mass: Tuesday 15th Dec – 6.00 pm.

End of Year Mass: Thursday 17th Dec - 9.15am.

Praying for our needs

*Lord, there can be so many distractions
for us every day.*

*Help us to pause to make ourselves ready to
celebrate Your coming at Christmas.*

*Teach us to appreciate the gifts you bring
– love, joy, happiness, freedom and peace.*

*Give us the grace to invite you
into our hearts every day.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord, 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 2/3S will be attending our
Parish Mass on Friday 27th November at 9:15am.
Please come, sit with and join your children in
prayer.*

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Please pray for:

- All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.
- The victims, and the families of the victims, of the terrible and horrific attacks in Paris and in Lebanon in recent days.

Olive Chodowski REL

“God’s love is too deep for words to express.”

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1870.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to the Charalambous family (Olivia 3/4M) on the recent death of her grandfather. Please keep this family in your prayers.

St. Mary’s Altona Newsletter

“Caring Catholic Community in Education”

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

NOVEMBER

Monday 23rd

Prayer Assembly 5/6C – 2.40 pm
Swimming Commences
Preps, Year 1 & 2

Tuesday 24th

Open Week Preps - 2016
Swimming Preps, Year 1 & 2
GAGS Session – 2.45 pm
Parent Information Evening -
Understanding & Identifying
Dyslexia – 7.00 pm

Wednesday 25th

Swimming Preps, Year 1 & 2
Open Week Preps – 2016

Thursday 26th

Open Week Preps – 2016
GAGS Session – 2.45 pm

Friday 27th

In your Shoes Collection
Open Week Preps – 2016
Soccer Clinic



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**. Please contact the office or Gwenda Burnett if you are interested in attending.

Kristin Athian an educational and developmental consultant who works with exceptional learners and students with learning difficulties will conduct the session. It will be a **VERY INFORMATIVE EVENING**

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.

SWIMMING REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

***BRING** thongs or sandals to wear to and from the pool. **WEAR** school hat.

***NO FOOD** is eaten at pool or walking back to school.

***NO LUNCH ORDERS** for Year 1 & 2 STUDENTS on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

*If children **leave from pool** with parents their name **MUST** be signed off with the teacher.

****** STUDENTS CAN WEAR WHITE SCHOOL POLO OR SPORTS UNIFORM ON SWIMMING DAYS******

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:

GREEN TEAM

TUCKSHOP HELPERS NEEDED in 2016

Tuckshop helpers are needed, your help is required for only a couple of hours a month, your name will be put 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 23rd November



Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Karoline Fanjek
Shirley Price
Lillia Souglaris

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our December opening hours will be as follows:

Wednesday 2nd December 2.30 - 3.00 pm

Wednesday 9th December 2.30 - 3.00 pm

Friday 11th December 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Please look through your wardrobes to ensure that you will have uniforms that will fit for the beginning of 2016.

HELP NEEDED!

The Uniform Shop will be open in 2016 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



HEALTHY BREAKFAST & FUN AND FITNESS

Thanks to the many parents who made muffins for our healthy breakfast and to those who helped to set up, serve and clean up.

Thanks to the Parents & Friends who provided the fruit, drinks, plates and serviettes etc.

A special thanks to Penny Ealem who coordinated the event which fed a yummy breakfast to more than 50 of our students.

Please remember that Fun & Fitness runs every Wednesday morning from 8.00 – 8.30am. All welcome. Well done everyone....



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: HOW TO RAISE YOUR CHILD TO BE A GIVER.

Transition Together



PARENT SEMINAR

Thanks to Lyn Longaretti (Jesse 2/3S and Ella's 5/6C mum) who gave an excellent talk on Resilience and Transition to 30 of our parents

this week. If you would like more information about what Lyn spoke about, please contact Marg Masseni.



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.

Kids Off The Kerb arranges to pick up the shoes and transport them to its warehouse space in Thomastown, Victoria, where they are then sorted.

Depending on the quality and quantity of the **shoes received**, they are **recycled** or **redistributed to disadvantaged individuals and communities** directly through Kids Off The Kerb's outreach projects; or by export to developing countries.

We will collect shoes on the netball court **before school on 27th November.**

We are having a house team competition....so make sure you take our shoes to the right house team collection table.

Please ensure that the shoes are paired together eg. Tie the laces together, put an elastic band around them or join them with a cable tie.

Children are encouraged to dress up their school shoes in some way or wear a pair of shoes other than their school shoes on the day. "Payment" for this is that they donate a pair of shoes.

So clean out your wardrobes and bag up those shoes that don't get worn anymore.



WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL – 7th DECEMBER

Walking School Buses will run on this day.

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

Fax: (03) 8610 2044

For Out of School Hours Care at St. Marys (CAMP AUSTRALIA) bookings or cancellations please contact them direct.