



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Principal: David Kelly Phone: 9398 4842 www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Shabin Phone: 9398 2964 altona@cam.org.au

No: 35. 27th November, 2015



Dear Parents

Our ARTS SPECTACULAR is next Wednesday Night 2nd December, commencing at 6.30 pm in the Church. Check the last few newsletters if you require more details. All the students have spent weeks rehearsing to ensure that the audience will **be mesmerized with** their ability. **Teachers have worked hard to help practice their classes songs and to make sure that their students understand what they need to wear for the night.** If you have any questions about costumes for your child, please **contact your child's class teacher.** PLEASE as everyone attending will want to see their SPECIAL someone performing if you feel you need to move out of your seats, be considerate of others around you. **Students will need to be in their costumes, in the church in their class groups by 6.15 pm. so we can ensure a timely start.** I look forward to seeing you all there.

FINAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:

Our Final School Assembly will take place on Monday 14th December, commencing at 2.15 pm in the Church (**Please note earlier time and change of location**). There will be a farewell presentation to Mrs Gwenda Burnett from the Parents & Friends on behalf of the school community at this assembly, so all parents, past and present are most welcome to attend. After this Assembly we will move over to the hall for our Thank you Afternoon Tea for all our Parents Helpers throughout the year but all parents are invited to attend to also farewell Gwenda.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To two of our past students who have been appointed to leadership positions at Emmanuel College for 2016: They are: Benjamin Singleton - McCoy House Captain. David Suric - Chaminade Vice Captain. We are very proud of their achievement as I'm sure their families are.

THANKYOU:

A huge thank you to the Uniform Shop Volunteers – Patrice Cassar, Marylinda Abate, Lilia Souglaris and Helen McAvoy. For the past few months they have put in extra hours to measure and collate orders for the 2016 Preps, in addition to supplying the needs of our current families. This week all their hard work was repaid by the smiling faces of 47 Preps for 2016, as they visited for Open Week and left with a school bag full of uniform!

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL:

A number of students from our school recently instigated a petition expressing their concern about the proposed Altona Early Years Hub Feasibility Study - Altona/Seaholme Precinct. This petition was tabled at a recent Council meeting. I received the following response from Council.

"The petition was tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 17 November 2015, and Council resolved to receive and note the petition and to receive further report in relation to this matter at a future Council meeting. At the meeting, Council also considered a report on the proposed early years hub in the Altona/Seaholme precinct and resolved to:

- 1. Note the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study into the proposed construction of an early years hub in the Altona/Seaholme precinct.***
- 2. Commence consultation with the Altona, Altona West, Somers Parade and Seaholme kindergartens in understanding the pros and cons of all options and recommendations in the feasibility study, which includes the proposed construction of a consolidated service on the recommended site within the grounds of the Altona P-9 College, Civic Parade, Altona.***
- 3. Bring a report back to Council including the outcomes of the consultation process in March 2016."***

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Eva in the Tuckshop on the safe arrival of a new grandson, far away in South Africa, Aiden Tiyanu.

David Kelly.

Principal.

principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

LOST PROPERTY TUB

If your child has lost/misplaced an item of their uniform could you please check the Lost Property Tubs located in the main building and the two in the middle building as soon as possible. Also please check that your child has brought home their own bomber jacket/windcheater, as they often get swopped by mistake! Items that remain at the end of Term will be donated to the Uniform Shop to raise money for our Sponsor Child Win Naing.

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 3 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.

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 10.30 am Mass (your involvement in both or either Mass is welcomed)!

Fr. Shabin.
Parish Priest.



UNDERSTANDING AND IDENTIFYING DYSLEXIA – INFORMATION SESSION

Thank you to the parents and staff who attended the Dyslexia information session on Tuesday evening. We had 55 people attend, many came from our school but there were parents and teachers from outside our community who also came. The video, 'Outside the Square' was very well received as it clearly explained 'what' dyslexia is and 'how' to identify it. Children and parents who have dyslexia also spoke about dealing with the difficulties it brings. Thank you also to Kristin Anthian, an educational and developmental consultant who works with exceptional learners and students with learning difficulties who shared her expertise with us. This video is the first in a series of three, the following two videos will be shown in 2016 so **WATCH OUT** for when these sessions are advertised. It was a **VERY INFORMATIVE SESSION**.

TAKE HOME READERS – PREP TO YEAR 2

Please return ALL Take Home Readers next week so that we can collect them and store before the end of the year. There will be NO books for borrowing from Monday 30th November. Thank you for your co-operation.

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

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

NOVEMBER

- Monday 30th Assembly 4/5G – 2.30 pm
Swimming Preps, Year 1 & 2
- Tuesday 1st Swimming Preps, Year 1 & 2
P & F Meeting in Staffroom – 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 2nd Swimming Preps, Year 1 & 2
Arts Spectacular – 2015 – 6.30 pm

EDUCATION IN FAITH

Term 4 Dates

Advent Liturgies Dates.

Please note these special times.

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 Dec - 6pm.

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

Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year.

It is a time of promise, expectation and participation as we prepare for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Loving God, it is almost time to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. It is getting hotter each week, school will soon be over and the summer holidays are about to start. In all our excitement, help us to remember that it is Jesus who shows us how to love and be happy. Help us to be a more loving community, more generous to our friends and more helpful to our neighbours. Lord Jesus, we are waiting for you. Come and stay with us. We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Social Justice News

DURING ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKS OF CHARITY ABOUND!! EACH CLASSROOM AND THE STAFFROOM WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A BASKET/BOX TO FILL AS A CHRISTMAS HAMPER FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL, ALTONA & JOSEPH'S CORNER, YARRAVILLE. PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SEND SOMETHING ALONG WITH YOUR CHILD FOR THE HAMPER. THANK YOU.

Marie and Mairead - Social Justice Leaders



Year 3/4L will be attending our Parish Mass on Friday 4th December 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

"Be of good heart no matter what happens."

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1899.



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 30th November



Wednesday Maria Charalambous
Friday Alicia Galea

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

UNIFORM SHOP HELPER NEEDED!

In 2016, the Uniform Shop will open on Monday mornings 8.30 – 9.00am and Wednesday afternoons 2.30 – 3.00 pm. We need two more volunteers to help out with this, so please consider volunteering. If you are interested please contact Mrs Valda Pedley at the School Office.

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 2.30 – 3.00 PM

LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing from the library has now finished for the year. It's now time to return all your library books and there's a great competition.

The first three classes to return all of their books will be able to choose a poster for their classroom from some of the posters that were available at the recent Book Fair. So.... get looking under your bed and at the bottom of your school bag to find those books!!

Lyn Wheatland Librarian

lwheatland@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Parents and Friends News

PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING

Parents & Friends Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December in the staffroom at 7.30 pm. Everybody is welcome!

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

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

CAMP AUSTRALIA – School Holiday Fun

Camp Australia are providing a Summer Holiday Program at the following schools. For more information

www.campaustalia.com.au/holidayfun

Stella Maris - 0401 571 286

Westbourne Grammar – Truganina - 0419 889 818

Manorvale – Werribee - 0405 428 328

Baden Powell College – Tarneit -0401 188 868

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter

"Caring Catholic Community in Education"



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: **STRESS IN CHILDHOOD. This is a Kids Matter article which has links to 4 short articles as follows...**

1. How kids experience stress
2. Building resilience to cope with stress
3. Managing stress through mindfulness
4. Stress and school refusal



IN YOUR SHOES – SHOE COLLECTION - 27th November.

Thanks to everyone who donated to our In Your Shoes program.

Once again this year we have collected

more than 525 pairs of shoes.

Our winning house team was Blue Team. They collected 247 pairs of the total shoes collected.

Thanks to everyone who came along to help with counting and collecting.

Kids Off The Kerb will pick up the shoes next week 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.

Margaret Masseni

Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader

mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Altona Early Years Services and Facilities

Hobsons Bay City Council is consulting with the community on future options and recommendations relating to early years services and facilities in Altona.

A recent feasibility study identified a range of benefits of bringing together a number of nearby kindergartens and the Altona Maternal and Child Health Centre into a one-stop-shop facility. *View the feasibility study or download it from*

<http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>

Community and stakeholder consultation will take place from 23rd November 2015 to 11 February 2016.

To find out more or to register for one of the public information sessions below please visit

<http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>

If you require assistance with your registration please contact Customer Service on 9932 1000.

How To get involved

For more information please contact Hobsons Bay City Council 9932 1000 or Jenny Denouden, Early Years Development Officer. Email:

idenouden@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA
& FAREWELL TO GWENDA BURNETT**

TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT DURING
THIS YEAR AND TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO WISH
GWENDA THE BEST OF LUCK,
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE STAFF FOR



AFTERNOON TEA
ON
MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER
AT 3.00 – 4.00 PM
IN



THE SCHOOL HALL FOLLOWING OUR FINAL ASSEMBLY.
(Children will be supervised outside)
N.B. ASSEMBLY WILL BE IN THE CHURCH
STARTING AT 2.15pm

The Staff of St. Mary's



WALKING SCHOOL BUSES – 7TH DECEMBER



- Esplanade & Cnr Sargood St (beach side of the road) AND
- Cnr of Mc Intyre Drive & Civic Pde

Meeting Time: 8.10am

Walk Starting Time: 8.15am

We have organised **parents** to supervise the walk so you can drop your children at the meeting point and know that they will get to school safely

Or

Join in the walk yourself. Parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, dogs and prams...everyone welcome! (Have a coffee with some other parents on your way back to get the car!)

(We do ask that your children don't ride bikes or scooters unless you are with them – this would be much harder for other parents to supervise)

Please complete the form below and return it to school a.s.a.p. so we will know how many children and adults are joining in.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS: 7th DECEMBER (RETURN TO MRS MASSENI ASAP – GREEN TUB)

- Esplanade & Cnr Sargood St (beach side of the road)
- Cnr of Mc Intyre Drive & Civic Pde (North side of Civic Pde)

Child's name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____

No of children: _____ No. of Adults _____

○ I CAN HELP TO SUPERVISE – NAME.....

Do you have a working with Children Check? Yes or No