



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: 38. 17th December, 2015



Dear Parents

As you are aware Mrs Gwenda Burnett is finishing her time at St. Mary's and no amount of words either spoken, written or sung seem fitting or appropriate to express the immense gratitude and appreciation for the **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION** she has made to St. Mary's over the past 27 years and 21 of those as Deputy Principal. When I was appointed Principal of St. Mary's I met with the outgoing Principal Mr Leon Colla. One of the first questions I asked him was, "What was the Deputy Principal like"? He responded with, "She is the best" and then spent the next 45 minutes describing all her abilities and qualities. After working with Gwenda for 13 years I am convinced he left many, many of her qualities and abilities out.

Gwenda stated in one of her many farewell speeches "that she had lived for her job" - Never a truer word has been spoken.

We have been unbelievable fortunate that 27 years ago Mrs Gwenda Burnett chose St. Mary's to be the beneficiary of her amazing abilities and qualities. You deserve the best Gwenda in whatever the future holds for you.

We have had a few very exciting days beginning with our Final Assembly where the staff sang a song paying tribute to Gwenda Burnett. A gift was presented to Gwenda by the Parents & Friends on behalf of all the school families. Then a number of children from our school choir sang a beautiful song about Gwenda to the tune of Waltzing Matilda. There was hardly a dry eye in the Church. We then had a large number of parents attend our Thank you Afternoon Tea & Farewell to Gwenda. Thank you to all the staff you prepared all the yummy goodies. We have had delicious morning tea for the rest of the week with the left overs.

Tuesday evening was our Year 6 Graduation Mass, Dinner and Disco. What a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults our Year 6 students are. They are heading off to nine different Secondary Schools, so the message from St. Mary's will be going far and wide. We sincerely thank them for their contribution and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary's.

Today we had our End of Year Mass which the whole school attended, we farewelled our Year 6's and our final farewell to Gwenda Burnett.

- ❖ **To the families who are leaving our school community:** Thank you for your contribution over many years. St. Mary's has benefited greatly from your involvement, interest and support.
- ❖ **To all the parents:** Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children's education.
- ❖ **To all the children:** Thank you for your enthusiasm to learn, to improve, to have fun, to compete, to be friendly, to be welcoming.
- ❖ **To the STAFF and I'm including: All Teachers and Learning Support Officers, Mrs Valda Pedley and Mrs Jane Sammut from the School Office, Mrs Eva Coppola and Mrs Amy Xu from the Tuckshop and Mr Tony Grima our cleaner and maintenance person. Thank you for your contributions they have been greatly appreciated.**

To our School Captains: Madison Cutajar, Jessica Offen, Dominic Azzopardi and Trent Micheli for their co-operation and wonderful leadership throughout the year and especially over the last couple of weeks as they have had to prepare for the normal end of year responsibilities eg. Graduation, Final Assembly but have had the added responsibilities of being an integral part of farewelling Mrs Burnett. Well Done to all of you and Thank you. You've set the bar high for the 2016 Captains but knowing who they are, I'm sure they're up to the challenge.

To all our other School Leaders: House Captains, Wellbeing and Social Justice Leaders thank you for your outstanding efforts throughout the year.

- ❖ To our Parents and Friends Committee who did an enormous amount throughout the year. A special thank you to Mr Garry Hills for his

co-ordination and organisation of this great group of workers for our school. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

- ❖ To our School Education Board for their support and co-operation throughout the year.
- ❖ To Fr Shabin for his support and I look forward to working closely with him next year.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to the following Year 6 children who received awards at Tuesday night's Graduation Mass:

Academic Excellence: Jessica Offen
Academic Persistence: Portia Fenech
Sport & Values Award: Ryan Said
"The Arts" Award: Zane Azzopardi

ST. MARY'S YEAR SIX MEMORY STICK:

Thank you and congratulations to Mrs Nicole Singleton who created this year's Year Six Memory Stick.

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2016:

The Staff will commence on Wednesday 27th January. **ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS** commence at **8.50 am on Thursday 28th January.** Children assemble with their bags on the netball court. We will have a short assembly. Year One – Six then move to their classrooms with their teachers. Once all other levels have moved out of the area our preps will then follow their teachers to their classrooms. The Parents and Friends on behalf of the school invite all parents to the hall for a cuppa and a chat and some scrumptious food.

Our Prep children **WILL NOT** attend school on the next four Wednesdays in February. They will be timetabled to attend for a half hour or so on some Wednesdays to complete some testing but parents will be notified of these times next year.

IMPORTANT:

Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute "Getting to Know You" interviews will be held between 3.20 – 5.30 pm. on Monday 1st February (the first Monday back next year).

The purpose of this meeting is to learn as much as we can about your child from you. It is NOT a progress report but rather a sharing of information meeting. We ask ALL parents to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting we ask you to arrange with your child's teacher another mutual date and time to meet in the near future

If your child has the same teacher as this year and circumstances haven't changed you do not have to make an appointment.

You can book interviews at times that suit your family best.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website.

BOOKINGS OPEN – THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2015 AND CLOSE SATURDAY 30th JANUARY 2016 AT 3.00 PM.

THE SCHOOL EVENT CODE IS: B9R75

SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2016:

Girl Captains: Alannah Briffa and Michelle Nassim.

Boy Captains: Thomas Kruger and Justin Nguyen.

HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2016:

Blue: Hannah Jesaulenko and Tam Nguyen.

Green: Sienna Cutajar and Cody Harris.

Red: Tanvi Arora and Michael Cassar.

Yellow: Mulunesh Teshomi and James Curran.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2016:

Kate Ealem and Tahlia Sepsic.

WELLBEING LEADERS for 2016:

Isabella Cassar and Ella Longretti-Schreppel.

I would like to wish all our families a very happy and holy Christmas and a peace filled New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2016, after a fun-filled, enjoyable, restful and well-deserved holiday.

David Kelly.

Principal.

principal@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

NATIVITY PLAY – Rehearsals will take place on Sunday 20th December from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm in the Church. Children are expected to attend all 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.

ADVENT PREPARATION - FOR CHRISTMAS 2015			
Sun	13 Dec	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight Logan Reserve, Queen St Altona
Tue	15 Dec	6.00pm	St. Mary's School Graduation Mass
Wed	16 Dec	7.00pm	Ecumenical Advent Service
Thurs	17 Dec	9.15am	End of Year School Mass
RECONCILIATION			
Sat	19 Dec	5.30pm	1 st Rite (individual Confessions)
Mon	21 Dec	4-5pm	Maltese & English Confessions
Tue	22 Dec	7.00pm	Reconciliation 2 nd Rite
CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE			
Thurs	24 Dec	6.30pm	Carol/Nativity Play
		7.00pm	Family Mass
		11.30pm	Carols
Fri	25 Dec	12.00am	Midnight Mass
		10.30am	Christmas Day Mass

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 1st February



Friday Paula Luppino

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799



CHAIR & TABLE CLEANING

A HUGE thank you to the 17 past pupils and Liz Whitehouse who came and helped us wash over 150 tables and 350 chairs on Thursday. It was a mammoth task but with all of your help we did it. MANY thanks to everyone!

Gwenda Burnett
Deputy Principal / Literacy Leader



Thank you to all students and parents for your wonderful support this year. It has been great to see so many people supporting the Wellbeing and Physical Education and Sport initiatives that we have run during 2015. I am very much looking forward to working with you in 2016.

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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.campaustralia.com.au

1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

info@compaustralia.com.au

Fax: (03) 8610 2044

For Out of School Hours Care at St. Marys

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

Kids Learn To Sail

for 7-12 year olds

TACKERS

Classes Start 30th Jan

Saturday mornings

Kids + Boats = FUN

www.discoversailing.org.au/

For further information:

P: 0412 043 207 (Allan)

E: commodore@altonayachtclub.org.au

W: www.altonayachtclub.org.au



ALTONA YACHT CLUB

10 Beach St, Seaholme

2016 CLASS BOOK LISTS

In an effort to save some money in 2016 and as several of the items below you would already have, All items need to be clearly marked with your child's name and ready for use from the first day in 2016. We ask that you provide your child with the following items.

YEAR ONE 6 -HB grey lead pencils 1 - pkt coloured pencils 1 - large pencil case 1 - pkt textas 1 - sharpener 1 - eraser 1 - art smock 1 - library bag 2 - large pkt tissues to share 1 - school hat 2 - large Bostik type glue stick 2 per term 1 - 30cm ruler (wooden 2.8cm wide)	YEAR TWO 6- HB grey lead pencils 1 - pkt coloured pencils 1 - large pencil case 1 - pkt textas 1 - sharpener 1 - eraser 1 - art smock 1 - library bag 2 - large pkt tissues to share 1 - school hat 2 - large Bostik type glue stick - <u>2 per term</u> 1 - 30 cm ruler (wooden 2.8cm wide)
YEAR THREE 6 - HB pencils 1 - pkt colored pencils - full length 1 - pencil case 1 - eraser 1 - sharpener 1 - 30cm ruler (wooden - 2.8cm width) (not metal) 1 - art smock 1 - library bag 2 - large boxes tissues to share 8 - large Bostik/UHU glue – <u>2 per term</u> 1 - pair of scissors 2 - red ball point pens	YEAR FOUR 2 - HB pencils 1 - pkt colored pencils - full length 1 - pencil case 2 - eraser 1 - sharpener 1 - 30cm ruler (not metal) 1 - art smock 1 - library bag 2 - large boxes tissues to share 8 - large Bostik/UHU glue stick – <u>2 per term</u> 1 - pair of scissors 2 - red ball point pens 2 - blue pens (not needed until Term 3)
YEAR FIVE 1 - ruler 30 cm (not metal) 1 - pkt coloured pencils 4 - blue ball point pens 1 - pencil case (standard size) 4 - red ball point pens 1 - pkt textas 4 - HB pencils 2 - erasers 2 - Highlighters 1 - sharpener 1 - calculator 1 - art smock USB or flash drive (optional) 1 - library bag 2 - large boxes tissues to share 2 - glue sticks 35gm.(replace as required) 1 - scissors We encourage that each child has their own copy of the Australian Oxford Principal Thesaurus and Australia Oxford Primary Dictionary to use <u>at home</u> .	YEAR SIX 1 - ruler 30 cm (not metal) 1 - pkt coloured pencils 4 - blue ball point pens 1 - pencil case (standard size) 4 - red ball point pens 1 - pkt textas 4 - HB pencils 2 - erasers 2 - Highlighter 1 - sharpener 1 - calculator 1 - art smock USB or flash drive (optional) 1 - library bag 2 - large boxes tissues to share 2 - glue sticks 35gm. (glue sticks need frequent replacing) 1 - scissors We encourage that each child has their own copy of the Australian Oxford Principal Thesaurus and Australia Oxford Primary Dictionary to use <u>at home</u> .