

# St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2015

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[www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

No: 6. 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015



Dear Parents

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I inform you about an email that I received this week from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. In part it said:

*"Dear Principal*

*The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for Australia's national reporting program, which includes My School. ACARA intends to update My School 2015 on Thursday 5 March 2015. Based on My School data, and using a methodology explained below, your school has been identified as demonstrating above average NAPLAN gain compared to schools with similar students. This gain is deemed to be statistically significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledgement.*

*(NAPLAN is Australian wide testing in Literacy and Numeracy at Years 3,5,7 and 9).*

*To identify your school as demonstrating this above average gain compared to schools with similar students and to deem this statistically significant, ACARA employed a methodology that considered three key factors being:*

- 1. Your overall gain compared to previous years;*
- 2. Your gain compared to schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and*
- 3. Your gain compared to other students at similar NAPLAN start points.*

*As part of My School communications planning, ACARA held a media briefing. The media briefing included journalists from the major metropolitan media. Your school's name has been provided to the media.....*

*Richard Parlett*

*Communications Manager ACARA.*

While I haven't been contacted by the media it does mean that St. Mary's is one of the 59 "high-gain" schools in Victoria. This includes all Catholic, Government and Independent schools.

Congratulations to all staff on achieving such an outstanding result.

## BIKE SHED:

I finally received notification from Hobsons Bay Council that we have been granted our Planning Permit and Building Permit for our Bike Shed. Work should begin in the next few weeks.

St. Mary's Altona Newsletter

*"Caring Catholic Community in Education"*

## SCHOOL FEES:

Please be aware the Curriculum Levy (\$220 per child) and the Excursion/Incurson Levy (\$60 per child), are due and payable by next **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**. Your School Fee (\$1200 per family) plus other costs outlined by Class Level in the Fees Summary can be paid in full or in part payments with final settlement by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. All of the above can be paid by Direct Debit instalments. Instalments will commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, and can be paid on a bi-monthly, monthly or fortnightly basis. Although we have passed that date, *it is still possible to contract to a payment plan*. If you need any further details, please contact Mrs Pedley in the School Office.

## FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION:

Yes we will be running our St. Mary's Footy Tipping Competition again this year so start rounding up family and friends to be involved. For new families to our school and a reminder to others, you can win weekly cash prizes as well as significant cash prizes at the end of the season, depending on the number of participants. Details on how to register will be in next week's newsletter.

David Kelly.  
Principal.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photograph day is this **WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. Photo envelopes were sent home this week. If you wish to order a family photograph, please contact the School Office for a family envelope. Photograph envelopes should be returned on Photo day, please ensure that envelopes contain the **EXACT MONEY - NO CHANGE** is held at the School Office.

All children should wear full summer uniform on that day. Those students who have sport on this day can bring their sports uniform to change into or alternatively just bring along their runners. **Please DO NOT WEAR your runners to school.**

## URGENT UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Winter Uniform orders should have been placed by **today, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. The order will be sent off on **TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. We are unable to guarantee order delivery times if you have not pre-ordered. Thank you.

## EDUCATION IN FAITH

### CONFIRMATION

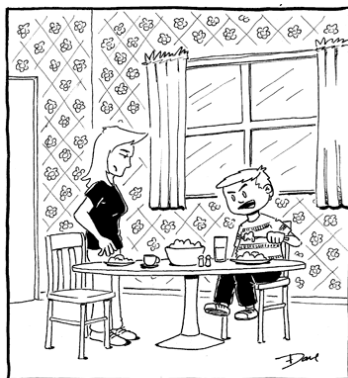
\* A reminder that **ALL** stoles should have been returned to school for a New Symbol and Name to be placed on each. Those who have written me a note about lost stoles will receive a new one. Just a reminder that Nicole Singleton will **need help** with the placement of Names on the Confirmation stoles. She will run TWO workshops for this activity on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> (if required) at 1.30pm in the TRI Centre.

\* Our **Confirmation Family Workshop** took place last Wednesday evening. Thank you to our Year Six parents, teachers and students for their participation. The session was facilitated by Sr Lorraine Testa.

\* **Bishop Vincent Long** visited our Year Six Confirmation candidates yesterday. This was a wonderful, informal visit with the students who shared their insights, knowledge and questions with the bishop. He will be celebrating our Sacrament of Confirmation on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm.

### LENT

**Lenten** is a time of joyous preparation for Easter and is marked by *prayer, fasting, and giving alms*. Each classroom has been given a **Project Compassion Box** by our school Social Justice leaders **Marie Houlihan and Mairead Foley**. The funds raised in these boxes go towards Caritas Australia and their focus is to help the vulnerable communities around the world. Students are asked to donate a little of their weekly pocket money towards this worthy charity. Please visit the Caritas Australia website ([www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)) for further information.



**Year 2/3S will be attending**

**our Parish Mass at 9:15am, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Please come, celebrate,  
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.
- \* Our Year 6 Confirmation Candidates as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- \* An enlightened Lenten journey towards Easter.

*Olive Chodowski – REL*

*"You're just a prayer away from a change of heart."*

DR. HENRY BRANDT



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

### MARCH

Mon 9<sup>th</sup>

Tues 10<sup>th</sup>

Weds 11<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>

Fri 13<sup>th</sup>

**Labour Day – No School**

AFL Clinics

**School Photo Day – Summer Uniform**

Morning Fitness 8am

Cross Country Training 8am

AFL Clinics

Walk / Ride to School Day

Class Mass 2/3S 9.15am

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Thank you to all those families who ordered from our first Book Club issue for 2015. The school received books to the value of \$150 for our library and classrooms.

### 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:

**RED TEAM**

**TUCKSHOP HELPERS** - Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March



Wednesday

Friday

Maria Charalambous

Alicia Galea

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN  
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS  
2.30pm – 3.00pm**

**Kids Matter**  
Australian Primary Schools  
Mental Health Initiative



**NAB AFL AUSKICK REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!**

Log on to [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au) to find your nearest centre.

### FREE TICKET OFFER!

Register and Pay Online before the 20<sup>th</sup> April to get 4 FREE TICKETS to an AFL Game\*

\*please note payment must be made online via credit card. Selection of games will be subject to availability.

### MELBOURNE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

...is running a MINI ROOS program starting on 25<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm at Edwards reserve, South Kingsville. Registration \$300 for the season which includes a training top, shorts, socks, bag and tracksuit. Under 4's – Under 11's.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions contact Seba on 0419 046 242.

## NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING & VIOLENCE

Friday 20<sup>TH</sup> March - Wear a splash of ORANGE with your school uniform to show your support. Students will be talking about bullying in their classrooms – what bullying means, what to do if they are bullied, what to do if they see someone being bullied and most importantly about the importance of respecting and getting along well with others.

### So for your information....

#### What is Bullying?

**Bullying is repeated negative behaviour towards someone else.**

Bullying is not a one-off case. A one-off case is really a conflict. Bullying is much more than a conflict over some issue. It happens over and over again. It's this relentless nature of bullying that wears people down. Sometimes the form of the bullying changes, for example, name calling may change to threatening someone or destroying their belongings. Some victims have reported being mistreated in several different ways by the same bullies.

**What do we tell the children?** We use our strategies designed by our JSC in recent years.

### 1 2 3 You can count on me!

**ONE...**Stop, Look and Listen to see what is happening.

**TWO...**Ask the person who you think is being 'bullied' can you help them?

**THREE...**Tell the person/persons to STOP or seek help from an adult.



**STOP..... I don't like it.  
STOP – calling me names, teasing me,  
taking my things (name the behaviour)**

**AND following today's show, we will use the  
STAMP motto  
LET'S STAMP OUT BULLYING**

School Performance Tours performed a show at St. Mary's today for all students. Chat to your children about the **STAMP** motto and the show!  
You will see it around the school over the coming weeks.

**Stay Away:** How to avoid Bullies

**Tell someone:** Reporting a bully is not being a 'dobber'

**Always help:** The power of peers

**Make friends:** including students who are easily left out

**Play nicely:** Making sure that YOU are not being the bully



## PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

80s Disco: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March

One more week left to purchase your Disco tickets.

The caterers have given us one more week to confirm numbers, so quickly grab your tickets if you haven't already.

Please note: no tickets can be sold after Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of March for catering purposes at the venue.

Tickets are \$25 and include finger food, a professional DJ with awesome lighting effects. Thank you to Melissa (Noah & Stella's mum) from Smart Lending for sponsoring an open style photo booth to capture all the hilarity of the night. So organise a group of friends or family & come along. It's a great way to meet some new families too.

There are prizes for the best dressed but if dressing up isn't quite your thing, then don't miss out – just come as you like & enjoy the flashback to the 80s.

To purchase your tickets please complete the RSVP slip on the flyer which may be downloaded from our School Website under "News" then Notes & Forms (or you can pick one up from the School Office) and return it to school with (exact) cash payment by Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

### 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](http://www.campaustalia.com.au)

**1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146**

[info@campaustalia.com.au](mailto: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.



Year 7 camps at Camp Portsea have been a great success with great activities – the Giant Swing being a highlight – and experiences resulting in students getting to know one another and their teachers and feeling they truly belong at Emmanuel. Well done also to staff and students on the very successful Year 12 retreats conducted at Camp Rutherford, Blampied - one of the most memorable experiences of their time at the College.



## WALKING SCHOOL BUS – NATIONAL RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH

*There are many reasons why Aussie kids should ride, walk, skate and scoot to and from school.*

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

Being allowed the opportunity to actively and independently travel to school (and beyond) fosters independence and responsibility which in turn builds a child's confidence, self-esteem and social skills.

Building these attributes in our children enhances their ability to meet the challenges encountered during school and beyond.

Come to school in an active way on National Ride to School Day Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Join one of our ...**WALKING SCHOOL BUSES: Two Meeting points:** Return the form below as soon as possible.

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

**Meeting Time:** 8.15am

**Walk Starting Time:** 8.20am

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 – it's 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.

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## WALKING SCHOOL BUS – FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH (Return to Mrs Masseni ASAP)

**We will be there!!!!**

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

Family 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

If not, please go to the Post Office to inquire. We'd love your help

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## CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 8 – 8.30am on the school oval

**MARGARET MASSENI (WELLBEING and PE / SPORT LEADER)**