



St. Mary's School, Altona

Newsletter 2016

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@am.org.au



No. 10 22nd April 2016

Dear Parents,

I have been concerned about a situation which has been developing on the Playground BEFORE and AFTER school. My concern is founded on our Legal Liability, Health & Safety and Duty of Care issues. Camp Australia, our Out of School Hours Care supplier has also contacted me about their concerns of the current situation.

While I've welcomed children remaining after school to play under parent supervision not all parents have been present or if present not closely supervising. Irrespective of whether parents are present or not, if teachers are aware of children present on the school grounds we are responsible for their safety and wellbeing. Lately I've noticed children playing soccer and basketball on the basketball court before school as well, while others are taking their bikes to the bike shed or walking around to the netball court or Junior Adventure playground while younger siblings are also wandering around the playground. There are some major safety issues with all this. So it is from this perspective that I ask for your support and co-operation with the following. The majority of which is not new:

From Tuesday the following will be strictly enforced.

BEFORE SCHOOL:

No children are to be on the school playground before 8.30 am as there is no teacher supervision.

Children who arrive at school before 8.30 am are to wait in the office foyer.

At 8.30 am. the school gates are opened and children can gather on the netball court or sit on seating adjacent to Yr 1/2HK & Yr 1/2S classrooms and around the Junior Adventure Playground. Prep & Year 1/2 children ONLY can play on this equipment.

No children are to be on the basketball court, oval or Senior Adventure Playground.

For safety reasons there are NO BALL GAMES allowed BEFORE SCHOOL.

AFTER SCHOOL:

No 10. 22nd April 2016

Children need to wait to be collected on the Netball Court, around the sandpit (not in it) or on or near the Junior Adventure Playground. As again these are the only areas that are supervised.

No children are to be on the Basketball Court, Senior Adventure Playground or the oval after school.

For safety reasons there are NO BALL GAMES allowed AFTER SCHOOL.

We ask for your co-operation with these arrangements as they are necessary from a legal and safety viewpoint as well as fulfilling government regulations regarding Out of School Care requirements.

These arrangements will be clearly explained to all children on Tuesday.

Please come and talk to me and / or send me an email with any other solutions or alternatives.

PARENTS & FRIENDS:

Held their Annual General meeting last Wednesday.

Congratulations and Thank you to the following people who were elected onto the Committee.

President: Marilyn Fischer

Vice President: Erin Boyd

Secretary: Marita Grech

Assistant Secretary: Andrea Herd

Treasurer: Cheri Steen

Assistant Treasurer: Jarrod Pye

General Committee: Garry Hills, Patrice Cassar, Ben London, Madeline Didenkowski and Marelize Agius.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Garry Hills efforts as President over the last 3 years. His thoughtful and inclusive leadership has been greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD:

The next meeting of the School Education Board will be next Tuesday 26th April, 7.30 pm. in the staffroom. The Annual General Meeting for the School Education Board will be Tuesday 24th May.

ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Student Leaders from St. Mary's will lay a wreath at the Dawn Service to be held at the Eternal Flame in Civic Pde, (outside the council offices) at 6am on ANZAC Day Monday 25th April.

We welcome all St. Mary's families to join us.

Please meet Mrs Masseni at 5.45am on the corner of Civic Pde and Pier St.

CHANGES TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSON DAYS:

As of next week, PE lessons for Prep and Year 1/2S have changed to different days. Prep HM & Prep S will be on Thursdays. Prep students will need to wear their sports uniform on this day. Year 1/2s will be on Wednesdays. Year 1/2 students will need to wear their sports uniform on Thursdays.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY:

Is Tuesday 31st May. There is NO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY. Out of School Hours Care will operate if there are sufficient numbers. Online bookings are now being accepted so please act now if this is required.

FOOTY TIPPING:

Thank you to the parents, grandparents, students and teachers that have joined our Footy Tipping Competition this year. Thank you also to the majority that have paid their entrance fee. Could the 13 who haven't paid as yet please do so by this Friday 29th April? Nobody has correctly selected all nine winners yet so our weekly jackpot for round five is \$25.00. Good Luck!

David Kelly
Principal



WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL

Our next Walk /Ride to School day will be held on Wednesday 27th April. Come along in an active way. In the past we have not organised Walking School Buses in Terms 2 & 3 however if enough people are interested in still having them we can work something out. Let me know your thoughts and availability. mmasseni@smaltona.catholic.edu.au
NO Walking Buses will run on 27th April. You can come and have a skip in the yard instead!

DOING IT RIGHT

Thanks to everyone who has been Doing It Right around the school.

1/2D: Zali 3/4VH: Caitlyn 5/6C: Porsha
For handing in money that was found in the playground and helping someone solve a problem.

WELLBEING ARTICLE

This week's article is again from Michael Grose. I know I often send out information about dealing with anxiety but it does seem to be an issue that is faced by many children and adults in this day and age.

In his article EASING CHILDREN'S ANXIETY, Michael tells us...

"Anxiety is normal and part of everyday life. However, it can be debilitating unless it's managed. Anxiety management takes time for kids to learn, but it's one of those valuable life skills that parents can teach their kids."

Click this link to read more...

http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au/uploaded_file/s/media/pi_insightseasinganxietytp_lr.pdf

UNIFORM

We have noticed recently that some girls are wearing the boot leg 'stretch material' pants as part of their school uniform. We would like to remind everyone that gabardine pants are worn as the school uniform and the boot leg 'stretch pants' should only be worn as part of the Sport uniform.

Margaret Masseni
Deputy Principal / Student Wellbeing



PRINCIPAL AWARDS

11th April

PrepHM	Segolene Houlihan
PrepS	Eilidh Plumb
Year 1/2HK	Thomas Hicks
Year 1/2S	Maddison Burns
Year 1/2D	Jack Brkljacic
Year 1/2G	Ava Cooper
Year 3/4M	Erin Cucanic
Year 3/4S	Betty Tedla
Year 3/4VH	Claire Jones
Year 5/6C	Michael Cassar
Year 5/6L	Lynda Azzopardi
Year 5/6M	Joaquin Munoz

18th April

PrepHM	Ethan Agius
PrepS	Cooper Thomas
Year 1/2HK	Alison Misquitta
Year 1/2S	Isabelle Nelson
Year 1/2D	Xavier Rietveld
Year 1/2G	Amelie Cowap
Year 3/4M	Gigi Fantuz
Year 3/4S	Joshua Myers
Year 3/4VH	Bianca Singh
Year 5/6C	James Curran
Year 5/6L	Hannah De Simone
Year 5/6M	Cody Harris

EDUCATION IN FAITH

RECONCILIATION

A reminder to Year 3 parents about our
Rite of Acceptance Masses weekend;
Saturday 30th April at 6pm
OR Sunday 1st May at 10.30am.

A PRAYER FOR ANZAC DAY

O God, our ruler and guide, in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation, we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them: We pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, may have grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From A Prayer Book for Australia Leader:



*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE MESSAGE:

Thank you to all students for your contributions with our Project Compassion boxes. We raised **\$195.30** for Caritas Australia.

In Term Two the focus is on our World Vision Sponsor student **WIN NAING**. Each classroom has received a money box. All funds donated are used by World Vision, to bring maximum impact to Win Naing, for his education and his community.

COIN TRAIL

As part of CatholicCare Family Week We will have a Coin Trail race between the House Teams on Friday 20th May. So save those coins and bring them along to support, not only your House Team (points galore!) but the wonderful work of CatholicCare to build on the vision of 'life to the full' for families, individuals and communities in all their diversity, but in particular for those who are marginalised in society as a result of poverty, disadvantage and other barriers to social inclusion.



Kate Ealem & Tahlia Sepsic
Social Justice Leaders



**Year 1/2D will be attending
the Parish Mass on
Friday 29th April at 9:15am.
Please come, celebrate,
and join your children in prayer.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * All students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance.
- * Those who fought to protect our land Australia.
- * Those in our world who continue to be affected by war or conflict at this time.
- * Peace in our world.
- * All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.

Olive Chodowski – REL

*"We will do all we can for
peace."*

- St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1885

IMPORTANT DATES

25/4	Anzac Day (Public Holiday)
26/4	School Education Board Meeting
28/4	Dyslexia Presentation 7-8.30pm
2/5	Year3/4VH Prayer Assembly
3/5	District Cross Country Year 3-6
6/5	Mother's Day Stall 9am-12pm
8/5	Mother's Day Mass 10.30-11.30
9/5	Year 1/2HK Assembly
11/5	Year 1/2 Excursion Werribee Zoo
16/5	Year 1/2S Assembly
18/5	Reconciliation Family Workshop 7-8pm
23/5	Year 1/2G Assembly
24/5	Mary Help of Christians Feast Day – Whole School Mass 9.15-10.15am
24/5	School Education Board AGM
25/5	Wonder of Living (Parent Session Only) 6.30-7.30pm
30/5	Prep HM Assembly
31/5	School Closure Day
3/6	Sacred Heart Of Jesus –Whole School Mass
6/6	Year 3/4S Prayer Assembly
8/6	Sacrament of Reconciliation 7-8pm
13/6	Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)
15/6	Wonder of Living (parent/child session) 6.30-7.30pm
20/6	Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 1.30-8pm
21/6	Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 3.30-5.30pm



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

**Friday 6th May
@ 11.30am**

The Australian Girls' Choir are opening up at a new venue in Yarraville this July. They will be giving the girls from Prep to Grade 4 at St. Mary's the opportunity to be a part of an assessment workshop on Friday May 6th at 11.30am here at school. Flyers were sent out this week about the workshop.

If you would like your daughter to attend the assessment workshop at school, could parents please return the permission slip on the flyer? Interested girls will be assessed as a group by one of their tutors and each girl will be sent a written report.

For further information on the Australian Girls' Choir, visit their website at www.ausgirlschoir.com.au

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE AT ST. MARY'S - Camp Australia WE MAKE KIDS SMILE!

Phone: 1300 105 343 / (03) 9398 4065

www.campaaustralia.com.au

1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

info@campaustralia.com.au Fax: (03) 8610 2044

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

CSEF

Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or who are temporary foster parents are eligible to apply to the Victorian Government Camps, Sport and Excursion Fund.

\$125 per year will be paid for eligible primary students.

A CSEF Application form can be collected from the School Foyer.

I strongly encourage ALL FAMILIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS FUNDING TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Further information on the fund can be viewed at the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training website.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS - Week beginning 26th April



Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Shelley Nugent
Marylinda Abate
Anne Cooper

Manager: Eva Coppola



NEED 2 READ IS BACK

Every **Tuesday and Thursday** from **8.20 to 8.40** am in the Library we have our **Need 2 Read Club**.

All school children and their family members are welcome to come along and enjoy reading. As a way to encourage children to come they will have a N2R card and each time they come will receive a stamp. When they reach 5, 10 and 15 they can choose a prize from our Lucky Prize Box. Children need to be in the library by 8.30 am to receive a stamp. See you there.

Nancy Scuderi & Cathy Sims
Literacy Leaders

Learn Music here at school



Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, here at St Mary's Altona.

Creative music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$16.20 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 2, 2016.

Interested parents should call Fiona during office hours on 9818 2333

UNIFORM SHOP



Open Wednesday Afternoon 2:30 -3:00pm
& Monday mornings 8:30 – 9:00am

The Uniform Shop now has a dedicated email address. You may complete and scan an order directly to them. You may also simply write a clear list of your requirements including size etc. Always include the name of your eldest child, their class, your contact details and the method of payment you have used. Payment can be made by direct bank transfer or cash or cheque left at the School Office in a clearly marked envelope. The email address is stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com

The Uniform Shop is run by parent volunteers who are aware that not all families can visit them during their opening hours. This is an initiative that they hope will be helpful to all. Any feedback is welcome; please direct it to Mrs Pedley in the School Office