



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2017



95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018
Principal: David Kelly Ph: 9398 4842 www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au
Parish Priest: Fr Shabin Ph: 9398 2964 altona@cam.org.au

Wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Dear Parents,

No. 40 22nd December, 2017

Tuesday night we had a wonderful Graduation Mass and celebration afterwards. What a fantastic evening it was and what a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults these Year 6's are. We sincerely thank them for their contribution to St. Mary's and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary's.

I would like to especially thank Olive, Jane, Megan, Marg M, Angela, Maree and Nicole for all the planning and organisation that went into the mass, speeches and the celebration afterwards as well as the End of Year Mass on Wednesday with our school choir and all the awards and certificates that have been presented. It is an enormous amount of work and I would also like to congratulate and thank other staff that have assisted in one way or another.

There are a large number of people that make St. Mary's School such an outstanding school to be part of that I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contributions and sincerely THANK them.

To all the parents: Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children's education. Especially those parents that have their youngest child leaving St. Mary's and therefore have been involved for 7 years or in some cases a lot longer.

To all the parents that help around the school: For e.g. our Book Club organiser (Beryl Henry who, even though she no longer has any children at St. Mary's, continues to run the Book Club which benefits the families and the school enormously). Also to the many other ways parents assist around the school; the Parents & Friends Association, the Uniform Shop, the book coverers, classroom helpers, laminators, excursion helpers, sport helpers, etc. THANKYOU!

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 & I'm including: All Teachers & Learning Support Officers, Valda & Kathleen from the Office, Eva & Amy from the Canteen & Tony our maintenance person.

Each year the demands on your time and what you are expected to cater for and offer in your roles seems to increase unreasonably however you continue to respond to these ever increasing demands with enthusiasm and expertise. Thankyou & Congratulations.

To Margaret Masseni: Last year I thanked and congratulated Marg on what a fantastic job she had done in her first year in the joint role of Deputy Principal & Wellbeing Leader. Well I have a problem this year because she has done an even better job both in support of me and in her ability to juggle two very significant yet diverse roles. I AM and WE ARE very fortunate to have someone with her talent, patience, calmness, organisational ability and sense of fairness and fun. THANKS MARG!

To our School Captains; Millie Pilditch, Jazmin Dowd, Luke Vella and Liam Denys 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 their involvement in our end of year celebrations: Final Assembly, Graduation and End of Year Mass. Well done to you all and Thank you. You've set the bar high for the 2018 Captains but knowing who they are I'm sure they're up to the challenge.

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

To Fr. Shabin for his support, involvement and sense of fun. We are very sad that he was only with us for a very short time.

To Jude thank you for your sense of fun and involvement in our school in the short time you have been placed at our Parish. We wish him well when he returns to his studies next year.

OUR SCHOOL FAREWELL FOR Fr SHABIN:

Will take place on Friday 9th February, 2018. All children and staff will attend the 9.15 am Parish Mass. We will then have an extended recess so Fr. Shabin can join staff and parents in the school for morning tea.

CONGRATULATIONS:

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

Academic Excellence: Kyle Escobar

Academic Persistence: Georgia Lemanis

Values Award: Liam Curran

Performing Arts Award: Luke Vella

Creative Arts: Sunita Daravong

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2018:

The staff will commence on Monday 29th January.

ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS commence at **8.50 am on Tuesday 30th 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, 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.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2018

Girl Captains for 2018 are: Sofia Bitaks & Chloe Zuvela

Boy Captains for 2018 are: James Hills & Jacob Yacono

Our House Captains for 2018 are:

Blue: Sienna Tanti & Lucas Mickovski

Green: Emma Hussey & Daniel Armeri

Yellow: Erin Cucanic & Lachland Green

Red: Mia Attana & Jordon Schrembri

Our Wellbeing Leaders are: Olivia Charalambous & Grace Moon

Our Social Justice Leaders are: Ciara O'Connor & Anthony Briffa

Our Choir Leader is: Marcus Kruger.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE FOR 2018:

Prep - 2 classes

Yr 1/2 - 4 classes

Yr 3/4 - 3 classes

Yr 5/6 - 3 classes

POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:

Deputy Principal & Wellbeing Leader - Ms Margaret Masseni
Religious Education Leader - Ms Olive Chodowski
Learning & Teaching Leader - Ms Nancy Scuderi
Junior Literacy Leader - Ms Cathy Sims
Senior Literacy Leader - Ms Lisa Vella
Maths Leader - Ms Lisa Said
Special Needs Leader - Ms Cathy Sims
Digital Technologies Leader - Veronica Tucker

STAFF CHANGES FOR 2018:**The following staff have retired:**

Ms Margaret Harmathy - Year 1/2HT
Mrs Joyce Lalor - Special Needs Leader & Reading Recovery

The following staff are not returning:

Ms Dani Malloy - Support teacher in Year 1/2N
Ms Emma Cairns - Year 1/2G
Ms Cassie Renfrew - New Arrivals Teacher

We welcome three new teachers to St. Mary's:

Ms Stefanie Harvey - Year 5/6H
Ms Hayleigh Davis - Year 1/2D
Ms Caitlyn Gallagher - Year 1/2G

Existing Staff Changes:

Mrs Cathy Sims - Levelled Literacy Intervention Teacher & Special Needs Leader
Ms Nancy Scuderi - Prep S.
Ms Jane Kirkwood - Year 1/2K.

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 5th February.

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. The booking code is **dh9kx**

BOOKINGS OPEN – Thursday 11th January 2018 and close Sunday 4th February 2018.

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 2018, after a fun-filled, enjoyable, restful and well-deserved holiday.



David Kelly
PRINCIPAL

EDUCATION IN FAITH

2018 Sacrament Dates

TERM ONE:

Confirmation: – Rite of Acceptance Masses weekend:

Saturday 24th Feb-6pm OR Sunday 25th Feb-10.30am

Confirmation: - Family Workshop: Wednesday 7th March. School Hall: 7pm

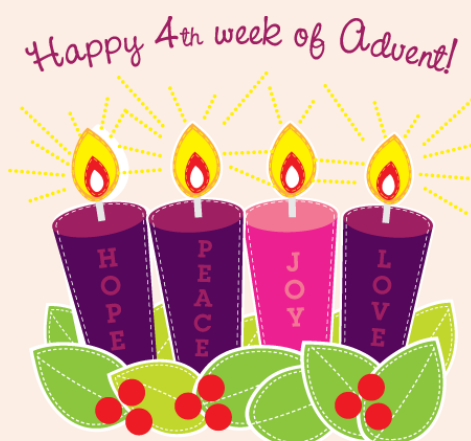
Confirmation: - Friday, 23rd March, at 7pm

(The Sponsor must be a baptised Catholic over the age of 16)

TERM TWO: Reconciliation: Wednesday, 20th June, at 7pm.

TERM THREE: First Eucharist: Sunday, 19th August, at 3pm.

(Dates for all Sacramental Family Workshops - T.B.A.)



Christmas Gift Suggestions

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

- Oren Arnold

**Many blessings for a Happy
and Holy Christmas.**

Olive Chodowski REL



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sat.	23 Dec	Vigil Mass	6.00pm
Sun.	24 Dec	Mass (one Mass only)	9.30am
		Carols/Nativity Play	6.15pm
		Family Mass	7.00pm
		Carols	11.30pm
		Midnight Mass	12.00am
Mon.	25 Dec	Christmas Day Mass	10.30am
Mon.	1st Jan	New Year's Day Mass	10.00am

Farewell to Fr. Shabin - We are organising a farewell for Fr Shabin on the **4th February 2018** at the 10.30am Mass. There will be only one mass on that Sunday. A special collection will be taken to buy a gift for Fr Shabin. The collection will take place on the weekends of **20/21st and 27/28th January 2018**. After the 10.30am Mass on the 4th February 2018, you are invited to bring a plate and join us in the school hall for his farewell celebration.

Parish Pastoral Team



UNIFORM SHOP 2018

Next year the Uniform Shop opening times will change.

It will move from Thursdays to:

Monday 8.30am – 9.00am

Wednesday 2.30pm to 3.00pm

Orders via the internet can still be placed at any time.

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING CLEARLY ESPECIALLY ITEMS THAT MAY BE REMOVED

e.g. hats and jumpers.

The Uniform Shop will also open for 2 hours ONLY between 11am – 1.00pm on Monday 29th January 2018, the day before the children start school. Thank you to Patrice and her helpers who have made this possible.