



St. Mary's School, Altona

Newsletter 2016

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

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Dear Parents,

No.12 6th May 2016

Thank you to all the families that have subscribed to our school newsletter. We have approximately 170 subscribers so far. If you have yet to subscribe please go to our school website

www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

And on the right hand side click the 'Subscribe' button.

It is now more important than ever to ensure you are receiving our school newsletter via email. Any forms that are attached to our school newsletters will now come to you electronically via your weekly email.

These forms will be a Google Form to simply fill in online and submit. Google then collates all these responses for us in one spread sheet. This is yet another way we are hoping to cut down on paper used within our school, work more efficiently and to ensure swift responses to upcoming events and celebrations within our school.

So this week in the email you receive announcing this week's newsletter there are three separate links to:

- Walking School Bus form
- Mary Help of Christians Feast Day Hot Dog lunch **helpers** form
- Mary help of Christians Feast Day Hot Dog **lunch order** form

Simply fill in these forms online and click submit.

LEADER NEWSPAPER GRANT PROGRAM:

We won! Thanks to those who voted, thanks to the Year 3/4 students and teachers who look after our garden, thanks to Kristen L (Summer & Maggie) and John H (Eilidh P) who come along each Friday to work with the students and thanks to Liz L who instigated the grant application.

We have won \$1000 to put towards developing our garden program. If you are free on a Friday afternoon to work with the students we'd love to have you along. Please contact the school office or meet Kristen and John in the garden area at 2.30pm each Friday.

MOTHER'S DAY: Thanks to Cheri S on behalf of the Parents & Friends and her band of helpers for her wonderful organisation of our Mother's Day Stall today. There were lots of excited children leaving the hall today with fantastic presents for their mums. All families are invited to join us at our Parish and School Celebration Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday at 10.30 am. This has traditionally been a wonderful celebration of and for all mothers. Thank you to Olive Chodowski our Religious Education Leader for her organisation of the mass and PowerPoint and to Angela Hamilton our Performing Arts teacher for her co-ordination of the music and leading our school choir.

PREP 2017 ENROLMENTS: Enrolments close on Friday 20th May. So, please if you know of someone who is thinking of sending their child to St. Mary's in 2017 they need to get their Application for Enrolment forms in before Friday 20th May.

NAPLAN:

This stands for National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy. Children in Years Three & Five will sit these tests on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May. While this is only a brief, one off snapshot of your child's progress, the results of the tests provide information for parents and teachers about a child's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. Unfortunately we don't receive the results until later in the year when in lots of cases, if not all, the children have moved on. However the report will describe your child's particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to the national benchmark standards for students across Australia. For parents of children in Year Three & Five your child will bring home tonight a brochure explaining NAPLAN and an article from Michael Grose titled, 'Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests'.

SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD - AGM:

This will be held in the staffroom on Tuesday 24th May commencing at 7.30 pm. There is a vacancy for a Parent Representative on the School Education Board. Anyone interested in joining please speak to myself or one of the existing members; Diane Howell, Paul Kruger, Paul Moore and Janice O'Connor. No expertise is required other than a wish to be involved in your child's education. The School Education Board meets five times a year. An outline of the Functions and Purposes of the School Education Board and a Nomination Form are available from the School Office or on our website: www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

FOOTY TIPPING:

No one correctly tipped all nine winners last round so the jackpot this round is \$35.00. Good Luck!
"HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY"

David Kelly
Principal



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: **Green Team**



How will it work?

- ✓ You receive a short video with a follow-up activity each weekday – 15 sessions across 3 weeks.
- ✓ Each session (including the follow-up) should only take **15 minutes** of your time. Alternatively, you can complete all your sessions on the weekend if you are busy mid-week.
- ✓ Participate in a live Facebook Q&A each week where you can **ask Michael Grose questions**.

Join now for only \$67. When you enrol you'll start your learning straight away through the online resources in parenting ideas Club, including articles, e-Guides, posters and videos.

Full details and registration at:

<http://www.parentingideasclub.com.au/Info/Membership>

Or contact the Parentingideas team 03 59831798
office@parentingideas.com.au

EDUCATION IN FAITH

RECONCILIATION

A reminder to Year Three parents/guardians about our **RECONCILIATION FAMILY WORKSHOP** on

Wednesday 18th May, 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 8th June 7pm

PARISH / SCHOOL MOTHER'S DAY MASS:

Just a reminder for **ALL families to attend and be a part of this special celebration, to pay tribute to the outstanding role our Mothers play in all our lives. 10.30am Mass this Sunday 8th May.**

A Mothers' Day Prayer

*Loving God,
as a mother gives life to her children,
so you watch over your Church.
Bless these women,
that they may be strengthened
as faith-filled mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE MESSAGE:

COIN TRAIL

1. 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.

2. Our Term 3 Social Justice unit involves Year 5/6 students organising stalls to raise money for St Vincent de Paul society. We would like to begin a collection of items to sell. Our first items that we would like to collect are 'SCARVES' and 'SOFT TOYS'. Please send all items to Year 5/6C Room11 or the OFFICE. Thank-you

Kate Ealem & Tahlia Sepsic

Social Justice Leaders



Year 1/2G will be attending the Parish Mass on Friday 13th May 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.*

* *Mothers everywhere, those with us today and those who hold a special place in our hearts.*

Olive Chodowski – REL

"My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching." Proverbs 6:20

IMPORTANT DATES

9/5	Year 1/2HK Assembly
16/5	Year 1/2S Assembly
18/5	Reconciliation Family Workshop 7-8pm
23/5	Year 1/2G Assembly
24/5	School Education Board AGM
24/5	Mary Help of Christians Feast Day – Mass 9:15-10:15am Free lunch for students
25/5	Wonder of Living (Parent Session Only) 6.30-7.30pm
26/5	Year 1/2 Werribee Zoo Excursion
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
24/6	Family Film Night



On Sunday 5th June St. Mary's Parish will be celebrating a special Children's Mass at 10.30am.

We would like as many children as possible to be involved in this special celebration. Therefore if you would like your children to be part of this Mass they will need to attend one of the Children's Liturgy Sessions at the 10.30am Sunday Mass to collect a form, complete it and return it to the Parish House Letter Box by **no later than Thursday 26th May, 2016.** Morning

Tea will be served after Mass, we would appreciate it if you would please bring a plate.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Date 3rd May 2016
**Meet the Principal
and Tour
Emmanuel College**

is holding a Meet the Principal and Tour for parents of prospective students of the College on:

- Tuesday 10 May - 9.30 am St Paul's Campus Altona North
- Tuesday 17 May - 9.30 am Notre Dame Campus Point Cook

For more information contact our College Registrar Donna Grech on 8325 5119 or email enrolments@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au



Congratulations to the Carbone Family on the happy arrival of their new family member- Makayla Sister to Dominic in 1/2 G.



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 9th May



Wednesday Cynthia Bitaks
Thursday
Friday Paula Luppino

Manager: Eva Coppola

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS



On Tuesday 3rd May, 24 of our year 3-6 students competed in the Altona schools district cross country competition held at Cherry Lake. With the weather a little wild and windy all the competitors soldiered on and put in their best efforts. Well done to all runners for completing the course in such difficult conditions. St Mary's Altona overall finished 8th out of 11 schools. Special mention to **Jazmine Dowd** 9th overall in the 11 year old girls and **Jacob Yacono** 11th overall in the 10 year old boys. Thank you to all the parents who came along and helped out with some jobs and those who came for the support. Also thanks to Mrs Zimmerman for looking after all of the students.

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.