



# St. Mary's School, Altona

## Newsletter 2018

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Principal: David Kelly Phone: 9398 4842 [www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest: Archpriest Michael Kalka Phone: 9398 2964



Dear Parents

No.1 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019

**There is an enormous amount of information in this newsletter so please take your time to read all of it. It may also be worthwhile to keep it somewhere that you can refer back to it.**

It was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents, friends and past students on the netball court for the beginning of the school year. There seemed more excitement and anxiousness on some of the parents faces than the children's. Thank you to the many parents, both new and existing, who joined us for a cuppa afterwards. It was great to catch up. Thank you to Marilyn Fischer & Susie Holland and their helpers for their organisation of the morning tea and scrumptious food.

Moving around all of the classrooms it is amazing how quickly the children settle into their new classrooms. The staff and I are looking forward to working with you in partnership to make 2019 a very enjoyable and successful year.

### **A Special welcome to our thirty-six Prep children and their families.**

There were a couple of tears with some of our young ones but they were all settled and happy within a short period of time.

### **Twenty-One of our Preps are new families to our school:**

They are: Sienna Borg, Emily Brazenor, Dante Buhagiar, Chalia Busuttil, Maks Cagalj, Alyssa Carter, Owen Collinson, Stella Ensor, Ryder & Lani Grace, James Huntley, Edward Jackson, Ethan Krishna, Ed Maurer, Kobe McGuane, Logan Meerza, Ronan Mladenich, Alexis Oliver, Angus Rennie, Harrison Ryan & Penelope Taranto.

### **These Preps have older siblings at St. Mary's:**

Austin Bainger, Thomas Belton, Jamelia Fallace, Aston Georgiardin, Keanu Le Roux, Max McCall, Sophie McKenzie, Meagan Nisbet, David Nguyen, Constance Pittas, Helen Teshomi, Tyler Thomas, Esther Threatt, Kai Phi Tran & Joshua Zuvela.

### **NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEDNESDAYS.**

### **A Special Welcome to our three new staff members:**

Mr Matthew Taylor: Year 5/6T, Mr Ethan Tartaglia: Year 1/2T & Ms Karen Aston: Year 5/6H each Thursday.

### **SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2019:**

Kiani Howell, Shannon Williams, Zed Didenkowski & Zai Pittas.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2019:**

Grace Azzopardi & Noah Ligudzinski.

**WELLBEING LEADERS for 2019:**

Alana Vuleta & Ava Zammit.

**CHOIR LEADER for 2019:**

Julie Wakfer.

**HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2019:**

**Blue:** Eliza Pelns & Michael Morda.

**Green:** Isabella Merola & Thomas Pye.

**Red:** Rachel Currie & Jesse Longaretti-Schreppel.

**Yellow:** Summer London & Jett Porter.

**SCHOOL FEES:**

Curriculum Levy & Excursion/Incursion Levy will remain the same for 2019. However the Family Fee has increased by \$50:

<b>Family Fee (per family)</b>	-	<b>\$ 1550.00</b>
<b>Curriculum Levy (per child)</b>	-	<b>\$ 220.00</b>
<b>Excursion Levy (per child)</b>	-	<b>\$ 70.00</b>

Additional charges for Camps, Sacraments etc will be added to your school fees dependant on the year level of your child/ren.

Please note in a change from past years, one third of your total school fee is to be paid by the end of Term 1 (5/4/2019), two thirds of the total fee by the end of Term 2 (28/06/2019) and the final third paid by the end of Term 3 (20/09/2018). Failure to do so will result in your account being placed in arrears.

School Fee Statements will be sent home next week, together with comprehensive details of our payment options which include Direct Debit.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Hopefully you have booked your interview time already but if you haven’t please do so immediately. You can book interviews at times that suit your family best.**

**Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website. The booking code is “2u8py”  
BOOKINGS CLOSE – 5.00 pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019.**

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

**Below are some questions you may wish to talk with your child’s teacher about:**

How does your child socialise with other children?

What does your child enjoy about school?

What special needs your child has? (e.g. medical etc.)

Is there any extra information which you think we should know about your child to make their year enjoyable?

**BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS AND GET TOGETHER BBQ:  
THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> February - 6.00 pm.**

**This is traditionally one of the highlights of the school year. It begins with mass in the church at 6.00 pm. Our new Preps will sing a special Reflection song after Communion. All families and friends are then invited to join the staff for a BBQ in the school grounds. More information will follow in the coming weeks. Please mark this date in your diary.**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE, APP & FACEBOOK PAGE:**

Can I remind parents to regularly check our **School Website** at [www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au) for regular updates and interesting information and photos about what is going on at St. Mary's. Please ensure you are subscribed to the newsletter by clicking on the 'subscribe now' button on our school website.

Our **School App** (update-ed which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play) is a great way for us to get information about events to you.

Our **School Facebook Page** is a great way to keep you up to date with what is happening around the school. For new parents to our school you can access our Facebook Page directly from our school website, just click on the link.

**All new members will need to read our Facebook Code of Conduct to be aware of what is acceptable and not acceptable on our Facebook Page.**

This Code of Conduct can be accessed from our school website, News, Notes & Forms.

**CAREMONKEY:**

A reminder to ensure you have completed a CareMonkey profile for your child/children. You should have received an email over the holidays to do so. If you have not received an email or are having difficulty please email Ronnie Tucker: [vtucker@smaltona.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vtucker@smaltona.catholic.edu.au)

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

To Lexi Robertson (Yr 3/4HT) who competed in 2 national dance finals in January, one in Melbourne and one in the Gold Coast competing against children from all over Australia and New Zealand. She won overall champion title in her age division for both competitions.

Her prize for the Gold Coast nationals "showcase" is to travel to Portugal to compete in the world dance cup in late June and then to Italy for world dance movement where she will participate in workshops with some of the best teachers in the world. An amazing achievement Lexi. Well Done!

**NEW:**

We are excited to announce and welcome Ms Sarah Basile (Speech Pathologist, from Speech Pathology for Schools) who will work with us on Tuesdays & Fridays this year. Sarah will support individual students, work with small focus groups of students as well as collaborating with teachers and learning support officers in providing strategies that can be used in classrooms as well as small focus groups. Sarah will also run parent engagement sessions.

We are also excited to announce and welcome Ms Michelle Curmi (Psychologist) who will provide psychological support to both children and families at our school this year. Michelle will also run a parent information evening in the next couple of weeks, more details will follow. If you believe your child would benefit from attending some sessions with Michelle please contact Mrs Margaret Masseni, who will outline the process and detail what is required.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS FIRST MEETING:**

This will be held in the school staffroom commencing at 7.30 pm next Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Welcome back to all current members. PLEASE consider this a personal invitation to any existing and especially new families to come along and see what is involved. No obligation or commitment involved.

**David Kelly.  
Principal.**



## **WEEK TWO: LITERACY ASSESSMENT WEEK**

**In Week 2, all students from Year 1 to Year 6 reading will be assessed using the BAS (Benchmark Assessment System).**

The BAS is a tool that identifies not only a child's reading level but also his/her ability to **comprehend** what they have read. The information gained from this assessment will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses in the students which teachers will be able to address when planning lessons.

This requires teachers to work one on one with each student for 30 minutes.

To enable this to happen, all classroom teachers will be given 2/3 days to complete this testing.

Staff who do not have a classroom such as support staff and the specialist teachers etc will be working in classrooms but we have also employed a number of Emergency Teachers to assist with this process.

As a result there will be no Performing Arts, Creative Arts or Physical Education sessions next week. Specialist classes will commence in Week 3.

If you have any queries please feel free to see either of us.

**Cathy Sims & Stef Harvey**  
**Literacy Leaders**

## **ANAPHYLAXIS AND ASTHMA PLANS**

If you have a child diagnosed with Anaphylaxis or Asthma, the school needs a new Asthma or Anaphylaxis Management Plan signed by your GP each new school year. Please download the appropriate form from our school website, news, notes & forms. Once completed please forward it to the School Office.

## **DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS 2019**

For students in Years 3-6 there will be two swim trial/training sessions:

**Where:** BayFit Leisure Centre in Mason St, Altona North

**When:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February & Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**Breakfast:** will be provided back at school

**Transport:** back to school will be via mini bus and private cars.

Cost: \$7 per session.

All students who are interested are welcome to attend these swim sessions however they must be able to swim at least 50m using a recognised swimming stroke. Timing will take place at both sessions so it is important to attend at least one of them.

The final team selection will be made after both sessions in time for the District Swimming Carnival which will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the Victoria University Aquatic Centre.

If you wish to attend these sessions the permission form can be found on CareMonkey.



## **UNIFORM SHOP**

**In 2019 the uniform shop will be open: Monday 8.30-9.00 am and Wednesday 2.30-3.00 pm**

With Term One being a relatively short term, we are turning our attention to winter uniforms. To ensure that we can order in a timely manner for Term Two, please visit the shop to order your winter uniform. For those that are unable to make it to the shop, the order forms will be available on the School Website, News, Notes & Forms next week. These can be sent through to [stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com). Payment can be made via direct deposit or cash in an envelope dropped off to the school office. Uniforms once ordered and paid for will be sent home in your child's school bag. If the sizes are not correct, and the labels are still attached, return them to the office with a note and contact number, and we will endeavour to correct it for you.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**"Please regularly check School Calendar on our website for Important dates"**



## **TUCKSHOP:**



Our Tuckshop operates at recess and lunchtime each day of the week.

Any parents that could assist in the tuckshop either on a regular or ad hoc basis would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office if you are able to assist.

**Manager:** Amy Xu

Tuckshop list and prices are on the school website.

## **CREATIVE MUSIC – GUITAR / KEYBOARD LESSONS**

Creative Music will offer GUITAR lessons as well as KEYBOARD lessons at St. Mary's in 2019. See following flyer for more information.

# **Learn music** here at school

Come and join in the fun of  
learning to play  
GUITAR or KEYBOARD  
here at St. Mary's.

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 chil-  
dren an excellent grounding in music  
where they will learn to read music  
and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$17.00 per lesson and  
enrolments are now being accepted for  
limited places in term 1, 2019.

Interested parents should call Brenda dur-  
ing office hours on 9818 2333 or email  
[brenda@creativemusic.com.au](mailto:brenda@creativemusic.com.au)

 **Creative Music**  
[www.creativemusic.com.au](http://www.creativemusic.com.au)



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

