

St. Mary's School, Altona

Newsletter 2018

95A Railway Street North, Altona 3018

Principal: David Kelly Phone: 9398 4842 www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Shabin: 9398 2964 altona@cam.org.au

Dear Parents

No.2 9th February, 2018

Thank you to the parents that attended our School's Farewell Mass this morning for Fr. Shabin. Our school choir sang beautifully. We thanked Fr. Shabin for all he has done for us in the short time he has been with us and wished him all the best at his new parish, St. Mary's, Thornbury.

At the end of the mass we presented him with a large framed photo of all the children and staff at St. Mary's, a copy of this photo is on display in the school foyer. We also presented him with a card signed by each member of the staff as well as a card from each class which every child has signed.

Thank you to Olive Chodowski, Angela Hamilton, Maree Ryan and staff for their assistance in the organisation of this special celebration.

Also on display in the school foyer is a framed photo of all children and staff celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Opening of our school.

WELCOME:

On behalf of all staff, students & parents I warmly welcome Fr. Michael Kalka as our new parish priest and look forward to working closely with him through this year and beyond.

SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS:

All school families received their School Fee Account pack this week. The pack contains your school fee account, details of expected payment timelines, direct debit forms, information and an application form for CSEF eligible families (see later in the newsletter for eligibility rules for CSEF).

If you have any queries on your account, please contact Mrs Valda Pedley in the School Office on 9398 4842 or email: bursar@smaltona.catholic.edu.au

If you believe you will have difficulty with your school fees, either now or at any time during the school year, please contact the School Office to make an appointment to see myself so we can work out a mutually agreeable solution.

SPAM:

It has come to our attention that many CareMonkey and school emails are arriving in people's SPAM folders. We are aware of the issue and are working to find a solution. In the meantime can we ask that you check your SPAM folders and if you find any CareMonkey or school emails in there, simply mark them as 'NOT SPAM' We hope that this will help you receive all important emails to your inbox.

COLES VOUCHERS:

We have registered to be part of the Coles School Voucher Program and are awaiting the arrival of our promotional materials eg. Our collection box which will be placed at our local Coles in Altona. But you can begin collecting your vouchers and getting other family members and friends to do the same. More details will be in next week's newsletter. Thank you for your assistance and participation.

David Kelly,
Principal



Our first WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY is on Thursday 22nd of FEBRUARY. Our Walking School buses will run on that day. For more information, see the recent news article on the School website or click this link to be taken to our Google form for RSVPs -

<http://www.smалtona.catholic.edu.au/page/259>

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our School Captains, Jacob, James, Chloe and Sofia, did a great job of running their first assembly for 2018. Congratulations – we look forward to seeing more of their fine work throughout the year.

Our House Captains, Jordan, Mia, Lachland, Erin, Daniel, Emma, Lucas and Sienna will have their turn to shine at the first House Team meeting for 2018 this Friday.

Congratulations to Bridie, Hannah, Isla, Gab, Judah, Zoe, Sophie, Daniel, Ethan, Zara, Isabella M, Andy, Christian, Mia, Sam, Fernando, Lachlan, Jordan, Sam, Olivia, Lucas, Gabby, Nikita & Joel who have been named as Junior School Council representatives for 2018.

The first meeting for the JSC will be on Friday 16th February.

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 will be 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. The allowance is paid directly 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

HOW TO APPLY

Fill in and return the application form in your School Fee pack, contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef Return it to the school office asap.



PRINCIPALS AWARDS WEEK BEGINNING 5TH FEBRUARY 2018

PREP D	Dario Diaz for being a fantastic listener and hard worker
PREP S	Myla Bitaks for following instructions and helping those around her
YEAR 1/ 2G	Sienna Moten for being a kind and helpful class member
YEAR 1/ 2S	Adam Ciavarella for being a great worker and a helpful class member
YEAR 1/ 2K	Mark Morda for putting in a tremendous effort during maths lessons
YEAR 1/2D	Kayla Bond for settling in so well and making new friends at St. Mary's
YEAR 3/4M	Adrian Bond for settling in well at St. Mary's with great enthusiasm and positivity
YEAR 3/4HK	Zoe Bond for an amazingly confident start to a new year at a new school and Skyler Matthews for settling in so well and making new friends at St Mary's
YEAR 3/4V	Isabella Armeri for being a helpful and kind class member
YEAR 5/6C	Mia Attana for being an encouraging and supportive friend to her classmates
YEAR 5/6L	Jett Porter for his enthusiasm and confidence during Math games
YEAR 5/6H	Julie Wakfer for sharing ideas enthusiastically during class discussions

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)

ASH WEDNESDAY

All school families and friends are invited to welcome our new Parish Priest:

Archpriest Michael Kalka and to begin their Lenten journey next week on Ash Wednesday, 14th February at the parish mass at 9.15am.

Please join the children in this special mass.



"Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * All members of our community who are sick or in need of our prayerful support.
- * **Fr Shabin as he prepares to leave our school and parish community. Bless him and help him to share his gifts as he makes a new beginning and grant him every grace as he answers your God's call with courage and love.**



Loving God,
as we begin this Lenten journey toward a greater union with you, strengthen our faith through our devoted practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Open up new doors to deeper spirituality and discovery of your love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

I would like to sincerely thank all the parishioners who attended my Farewell Mass and the celebration in the school hall afterwards. Thank you to all those behind the scenes who helped prepare for the occasion and for all your gifts, prayers and support. I would also like to thank the School Staff and Community for organising my school farewell Mass. Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine. You are all welcome to visit me at St. Mary's, Thornbury.
Fr. Shabin

LENT STUDIES 2018 - The Commandments - How should Christians behave and how should we live? This study explores that question through some of the core texts of the Christian faith: The Commandments. There will be three groups meeting each week: please sign the sheet on the clip board in the Narthex. Do feel free to join any group, perhaps particularly one that is not at your own church, so that each group can have a good ecumenical mix! The study books cost \$12 and payment can be made to your group leader.

Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church and will alternate each week between 9:45am & 7pm, commencing with 7pm on Friday 16th February, 2018.

Welcome to our new Parish Priest Archpriest Fr. Michael Kalka. Fr. Michael's first Mass at St. Mary's will be on Tuesday, 13th February at 9.15am.

There will be no Youth Mass at 5pm this Sunday.

Tuesdays at 3pm
(starting 20 February)
St Eanswythe's Anglican Church

Wednesdays at 10am
(starting 21 February)
St Mary's Catholic Church

Thursdays at 7pm
(starting 22 February)
Trinity Uniting Church, to be held at 109 Queen Street Altona

Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church and will alternate each week between 9:45am & 7pm, commencing with 7pm on Friday 16th February, 2018.

CLASS NEWS:

PREP

Prep's have had a great first week at school! We are already working hard and making new friends! We have met Milo the Monkey and excited to meet all his friends so they can help us to read and write.

YEAR ONE / TWO

Year 1/2s have settled in to their new class well. We have already done so much learning and we are looking forward to learning so much more. We have been talking about our school rules and have signed a pledge to follow them.

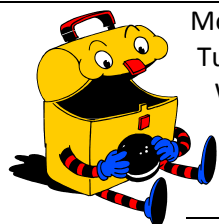
YEAR THREE / FOUR

Year 3/4s have made a great start to the year taking a careful look at our school rules, getting to know one another and thinking about some goals we hope to achieve this term. We are all looking forward to some new challenges, some hard work and of course a bit of fun.

YEAR FIVE / SIX

Year 5/6s have been busy and productive students working together to build their positive classroom communities. Year 6's have enjoyed being with their Prep Buddies, welcoming them to our fun school life at St. Mary's. Year 5's have stepped-up to the mark and are relishing the many roles and responsibilities of being in the Senior school.

TUCKSHOP HELPERS Week beginning 12th February 2018



Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Marylinda Abate

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799

New Tuckshop list and prices are on school website - Please take note of the new prices

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 1, 2018.

Interested parents should call Fiona during office hours on 9818 2333 or email fiona@creativemusic.com.au

 **CreativeMusic**
www.creativemusic.com.au



MSJ OPEN DAY

The first Open Morning for 2018 will be held on

Thursday 15th February, 9.15-10.30 am