Dear families

On Census day this week we had a confirmed enrolment of 200 students. This is an increase of over 10% from 2013 which is pleasing. We will continue to offer opportunities to students in local primary schools to experience a day in the life of our college. A Year 7 day for the 2015 new families of those currently in Year 5 and 6 will be held on Wednesday April 2nd. Mr Kelly and I will be out and about at the local kindergartens in the next fortnight.

On Tuesday I received a call from The Age newspaper regarding our NAPLAN results that are published on My School. Based on My School data, we have been identified as a school from across Australia that is achieving gain over time that exceeds what would otherwise be predicted. That is, we are demonstrating above average improvement in performance on NAPLAN. The 2011 to 2013 data for Year 7 to 9 highlights this with the students who were performing substantially below like schools in 2011 when they joined the college to being at or above expected levels by Year 9. There was an article in The Age on Wednesday and The Herald Sun where our achievements were noted. We have proven data that we are adding value to all students and particularly in Year 7 to 9.

The College has a strong focus on building relationships with individuals to ensure they are connected and happy at school and willing to learn. We focus on high quality instructional practice in the classroom and the use of consultants and coaching for our teachers. As I said to the reporter we have great teachers and even great teachers strive to be better. We are all learners.

Our playground has been ordered. I am awaiting the delivery in the next 10 weeks. We have also placed some toys in the sandpit for the younger students. These have been well received. Baskets of balls, ropes etc. have been available in the Early Years for students and Mr Dadswell will stocktake the equipment and update if necessary.

Two successful camps have been held for our Year 7 to 9 students. The recent Year 9 Leadership and Development Camp to Mount Buffalo was described as a highlight by our students who experienced caving, abseiling, camping out and cooking their own food. All participants embraced the opportunities that were offered and were a credit to our staff and their families. We have received extremely positive feedback from the organisers of each camp.

The Year 3 to 6 camp program will be held in October in Campaspe Downs. This is a new and exciting camp for all students with wonderful facilities. Information and details regarding the cost will be sent home shortly.

There is a casual vacancy on College Council for a period of one year due to a resignation. Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. Nominations forms are available from the office or please email: altona.p9@education.vic.gov.au and one will be sent to you. Nominations open on Tuesday 11th March and close on Tuesday 18th March.

In recent weeks a large gum tree split and fell on the edge of the oval. There were no adverse windy conditions except for the long hot summer. This has been removed at some expense to the college. An audit was then taken of all trees on site by 2 arborists. There are many trees that have been at the site for over 50 years. This revealed a long list of high and medium risk trees including many around the Early Years building and on the boundary. Metro Trees are in the process of undertaking tree topping and removal works which are essential in light of recent events in Bendigo and NSW and student safety is paramount.
We have two whole school activities planned Italian Day in the last week of term and our athletics day on Tuesday 18th of March. These are great days for building community spirit and relationships across the college and parents are most welcome to join us.

We still need some additional help in the canteen. If anyone is able to assist please contact Mr Kelly.

Our election process for the Student Representative Council is almost complete with our Year 7 & 8 students undertaking the process this week. The SRC will commence next week.

Wishing everyone a lovely relaxing long weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday morning.

Julie Krause
Principal

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

There is a casual vacancy on College Council for a period of one year due to a resignation. This is in the parent category. Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. Nominations forms are available from the office or please email: altona.p9@edumail.vic.gov.au and one will be sent to you. Nominations open on Tuesday 11th March and close on Tuesday 18th March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday 11th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date by which list of candidates and nominations will be posted</td>
<td>Wednesday 19th March</td>
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Please note: If at this time there is more than one nomination for the casual 12 month vacancy and election will be held.

EVERY DAY COUNTS—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.
NEW FURNITURE IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Some fantastic new furniture for our break out areas is now in place for the students to relax, enjoy, read and learn.
Early Years News

The children in the Early Years Learning Centre hold an assembly every fortnight with the next one being held on 14th March from 2:30pm until 3:00pm.

The assembly is always held in the library.

All parents are welcome to come and see the Early Years students presenting work and receiving their Star Student Awards.

Megan Penny

Grade 1A Teacher

Our Year 5/6 Students

After visiting Sovereign Hill just a couple of weeks ago, our Year 5/6 students have written personal narratives of their experience at Sovereign Hill. Here is one example:

SOVEREIGN HILL

It was a sunny day, I woke up at 7:30 and I had breakfast I remembered that on Wednesday something was happening but I didn’t know what. When I finished bushing my teeth I looked to the timetable and with big letters I saw SOVEREIGN HILL!!! At 9:10am I was in the bus. When we finally arrived at 10:40am, I saw a big door. We crossed the door…. I saw my dream Sovereign Hill, it was huge! The first thing we did was gold smelting. We saw how the people from the 1800s made the gold brick it was awesome! Then we went to the gold shop. I saw a bottle with gold nuggets, but unfortunately I couldn’t buy it.

When we went to the awesome Mine Tour, we saw the biggest gold nugget in Australia! When we finished we went to gold panning but unfortunately I didn’t found any! While I was eating my delicious lunch I had a dream, I was panning when suddenly I found the biggest nugget on the world, but then I hear a voice it was Mrs Taylor, we were going it was all just a dream! When I open my eyes I saw all my classmates going to the Lolly shop! When I finally arrived to the lolly shop I wanted to buy everything but I didn’t buy anything.

When the bus arrived I sat with Jake and we played with my black and white mini soccer ball. We had a great day!

By David C

Grade 5/6B
Italian News

Families welcomed to join in on Italian Day

All families are invited to attend Italian Day. There will be a whole school assembly led by Year 8s and including a little song from Preps. The Italian Room will be transformed into a gallery of our students’ work. It commences at 9:15am, concluding at 9:45am. Feel free to attach yourself to your child’s group and participate in Italian activities from 10 til 11 o’clock too. After lunch there will be a gondola race and a quick award ceremony to finish the day.

The only rule is you must get involved and make the day enjoyable for all!

ITALIAN DAY LUNCHES – 3rd April 2014

IMPORTANT messages:

- Pizza order forms are attached to this newsletter.
- Pizza pre-orders are the only available lunches on the day. THERE WILL BE NO OTHER LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE.
- Pizza preorders must be returned to the office by the end of school on Thursday 27th March. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

HELPERS NEEDED!

I need helpers to visit and help me prepare the Italian Day Gallery before the big day. If you have any time or would like to get involved at all, please email me or drop into the Italian Room; my door is always open as well you know! I also need people with skills such as pasta making, soccer prowess – or anything that will add to the day – so come and see me.
Italian Day 2014 Pizza Lunch – 3rd April 2014

In keeping with our Italian Day celebrations, you have the chance to pre-order pizza slices for your lunch on the day. Each slice is $2 and you can order as many as you like. (Please see Simona if you have food intolerances as there may be a solution.)

Please remember:

All orders and monies must be returned to Wendy and Lauren in the office. Orders must be finalised at the end of school on Thursday 27th March. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

A presto!

Simona - Italian Teacher

NAME: ___________________  CLASS: ___________

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<tr>
<th>PIZZA</th>
<th>Number of Slices</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Margherita</strong>:  Napoli sauce, cheese, oregano</td>
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<td><strong>Tropicana</strong>:  Napoli sauce, cheese, ham, pineapple</td>
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<td><strong>Vegetarian</strong>:  Napoli sauce, cheese, onion, mushroom, capsicum, olives</td>
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<td><strong>Spaghetti</strong>:  Napoli sauce, spaghetti in a traditional beef bolognese sauce, cheese</td>
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Total Money Enclosed
Altona P-9 College presents

ITALIAN DAY

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL 2014

DRESS AS A FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS ITALIAN, WEAR ITALIAN COLOURS OR ITALIAN GEAR – USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

ITALIAN DAY 2014

This year we will celebrate Italian Day with lots of fun activities including: a performance from La Comica Variety, a gondola race, soccer drills, an art gallery, pizza lunch, a gelati van, a best dressed competition and a pasta construction competition – both with prizes. Save your coins for a gelato and get your outfit organized!
A presto!
Pasta Competition

Landmarks & Icons

Students and families are invited to enter our ‘Pasta Construction Competition’.

Using predominantly dry pasta, construct a reproduction of an Italian landmark or icon. Finished pieces will be displayed in the Italian Gallery

Contact Simona if you have any queries: costello_simone.m1@edumail.vic.gov.au
Our Year 9 Science Students

This week the Year 9 students have been studying the nervous system. They constructed a Neuron Cell model and completed a brain dissection. Here are some photos:

Fundraising

Come along to Altona College Skill Share session. The Parent and Friends Group is starting this new fun get together in order to make gifts for our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls and our Market stall.

This is a chance to learn a new skill - maybe one that you’ve been meaning to but haven’t got around to yet. We will start with crochet this session. Each participant will learn the basics of crochet and take home their first piece. Materials included.

Time and Dates: Friday, March 14; 9:15-11:15am
Located at: Altona College room TBA

See display in the office for an example.
Contact: Tarius, Liz or Amanda (of the Parents and Friends Group) for more information and to RSVP Tarius: temcarthur@gmail.com or Liz: lizardpaul04@optusnet.com.au
Before Wednesday 12th March.

If there are skills that you’d like to learn or that you’d like to share, let us know. We hope to run many more skill sharing sessions.
Our Calendar for March

March 2014

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<td>YP-4—National Galley Excursion ADDSA</td>
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<td>Rockband—After school</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Year 7 Volleyball</td>
<td>Y5/6—ADDSA Cricket Year P-4—Responsible Pet Education</td>
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<td>Rockband—After school</td>
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<td>Y5/6—ADDSA Cricket YP-4—Library Excursion</td>
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Welcome to Camp Australia Before, and After School Care
Here are photos of the fun we have had over the past two weeks. We made things with boxes, plastic sticks and Lego, and we drew, painted, and coloured pictures.

Once registered
You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program:

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

HOW TO GET STARTED
Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents

we make kids smile
www.campaustralia.com.au