Dear Families

Today, Friday 7th February 2014 marks the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires that claimed the lives of 173 people. To mark this anniversary, and to honour all those affected by the Victorian bushfires in February 2009, the Australian National Flag was flown at half-mast all day today at all Victorian government schools. In addition to the highest ever loss of human life from a bushfire event, the Black Saturday bushfires also injured 414 people, destroyed more than 2,030 homes, displaced 7,562 people, affected 78 townships, killed countless animals and burned through over 4,500 square kilometres of land. As we enter a weekend of high temperatures it is a timely to remember the importance of being fire safe particularly when visiting high risk areas.

As we begin another school year there have been some items of correspondence circulated to families that are due back to school on Monday.

Preps    School Nursing Program 2014 (large white envelope)   Return date: February 10th
Year 7   Immunisation Cards – HPV, Chicken Pox                      Return date: February 10th
Year 9   Immunisation Cards – HPV (Boys only)                        Return date: February 10th

At this time of the year it is important that our new families understand that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs such as an Ambulance. It is strongly recommended that families have coverage in case of emergency.

Each year we have some families report that the most unloved members of our school community have made a reappearance. Itch! Itch! Last week we had all Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 students checked by the Hobson’s Bay Council nurses for head lice. We will continue to check students at the beginning of each term and if there are a number of cases we will have follow up checks. Please be vigilant by checking your child’s hair for signs of head lice. Unfortunately they do appear from time to time however reinfestation can be avoided by removing all eggs from the hair after treatment. There are various solutions available from the chemist or hairdresser and a number of natural treatments recommended online. The secret to eradication is to remove all eggs from the hair.

College Council Elections 2014

School Council’s play a key role in Victorian government schools. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The School Council supports the Principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

The following vacancies exist on the council for 2014. All vacancies are for two years.

PARENT CATEGORY: 3
DEECD EMPLOYEE CATEGORY: 1

Nominations open on Monday. To nominate for the College Council Election 2014, please hand the nomination form attached by Monday, 24th February 2014 @ 4pm to Wendy Jennings (Business Manager).

There is additional information attached to the newsletter. (Refer Appendix A)

Julie Krause (Principal)
**Early Years News**

The children in the Early Years Learning Centre have been really excited to meet new baby Charlotte in Matthew and Wills family. They have also enjoyed catching up with Charlie and Lincoln’s twin baby brothers.

Congratulations to both families on their new arrivals. Welcome to the Altona P—9 College Community: Charlotte, Matisse and William.

**Physical Education News**

Physical Education has really kicked into full swing and students have returned with a great mindset and a willingness to achieve their best. Last year our College running team participated in the 5km race of the Melbourne marathon which was a huge success and this morning we had a total of 17 Year 7-9 students attend early morning running training. It was fantastic to see many new faces at the training session and the level of effort and commitment was great, even in such warm conditions. With the addition of many new students to the group I would also like to welcome some new teachers to our running team: Mr Moore, Ms Wiffen, Mrs Penry and Mrs Taylor. They will join the existing teachers consisting of Mr McGee, Mr Kelly and myself (as the coach).

The Altona P-9 College running team calendar is well under way with many events planned throughout the year. Currently the students are preparing to enter the 5km ‘Run for the Kids’ event and also the Hobson’s Bay Division Cross Country later in May.

I formed the Altona P—9 College Running team with the intent of offering Year 7-9 students an opportunity to continue developing their fitness that extends beyond what is done within regular Phys Ed classes. This is a specialised program where students follow a structured running training program, designed to prepare them for 3km, 5km and 10km+ events. They also receive tips and information in regards to tactically preparing themselves for distance races, nutrition, hydration, flexibility, mobility and post exercise recovery.

I am really looking forward to seeing this year’s running group take on the many challenges that come with preparing for distance running events.

Rhett Dadswell
Physical Education

**Year 7 Science News**

This week our Year 7's tried out their new Lab coats in their first science lesson of the year. The learning intention of the lesson was to learn the names of the Science equipment and use it safely. At the end of the session the students were successfully able to identify, name and safely use equipment during an activity.

They learnt how to use the new equipment engaging in an experiment where they observed changes in chemicals.

Gary Helmore
Middle Years Science

**PHOTO DAY 21ST February 2014**

Photo order envelopes have been distributed today to all students, please fill in your photo envelope and return to your teacher with the correct money enclosed. All instructions are on the ordering envelope. Family portrait envelopes are available from the College Administration Office.

Say cheese!!!
Our 2014 Prep Students

Our Prep students have settled in well to our school routines. This week they have been learning how to write. On Tuesday they proudly read and wrote “I am in Prep W.” Children were able to identify the W and “guess” some other words when prompted. They happily traced over the sentence and copied it underneath. It is now displayed on the wall so the children can match the words and reassemble the text. They also enjoyed a visit to the art room where they climbed onto the high stools and spent time drawing their families. Mr Vening was very impressed with the way they could write their names. The pictures above show them hard at work!

Our Year 5/6 Students

Our Year 5/6 students are investigating Australia in the 1800’s and are off to Sovereign Hill on the 19th February. This week they worked in groups and created timelines of key historical events.

ABC Music—Guitar and Keyboard Lessons

On Thursday we had two instrumental teachers visit the college and introduce our students from Prep to Year 8 to the ABC Music program. The company offers group lessons on a weekly basis in both Guitar and Keyboard. These lessons are held within school hours and students are withdrawn from class for half an hour. Times are generally rotated so the students do not miss the same lesson each week. It is on a user pays basis. A brochure is attached to the newsletter. Families must contact the company directly to book their child into the program and arrange payment. This can be done via mail or on the internet. The program will begin next Thursday if there is sufficient interest from our community.
Our Calendar for February

February 2014

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<td>ADSSA Swimming Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>Year 5 / 6 Sovereign Hill excursion</td>
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Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews are being held on Tuesday 18th February. Bookings are made on the following website using the code provided below. www.schoolinterviews.com.au If parents do not have internet at home please contact the office on 9250 8050 and speak to Wendy who will make your booking for you.

Uniform

Double C Jeanery has stock in the shop of all items outstanding. White shirt, polos, ties. Bags will be in store Wednesday 12th Feb.

Student Leadership—Junior School Council

I would like to introduce our two inaugural College Captains, Fiona ElShani and Daniel Ketchley. They will be leading our Junior School Council in 2014. The captains were elected by the students and staff at the end of 2013.

The Junior School Council will have representatives for Years 5—8. An election process has been put in place by the captains to select one male and female from each class.

School Banking Program

Dear Parents and students,

For those already registered for school banking, it will begin again on Wednesday 12th February. Please ensure your deposit slip is filled out and the correct money inserted. A school banking pack will be sent home with all students filled with information about the school banking program for new families.

If your child already has a Commonwealth Youth Saver Account and you would like them to participate please send it to school with them so they can start. For every deposit students receive a token and once they have collected 10 tokens they can be redeemed for a reward.

This is also a great fundraising initiative for our school as 5% of the total banked, the Commonwealth Bank gives back to our school. Last year school banking raised just over $200.00.

If you gave any questions please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Kind regards
Liz Mayr
School Banking Coordinator
Race for Alex Fundraiser

Sunday 23rd February - 10am - 2pm
d’Olive - 454 Point Cook Road, Point Cook

Alexandra Miller has recently been diagnosed with DIPG (Brain Tumour). Her family have been given up to 12 months to create a lifetime of memories with their precious daughter. This fundraiser aims to raise as much money as possible to support this amazing family in the race of their life.

To book a stall contact Janette on 0405 372 198. To donate to the raffle please contact Claire on 0402 697 632

Gold Coin Donation on Entry
Free Events
Live Music - Ricky Muscat from Australian Idol - 2-6 pm
Bouncy Castle 10-2 pm

Gold Coin Donation Events
Hey Dee Ho 1-2pm
Jake Wilkinson Magician 12-1:30
(with 30 min show at 12)
Face Painting 10-2pm

Other events:
Craft, Baking and local business stalls 10-2pm
Sausage Sizzle 10-2pm
Raffle Drawn onsite at 4pm

www.facebook.com/theraceforalex
Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2014

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
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.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.
Remember
Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
Consider standing for election to council this year
Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

**College Council Election Process and Timetable**

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