Dear Families

What a busy week it has been with the term seemingly flying by? I would like to thank all families who took the opportunity on Tuesday evening to meet with class teachers to discuss their child’s progress in semester 1. It is pleasing to receive not only positive feedback on your child’s progress but also on their commitment to our values of: Respect, Learn and Care. We value this partnership with families with research clearly indicating that when parents/guardians are involved in their child’s education it improves outcomes. Our values are forefront in all decisions we make at the college to ensure that we continue to build on the strong positive culture that has developed and that it continues to strengthen.

Second semester is always a time in schools where plans begin to be put in place for the coming year. We have a small number of Prep student’s currently enrolled and firm numbers in year 7. If you know of families who are considering our school for their child’s education please continue to encourage them to make a time for a tour and to complete the enrolment process and secure a place. We will need a clear indication of 2014 enrolments by the end of term to ensure that staff is in place for 2014.

Our current Prep students visited Altona West Kindergarten on Thursday to share their learning with the children. They proudly shared their reading skills highlighting just how much learning occurs in that first semester of school. We often reflect on that first day of school where the children sat with book boxes and browsed picture story books. At their assembly later in the day they also read confidently to their peers sharing their writing. We will continue to build strong relationships with local kindergartens in the area and work towards building prep enrolments. In October all pre-schools will be attending the college to view the Police Pipe Band in the gymnasium.

A reminder to all families that Monday August 12th is a pupil free day here at the college. On this day we will be focus on developing a rich and viable English curriculum in line with the new AusVELs (Australian Curriculum). We have been fortunate to have retained some National Partnership funding that has enabled this high quality professional learning for our staff. In an effective school teachers are learners too!

Science week is being celebrated across Australia next week. Gary Helmore our Middle Years Science specialist teacher has oversen the development of some special activities to bring this important curriculum area alive for our students. Our Year 9 students have a robotics incursion and sound investigations will take place in Years 1 and 2. Our Preps will be investigating the science of bubbles and our year 3 and 4 students will continue their focus on energy. Students in Years 5 to 8 will be completing practical learning sessions for prizes awarded for the ‘Top Scientist.’ Science will be a focus area at the college from 2014 in line with the new national curriculum.

Our middle year’s book club commenced this term with all students working in small groups with either a member of leadership, classroom teacher or support staff to share the reading and discussion of a novel. Students are acting as facilitators leading discussions around the text on a weekly basis. I would like to thank all staff involved and to Miss Amanda who has overseen the program. It was wonderful touring a family through the college last week with our 5 – 8 students huddled in groups with a staff member sharing their reading. It was great to see our specialist teachers also involved in the program with a group also sharing a text in the art, Italian and science rooms.

I have been advised that we will be undergoing an OH & S audit on 8th August. This is a 5 year check. We have been proactive in ensuring that OH & S compliance is in place following a recent meeting with a DEECD advisor.

Today we had a visit from a group of students from Japan. Some of these students are staying with families from our College. I would like to thank you for assisting our international visitors on their learning journey. I know it has been truly appreciated by all involved. The students spent time in the early years observing and joining in activities with the students whilst sharing a little of their culture. This afternoon they joined our middle year’s students in a writing session, practising their English skills in an authentic learning environment.

At our council meeting on Monday evening we undertook a visioning exercise investigating how we can continue to build Altona P – 9 College as a leader in education. Part of the discussion focussed not only on curriculum development to ensure our students learn and flourish but also on our grounds. Keep watching our newsletter for details.

Julie Krause
Principal

ALTONA P-9 COLLEGE

2013

TERM THREE DATES

Friday 2nd August
Fukuoka Seiryo Japanese Students visiting.

Monday August 5th-
Friday August 9th
Science Week

Monday 12th August
Curriculum Day
(Student Free Day)

Wednesday 21 August
Athletics Team- Hobsons Bay District Athletics Carnival
Newport Aths Track

Tuesday 27th August
5/6 Werribee Zoo

School Council—6pm

September 10, 17, 18
Kick Boxing Incursion
Years 9, 8 & 7

TERM FOUR DATES

11th-13th November
Grades 3-6 Camp
Lady Northcote Camp
(Confirmed)
Payments can be made towards the camp at the office anytime.

Monday December 16th
Middle Years Beach
Program

2014 ENROLMENTS

PREP & YEAR 7 2014

College Tours are conducted every Friday Morning at 11.30am Please phone the school office on 9250.8050 to book a tour.

Private tours with the Principal are also available, please phone to arrange a time with the Principal.

ALTONA P-9 COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
Edition 12 August 2 2013
Altona P-9 College, 103a Grieve Parade, Altona 3018. Private Bag 9, Altona 3018.
T: (03) 9250.8050 E: altona.p9@edumail.vic.gov.au W: www.altonap9college.vic.edu.au
I would like to encourage all students from Year 5 – 9 and their parents to attend the Wyn Bay IlenPartners in Learning Information Night

Date: Tuesday 6th August
Time: 5.30 – 7.30
Place: Year 9 Building

The two hour interactive workshop will focus on:

- Understanding the personal changes facing young people
- Becoming more organised and less stressed
- Developing time management skills. “I can rather than “I don’t care”.
- Setting realistic goals that matter to you
- Connecting learning at home and at school “who is responsible for what?”
- Creating resilience, not just for school, but also for life outside school

Light Refreshments will be provided.

Please contact the school office 9250.8050 if you would to attend.

Frances Totney
Student Wellbeing

---

**SCHOOL COUNCIL—PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Hi to all the families of Altona P-9 College. I hope that everyone has settled into Term 3 and is looking forward to an eventful term ahead. I can’t believe that half a year has already flown by!!

I thought I'd drop you all a quick note to let you know what has been happening with School Council.

Firstly, sub-committees were created at the beginning of the year to ensure that School Council runs smoothly and they are as follows:

- Fundraising
- Finance
- Grounds & Environment
- Policy

These committees meet at least once a month and report to School Council. As you are well aware the Fundraising committee has been working hard and have organised several activities to date and a lot more exciting things are to come so watch this space.

Also, there has been a lot of work put into introducing some new policies and these will be issued in the coming weeks.

Secondly, we had Joan West visit us at our May meeting who is a highly experienced consultant in the operations of School Council. Her presentation outlined the role of School Council and its members and clarified the expectation from members. A lot of the members present found this very beneficial and we will use this knowledge in moving Altona P-9 College forward.

The last thing that I’d like to mention is that Julie had School Council do a “Visioning” exercise at our meeting that was held on Monday night this week as to what the parents want the school to look like in the future (she has also performed this exercise with staff). This was an enjoyable exercise and a lot of great ideas were put forward. I’m looking forward to see what the overall results will be.

I look forward to reporting more great things that School Council will be discussing for the remainder of the year.

Af Vandenberg (President)

---

**Seasons for Growth Program**
Learning to live with change and loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Altona P9 we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. Last term Cathie Staunton, School Chaplain, facilitated a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth exploring issues around the loss of a parent. This term we are planning on offering the same program in relation to family separation and divorce. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

If your family has experienced separation or divorce in the last year or so If you think your son or daughter would benefit from the Seasons for Growth program we would encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the program.

We are pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. To express your interest or if you require further information please contact Cathie Staunton at the College or email Staunton.cathie.l@edumail.vic.gov.au by Fri 9th August.
On Wednesday July 31 our Preps celebrated their 100th day of school. We had a day full of 100 things. We read 100 words, wrote about what we would be doing when we are 100, completed 100 exercises and did lots of counting to 100.

For part of the day we were lucky enough to have our 3/4 buddies and some parents join us to help with some of the 100 day activities.

It was a fantastic day and all of the students clearly proved that they are definitely 100 days smarter.

Congratulations Prep!
When I am 100
I will have a mustache.
I will look like an old man.

When I am 100
I will work with a working stick.

When I am 100
I will read a book.

When I am 100
I will ride a book.
I have white hair and
I sleep a lot.
Emotional Awareness

The picture I have included below was in this week’s edition of Hobson’s Bay Leader Newspaper. The article accompanying the picture spoke about our school and the important work we do in positive education. You will notice that the cards in the photograph are naming emotions and the way we can all feel. Emotional awareness is a key aspect in positive education; being able to name our emotions and describe how we feel as a result is a crucial step in managing emotions. All emotions have a purpose and our aim when working with our students is to help them to learn ways to bounce back from anger, sadness, worry and disappointment and to increase the duration of their happiness, joy, enthusiasm and love. Barbara Fredrickson, a leader in positive psychology tells us that ‘positive emotions do more than make us feel good, they also expand our thinking, help us generate new ideas and encourage us to consider other possibilities’. Encouraging optimism and increasing positive emotion is important for our wellbeing. These happy prep children seem to have that all worked out.

ALTONA

Lincoln, 5, Aliana, 6, Nichole, 5, and Jack, 5, from Altona P-9 college learn about emotions.

Students are learning to think positively
Our Inquiry topic this term is States of Matter (solids, liquids and gases). We investigated how States of Matter change from solid to liquid and from a liquid to gas. All this was done by the help of our teachers Mrs Taylor and Mrs Borracci. They helped us get a better understanding of the topic and explained how molecules are formed together to create solids, liquids and gases.

Mrs Borracci always does a demo to make sure that we don’t make any mistakes. If we do, she encourages us to have another go until we succeed!

By Anastasia & Fiona
Welcome to Camp Australia Before, and After School Care

We have had a busy three weeks so far this term. The children have rediscovered familiar games and activities as well as discovered some new ones.

Inside, we learned Junior Scrabble, which is a great game for teaching younger children to match letters. We used the chess board and the Connect 4 counters to create Checkers which a few of us played for a change. We got out the “Hama” beads and have been creative with these. This is a good activity for developing fine motor skills in children. At one stage this week all of us were sitting around the table chatting and working.

Outside, soccer is a favourite outdoor game with the children, who enjoy using the “back paddock” for this. We also played Poison Ball on the Bat Tennis courts and praised the Prep garden which has strawberries and pansies planted.

Using their imaginations the children created a new “shop” game for aliens and the boxes from all our term 4 deliveries have become a train, using the old key-boards to “computerise” it.

Our cooking experience was to make Chocolate Crackles which were enjoyed by everyone.

On a more serious note we had two Evacuation Drills over the past two weeks. We have developed a quick and safe way to evacuate our building in an emergency so we can get to a safe place.

Curriculum day 12th August: There will be a student free day on Monday 12th August for the staff. Unfortunately, we did not get enough children to make a full-day program run by Camp Australia feasible. If your child is usually permanently booked for this day you will not be charged a fee.

If you want to find out more about what we do come and see us.

Natalie MacLachlan, Coordinator
FUNDRAISING NEWS

5 Cent Drive.
The 5 Cent drive is up and running with 5 cent coins coming in. So far our first place class is Prep S with 1/2 B (Ferroni) and 7A tied for second. If you've been saving your coins, drop them into the office (in a zip bag is preferable). Be sure to label with your name and home group.

We've started to get some donations from local businesses as well. Remember you can encourage businesses to sponsor our efforts with a matching donation. See a member of our Fundraising Team if you have any questions.

We wish to thank the following businesses for their generous donations for our 5 Cent Drive and other upcoming fundraising events:

Wildberry Flowers & Gifts, Blyth Street, Altona
Cheryle’s Shoppe Male & Female Hair, Pier Street, Altona
Tyrrell’s Pharmacy, Pier Street, Altona
Maestro Hair & Beauty, Pier Street, Altona
Style Em for Hair, Queen Street, Altona
Martin Didzy Chemist, Harrington Square, Altona

If you find yourself in the area, please be sure to support these shops when you can and let them know you’re from Altona P-9 College. Or just pop in and say thanks!

Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition!

To be eligible you must:

- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school or starting next year
- have some form of household income, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment

Call or SMS Daniel Crotty, at The Smith Family on 9749 7194 or 0439 585 702.

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, with ANZ providing matched savings for participants.

Please see Frances if you’d like to know more about the program.