Dear Parents,

As you would be aware our Principal Julie Krause has flown the coup and is visiting family in the UK. She is having a well-earned rest and will return in week 3 of term 3.

Weeks 9 and 10 of term have been incredibly busy. Our Year 8 students have been very committed to their Economics unit; voluntarily staying back after school to attend tutorials to help them study for their exam. It is brilliant to see the students so engaged in this work and keen to succeed. A huge thanks to Mr McGee and Ms Wiffen for giving up their own time after school to work with the students.

Our Year 5/6 soccer team has qualified for the finals for the first time I can remember! Well done team, great reward for your hard training and commitment. Thanks to Mr Dadswell for guiding them all the way.

The end of semester reports went home to families on Tuesday. Prep-4 students received theirs by hand and the Year 5-9 student reports were posted out in the afternoon. If you have not received yours by Thursday’s mail please contact the school. Parent-teacher interviews have been arranged for July 22nd. This is an opportunity to discuss your child’s report with their teacher so please go online to make a booking. www.schoolinterviews.com.au Enter the code P5NSL (see flyer in this newsletter for the simple instructions).

In our last newsletter Ms Krause mentioned that our Middle Years Music teacher Ms Emilie Wendt was successful in gaining a scholarship in a high ranking Music school in Finland. Such a great achievement and we wish her all the best. In to replace Ms Wendt will be Ms Jayson Cooper, please make him welcome, I’m sure you will. We also welcome Mrs Cathie Staunton (Kitchen Garden Teaching Specialist) and Ms Carolina Cordeiro (Education Support Garden Specialist) on board as new appointments to begin in term 3. Cathie and Carolina will work closely to develop our new kitchen garden program for students in the primary years. We look forward to tasting some of the great things that will be prepared from our own garden.

You may have noticed that our college website was inaccessible for quite a period of time. Unfortunately the company that hosts our site (Sponsor-Ed) experienced some ‘gremlins’ in the system and this affected over 150 schools. The good news is that it is all back up and running and has been updated for families. We apologise for any inconvenience, this has been frustrating for us all. Our website is a fantastic resource for families to stay up to date with college news, please make us an ‘App’ on your smartphone to keep up to speed.

As the cold weather has approached we have noticed a ‘drop off’ in the school uniform worn by students. The holidays are approaching, please use this time to purchase the correct uniform (both dress and sports uniform). A green woolen jumper is essential for Middle Years students and girls, black leggings are NOT part of our sports uniform....navy blue track suits pants only. Finally, a mention about the staff car park. We have recently had installed automatic gates to the staff car park. This gate is for staff only. Too often I have seen small students running through there to awaiting parents. The gates will be closed during the day because it is a safety risk. All students and parents are to park on the street and enter via the school’s front entrance. For the safety of our great kids, please adhere to this request.

From all of the staff at Altona P-9 College, enjoy a safe and happy holiday with your kids.

Mathew Kelly
Assistant Principal
Dear Altona P-9 College families,

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held from 2.10pm til 7pm on Tuesday 22nd July, 2014.
You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 22ND JULY at 1pm.

Enter THIS school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.

P5N5L

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their mobile phone; please call Lauren in the office who will gladly book a time on your behalf. Interviews are strictly 10mins and spaces are limited.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.
STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS

What a term is has been! I trust and hope that the term break will offer all with a chance to pause and recharge. Upon reflection of the term, personally, is has been a pleasure getting to know students, staff and parents alike. The Winter Day Warm Breakfast was a prime example of the collaborative community of the College. In this final Wellbeing article of the term, I would like to outline some of the initiatives scheduled for Term 3. Primarily, there will be a focus on Mindfulness, Gratitude and Empathy as enhancers of Resilience.

Mindfulness

“Mindfulness is the ability to focus our attention on what is important rather than be distracted by what isn’t. Mindfulness can be a powerful antidote to the distractions and stresses of our modern lives (reference: Mindfulness at Work by Dr Stephen McKenzie). In an educational context mindfulness applied to learning is the practice of ignoring distractions, disregarding unhelpful self-chatter and focusing on the here and now.” (Hassad & Chambers, http://mindfullearning.com.au/)

Smiling Mind

Smiling Mind is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that provides free web and App-based Mindfulness Meditation tools and resources to help bring balance to young lives. http://smilingmind.com.au/. Altona P-9 College is looking forward to enhancing our connection to the work of Smiling Mind.

Grill’d & Smiling Mind Local Matters Initiative

I am pleased to announce that, during the month of August, Altona Prep-9 College will be the recipient of a month-long Local Matters’ campaign that Smiling Mind is undertaking with Grill’d stores nationally. Altona P-9 College will be the designated recipient of the Grill’d Point Cook store Local Matters campaign.

Each month, Grill’d stores undertake a ‘Local Matters’ initiative to support local groups / causes within the community.

This image provides an idea of what the initiative looks like in-store...

Customers of Grill’d will be given a token to place into a jar. Each jar represents a local group. Altona P-9 College will be one of the three groups supported by Grill’d Point Cook. The more tokens placed into the Altona P-9 College (jar), the more chance that the College will receive Smiling Mind resources. These resources will be used to enhance Mindfulness, and in turn, Resilience at our College.

I wish you all the very best for a safe and happy term break.

2014 PRE-PREP LITERACY PROGRAM

Altona P-9 College is initiating a Pre-Prep Literacy Program to assist kindergarten children to be school ready by building the foundations for literate, inquisitive and independent learners.

Please encourage all of your pre school friends to join this fabulous opportunity. Please call on 9250 8050.

Mrs. Amanda Elmer
Wellbeing/Language Support
Altona Prep-9 College
2014 Pre-Prep Literacy Program

Building the foundations for literate, inquisitive and independent learners.

Our Pre Prep Literacy program intends to:
- Develop phonemic awareness through letter/sound relationships.
- Foster a love of literature through exposure to stories, poems and rhymes.
- Introduce Pre-Prep students to collaborative learning communities by identifying and developing positive education character strengths (particularly those of Love of Learning, Fairness, Kindness, Friendship, Enthusiasm and Gratitude).
- Encourage independence and student driven inquiry.
- Create safe and clear transition pathways for students.
- Increase the visibility and clarity of thinking through the incorporation of Thinking Routines (Harvard's Project Zero, Making Thinking Visible).

When:
In Term 3, the program will begin on Thursday 7th August and will be held each Thursday (9-11am).
For all students enrolled as 2015 Altona P-9 Preps, the program will continue in Term 4, running every Thursday morning (9-11am).

What:
Our college prides itself on the connections developed within and between learning communities. Pre-Preps will have the opportunity to work with specialist teachers and meet some of their soon-to-be peers. They will be introduced to the structure of school routines and be encouraged to be confident and independent learners.

Why:
Altona P-9 College prides itself on academic and social excellence. It believes strongly in this program and it’s place in preparing children for developing strong academic skills and social relationships.

Cost:
The school’s belief in this program is such, that there will be no cost to participants. There will, however, be a limited number of places.

Expressions of Interests:
Expression of Interest forms will be distributed via your child’s Kindergarten in early Term 3.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

RUN FOR THE KIDS

2 senior running team members Tia and Anthony gave up part of their holidays to participate in the 2014 Run for the Kids event. Both students completed the 5km course amongst many thousands of participants.

SPARTAN KIDS RACE 2014

Over the course of term 1 and part of term 2 our college running team members trained 2 days a week before school in preparation for the 2014 Kids Spartan Race. It proved to be every bit as muddy, dirty and fun as what the pictures show. All competitors completed 3 x 1km laps of the obstacle course that involved copious amounts of mud, sand bags, climbing obstacles, hills and slopes. Congratulations to all that entered and a huge thankyou to the parents that made the hour and 20 minute drive to support our running team members in this event.

Mr Dadswell
PE Coordinator

YEAR 9 NEWS

BE THE HERO!

As part of the Year 9 Health unit on healthy relationships, students have been taking part in the Be the Hero Program, developed by the Victorian Women's Trust. This four week unit presents students with engaging facts, DVD presentations, quizzes and role plays designed to help reduce violence. It presents opportunities to learn strategies for successful relationships, how to stand up against violence, and where to find help. It recognises that most men are caring and respectful to women, and that they have a role in speaking out to protect women who are victims of domestic violence. This is the second year that the program has been presented by Mr Dadswell and Jane Altermatt our Secondary School Nurse, and the students have demonstrated their maturity in discussing these challenging topics. More about the program can be found at www.bethehero.com.au.

Jane Altermatt
Secondary School Nurse
Mr Vening
Art and Technology Coordinator

FUNDRAISING

WINTER DAY

If it's snowing outside-make Snowmen!

On Wednesday the 18th of June, Altona P-9 College was transformed into a Frozen winter wonderland. Working as a team our school connections and fundraising groups put together an amazing day full of fun, snow and winter games.

We had sleigh racing, penguin bowling, snow globe making and a photo with friends/family scene.

With hot pizza for lunch and so much fun the coldness of the day faded away.

A big Thank you to all the teachers, staff and students that participated and prepared this fabulous day.

A special thank you goes out to Celina Van Belkom, Tania Raquel, Tarius McArthur and the fantastic team for making this special day come alive.

Photo's will be available for viewing and extras may be purchased in term 3.

Regards
Fundraising Committee
## Our Calendar for June

### June 2014

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FREE PLAY GROUP
FOR YOUR CHILD

KINDA KINDER

Enhance your child’s learning and development of literacy, numeracy and socialising skills through play and fun activities:

For children 0-6 years old
One hour per week; no need to book
As a parent, you also participate (and must be in attendance)
Led by Victoria University students doing the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood/Primary)
With the support of primary schools and local government.

Starting date: Every Tuesday 9:15am till 10:15am.

To be held at Altona P-9 College:

103A Grieve Parade
Altona
VIC 3018

Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development
Phone: 9919 2037
Email: natalie.vernucio@vu.edu.au

vu.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No. 00124k
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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA
Welcome to Camp Australia Before and After School Care

Our Lego Day was held on Friday 13th June. We had 17 school children there and we had a great time. The children learned how to bend Lego, how to look after it properly and make new things.

A hoop of Lego, a Tardis, Yoda, a dragon, great displays, a big smile and an engrossing time with Lego Master Sue Ann.

Natalie MacLachlan, Coordinator

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: www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

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.

we make kids smile
www.campaustralia.com.au

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