Dear families
It's hard to believe the school year is drawing to a close. The students are enjoying their last days with friends and our Year 9 graduates are certainly excited about the future. I am very proud of all our students. They have worked so hard over the past year either in the classroom, in the school ground, as leaders or as members of our connections groups. The commitment of our Middle Years students to their learning through attending supported study is to be commended. It is evident that the changes we have made to the curriculum have made a difference.

Thank you to all our families for choosing Altona P – 9 College and entrusting us with your young person every day. It is never an easy thing to do to entrust your child to someone else. The research clearly shows that when parents are actively involved in their child's educational life then it leads to greater opportunities for success. Our students show so many positive qualities and we all know that all this starts at home.

To the staff of our wonderful college, I say thank you, it has been a collective effort by ALL of you throughout 2014. Thank you ALL for modelling and living our key values of Respect, Learn and Care. You have all been academic guides to our students this year or through their previous years of education. Each and every one of you has made a significant contribution to each of our pupils socially, emotionally and academically. Thank you ALL for your work in preparing each individual for the challenges and exciting times that lie ahead. We have seen many of our student's blossom as leaders and it is lovely to watch each and every young person leave at the end of the day with a smile on their face as they bid me, Mr Kelly and Mr McGee farewell.

This evening we will bide farewell to our Year 9 students at a celebration dinner. This week they have attended orientation programs in their future schools which they have embraced. We wish each and every one of them every success in the future. I am sure they are looking to the future with trepidation but also with great excitement about what lies ahead. They are growing up in a rapidly changing world and the scary thought is that by the time they may finish university many of the jobs they will enter may not yet have been invented. And it is only 7 years away. They are OUR future. The Year 9 students are extremely special to each and every one of us here at the college including me. I have appreciated their sense of humour and idiosyncrasies, learning quickly never to enter the building with a handful of lolly pops without expecting to be mobbed. Tonight they will stand proud with their families and share the highlights of the year. In the words of Dr Seuss, a message to our Year 9's. Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!

On Tuesday we welcomed our new Year 7 students to the college. The feedback from the primary schools is that the students returned full of excitement for the years ahead. Our Year 6, 7 & 8 students also participated in an orientation program on Tuesday. A "step up" session for 2015 for students in Year Prep to 5 was on Monday.

On a different note, this year we will also say farewell to Mrs Kylie O'Sullivan, Mrs Mary Borracci and Mrs Tracey Hanson. Mrs O'Sullivan is moving closer to home down on the coast and is looking forward to seeing her eldest enter the classroom for the first time. Mrs Borracci will be working closer to home at Tarneit Senior College. I wish both teachers every success in the future. Mrs Hanson has worked across the college supporting the integration program. In 2015 Mrs Lynne Johnson will be returning to the college.

Thank you to our students, the models you have provided through our joint early years, middle years and whole school programs have contributed significantly to the culture of our school. You will certainly enjoy a well-earned break. This year you have embraced our new curriculum programs. It is evident when I walk around the college that we have a strong focus on Maths, Science and the Humanities. Our primary student's environmental science knowledge has certainly been enhanced through the Edible Garden Program. Our students are trying new foods and learning that what we see on our plates comes from the ground and the waste can go back into the soil. Our specialist programs Art, Italian, Physical Education and Music are certainly being celebrated and it was wonderful to see our students enjoy their musical celebration last week.

A special thank you also to the fundraising committee who have worked tirelessly to raise much needed additional funds to pay for our new goal posts. I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support throughout the year. I am absolutely delighted to be the Principal of our wonderful college.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, enjoy the lovely sunshine, keep safe and I look forward to seeing our new Preps and Year 7's and everyone back safely at 9:00am on January 29th 2015!

Julie Krause
Principal
ABC MUSIC

Congratulations to our ABC music students who performed at assembly on Monday. Their hard work has certainly paid off and we look forward to our musical students being given further opportunities to perform.

MAJOR RAFFLE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Zipevski family who were the winners of our major raffle. Thank you to all families who supported our fund-raising efforts throughout 2014!
HELP YOUR CHILD BEAT THE BRAIN SLUMP THESE HOLIDAYS

Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed.

And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It's also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students' learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school, however, that 'tap' is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn't be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers' Reading Challenge booklists, visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx

SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERT

Here are some rehearsal photos of the school concert.
2015 AWARDS

The following awards were presented at our final assembly this morning.

Respect, Learn and Care Awards

Prep: Ewan Modrich
Year 1: Sam De Casas Berlanga
Year 2: Taleea Limbrick
Year 3: Riley Thomas
Year 4: Saksham Singh
Year 5: David Zipevski
Year 6: Kaela Mua
Year 7: Tiana Patros
Year 8: Hanan Katrib
Year 9: Stephanie Atzis

Special services and Citizenship Award presented by Tim Watts

Nick Papakalodoukas

Specialist Team Values Award

David De Casas Berlanga

Year 6 Academic Excellence Award

Jack Collins

Early Years Citizenship Award

Arayan Pai

Sports/Fitness Testing Achievement Awards

Stephanie Atzis
Amee Hobbs
Jascha Millard
Deon Dumesny
Jacinta Sokolis
Lois Peri.

School Captain Awards

Daniel Ketchley
Fiona El-Shani

Dux of the School Award

Hannah-Lee Heeremans

Congratulations to all our award winners for 2015, thank you for your contribution to our college.

A special thank you to our two inaugural college captains Daniel and Fiona. You have made an outstanding contribution to our college this year and we look forward to hearing of your journey in the years to come.

Miss Krause
Welcome to Camp Australia Before, and After School Care

I'd like to wish everyone a great and safe holiday period. Kate Parker will be here to welcome you all back in 2015 and will be with me for a few days during our last week this term. Welcome Kate.

I am sure that many of you are preparing for the holiday season. We have put up a tree and have been making decorations for it.

We also welcome Caesar the Bear who has come to live with us. Eva and Scarlett are enjoying his company. He is a big bear.

Jezzalea made a beautiful snowman.

School finishes on Friday 19th December at 1.10PM. After School Care will start then and I will pick up the children at that time. The afternoon will include a party to celebrate the beginning of the holidays. Your current bookings for 2014 will roll over to 2015. If you are not intending to use the same bookings please change these on line for 2015.

If you want to find out more about what we do come and see us, talk with us and perhaps stay and explore our place.

Natalie MacLachlan, Coordinator

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

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
Wishing you the happiest of holidays!
from the team at Camp Australia

Entry form
Friends of Williamstown and Newport Libraries 2014 – 2015 Summer Writing Competition

Please complete this form and attach it to your entry.
Number each page and do not write your name and details on the story pages.

First name __________________________ Surname __________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
Suburb __________________________ Postcode __________________________
Email ________________________________________________________________
Telephone number _______________________________________________________
Date of birth __________________________________________________________
School attended __________________________________________________________
Year level in 2015 _______________________________________________________
Students graduating Year 12 in 2014 are also eligible to enter.
Library membership number _____________________________________________
Library branch submitted ________________________________________________
Category (please circle) Story / Poem _______________________________________
Number of words for short story __________________________________________
Number of lines for poetry _______________________________________________

I would like to be notified of the 2015-16 Summer Writing Competition:  □ Yes  □ No

Declaration: I declare that this entry entitled __________________________ is an original work. I have not copied all or part of it from another writer. I have not taken anyone else's work and put it in my own words. I have read the conditions of entry.

Signed (entrant) __________________________________________________________

Signed (parent/guardian) __________________________________________________

Privacy Notice:
The information requested is being collected by the Council for the purposes of this writing competition. The information supplied will be used only for this purpose and/or directly related purposes; unless consent is otherwise provided by the applicant. The applicant may apply to the Council for access to and/or amendment of this information. All entries will be confidentially destroyed four weeks after the awards night.

The Friends of Williamstown and Newport Libraries 2014 - 2015
Summer Writing Competition

For students in Prep to Year 12
Opens: Monday 1 December 2014
Closes: Monday 16 February 2015
Over $1,000 worth of prizes to be won.
# January School Holiday Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 12</th>
<th>Tuesday 13</th>
<th>Wednesday 14</th>
<th>Thursday 15</th>
<th>Friday 18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Snakes alive: Drop in to the library to see a snake or tickle a snake.</td>
<td>Snakes alive: 10am to 8pm &lt;br&gt; Altona North Community Library</td>
<td>Snakes alive: 10am to 8pm &lt;br&gt; Altona North Community Library</td>
<td>Mystery movie: Rated G: &lt;br&gt; Adam Wallace: The fun way to write stories. Ages five to eight: 10am to 10:45am &lt;br&gt; Ages nine to 12: 11am to 11:45am</td>
<td>Snakes alive: 10am to 8pm &lt;br&gt; Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre</td>
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<td>Monday 19</td>
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<td>Captain Ace performance: A super hero in need of help! Ages three to nine: 11am to 12pm &lt;br&gt; Laverton Community Hub</td>
<td>Summer Reading Club party: The adventures end to the Summer Reading Club. 2:30pm to 4pm &lt;br&gt; Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre</td>
<td>Trains, planes and automobiles: Story time in the park. 10:30am to 11:30pm &lt;br&gt; Play for Life Pod: St Martin De Porres School Bell Street, Laverton</td>
<td>Summer Reading Club party: The adventures end to the Summer Reading Club. 2:30pm to 4pm &lt;br&gt; Altona North Community Library</td>
<td>Mystery movie: Rated PG &lt;br&gt; 10am to 12:15pm &lt;br&gt; Altona Library</td>
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*Bookings open 2 January 2015 via library website or call 1300 HOB LIB.*

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## Win an iPod!

**Book/Hours Read:**

1. Name: ____________________________
2. Library membership number: ____________________________
3. If you’re not a member of the library, join today!
4. Your postcode: ____________________________
5. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ] Age: ____________________________
6. To go into the draw to win an iPod from **Encyclopaedia Britannica** please include:
   - Postal address: ____________________________
   - Contact phone: ____________________________
   - Email address: ____________________________
   - Thank you for registering.

Winners will be notified in late February 2015.

### Secondary School Registration Form

Pick up a book and join in the adventure. The Summer Reading Club is a free holiday program packed full of activities, games, stories and prizes.

Join in the fun here at the library and online at www.summerreadingclub.org.au.