Dear families,

A highlight for our middle year’s students over the first month of the school year has certainly been our two college camps. This week our year 7 and 8 students travelled to Lake Curumbene Corop providing a wonderful opportunity for them to develop new relationships with students in their home groups. From abseiling to archery, Camp Curumbene has it all! With a wide range of fun school camp activities, the experienced instructors ensured a fun and challenging time for our group. I congratulate our students on their exceptional behavior over the three days. It was certainly a journey enjoyed by everyone involved.

The year 9 camp ensured an early challenge for our new college leaders. At Mount Buffalo they participated in abseiling (over a rock wall), caving and cooking their own dinner over a small traimine. Camping in tents was certainly a new experience for most and sleeping on a small mat in stormy weather certainly tested them out and enabled them to develop new skills and independence.

School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. There were two parent vacancies on the council for 2015. Nominations closed on Monday 23rd February. There were two nominations: Amanda Sams and Sue Buchanan who are duly elected to council. The first meeting of the new council will be held on the 24th March. Mr Hamish McGee is the duly elected DE&T representative.

Our college athletics day will be held on March 17th and a separate notice was sent home to families during the week. Mr Dadswell is posting lists of the “house” colors in the middle years area and our early years staff will inform parents. Students are expected to come dressed in their house colors on the day.

On Monday 23rd March we will recognise the National Day of Action against Bullying. This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying, No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time. Our year 9 leaders will be teaching our students about cybersafety on that day as a part of their LEAD program. It is always great to see ‘kids teaching kids’.

Our college captains and student leadership team are now in place and we will be holding a special assembly to enable them to address the college and be presented with their badges on Monday morning at 9:00am in the “old library”. I congratulate our students who have agreed to represent their peers on the Student Leadership Team.

**Curriculum Day**

A curriculum day will be held on Wednesday 25th March. On this day the staff will be working with Mrs Leslie Tulloch our consultant on the 6 + 1 writing traits which we are currently developing across our Prep – 9 college. There is no school for students on that day. There will be two additional pupil free days during the school year. Dates will be published in the newsletter.

**Lunch Order Service**

Lunch orders are available from our outsourced service *Just Sweets*. This operates WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY ONLY! There are tubs in student’s classrooms for orders or they can be placed in the tub at the student entrance in the administration office.

Wishing all our families a relaxing weekend.

Julie Krause
Principal
STUDENT ACCIDENT AND INSURANCE COVER

As we begin another school year parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.

The Department also does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Every Monday and Wednesday
8:30-8:50am
Come in for a bit of toast and milo!

This year our breakfast program is funded by the Young Carers Program.

The Young Carer Program aims to support young people who are currently undertaking or considering a form of secondary education (includes grade 6), who are struggling at school or are at risk of disengaging in education because of extra responsibilities at home ("caring" for someone in their family who has a disability, chronic illness, mental illness, is frail aged or has drug and alcohol issues.) Sometimes because of what's happening at home, the young person may be unable to attend school regularly, may be distracted at school, may be late to school, might miss out on recreational opportunities, be socially isolated and have a bit more on their plate than most other young people.

The program aims to support young carers educationally, making sure they have support to complete their education. Depending on funding we may also be able to purchase items for school such as books/uniforms and school camps. Young Carer Support Workers can provide one on one support and refer to carer specific counselling. We also have support groups, and run camps/school holiday activities so that our young carers can have some respite and meet other young people who may be in similar situations.

The young Carer Program is all about balancing the caring role, education and having some fun!

If you need further information please don't hesitate to contact the Young Carer Program on 9396 9550.

We have a support worker from the Young Carers Program visiting on Monday 16th March so pop along to Breakfast Club if you would like further information about their program.

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Altona P-9 College Athletics Day
Sausage Sizzle Pre-order Form

Please return to the office by Wednesday the 11th of March. Drinks will be available for purchase at the canteen facilities on site. Sausages can be purchased on the day for grades 5-9, parents and siblings. Sausages are $2 each.

Name/Grade

No. of sausages Total Money Enclosed

$
YEAR 7/8 CAMP

CAMP CURRUMBENE

Our campers settled well on their first day of camp and Monday night they were in bed by 10pm. They all had a great night’s sleep after a range of activities in the afternoon. The duty group were up ready at 7:30am on Tuesday and the other students were getting organised ready for breakfast.

Tuesday night the campers were all quiet by 10:30pm. In Ms Wiffen’s words they were “tuckered out” after a big day of activities. The swimming pool has certainly been well received by the students in the warmer weather they are experiencing. Our Year 8 students have really stepped up as leaders during the camp which has been very pleasing to hear.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Dear Families,

The Parents and Friends committee is putting together Easter Hampers for our Easter Raffle. We would greatly appreciate support with this event with each family donating something Easter related to go in the hampers. This could be chocolate, stickers, plush toys, Easter novelties, etc.

Please take any donations to the school office, they will be accepted up until Tuesday 24th March.

Raffle tickets will be sent home next week.
Tickets are to be returned by Tuesday the 24th March and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday the 26th March.

Thank you for all your support with our fundraising events.

Kind regards
Altona P-9 College Parents and Friends Committee
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM AT SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Students,

ABC Music Group is seeking new enrolments for students interested in joining the INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM in 2015. Lessons are held during the school day and we may COMMENCE AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SHORTLY.

The program provides a fun introduction to music and also assists students thinking to continue their music education in secondary school.

PROGRAM FEATURES
30 minute group lessons
Keyboard & guitars are provided for each student during lessons
Parent/Guardian will be invoiced for the cost of the lessons

Keyboard – Guitar ($135 per term plus *2 keyboard books $35 or guitar book $20)

If you are interested in joining the program during school or after school please call Bill 9890 6040 for an introductory offer

“I would teach the children music, physics and philosophy; but the most important is music, the patterns of music are the keys to all learning” - Plato

CAMP AUSTRALIA
Before and After School Care Program

Hello parents and students,

First of all we’d like to welcome all of the new students and families that have started at Camp Australia’s OSHC and all of those who have returned also. We have had a packed past two weeks with our Dinosaur week having encouraged many inquisitive questions and self motivated research in the area. Buster, the room pet dinosaur, an Ankylosaur, has received lots of attention after finally hatching and he gets lots of TLC every day and loves to be spoiled by the children who love to take care of him and including him in their activities. With many new students enrolling into OSHC, we have also finally established a rewards system called our Star System and a list of room guidelines as well as lists of positive and negative values for which the children all collaborated on and came up with. All of these have been placed side by side on our values wall alongside our Anzac themed set up in honour of the Centenary and the value of Mateship.

This week, we’ve all been getting a little bit messy and creative and learning in the best way possible, by getting our hands dirty and creating individual and group projects. Some of the girls have made stress balls and fairy doors for one of our upcoming fantasy and sci-fi themed weeks and the boys have been painting fantastic pictures and role playing actively.

Next week we have a Gold Rush inspired theme to encourage the children who are and who aren’t attending the trip to Sovereign Hill and giving them a bit of a teaser into the magic of Sovereign Hill and the history behind the Gold Rush in Victoria.

Catch you all next time and be sure to come down and check out our OHSC room around Medford St.
Monday 16th February Michael Masseni and a representative from the Altona Little Athletics Centre came to our school to conduct LAPS (Little Athletics Program for Schools).

It was a fantastic day where our Prep - Year 4 students took part in an introductory athletics session with modified equipment.
New skills and techniques were learnt and it gave all the students an opportunity of taking part in Little Athletics based activities.

Anyone interested in joining Little Athletics, please contact the: Altona Little Athletics Centre on the following:

PHONE NUMBER: 0499 994305
E-MAIL: Altona@javic.com.au
VENUE: Altona Athletics track, Sugargum Drive
DAY OF COMPETITION / TIME: Saturday mornings 8am

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Does your child love to dance?

See their passion for dance grow & confidence bloom from their first steps all the way to the big stage!

Enrolling Now in ALTONA NORTH

www.artzcollective.com.au

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Does your child love to perform?

See their passion for Drama & Performing grow from their first steps all the way to the big stage!

Enrolling now in ALTONA NORTH

www.artzcollective.com.au

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Williamstown Athletic Club Cross Country
Wanna run Cross Country?
The season starts in April.
Check us out on facebook (Williamstown Athletic Club Cross Country)
or call John on 0418322658
**FRIENDLY and FUN, for OLD & YOUNG**

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Williamstown Horse and Pony Club is selling horse poo!
Great for the garden.
4 bags for $14 or $30 for a trailer load BYO shovel.
Located on Maddox Rd, usually anytime after 4pm on a school day there is someone there and then during the weekend."
Our Calendar for March

March 2015

Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun

30  31

2  3  4  5
6
Year 5/6
ADSSA
Summer Sports
P-4 Altona
Library/Homestead
Historical Museum
Excursion

9  10  11  12
9
Labor Day
PUPIL FREE DAY

13
Year 5/6
ADSSA
Summer Sports
Year 7/8 Volleyball

16  17  18  19
17
Athletics Day

20
Year 5/6
ADSSA
Summer Sports
Year 1-4
Sovereign Hill
Excursion

23  24  25
25
CURRICULUM DAY

26  27
27
End of term 1

28  29
Join our school in going GREEN.
Our fabulous lunch bags are just $5.00.
4 colour options available.
Excursion bags! Fold up to nothing
when not in use! $5.00.

Order forms available at the
office, newsletter and
e-mail.
Do you want to make a Movie???

BOOK IN NOW FOR THE

Highly AMAZING and Most Certainly Very Cool.....

Filmmaking Workshops

@ Altona Senior Citizens Centre
2 Sargood St., Altona
(Opposite Louis Joel Centre)

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY, 7.00 to 9.00pm
(2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month)

FABULOUS FUN...

led by the widely experienced Marty Fripp (credits include Mad Max 1)

PLEASE EMAIL: lawrenjohns@gmail.com TO REGISTER INTEREST NOW

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - PLACES ARE LIMITED.

COST: $10.00 per session

Proudly supported by Hobsons Bay Council
& contributing to the 2015 Altona Beach Film Festival
6th of March, 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Click Against Hate

On Tuesday 10th of March and Wednesday 11th of March, our Year 5/6, Year 8 and Year 9 students will be participating the ‘Click Against Hate’ program run by the B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission. This program works in conjunction with the Altona P-9 College’s Anti-Bullying and Cyber-Bullying focus. It is also part of the lead up to our ‘Bullying – No Way’ Day that will be held on Monday, 23rd of March.

Please find attached a letter from the B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission for your information. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Commission on 9272 5677 or the school on 9250 8050.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Giles
(Wellbeing Coordinator)
Altona P9 College
Dear Parents,

The B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission is an organisation dedicated to promoting tolerance, justice and multiculturalism and tackling issues of racism, hatred and anti-Semitism. We do this in many ways, one of which is through educational programs and services.

Next week we will be visiting your school to present your children with our social media program—Click against Hate. Click against Hate engages with students and teaches them how to be safe when they are online. We will be covering a range of topics, including how to deal with cyber bullying, how to determine if a website is credible, invasion of privacy, racism and defamation.

The presenter is a trained educator with more than 20 years’ experience in the classroom. Your children will not be exposed to any graphic images but will be taught how to navigate the internet safely, what it means to be an innocent bystander, a victim of bullying or a bully. The classroom teacher will be present throughout the session.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me on 9272 5677.

Yours sincerely,

Edna Lipson
Development and Project Manager