Dear families

Our college captains and leaders are to be commended for truly displaying our college values at our ANZAC ceremony last Friday. I was certainly moved by the poignancy displayed. We had 3 representatives from the RSL present who passed on their acclamations of the remembrance service. I was extremely proud of all the students who marked the occasion with respect. Thank you to the families who were in attendance supporting us on the day. The memorial display in the office has grown and we will continue to add any memorabilia provided throughout the term.

I received the following feedback from a grandparent present:

I have just returned from the Altona P-9 College ANZAC Day Ceremony and I would like to compliment you and your team on your outstanding tribute to ANZAC Day. I was invited to your school by my daughter in law to witness the ceremony, and I was so impressed with the conduct of the children who have clearly been skilled by your team on the poignancy and importance of such an occasion. My granddaughter was proudly wearing the medals of her Great Grandfather and his photo along with that of my own father was displayed in the classroom window, and I was so happy that I attended and witnessed the occasion. It made me feel very proud to be an Australian.

Cherish, Paige, Luke C and Sommer from Year 5 & 6 are participating in the “Leading Lights” program for primary school students. Megan Penny is overseeing the program this year with the group travelling to Williamstown Primary School last week for their first session. This program focuses on the use of technology and empowering their peers to be cybersafe.

College Council has approved Wednesday June 17th as a curriculum day. There will be no school for students on that date. Staff learning on that day will focus on professional learning teams and will include visits to other educational settings. Please place the date in your diaries.

At the end of term 1 we trialled a mid-semester report for our students in Years 7 to 9. A survey link was sent to families. We have sought feedback from students and are awaiting more responses from our parents. If the survey could be completed it would be appreciated by our college leadership team. It will be great to see our gym renovations commence on Monday. Schultz Building Group will be completing the works. The external walls / façade will be painted; new signage will be added, the entrance replaced and new linoleum placed in the foyer, this will then be freshly painted. The fence on the mezzanine will be replaced to enable a secure gym to be set up for our older students. Internally the brick walls will be capped and painted and the floor re-sanded and sealed. New line markings will be painted. The netting will be replaced and extended above the brick walls. A fresh coat of paint will be applied to sections of the internal frame. New paving will be installed at the entrance. It should look like new. I am expecting the works to be complete by the end of the term.

The new canteen service commenced this week and has certainly been received enthusiastically by the students. Just Sweets put many hours into setting up the facility to ensure it is inviting for the students. It’s now time for families to commence the prep enrolment process for 2016. If there are siblings ready for school next year please pick up an enrolment form from the office. Alternatively if you know of prospective families for next year please encourage them to make a time for a tour. Matt and I have certainly been conducting tours each week for both Prep and Year 7 2016. We are looking forward to continuing our new “Steps to Prep” again this year as it certainly provided a very smooth transition for our Prep children. Children at Altona West Kindergarten have visits planned throughout the year as well.

Enjoy your weekend ahead, here’s hoping the weather is kind to us all.

Julie Krause
Principal

2015 Key Dates

Year 5/6 Immigration Museum Excursion
Monday 4th May

Year 3-6 & Year 9 Cross Country
Tuesday 5th May

Year 9 Sports Science Excursion
Tuesdays 5th May-2nd June

Y7-9 Cross Country
Friday 8th May

YEAR 3, 5, 7, 9 NAPLAN
Tuesday 12th May—Thursday 14th May

Book Fair
Monday 11th—Friday 15th may

Mothers Day Stall
Friday 8th May

Y 9 Melbourne Museum Excursion
Friday 22nd May

NB: A calendar of events for May is in this weeks newsletter.
STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Onwards and ever-upwards, Altona P-9 College staff continue to show commitment to improving their professional skills and knowledge. At the forefront of this professional learning, is the premise that our students are the key beneficiaries of such learning.

At the conclusion of Term 1, college staff participated in a whole-school Curriculum Day consisting of intensive workshops. The workshops included deepening our understanding of the 6 + 1 Writing Traits program, Comprehension (across all subject areas), Language Conventions and Visible Thinking Routines. Such professional learning aims to increase teacher capacity and consequently enhance student outcomes.

NAPLAN—National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students participate in the NAPLAN annually. This year, these assessments will take place from 12th-14th of May. We wish all students involved the very best in undertaking these assessments.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Finally, our college literacy resources continue to be replenished and organised. As you can appreciate, in a P-9 College this takes some effort. In Term 2, as a result, we are asking for any volunteers interested in assisting with organising the classroom libraries and other literacy resources. Please contact me (Mrs. Elmer) via email, phone or message (left via the office) if you would like to help.

"One of the greatest gifts adults can give—to their offspring and to their society—is to read to children." —Carl Sagan

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." — Walt Disney

Kind regards,

Mrs. Amanda Elmer
Teaching & Learning

MUSIC NEWS

Term 2 has been highly productive with students engaging with music in a variety of ways. Students are developing their musical skills through instrumental and group activities.

This term we have also seen the reformation of our College extra-curricula musical programs: Choir and Band.
I look forward to sharing further news about the music program in coming newsletters.

Music Teacher
Mr Cooper
Dear Parents,

Prep - 4 students will be having a special Mothers Day activity on Friday 8th May. All mothers of students in P-4 have been invited to attend a High Tea and activities session. This session will be both in the foyer and classrooms of the junior school building beginning at 2:05pm on Friday 8th May.

Each student has taken home an invitation to this event and a RSVP form which needs to be returned by Tuesday, 5th May to assist catering.

Looking forward to your participation.

Prep - 4 Teachers & students

What a fantastic start to Term 2! Students in Year 5/6 have been learning about the Australian Colonies during Inquiry and creating an information text, full of interesting facts. In Literacy we have been writing a Mystery narrative. Once published, they will be on display in the open space for everyone to read. We have some great authors in the making. The students narratives having some ‘sizzling starts’ and ‘effective endings’, which make them very exciting to read.

Our Kitchen/Garden program is well under way. We have cooked some delicious food already this term, including pumpkin soup, green fried tomatoes and pumpkin scones.

Our students are learning some great life skills during this time. It’s a pleasure to sit around the dining table and converse about their interests.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Jayne Taylor & Megan Penry
Year 5/6 Team

The Fundraising Committee will be hosting the **Mother’s Day Stall** on Friday, May 8 in the Old School Library.

Lots of items will be on sale from .50 Cents to $10. Hours will be posted and Years 1-4 will be asked to come in class groups with time-slots available for Years 5-6 students. Years 7-9 are invited to come and "shop" during morning snack break.

We are seeking assistance with the stall, please see a member of the Fundraising Team or express your interest to the office staff if you can help out.

This term we will also be hosting a **Pie Drive** so be on the look out for that closer to the end of term.

We’ve had a great year with fundraising where our Easter Raffle and Athletics BBQ started the ball rolling. This year our fundraising efforts are going towards a Fitness and Sports Science Centre to go into our newly renovated gym (works in progress).

Also, we are always seeking keen volunteers to join our enthusiastic group of parents. If you're interested, contact the office.

*Thanks for your assistance!*

*The Fundraising Committee*
Once again it’s Book Fair time!

This year we are having our midyear Book Fair from Monday 11th to Friday 15th May, during National Family Reading Month.

This is an exciting, magical Book Fair celebrating Kings, Queens and Castles

and our theme is:

ENTER THE KINGDOM OF BOOKS!

Everyone from the whole college community is invited to participate and join in the fun. This is a great opportunity for family and friends to come along and visit Altona P – 9 College, during the Book Fair to support both the college and your child’s interest in reading.

A range of suitable books from pre-school to secondary level, plus an assortment of stationary items will be on sale between 3.05 p.m. and 4.00 p.m after school each day of Book Fair Week (May 11th – 15th).

Once again, we hope to see everyone supporting the Book Fair as the proceeds from book sales go towards increasing our Literacy resources for students.

We have planned a special ‘MAGICAL KINGDOM of BOOKS’ story reading session for the afternoon of Tuesday 12th May from 3.05 to 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea will be provided along with a visit from a special mystery BOOK FAIR guest.

Other special features of Book Fair week include a drawing competition, a guessing competition and a lucky door prize. All prizes will be awarded at the Early Years Assembly on Friday 15th. May, beginning at 2.30pm.

So make sure you join in the magical fun and visit our ‘KINGDOM OF BOOKS!’
We had a very busy end to the term with the garden being cleaned out ready for re planting. We were able to make some amazing dishes including a potato pizza, beetroot choc muffins, homemade pasta with pesto. We also produced our first batch of preserves, some green tomato pickle. A highlight of the term for our Yr 3/4’s was having our Crossing supervisor, Bill, come and help out in the kitchen. It also happened to be Bill’s Birthday that day so we had an impromptu party whilst sharing our dishes. It was great to see the students using food they had planted, harvested and prepared to use for such a celebration!

Once again this term we have fantastic volunteers who love good food and our students and give up their time on a regular basis to come in and help in the kitchen. Without them the program could not run as smoothly and I would have many more grey hairs! If you’re interested in volunteering contact the front office or let me know – we’re always looking for new people to learn alongside our students. It’s been great this term to welcome into our kitchen some Grandparents.

Whilst new planting is taking place in our garden, and the harvest is a bit light on, we have been particularly fortunate to receive some wonderful donations from gardens across Altona! Lemons, pumpkins, and persimmons have found their way into our kitchen which we are very grateful for. If you have any excess produce in your garden feel free to send it our way! Thanks so much for those families who have donated produce this year.

Last term we had our Preps cook for the very first time. We used some beautiful varieties of beetroot from our garden to make choc beetroot muffins. As promised here’s the recipe (sorry it’s a little late!) These make an excellent nutritious lunchbox treat and also freeze well. And the kids love them!

Mrs Cathie Staunton

**Choc Beetroot Muffins**

**Makes: 12**  
**Prep Time: 15 mins**  
**Cook Time: 20 mins**

**YOU WILL NEED:**  
1 large beetroot  
100mL olive oil  
120mL milk  
½ cup dark brown sugar (firmly packed)  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
¾ cup self-raising wholemeal flour  
1 tsp vanilla essence  
1/3 cup cocoa powder  
1 tbsp icing sugar (for dusting)

**OPTIONAL:** Add 2 tbsp chia seeds with the rest of the ingredients. Insert a small square of dark chocolate into the top of each muffin for extra decadence.

**TO MAKE:**

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°C.  
2. Peel and dice the beetroot. Steam or boil until softened and then puree in a blender or food processor.
3. Add all other ingredients (including chia seeds if desired) to a bowl. Add the beetroot and mix until just combined.  
4. Drop spoonful's of mixture into a muffin pan or cases. Make them mini or regular size – your choice!  
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until cooked through (test: skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean). Mini muffins will take a shorter time of course.  
6. Cool on a wire rack.  
7. Dust with icing sugar if desired.

**FREEZING:** These muffins are perfect for freezing – keep for up to 1 month.
# Our Calendar for May

**May 2015**

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