Dear Parents

What beautiful weather we have experienced this week. It has been great to see our students out enjoying the sunshine and making the most of the last of the autumn weather before the cold hits.

Last week our Year 9's participated in two excursions, firstly to the careers expo in Werribee and then on to the World War 1 exhibition in the city. These opportunities certainly assist our students to develop a global perspective on their past and broader possibilities for their future. Our Year 9's are now talking about career options such as graphic design, sport physiotherapy, medicine, law, nursing, building, teaching etc. rather than saying “I don’t know!” This is also guiding their schooling for Year 10.

Congratulations to Sasha from Year 7 who will compete in the final of the WYNSPEAK competition on next Wednesday evening. It is certainly a wonderful opportunity for Sasha to showcase her commitment to preparing a speech to gain entry. Public speaking is never an easy thing; I remember my nerves at hosting a school concert in a large auditorium. Sasha will be addressing an audience of up to 250 people. Congratulations also to Tiana Year 8 who certainly represented the college well in the initial heats. Mr Moore and Ms Wiffen have been a tremendous support to all students who expressed interest and took part in the initial heats at the college.

A reminder that Wednesday 17th June is a curriculum day at the college. Students do not attend on that day. The staff will be travelling to Parkwood Green PS on that day for a professional development session.

Student reports are underway and will be sent home in the last week of term. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd which is the second week of term 3. Information regarding the online booking service will be emailed in the first week of term. Support group meetings for the students on the program for students with a disability will be arranged by Mrs Giles for the final week of term.

It's that time of the year where I am beginning to plan for 2016. We have many siblings ready to commence school next year. Can I ask these families to pick up an enrolment form from the office as soon as practicable so that I can begin to plan classes?

It was wonderful to have a visit from our local kinder this morning. The three year old group listened to stories read by our current prep students. They then joined all the students in the playground at recess. The children loved the climbing equipment and we only had to rescue two.

Our gym is beginning a transformation and families will notice a change of colour in the coming week. The painting works commenced externally this week and have been completed internally. The floor is being stripped, sanded and polished in the next fortnight. Whilst it has caused a brief disruption it will be well worth the wait and we all look forward to the works being completed.

A reminder to families that parking across our neighbours driveways is not acceptable and I ask you all to be extremely careful when parking around the school boundaries. The car parks on site are also out of bounds for safety reasons.

We have applied for a number of grants over the past few weeks both to upgrade our garden facilities and to build awareness around speaking up against cyberbullying. Both these areas have certainly been embraced in our curriculum.

Families should have received either a hard copy or email regarding the new government funded "Sport, camps and excursions fund". This is means tested and recipients need to have a valid Health Care Card. If you believe your family is eligible please return the emailed form and present your card to Wendy at the office.

Wishing all our families a warm weekend.

Julie Krause
Staff Professional Development

Altona P-9 Staff professional learning continues to focus on improving student outcomes through quality feedback and consistency of teaching and learning practices across the college. This term, our staff continue to extending their knowledge of Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) as defined by Patrick Griffin in his text, Assessment for Teaching. On our Term 2 Curriculum Day, (Wednesday 17th June) staff will have opportunities to visit other schools who have implemented Patrick Griffin’s model. They will spend the remainder of the day reflecting on their visits, discussing professional reading and examining their own PLTs. This drive to improve encourages students to also aim high.

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge

The 2015 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is well under way with many of our students signing up to participate. By now students should have been issued login details via their class teacher. These details are used to login into the VPRC site and for students to record their challenge texts. If a student has misplaced their login details, they should contact their class/home teacher or myself to have these reissued. The challenge continues until September 14th.

Celebrating and Valuing our Teaching & Learning Spaces

As you will note, our staff and students take great pride in our College Teaching and Learning spaces. These spaces are both a place of work and a place of learning. Families are encouraged to support teachers in maintaining a respectful and safe learning space by ensuring that students arrive at school on time, drop offs (for younger students) are kept positive and brief and that at the end of day, students leave the spaces in a safe and respectful manner. In order for students to leave safely and promptly, parents are asked to wait for their children outside the classroom areas. This assists teachers as they encourage all students to depart in a positive and respectful manner.

ICAS

I take great pleasure in announcing Altona P-9 College’s participation in the 2015 University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS is a rigorous and valid assessment format that provides schools, students and their families with accurate information on students’ academic performance. Application/permission forms for the English and Mathematics ICAS tests are contained within this newsletter and are open to all students from Years 2-9. We would love to see as many students participating as possible, especially from our Middle and Senior schools.

There is a small fee attached to each assessment (English-$8.80, Mathematics-$7.50) and, as a result, this program is optional. The fees are set by ICAS. Whilst the ICAS tests are optional, we encourage all interested students to extend themselves by signing up for these assessments. Further details are contained in the attached ICAS permission form. Forms and associated fees are due back to the college by Monday 22nd June.

Thank you

Parent contributions are highly valued at Altona Prep-9 College. This term alone we have had parents assisting with the upkeep and organisation of our classroom libraries and literacy resources. Staff and students are truly grateful for this assistance as it supports the teaching/learning of our school. Should you have some time to spare and wish to assist, please contact Mrs Amanda Elmer (Teaching & Learning) via email: elmer.amanda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or the office.

Until next time, I leave you with a quote from Sir Ken Robinson

“Curiosity is the engine of achievement.”

Kind regards,

Mrs Amanda Elmer
Mother’s Day High Tea

Friday 8th of May, the Early Years Department hosted a ‘High Tea’ and activities afternoon for mothers and grandmothers to celebrate Mother's Day. The students were excited about this event as they were very involved with the whole planning process, which included organizing and sending home invitations, collecting reply slips and preparing the food. Students also wrote special letters of appreciation to their mothers and presented these personally during the afternoon’s activities. The High Tea was a huge success. Thank you to all the mums and grandmas who came along and participated in the afternoon’s activities. The children had a wonderful time showing off their work and learning areas to all the visitors.

Year Prep-4 Team
Ms Walker, Ms Tseriotis, Ms Tadic & Mr Trambulo
Over the last 3 weeks in Science, Year 5/6 students have been carrying out a range of investigations, focusing on Chemical Reactions and Changes of State. They have really enjoyed becoming scientists and it's fantastic to see them become responsible for their own learning.

Prep. reading has started again for our Year 6 students, see photos attached. It's important to build relationships across our College and this is just one way we do this. The Prep's loved coming into the Year 5/6 open space and sharing their reading books. This will continue for the remainder of the term.

Students reflecting on their work helps to enhance meaning, therefore to encourage students to continue making reflections, we have set up a ‘Reflection Blog’ using the Google App Blogger. Each student has created their own blog, which will be updated weekly, with a reflection of their learning. Please encourage your child to show you their blog at home.

We’d like to say thank you to Mr Moore and the exceptional Year 8 students for modelling their blogs and being fantastic role models for the Year 5/6 students.

Year 5/6 Team
Mrs Taylor and Mrs Penry
# Our Calendar for June

**June 2015**

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2015 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

Dear Parent

Welcome to the 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For over 30 years, ICAS has taken place annually in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific Region and South Africa. Your child is invited to participate in ICAS in 2015.

ICAS provides an opportunity for all students in Years 2 to 12 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The tests are an excellent preparation for national tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.

Certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:

- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 25% of entrants
- Merit Next 10%
- Participation to all other participating students.

A UNSW medal is awarded when the highest score in each year level in each state in each subject is judged to be sufficiently meritorious. Students must sit on the official sitting dates to be eligible for a UNSW medal.

The entry fee per student is as follows:

☐ English – Tuesday 28 July 2015 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
☐ Mathematics – Tuesday 11 August 2015 ($7.50 Discounted Price)

Please return the permission slip and entry fee by: Monday June 22nd.

Your child can now prepare for ICAS and other skills-based tests with EAA’s new Practice Online series. Practice Online is a series of ten interactive online tests designed for school children in Years 3-12 developed by our team of subject experts. Each child that participates receives a comprehensive individual report detailing their overall results and their performance in each area assessed. Practice Online is now available for Mathematics and will soon be available for Science and other subjects.

For more information please visit the Educational Assessment Australia website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au or contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or by email at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely
Dr Sofia Kesidou
Group Executive
Educational Assessment Australia
At Altona P-9 College, we are very proud! …
We would like to celebrate the achievements of one of our brave and caring students.
Emily Valenzuela appeared on the front paper of the Star Weekly. If you see her, congratulate her on being honoured as one of our “Junior Triple Zero hero’s.”
Happy birthday Altona Library

Party like it's 1965! Catch up with friends and have fun at the Altona Library 50th. Featuring multicultural performances and games, music, craft, face painting, photo booth, book sale, storytelling at 10.30am and cake cutting and speeches at 12pm.

Date: Saturday 6 June
Time: 10am to 1pm
Where: Altona Library
123 Queen Street

Yarraville Markets
Saturday 13th June
10am till 4pm

Masonic Hall
Corner Willis and Canterbury St
Yarraville

Handmade
Australian Made

www.facebook.com/yarravelmarkets

MEET NICK FALK AND TONY FLOWERS

MEET AUTHOR JACQUELINE HARVEY
THURSDAY 18TH JUNE FROM 4:30PM
JACQUELINE WILL BE TREATING YOUNG FANS TO A READING FROM
ALICE MIRANDA & CLEMENTINE ROSE
BOOK SIGNINGS FOLLOWING READING, COME ALONG FOR YOUR PERSONALIZED COPY!!!
RSVP BY EMAIL TO ENCHANTEDYEARS@GMAIL.COM OR TEL: 03 9397 1154
ENCHANTED YEARS
30 FERGUSON STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN, VIC. 3016

THURSDAY JUNE 11TH AT 4PM
RSVP BY EMAIL TO ENCHANTEDYEARS@GMAIL.COM OR TEL: 03 9397 1154
ENCHANTED YEARS
30 FERGUSON STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN, VIC. 3016