Dear Parents

I am always delighted to celebrate student success both academically and through individual endeavours. These are acknowledged through our college assemblies. We have now created an assembly roster incorporating specific celebrations for our Early Years Learning Centre, Middle Years students and the whole college. In this way we can celebrate student achievements, provide greater opportunities for leadership and tailor our value awards and college contribution certificates. There is a copy of the roster on the website for your perusal and we encourage you to attend our assemblies both in the learning centres and as a whole college. We have trialled the program in term 2. The next whole college assembly is Friday 26th June at 1:30pm which will be an end of term celebration.

Congratulations to Sasha in Year 7 who certainly represented our college well last Wednesday evening at the WYNspeak competition. Sasha was the youngest competitor in the Year 7 to 9 final and one of only 4 state school representatives from the 16 competitors. She won the two minute impromptu speech section with an entertaining exposé on Santa Claus and was placed second in the prepared speech session addressing the power of music in our lives. This was her first attempt at the competition and she certainly did her parents, teachers and the college proud. Sasha is a wonderful ambassador for our college.

This week parents should have received notification of our ‘Chill out day!’ This will be held on the last Tuesday of term to recognise the effort of our students throughout semester one. This will be a great community day with families supporting us with class breakfasts and a variety of activities for connections across the college. This week all students signed up for a group on the day.

Next Wednesday 17th June is a curriculum day. There is no school for students on that day. Teaching staff will be visiting Parkwood Green PS for a professional development session whilst our support staff undertakes CPR training.

The mid-year reporting process is well underway. The written report will be handed to early years students in the last week of school and reports for our middle year’s students will be posted to families in that week. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd which is the second week of term 3. Support group meetings for the students on the program for students with a disability will be arranged by Mrs Giles for the first week of third term.

Our college was delighted to receive a Bright Future Grant of $3500 from Mobil Altona Refinery. I will be attending a special morning tea next week and will pass on the appreciation of the college community for the kind donation.

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 and many families booking tours. Can I ask our current families to pick up an enrolment form from the office as soon as practicable so that I can begin to plan classes? Our year 7 numbers will allow for two classes again in 2016 which is pleasing.

Our gym is transforming and painting should be finalised this weekend. The floor has been polished and secure fencing installed to enable us to develop a small gymnasium upstairs. Our fundraising group and student leadership team will be assisting with raising the funds. It’s beginning to look brand new.

Families will have received either in hard copy or via email information on 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. The year 3 to 6 camp is scheduled for Camp Wilkin Anglesea from the 26th to 28th October and details will be sent to families early in term 3. The new government funding will decrease the cost for eligible families.

The end of term is fast approaching. School will conclude on Friday June 26th at 2:15pm for semester 1. There will be a final newsletter sent to families on that day. Families are welcome to drop in on our Chill Out Day and watch some of the activities. Our Early Years team are sending out information today separately regarding a showcase in the last week of term.

Wishing all our families a warm weekend.

Julie Krause
**TEACHING AND LEARNING @ ALTONA P-9 COLLEGE**

**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. Please note that username/passwords enable students & parents to record the books read as part of the challenge. At the end of the challenge, books will be verified by me (Mrs Amanda Elmer).

**University of NSW ICAS**

Thank you to those students who have expressed interest in the English and Mathematics ICAS assessments. ICAS Assessments will take place on the following dates:

**English** – Tuesday 28 July 2015 ($8.80 GST inclusive)

**Mathematics** – Tuesday 11 August 2015 ($7.70 GST inclusive)

Forms and associated *fees are due back to the college by Monday 22nd June.*

**Staff Professional Development**

Just a reminder that, due to our Curriculum Day, students are not required at school next Wednesday June 17th.

**Thinking Routines @ Altona P-9 College**

From the work of Ron Ritchhart and the team at Harvard Project Zero, Thinking Routines are designed to promote the ‘visibility’ of students thinking. This, in turn, enables teachers to better understand their students and thus how better to teach them. Altona P-9 College staff have been involved in ongoing professional learning on the routines and their various uses. One routine that lends itself to many an application is called 'See-Think-Wonder’. This routine works well with visual prompts such as film clips, images and real-life situations. ‘See-Think-Wonder’ encourages the individual to be curious, make thoughtful observations and interpretations through three questions:

*What do you see?*

*What do you think (about what you see)?*

*What does it make you wonder?*

The routine has uses beyond classroom walls and I would encourage all who are interested, to try this with their children to promote robust and purposeful discussion.

Further information can be found via: [http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03c_CoreRoutines.html](http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03c_CoreRoutines.html)

Until next time, I leave you with a quote by e.e cummings:

‘Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.’

Kind regards,

Mrs Amanda Elmer

Teaching & Learning
**FOOD TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

**ALTONAChef- MasterChef Challenge**

In Food Technology the Year 7 and 8’s participated in a MasterChef pasta cook off! Students researched and designed mouthwatering pasta dishes with only a selection of key ingredients available. All dishes were presented to our special guest judges - Mrs. Krause and Mr. Kelly. Students were scored out of 3 based on presentation, design plan and the all most important - TASTE!! The cook off was fantastic and all dishes were absolutely pasta- cious!

Ms Yasmine Latife  
Food Tech Teacher

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**EARLY YEARS NEWS**

**Early Years Prep – 4 End of Term Celebration of Learning**

Dear Parents and Family Members,

You are warmly invited to the junior school on Thursday 25th June from 2:05 – 3:05pm for a celebration of learning to mark the end of Term 2. Students are very excited to host this event.

They will be showcasing their term 2 Inquiry learning projects and activities and you are most welcome to attend the junior school to see your child and others present their projects and answer questions about how they researched and assembled them.

We will begin the afternoon with a short P-4 Junior school assembly to present awards for the end of term 2 followed by the viewing of work.

Looking forward to seeing you.

P-4 Teachers

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**Early Years Prep – 4 End of Term Celebration of Learning**

Please RSVP your details below and return to your teacher

Parent Name:_____________________________________________________

Student:__________________________________________________________

Class: ___________________________________________

Number of people attending:_______________
Altona P9 College will be holding our first official......

CHILL OUT DAY

Tuesday, 23rd of June

It will be a chance for all students to relax, refresh and relax through:

- A whole class breakfast provided by the Parents’ Club and Breakfast Club
- Mindfulness & relaxation activities
- Healthy eating and brain boosting cooking ideas
- Yoga and Jujitsu with trained professionals
- Bike riding
- Arts/crafts
- Sewing
- Boot camp
- Karaoke
- Circus Skills
- Computer games
- Beach walk with photography
- Dancing
- A special lunch order available through the canteen
- And much, much more

All students are to wear the sports uniform and come along for a day of ‘playing’.

Normal school hours will apply.

CHILL OUT DAY Special Lunch Order

The canteen will be running a special lunch order for our ‘Chill Out Day’.

Baked Potato with Coleslaw & Prima $5.00

All orders to be at the office by Friday 19th June. As this is not a normal menu item, they will be made by order and therefore no late orders will be accepted. Orders will be delivered to the classes for the beginning of lunch.

To order, please complete the details below and return to the office with payment.

Name: __________________________ Class: ______________________

Baked Potato with Coleslaw & Prima $5.00 each

Quantity

Total enclosed: ________
The 5/6 community have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks. For the Year 5’s Naplan has been a hard task and the Year 6’s have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. Our new Inquiry topic has also been lots of fun. ‘Chemical Changes’ is our new objective and so far we have completed 3 class experiments successfully as a group.

Our first experiment was floating popcorn kernels. Then we tried to catch a bubble into a cup full of CO2 and the bubble ended up expanding.

The most recent experiment (that I wasn’t involved in because I was away at camp) was solids that are soluble and insoluble. Soluble means that solids are capable of being dissolved. We have also looked at reversible and irreversible changes. We melted chocolate and found that it was reversible because it cooled to its original form. We also found some non-reversible substances like eggs and paper.

In Grade 5/6 students have been creating a woodwork game called naughts and crosses. We have worked very hard in finishing it and most of us are done.

In Italian we have been learning about Ancient Rome. The Grade 5/6 students got to choose what they wanted to do their project on.

In Sport we have been learning about teamwork and working as a team during interschool sport.

In Positive Ed we have been learning about positive thinking and gratitude. Yesterday we watched a video that showed us that it has been scientifically proven that gratitude makes a person happier.

By: Jake
5/6 A

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In English, we looked at abbreviations and acronyms. Abbreviation means to make a word or noun smaller so that it's easier to say or spell. Our class was able to make a whole list of acronyms and abbreviations to present and put to use later on in life.

By: Nathan
5/6B

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In Year 9 Painting. Students: Cloe, Lucy, Lodi, Angelina, Lois

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Mr Ian Venning
Art and Wood Technology Teacher
This term we have been enjoying cooking meals from scratch – one of my favourite things to do. Check out our Kangaroo burger below! One of my favourite things about running our cooking classes is hearing from the students what they’re cooking and growing at home. At a time when our supermarket shelves are bulging with more and more processed products it’s heartening to hear families are still cooking good wholesome meals from scratch and even growing some of their own produce. So if you’re cooking something great at home take a photo and send it to me (Staunton.cathie.l@edumail.vic.gov.au). I’m talking about food that perhaps we’d often buy packaged, that we’ve decided to give a shot at cooking at home from scratch using ingredients sourced from the edges of our supermarkets, local markets or your backyard. I’d love to feature some of your family’s cooking in one of our future newsletters.

I am also recruiting volunteers to help out in the kitchen or garden for next term. If you’re free on a Monday and would like to help please email me. The students always love parents, grandparents and friends of the college coming in to help.

Have a look at our Preps in the kitchen! Each term the Preps and Year 1’s have a Kitchen taster session. Last week we cooked with some fragrant herbs to make pizza scrolls.

Ms Cathie Staunton
Edible Gardens Teacher

Cooking is the Best!
We cook with Cathie. Cathie likes to cook with vegetables from our school garden. The thing I like the best about our edible garden classes is eating the food we cook! Last week we made Kangaroo burgers and they tasted so yummy! We mixed together minced roo with garlic, egg, flour and onion. My cooking group also made our own hamburger buns. Another group made tomato sauce from tomatoes out of the freezer that we picked at the start of the year. Lastly we chopped up pickles from our summer cucumber crop and we harvested some chard leaves to go in the hamburger. Cathie has also taught me how to make egg sandwiches and now I make them at home.

By: Ethan 3/4A
MUSIC NEWS

Students in music have been exploring and making music that is relevant to their musical interests, some students are creating music with traditional instruments and others are engaging with music through digital music making techniques. Below are some photos of students at work. Band and Choir are also in full swing, and are preparing for some future performances both within the school and beyond.

SCHOOLMATE

The Department of Education and Training has released an App which is designed to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day.

The App, called SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets.

SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day.

Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community.

SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10.

I encourage you to download SchoolMate and to please talk with your teacher or myself if you are interested to find out more about how our school teaches the curriculum.

Mr Jayson Cooper and Ms Rachel Cauchi
Music Teachers
Questions?

SchoolMate – the easy way to know more about what your child is learning at school.

Now there’s a fast and easy way to find out more about what your child is learning at school from Prep to Year 10. Download the free SchoolMate app for loads of information about their studies as well as tips on what you can do at home.

Every parent should have a SchoolMate – download it now.


Authorised by the Victorian Government, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne.
Questions?

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne.
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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 Kesidiou
Group Executive
Educational Assessment Australia
2015 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) PERMISSION SLIP

Please return THIS section to your child’s school.

I give permission for my child ____________________________ of ____________________________

Child’s name Class

to participate in the following 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS):

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

Please find enclosed ____________________________ entry fee.

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian ____________________________

Yarraville Markets

Saturday 13th June

10am till 4pm

Masonic Hall
Corner Willis and Canterbury St
Yarraville

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Australian Made

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Make new friends and see just how much you can accomplish.

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AUDITION TODAY TO JOIN THE VICTORIAN YOUTH THEATRE
Celebrating 30 years