Dear families,

The term is certainly flying by with Monday signifying the passing of the midterm mark. It is certainly hard to believe that we are now entering the 2016/2017 transition stage.

Tuesday marks the beginning of our Steps to Prep program. This new initiative began in 2014 and ensures a smooth start for our future foundation or preparatory students. This week pre-schoolers will be meeting our Preps, touring the college and participating in early literacy activities with Mrs Elmer. Throughout their orientation program they will experience a range of college activities to ensure they are familiar with their new environment, the staff and their peers. If you have not yet enrolled for 2016, do so now, we don’t want our future students to miss out on our fantastic program. We are certainly leading our neighbourhood schools with our extensive and successful transition program. Sign up now for our 2016 Prep class!

This week we welcomed the students from Altona Kindergarten. They loved their experience in the “exercise room” as one of the children called it, with Mr Dadswell and our wonderful Year 9 leaders. Mrs Giles and I spent time with the children sharing picture story books and completing activities focussing on early literacy and numeracy skills. The sleeping kinder child at the end of the session reflected how busy they had been; meeting our preps, undertaking a perceptual motor program, reading, playing outside and a multitude of other experiences.

The next fortnight marks the beginning of our Year 7 experience days for students in Year 5 at neighbourhood schools. Seaholme Primary School students will be our first visitors on Wednesday 26th August to explore our college environment. These days have certainly heightened interest in our college. Our growth in Year 7 numbers is reflective of the commitment our teachers have made to make these days a success.

Our supported study program is unique; our teachers provide additional lessons after hours four nights a week to support our students with home learning and to complete class work. This program includes extra sessions in the key areas of English and Mathematics along with Humanities tutorials. These activities have contributed significantly to the academic growth of our Year 7 to 9 students. We are well above similar schools based on school comparison measures for our academic growth from Years 7 to 9 on the NAPLAN assessment. We are extremely proud of the opportunities we offer our students to improve their learning outcomes and the NAPLAN results certainly reflect our commitment.

NAPLAN reports for students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 were received and posted to families this week. We are certainly delighted with our results as we look at individual student academic growth. Our numeracy results are particularly strong. If you did not receive your child’s results please contact the office.

A special thank you to all families who completed our parent opinion survey, these have been sent to the department for processing.

If families shop at Woolworths please remember to collect the Earn and Learn stickers for our college. There is a box in the student entry of the administration area where stickers can be dropped off. Thank you to those families who have already placed completed sticker sheets in the box. Each year we add to our physical education equipment or classroom equipment through this program. Please encourage your neighbours and extended family members to save their stickers for our school.

We will be holding a Year 7 2016 information session on Wednesday 16th September at 6:00pm. Families of students currently in Years 4 and 5 are most welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to hear about our great programs for our secondary students. Please place the date in your diary.

It looks like the spring weather will make a brief appearance this weekend. Enjoy the sunshine whilst it lasts.

Julie Krause
Principal
In Numeracy we have been focussing on fractions and decimals. During Inquiry our presentations and projects on Migration are now complete! We had some very nervous students presenting their work in front of the class last week. I am very proud of all their efforts, speaking in front of an audience can be a real challenge.

In writing students turned into journalists and held a press conference, with Maria from the canteen, in preparation for writing their news articles. They asked open ended questions, gathering as much information as possible to include in their newspaper reports.

During Reading we have been analysing a range of texts, using De Bono’s Thinking Hats, which is a practical thinking tool. It provides a framework to help the students think clearly and thoroughly by directing their thinking in one direction at a time. This in turn helps to improve comprehension skills.

Below are some photos of the students in the garden last Monday. Students were learning all about worms which they all found fascinating!

We have now started our new Science Inquiry topic, ‘Adaptations and Survival of Living Things’. Students will be focusing on how plants survive in different environments.

During Positive Education, cooperative learning has been our focus. As you can see from the photos, we have been having fun whilst learning how to work together effectively as a team.
This term in Year 8 science the main emphasis is on chemical sciences. Student learning and understanding focuses on physical and chemical changes of substances, the properties of different states of matter and the arrangement of particles. This week students learnt how density is measured and how different substances arrange themselves when mixed together. Students then constructed a tower of different liquids, layered according to their densities.
The College will be celebrating Book Week on Thursday, 27th of August, 2015. We will be having a whole day celebration with fun activities, a guest speaker running workshops, whole school buddy reading and a costume parade.

Author and illustrator Andrew Plant will be running workshops for all of our students on that day. He trained as a zoologist but now writes and illustrates a wide range of books, including "The Poppy" and "Could a Tyrannosaurus play Table Tennis?" Our students will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop based around "The Poppy" (Years 6-9) or Drawing Dinosaurs (Prep-Year 5).

For your child to participate, please return the $5 payment to the office.

All students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character for the day. We will have holding a whole school costume parade to share our creative outfits in the gym at 2.30 in the afternoon.
Festival of Performing Arts

This week the College’s choir performed at the 27th annual ‘Festival of Performing Arts’ (FOPA). A great day was had by all students who represented our college and musicality. This year Finn Hourigan from 7B brought his piano skills to choir and performed with choir on the piano. I would like to extend my thank you to all the students who participated in choir so far this year, and all staff and parents for their ongoing support. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Burbank Bus company for their services in getting us to and from Carranballac. At the festival students not only performed ‘Beautiful Creatures’ but also had a disco, mass sing-a-long and a drum battle.

In the drum battle, our college went head-to-head with Williamstown North PS. Randomly selected, Joshua Aguila was chosen to represent our College, battling a year six student from Williamstown North. Josh was second in the competition, his feet not able to reach the bass drum pedal. Once Josh started thrashing the drum kit, the front row of girls screamed like the Beatles had arrived in town. The final result ended in an extremely loud vote for Joshua. Do we have a budding young drummer in our school? Well done Joshua and the College choir for a great, engaging afternoon.

Kind Regards
Jayson Cooper
Employment opportunities

Last week we had two guest speakers’ visit from McDonalds, John Hunak the area manager and Chris owner of five stores in West Melbourne and the Surf Coast. They spoke about the advantages of part time work in McDonalds and the possible career paths. Both guest speakers delivered a great presentation with many interested students taking home applications for employment. We encourage all our students to seek casual employment and this partnership with McDonalds is another way we can assist students in finding employment.

History and Geography

In History students are investigating Foreign Imperialism and its impact within Asia from 1750 – 1918. Students have chosen a particular aspect to focus on and in pairs are developing a ‘Showcase’ to present their understandings. The ‘Showcase’ will be held on Thursday 10th September at 9:15am in the Year 9 Learning and Leadership Centre and will be open for parents, teachers and community members.

In Geography students are preparing for their country exhibition. The project requires them to analyse multiple data sets to build a holistic picture of their assigned country. Students will critically analyse different aspects and offer solutions to address areas of concern.

Left: Blake hard at work analysing and interpreting climate charts.
Right: Tia and Deon busily working on their history project ‘The British effect on India’.

Point Cook Town Centre Art Display
Father’s Day at Altona P-9 College

Hello to all our families. We had a great turnout for our Mother’s Day events and stall and now it’s nearly September and time to think about doing it up for the dads / grandpas / special friends in our lives.

The fundraising committee is holding a Father’s Day Stall on Friday 4 September from 9-11am. Items will be on sale in the Old School Library. We have lots of items for sale for all types of dads - the car lover, the reader, the fix-it, the outdoorsy, the sports mad dad and heaps more. Items priced from 20 cents to $10.

We will be hosting a Father’s Day Breakfast on Wednesday 2 September during the Breakfast Club in the Food Tech Centre. Come in and have breakfast on us before you start your day. Please RSVP to the office so we can cater to numbers.

Other upcoming items:

We are planning a Movie Night for the end of Term 3. More details to come soon.
We will also be sending home the notices for this year's Pie Drive. We've found a new provider for our pies. It’s one of our very own families! It will be nice to support the school community through purchasing pies as part of a fundraiser to go towards our new fitness centre and also to support one of our school families.

Commonwealth Bank School Banking Update – Please Read
Concerns have been raised regarding the ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’ reward item due to the inclusion of four button batteries that can be accessed by unscrewing the back of the torch.

Whilst this reward has been independently tested and deemed to meet relevant product standards the Commonwealth Bank have made the decision to proactively withdraw this item from the School Banking Rewards Program.

Parents/Guardians are requested to dispose of any ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torches’ their child may have already received as part of the Rewards Program. Students who have previously received a ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’ are welcome to redeem an alternative reward item.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle:

We are running a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Altona on September 6th. We’ve had some great replies for volunteers but we still have a few spots open. There were a few families who put down the same time slot and we wondered if any of these families would be able to do the 8:30-10:30 or 2:30-4:30 shift, please let the office know if this is possible.

Your help would be greatly appreciated as this is one of our BIGGEST fundraisers for the year. Please tear off the slip and return to the office.

Also, we’re collecting donations of Coca Cola soft drinks -Coke, diet Coke, Fanta, Sprite and bottled water. Please drop into the office if you have an donations. Thanks for your assistance.
## Bunnings Altona Sausage Sizzle Roster 6 September 9am-4pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>BBQ</th>
<th>Serving</th>
<th>Cash/Drinks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Jason Draper</td>
<td>Elena Berlanga</td>
<td>Amanda Sams</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Jason Sullivan</td>
<td>Christine Powers &amp; Carolyn O’Neill</td>
<td>Amanda Sams</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-2:30pm</td>
<td>Tracey Hapgood Drake</td>
<td>Bree O’Halloran &amp; Suzie Hommelhoff-Cooke</td>
<td>Tarius McArthur</td>
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<td>2:30-4:30pm</td>
<td><strong>1 person needed</strong></td>
<td><strong>1-2 people needed</strong></td>
<td>Tarius McArthur</td>
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**Volunteers needed for Bunnings sausage sizzle**

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**Yes, I can help with the Bunnings Altona Sausage Sizzle on 6 September, 2015.**

Name____________________________________________

Parent/Carer of ____________________________________

Mobile / phone _____________________________________

I can assist from (please tick).

- [ ] 8:30am-10:30am (setup)
- [ ] 10:30am-12:30pm
- [ ] 12:30pm-2:30pm
- [ ] 2:30pm-4:30pm (cleanup)

I prefer: (please tick)

- [ ] BBQ
- [ ] Serving
- [ ] Cash/drinks
- [ ] No preference

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!
The Fundraising Team
# Our Calendar for August

## August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Whole school Assembly 9am</td>
<td>FOPA Choir @ Pt Cook</td>
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<td>Book Week</td>
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- **3** - **4** Scienceworks excursion
- **14** P-4 Assembly 2.20 pm
Parenting Forum

When: Monday 31 August 2015
Time: 6.45pm to 8.30pm with a 7pm start
Where: Altona Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona
RSVP: Wednesday 27 August 2015
Hobsons Bay Youth Services
(03) 9332 4000
Light supper provided

Presented by Angela Ireland

Angela has been working in the area of Alcohol & other Drugs (AOD) for 15 years. Her passion is raising awareness of the impact of AOD on the family and the broader community.

This information session is free for all parents, guardians and workers who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay.

For more information, or to book your place, please call Hobsons Bay Youth Services on (03) 9332 4000.

This session will focus on providing up-to-date information about alcohol and other drug use by young people.

It will explore strategies parents can use to reduce the risks and strengthen the protective factors for young people.

Many factors influence young people’s alcohol and other drug related behaviours however one of the most important is the communication between young people and their families.

The first five parents to book for this session will receive a free copy of Michael Carr-Gregg’s book - ‘Surviving Adolescents – The must have manual for all parents’.

Hobsons Bay City Council
115 Civic Parade, Altona
PO Box 21, Altona 3018
Telephone (03) 9332 1000
Fax (03) 9332 1039

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9332 1000
Email customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
www.twitter.com/hobsonsBaycct
www.facebook.com/HobsonBayCityCouncil
www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
LIBRARY ILLUSTRATION PRIZE 2015

CONNECTING LITERATURE THROUGH ART

Be pART of it

For Prep to Year 12
From 10 August to 4 October

Cash prizes sponsored by Friends of Altona Libraries
Book prizes sponsored by Julian Wood Bookseller

http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
STEPS TO PREP

Do you:
- Have a child starting Prep in 2016?
- Want to give them the best start to school?
- Want to be confident that they are school literacy ready?

If so, contact us @ Altona P-9 College to sign up for our free pre-prep program. Starting August 25th and running each Tuesday morning from 9-10am for the duration of Term 3 and Tuesday morning from 9-11am until Nov 24 in Term 4. Places are limited so act now.

CONTACT US:
ph: 9250 8050
@: altonap9@edumail.vic.gov.au
www: altonap9college.vic.edu.au
Every Day Counts

In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
The 2016 Australian Men’s and Mixed Netball Championships will be held in Melbourne over the Easter period (Sunday 27 March – Saturday 2 April 2016).

The Victorian Men’s Netball League invites all interested players to attend the state team selections starting in August. Each team will be selected by the respective coach and a selection panel.

Three trial sessions will be held to select the Victorian Cyclones teams for the 2016 Australian Championships. Attendance at all sessions is advised to improve your selection opportunity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2015</th>
<th>SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015</th>
<th>SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENS’ 17 &amp; UNDER</td>
<td>Registration: 8.30am</td>
<td>Registration: 3.30pm</td>
<td>Registration: 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENS’ 20 &amp; UNDER</td>
<td>Trial: 9am - 11am</td>
<td>Trial: 4pm - 6pm</td>
<td>Trial: 11am - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENS’ 23 &amp; UNDER</td>
<td>Registration: 10.30am</td>
<td>Registration: 6.30pm</td>
<td>Registration: 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENS’ OPEN MIXED OPEN</td>
<td>Trial: 11am - 1pm</td>
<td>Trial: 9am - 11am</td>
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<td>MENS’ RESERVE MIXED RESERVE</td>
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VENUE
Banyule Netball Stadium - 2 Somers Avenue, Macleod

COST
$220 is required to be paid before participation can occur.
CASH, EFTPOS & prepayment via EFT to VMNL is acceptable. For EFT bank details, please contact VMNL. $200 will be refunded if player not selected.

ENQUIRIES
Karen Wild 0414 542 583 or Grant Crocker 0419 382 620
vmnl.netball@gmail.com

WEBSITE
www.mensnetballvic.com.au

VICTORIA CYCLONES
NETBALL VICTORIA
AMMNA
Many Mobs, One Community
Community Cultural Workshop!

Date: Saturday 22 August
Time: 11am-2pm
LUNCH PROVIDED!!

Lots of free activities for the kids!
11am–2pm!

For more info contact: Debbie Evans 0409185831 or Rowena Price Rowena.price@vu.edu.au

Many Mobs, One Community workshops are a joint funded initiative between Western Metropolitan LINS, Victoria University, West Metro IfV RAG & the DHHS Indigenous Family Violence Strategy and The Smith Family.

This Communities for Children project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.
It’s our 15th Birthday! So here’s a GIFT from the Artz Collective!

2 CLASSES - FOR FREE!

LOVE learning singing, music theatre, drama, dance & more with friends! Enjoy fantastic classes to improve confidence with teachers to nurture & inspire you & bring out the best in your performance. Valid August 1-30 2015

Bookings: admin@artzcollective.com.au or Ph: 9391 1736

www.artzcollective.com.au    Altona North