Dear Families

As the cold weather seems to persist, we have certainly experienced another busy fortnight here at the college. Our preps participated in their first lock down drill this week with a little angst. I joined them afterwards to discuss why a principal runs drills and their delightful insights were certainly entertaining for Miss Walker and me.

This week we also held interviews for a new integration aide position. I am delighted to welcome Amy Kirkup to our college. Amy will commence on Monday and will be working mainly in the middle school.

Details of the annual junior school camp were sent home to families this week. This will be held from October 26th to 28th for Years 3 to 6 at Camp Wilkin Anglesea. Camps are something as adults we all remember from our school days; they develop deeper learning, confidence, independence, responsibility and sense of community within the context of our college principles and values. Camps are an integral part of the educational program and serve to provide opportunities and experiences that are not always available within the confines of school. I encourage all families to support the camping program. We understand that being away from home may be daunting for some children and are happy to discuss individual needs with parents to ensure their child’s happy and successful participation in the program.

The kindergarten class from Altona West visited our preps on Wednesday. The pre-schoolers enjoyed mingling with our students and sharing the story of the Gruffalo. The preps stepped up and supported the children to make their own Gruffalo puppets. The reports from staff are that our students demonstrated leadership skills throughout the visit and their participation reflected our college values. The preps will be making a reciprocal visit to the kinder. The children from Altona Kindergarten will visit our early years centre to experience a day in the life of a prep student shortly.

A reminder to all families that our Kinda Kinder program runs every Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 10:00am in the old library. This is a free “playgroup” for pre-schoolers from 0 to school age. The program is facilitated by Victoria University early childhood course students and is a valuable learning program for them throughout their university studies. I encourage families to attend. If the interest increases we can certainly increase the program times. If you would like to help our Victoria University student who is facilitating the program please let me know.

The Hobson’s Bay team visited the college last week to conduct a head lice check in the early years centre. Partnerships between home and school are essential to eradicating outbreaks that do occur in schools from time to time. I would like to pass on my appreciation to the families who are addressing minor infestations to ensure that we eradicate what is a nuisance to everyone.

Swimming notices went home to families in prep to year 4 this week. An intensive two week program will be held in the last fortnight of the term at Sweeney’s Swimming School in Pier Street Altona. The students walk to and from the venue in order to keep costs down.

Welcome letters were sent and flyers distributed to preschools this week regarding our ‘Steps to Prep’ program. Details are also provided in today’s newsletter. This program kicks off later this month and is an essential preparation program for our 2016 prep students. Relationships are the key to success at school and this program enables our new students to get to know the teachers and their peers in the Early Years learning centre. The children will experience a perceptual motor program along with early literacy and numeracy activities. If you have not yet enrolled your prep for next year please do so as soon as practicable. We have a commitment to a straight prep class for next year.

Our middle year’s students continue to explore geographical, economic and historical knowledge and understanding as part of their curriculum. They are learning vital mapping skills and expanding their historical knowledge of foreign imperialism in Asia, (Year 9) Japan under the Shogun era, (Year 8) and ancient Rome and China, (Year 7) whilst the Year 5 and 6 classes are investigating migration.

There will be a whole class breakfast on Tuesday 11th of August from 9am – 9.30am. Our parents club will be delivering warm pancakes to home rooms at 9am for our students to enjoy.

Have a lovely weekend

Julie Krause
Teaching & Learning @ Altona Prep-9 College

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge
Congratulations to all of those students participating in this years’ challenge. Keep up the tremendous efforts with reading! Be sure to update your online reading regularly. The end date for our Challenge will be Friday September 4th. This will ensure sufficient time for all students to have their challenge completed and their books verified.

ICAS
Congratulations to those students who recently participated in the English ICAS competition. Students worked diligently to complete their relevant papers. The next ICAS test is the Mathematics ICAS to be held at 9am on Tuesday 11th August. Students participating may practice their skills using the following link: https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/download-practice-questions

Book Week 2015  22nd-28th August
Book Week is fast approaching. This year’s theme is ‘Books Light Up Our World’. During the week, students will be exploring the ways in which books and their authors provide light to the world. Stay tuned for further details.

Library Illustration Prize
Hobsons Bay Library Illustration Prize 2015. This competition is open to all school aged young people who live or study in Hobsons Bay. It runs from August 10th to October 4th. Our budding artists are encouraged to apply. Visit http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or any library branch for an entry form.

Altona West Kinder Visit August 5th
Congratulations to our current Prep students who supported students from Altona West Kindergarten on their recent visit. With the assistance of Miss Walker, Mrs Giles and Donna and the team from Altona West Kinder, students listened attentively to the Gruffalo and then created their very own paper-bag Gruffalo. Throughout the session, our students demonstrated compassion and maturity as they guided the Kinder students through the activity. It was wonderful to see the connections between past Altona West Kinder students and their teachers. Kindergarten visits form an integral part of our junior school transition program. We look forward to future visits from Altona West and Altona Kinders.

As our students and staff continue to work diligently to provide the best outcomes for our learners, I leave you with the following quote by Henry Ford:

“Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grieves which we endure help us in our marching onward.”

Kind regards,

Mrs Amanda Elmer
Why ‘It’s Not OK to Be Late to School’

**Latecomers:**
- miss out on talking to their homeroom teachers, socialising or playing with other children before school
- miss out on organisation time, for example getting their workbooks, laptops and pencil cases from their tubs or lockers and setting up for the day
- miss out on roll marking, taking monies or notices to the office – and their notices often stay in their school bag.
- miss out on hearing what’s happening for the day
- are often unsure about what they have to do in the lesson
- can arrive at their classroom to find that their class has gone to a specialist lesson, the food tech centre and they do not know where to go
- miss out on reading and writing learning time meaning learning becomes disjointed and difficult
- are failing to take responsibility for their learning
- tend not to see being late as a problem
- are often unapologetic to the teacher and the class
- distract other students and the class when they arrive.

**When your child is late, teachers:**
- need to repeat instructions and/or find and explain materials before late students can begin working
- need to give late students extra attention so that they know what has happened or what the class is doing can be expected by the parents of latecomers to be available for a conversation although teaching has begun.

Students being late to school can have an effect on the teacher, other students in their class and themselves. Being late for school should be the exception rather than the rule.

Please assist us by ensuring that your child arrives at school on time each day.

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**HEAD LICE BE GONE!**

**NOTE FOR FAMILIES:**

Although we cannot endorse products we thought we would share these new products a parent has used and has found them to be really effective!

A full head lice check was conducted on July 29th.
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**2015 Assembly Schedule**

- **Term 4**
- **Term 3**

**Whole-School P-9** (1st library)
During Inquiry Year 5/6 students have been learning about migration. As you can see from some of the pictures, we have located where students in our learning space were born. We then collated this information and transferred the data into a bar graph and a frequency chart. For their projects, students selected a group of migrants to research. They will be presenting their projects in class next week.

Reading over the past 3 weeks has focussed on how to synthesise texts. Synthesising takes the process of summarising one step more. Instead of just restating the important points from text, synthesising involves combining ideas and allowing an evolving understanding of text.

During Positive Education our learning focussed on listening and conversational skills. We started with a game of Chinese Whispers (see photo). During a group discussion we looked at ways to be a good listener, and how to improve our conversation skills. This is a great life skill that we will continue to reinforce with the students this year.

Regards,
Year 5/6 Team
Year Prep 100 Days of School

100 Days of School!

On Monday 27th July Prep students celebrated their ‘100th Day of School’. We each decorated a t-shirt with 100 of something and created our very own 100 days smarter crowns. We ended the day with a party, filled with lots of delicious food and awesome dancing. Congratulations!

Choir News

Festival of Performing Arts 2015

This year Altona P-9 College's Choir will be performing at the 27th annual ‘Festival of Performing Arts’ (FOPA), hosted by Carranballac College. The aim of FOPA is to showcase Altona P-9 college’s music choir, together with other schools in the Hobsons Bay and Wyndham districts. This performance brings together schools and communities to celebrate learning, ‘in’ ‘through’, and ‘with’ the arts. Performing to the wider community provides an enriching experience for students. This experience, links with the music curriculum, allowing students to perform to “the wider school community and public audiences”.

This year Altona P-9 College will be performing on Tuesday 18 August from 1pm - 2.30pm. You are invited to attend as audience members to support and encourage learning through music. Video and photos will be collected and shared after the event. Students in our College choir will depart the school at 12.15 and will eat lunch at Carranballac College and there is no cost for participation.

Parents, families and members of the community are invited to attend, 85 Jamieson Way, Point Cook VIC 3030, please allow ten minutes to be seated prior to the starting time: 1pm.
On Monday 27th July we held our first Middle Years Assembly of the term highlighting all the good work that is being undertaken across years 5-9 in English and Art. The following students presented outstanding work: Deon Dumesny for her alternate ending for ‘Of Mice and Men’, and Amee Hobbs for her portrayal of James Franco, Tyler Beeche for his persuasive video on ‘Why Handsome Jack’ is the best fictional Character and Sasha’s magnificent speech about how to seek vengeance on her siblings.

English 7-9

All students in years 7-9 English are currently involved in novel studies. Year 7 are reading ‘The Silver Donkey’, Year 8 are reading ‘Falling from Grace’ and Year 9 are studying ‘Of Mice and Men’. Students will complete a variety of tasks related to symbolism, character development and analytical writing. I encourage all parents to read the book that your child is studying and discuss the characters, setting and common themes of the book.

Year 9 Students: Amee, Anthony, Lirim and Ali hard at work sharing ideas and writing their ‘Of Mice and Men’ analytical essay “Hopes and dreams help people to survive”
In Year 7 History, we have been unlocking the past of ancient China, via Google and its educational tools!

Students have been working collaboratively to research key areas about the rise of the ancient Chinese as a civilisation, and the dynasties that have left lasting legacies to this day.

The research has been conducted using Google’s search engine to research both primary and secondary sources of information. Students have worked in small groups to tabulate their results, in their own words. They have used ‘shared’ Google Docs to record their results.

Furthermore, during class discussions, some students created a Google Drawing that recorded all of the discussion points, giving the entire year level an excellent revision tool.

The Google Drawing that the students created can be found at the following address:

https://docs.google.com/a/altonap9college.vic.edu.au/drawings/d/1a9XVDUEd1xZ3ktp3YjKVxYGlxfvrCc_H_wkUj6h3Uj8/edit?usp=sharing

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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 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.

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.

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’.
FREE PLAY GROUP
FOR YOUR CHILD

KINDA KINDER

Enhance your child's learning and development of literacy, numeracy and socialising skills through play and fun activities:

- For children 0-6 years old
- One hour per week; no need to book
- As a parent, you also participate (and must be in attendance)
- Led by Victoria University students doing the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood/Primary)
- With the support of primary schools and local government.
- **Each Tuesday 9am - 10am.**

103A Grieve Parade, Altona VIC 3018
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle,

We are running a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Altona on 6 September. We are looking for volunteers to help out on the day. The shifts are just 2 hours long and we'll need 3 people per shift.

Your help would be greatly appreciated as this is one of our BIGGEST fundraisers for the year. As you can see there is quite a few spots to fill yet. Please tear off the slip and return to the office or contact the office or a Fundraising Team member.

Also, we are collecting donations at the office of Coca cola soft drinks, serviettes and white bread.

Thanks for your assistance.

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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
Disney
THE LITTLE
MERMAID JR

31 JULY - 16 AUGUST 2015
WILLIAMSTOWN MECHANICS INSTITUTE

TICKET BOOKINGS
WMTC.ORG.AU OR 1300 881 545

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
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
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
@: altona.p9@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