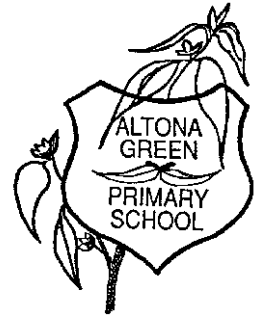


# Altona Green Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER

Issue 10/09  
23 April, 2009

Our newsletter is being sponsored by those advertising within. They have entered a commercial contract with the school for this advertising. We have no other direct links with them, and our policy is not to encourage or direct our school community to use a particular product or company.

### *A Message From Karen...*

#### **Welcome!**

Welcome back to term 2 everyone. A special welcome to 3 new staff who have joined us this term:

- Michelle Bohatko who is replacing Stephanie Di Santé in Middle S
- Jessie Aitken and Debbie Bennett who will be working in the Juniors and the Middles to further reduce the student: teacher ratio whilst supporting our literacy and numeracy programs.
- We welcome back Barb Holmes who has been on long service leave all of 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### **Good news week!**

It really has been a good news week this week for Altona Green Primary School. Our school has been selected to receive a rainwater tank from the **BlueScope Tank A Day Challenge**..... a 27,000 litre rainwater tank, which will be put to very good use. Thanks to all the families who assisted us by logging on to the website and completing the task that was required as part of the competition.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> big news was hearing about a \$150,000 federal **School Pride** grant as part of the Building Education revolution initiative. Our intention is to use this money to construct a large shelter outside the library as part of an outside learning area, as well as doing a full internal paint of our main building.... With our school's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary just around the corner, this very nice anniversary gift will enable us to provide brighter, more attractive learning areas and to complete a well overdue maintenance task.

There is an additional grant available from the federal government called **Primary Schools for the 21st Century (PS21C)** Last term I submitted an application for these funds which would enable us to replace all the portable classrooms with permanent classrooms. Architects visited our school on Tuesday to assess the site. You may have noticed 2 women with cameras taking photos around the current portable classrooms. They also took away documents relating to existing services on the site, soil test results etc..... I have everything 'crossed' that we will be lucky with this as well.....don't they say that things happen in threes? I will keep you posted!

On Wednesday the new orchard area in our garden was a hive of activity with 15 ANZ staff joining Zanni and our teachers and students to work on this project. There was a fantastic buzz and a lot of energy.....it is so wonderful to see the outside community coming into our school **community and working in partnership** with us. For businesses it is a chance to give back and contribute and for the school it is vital to provide our students with connections to the wider world outside the school gate. On Tuesday, Middle L enjoyed lunch in the kitchen with members of the Hobsons Bay Community Fund Committee who had generously supported our garden extension with funds last year. This time, it was a chance for us to give back and say 'thanks'.

*Karen O'Dowd*

## Parent Helpers - Classroom or Excursions

Altona Green PS is holding a **Parent Helpers meeting** that we require all parents to attend before you are able to assist in classrooms or on excursions. You will only have to attend this session once which will cover you for your time at Altona Green PS. Due to Privacy Laws, confidentiality and security requirements, it is necessary to go through the responsibilities and agreements when assisting at school.

**This  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour session will take place in the Parent Centre on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 9:00am until 9:30am.**

Once you have attended a session, your child's teacher will welcome your valuable assistance.

## Notices sent home this week!

- Preps/Juniors - Zoo excursion
- School Photo envelopes
- Tiny Tacker Tennis Enrolment - Term 2
- Grade 6 - Secondary School Placement

## School Photos

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Envelopes have been sent home and need to be returned to school with



**payment by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please ensure you place the correct money in the envelope as we do not have change in the office.** Both individual and family photos are available.

**Students must be in full school uniform on the day.**

## Parent Information Session - Interactive Whiteboards



Come along to our parent information session on Interactive Whiteboards and learn how they are used within our classrooms. The session will be on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April at 9:00am in the ICT room.

## Library Links

We have good and bad news this week.

The bad news is that there still remains a large amount of books outstanding.

The good news is that we have many new books awaiting avid readers on the shelves.

Even more good news is that today was the first day of the library being open for quiet reading during the first half of lunchtime.

This was the first of regular Thursday **Lunchtime Library Leisure**.



Nola is looking forward to seeing many new faces over the coming weeks.

## First Aid

The First Aid Committee would like to remind families that it is imperative that children diagnosed with asthma advise the school and supply the office with current asthma medication together with an asthma management plan.



As we approach cooler weather it is also advisable that parents pack a spare change of clothes for littlies in case of wet weather accidents.

Often sick bay is packed to the rafters and the added strain of having children with wet clothes in there as we try to contact parents makes it difficult to deal with serious injuries.

## Assembly Roster - Term 2

Date	Who Leads It
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Middle L
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Middle I
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Junior M
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Senior B

## Whooping Cough: What to watch out for

A baby coughing with every breath is a distressing sound for any parent.

Whooping cough is on the rise in Victoria, prompting health officials to remind parents of the continuing importance of vaccination.

Whooping cough, caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*, is an infection of the respiratory system. The bacterium enters the lining of the breathing passages, causing inflammation and narrowing the airways. The disease starts out with symptoms like a common cold - runny nose, sneezing, red and watery eyes, mild fever, and a dry cough - that last for one to two weeks.

If you're worried that your child's cold is something more serious, here are some signs to watch for: a dry cough that becomes wet, and may include coughing up stringy mucus coughing spells that last for as long as a minute, with deep inhalations between coughs signs of shortness of breath, including a bluish tint around the mouth and fingertips a cough that includes a "whooping" sound teary eyes, drooling or vomiting following a coughing spell. Whooping cough is highly contagious, so if your child has been diagnosed with this disease there are steps you can take to help prevent the spread of infection:

Avoid exposure to other family members by isolating the infected person for the first five days. Wash your hands frequently - the bacteria that causes whooping cough is easily transmitted through contact.

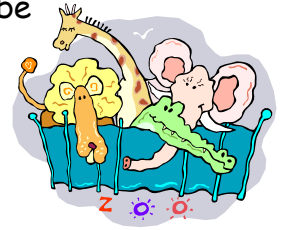
Dehydration is a common complication of whooping cough, so give your child plenty of fluids. Juice, water and soup are great ways to replenish fluids and provide nutrients.

The pertussis vaccine is provided free to all Victorian children via general practitioners and local government immunisation services. For new parents and other carers the vaccine must be purchased.

## Classroom Clippings

### Preps

Just a reminder that payment for the Melbourne Zoo excursion will be required by Thursday 30th April.



### Juniors

Yes the Juniors are off to the Melbourne Zoo!

A reminder to parents that are thinking of being a Parent Helper for the day - they need have completed the Parent Helper Course and returned the tear off section by next Thursday. It will be a very busy day supervising for everyone.

Payments for The Melbourne Zoo Excursion will need be accepted by Thursday 30th April.

### Middles

Our S.A.K.G program is already up and running, thank you to the many people who have volunteered their valuable time to assist. This term the Middle's topic is 'Plants'. The children will be learning about the structure and functions of plant parts and going on an excursion to the Botanical Gardens in the city. More information about this will be coming home soon.

### Seniors

Welcome back to an exciting Term 2. Grade 6 students tonight bring home Transition notices for Year 7 placement. Parents should take time to visit secondary school open days and make an informed decision regarding their child's secondary school placement, please complete and return these forms to school a.s.a.p.

# Parent Information Sessions



Come along to our parent information sessions on

## Interactive Whiteboards

- learn how they are used within our classrooms.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
9:00am in the ICT room.

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## Parent Helpers - Classroom or Excursion

- we require all parents to attend before you are able to assist in classrooms or on excursions.
- you will only have to attend this session once which will cover you for your time at A.G.P.S.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
9:00am in the Parent Centre