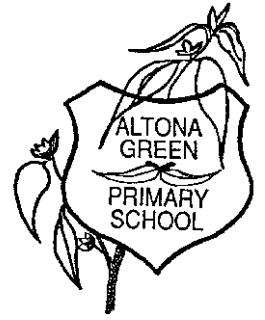


# Altona Green Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER

Issue 04/09  
26 February, 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...*

We had a terrific attendance last night as we enjoyed our annual social family picnic. There were lots of *old* faces and *new* faces, informal games, tasty sausages and generally good feelings all round. For Altona Green Primary School it has become a tradition to start the school year in this friendly way. I had a smile to myself as I noticed families who have begun their own traditions on this night. There were some families who have their own meeting spots each year and some parents who join the cricket match almost from where they left off last year! It was also great to see many of our ex- students.... Ashley, Joel, Lochlan, Chris joining in with the games on offer. I would like to say a special thanks to all our staff who all pitched in, in various ways to organize, set-up, cook snags and clean up. For many, it was the 4<sup>th</sup> good-will late night over the course of 3 weeks, that they have had at school. Thanks everyone for contributing to such a positive start to our year!

Thanks to all those who supported our Bushfire Raffle. We raised \$1322.00

*Karen O'Dowd*

### Assembly Roster - Term 1

Date	Who Leads It
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Junior S
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Senior N

### The War against Headlice

#### Facts about head lice

Head lice will be a problem from time to time in Altona Green Primary School and it is important to work together as a school community to minimise the frustration caused by the problem.

If your child has head lice - tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them. Half the people who have head lice never scratch their head. If you don't know about the head lice then they don't know to look and treat for head lice. Head lice are **not fussy** about the heads they live on - they make **no** consideration for income, ethnicity or hair colour. They live their entire lives on **human heads** and their entire food and water source is supplied from the scalp.

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years and they will not be eradicated. Head lice **don't** fly or jump - they crawl from head to head. This often happens when people play or work closely together

Head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) are small (3-4mm) wingless insects, which are common particularly in school aged children. It is estimated that 6 million American primary school aged students, equivalent to 1 in 4 were infested with head lice in 1998. Head lice are a common problem in Australian schools and exact figures on the size of the problem vary.

Eggs can be difficult to see; use a strong light (such as sunlight) and look on the hair shafts. If you are not sure whether an object you find is a head louse egg, try sliding it up the hair shaft using your fingers. Eggs are usually quite difficult to move, whereas dandruff and other items slide easily.

Information pamphlets about treatment and controlling head lice are available from the school office.

## Library Links

By now you will all have had a chance to visit the library. We hope you are enjoying the new look environment.

Students are reminded that books must be returned to the library on or before your library day. Failure to do so will result in a verbal reminder, written notice and finally an account for \$10 to go towards replacement costs if the book is not returned.

We have a number of new titles on the shelves so have a browse and find something that interests you.

## How much are you worth?

In our class Senior H we had to find out how much we are worth and then the class. We did this through this system (e.g. A=\$1, B=\$2.....Z=\$26). We then figured out how much the school is worth and A.G.P.S is worth \$21 836. The most expensive grade was Senior D, which equalled \$1,614. Thank you to all the grades that helped us out with this project!!!

By Alexandra (\$80) and Chloe (\$42)

## Classroom Clippings

### Preps

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Preps will finish at 3:30pm. Next week the Preps will attend all specialist classes. Your child needs to have an art smock at school clearly labelled.

Please remember to return your child's take home books on their set day. If your child is being collected by older brothers or sisters, please ask them to pick them up from the classroom.

### Juniors

The Junior children are busy learning all about keeping safe and have had lots of interesting discussions about their own experiences.

### Middles

All middles have now attended a Kitchen Garden session. Please ask your child about their wonderful experience. Most grades still need garden helpers, if you could assist us, it would be greatly appreciated.

Eddie the basketball coach is coming Friday to do a session with all Middle grades. Don't forget to wear your running shoes.

## Seniors

Congratulations to all the students and teaching staff who attended the Senior Camp Night. It was a huge success. Students responded well to the sessions held by the 'Reach Rookies' team, and due to the wonderful, positive feedback the next day, there's a strong possibility we may have a follow up session in Term 3.

Senior Sport continues Friday with a home game this week.

Students are currently finishing up with co operative class projects on the Body Systems this week.



## Community Notices

### Bayside Festival 2009 Pet Show

The Bayside Festival's Pet Show, supported by the Altona Veterinary Clinic, will be held at Logan Reserve on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 1.30 PM.

This year's theme is Fantasy and Magic so if you have a pet that can perform a trick or if you would like to dress up your pet then come along and join in the fun.

All entrants will receive a FREE showbag donated by Altona Veterinary Clinic. Registration starts at 1.00 PM and judging will be in the following categories:

- The Best Groomed Pet
- The Cutest Pet
- The Pet with the Best Trick
- The Best Fancy Dressed Pet
- The Pet Most Like its Owner.

First prize for each category is a FREE vaccination at Altona Veterinary Clinic.

For further details contact the Bayside Festival on 9315 9413.

### Bayside Festival Colouring Competition

Please return any entries for the Bayside Festival Colouring competition to the school office by Monday so we can organize for them to be taken down to Altona Gate Shopping Centre in time for the judging.

### Garage Sale



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
8am to 2pm  
278 Victoria Street, Altona Meadows  
Wide range of goods No Early birds!!!!

### For Sale

2 seat white spa bath comes with heat pump and filter pump \$150  
7 x Playstation 2 games \$10 each - Tony Hawks American Wasteland, Stock Car Crash, Sonic Riders, MX & ATV Unleashed, Spy & Spy, Space Invaders Anniversary and 10 Pin Champions Alley. Call 8307 9311

### Education Tax Refund - Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parent and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

#### Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- The Veterans Children Education Scheme
- The Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- A scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- An Australian Postgraduate Award

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

#### What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs - for example, internet and paper
- Educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- Stationery and art supplies
- School textbooks and associated learning materials
- Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

#### When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

**Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expensed you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For your information:

- Visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- Phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61