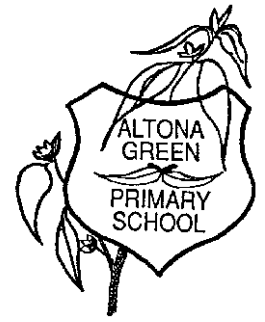


Altona Green Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 07/09
19 March, 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...

All across the western region there is currently a re-focus on strengthening the literacy learning in schools. All schools are being required to address the following key strategies:

- Leadership practice: build quality instructional leadership capacity of principals and literacy leaders in every school.
- Teacher practice: build quality instructional capacity of all teachers as teachers of literacy.
- Use data at every level (region, network, school and classroom) to track learning and inform the action that needs to be taken.

There is regular professional development for all principals where we are being exposed to current research and 'best practice'. Consistency across all schools is expected. There has been extensive professional development for staff since the beginning of the year and this will continue throughout the year. Our staff attended an after school session last week at Moonee Valley Function Centre, along with 600 other teachers with the focus of the workshop being around the need for children to increase their independent reading. Schools are looking at classroom libraries along with the use of their school libraries and other reading resources available.

At Altona Green Primary School we have collectively committed to raising the expectations of our students- setting higher goals. The rationale behind this is that if we set our bar too low, many students will only deliver the bare minimum, but if we raise it higher, more will rise to the challenge.

If you have been up to the school lately, you may have noticed the changes that are starting to happen in our library....different furniture, bright and inviting colours have begun to set the scene for book lovers.

Many classes are beginning to re-look at their own 'classroom libraries' to ensure that our students are surrounded by quality, engaging reading materials, appropriate for each child. As we are partners in education with all our families, my questions to you all are:

Where are your children's books kept at home?

Has your child got their own bedroom library?

Do your children access the local library?

Do your children see you reading at home?

Is reading part of your family's culture?

No matter how popular the internet, there will always be a place for books in our children's world.

• School Council Groups

Thankyou to those parents who have shown interest in joining a Team. Most teams have now set their first meeting times:

Buildings and Grounds (Marita Ryan)- 8:30am Friday 20th March

Public Profile (Colleen Harmer) -3:40pm Thursday 26th March

Parents Group (Jo Tyers) - 9:15am Tuesday 24th March

Before & After School Care (Lynne Bernardi) - 2:00pm Thursday 19th March

Finance (Karen O'Dowd)-8:30am Friday 27th March

Policy (Louise Nicol) - 8:30am Tuesday 24th March

If you are able to attend any of the team meetings please feel free. Your children are welcome to wait for you in the library whilst the meeting takes place.

Karen O'Dowd

National Ride to School Day

When: Wednesday 25th of March

Where: Altona Green PS

As part of our program, we are encouraging all children to either Walk or Ride to school on this day. If you don't have a bike then you are able to walk. Join in the fun and be in the running to win a prize for your grade. Its fun and it will keep you fit and active.



Easter Raffle

Altona Green's Easter Raffle is here again! We are asking for donations of Easter Eggs to go towards our Easter Raffle. All donations can be handed in at the office.

Raffle tickets will be sent home next week and will need to be returned by Wednesday 1st April with money. The tickets will be \$1.00 each and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2nd April.

Outside School Hours Care

This week at After School Care:

MONDAY- AASC Basketball

TUESDAY- Family Safety Rules Poster

WEDNESDAY- Outside Play

THURSDAY-Play money & Wonderful wallet

FRIDAY- Cooking : Nachos

Riding to School

When enrolling at A.G.P.S children and parents are requested to sign a 'Travelling to School' contract. With National Ride 2 School day next week and the growing popularity of riding bikes and scooters to school it is timely to remind everyone of the contract terms.

Requirements

1. To wear approved safety gear when riding. (helmet, elbow pads, knee pads)
2. To ride on the safest route from home to school (quiet streets, safe crossing points)
3. To follow the road rules
4. To cross Victoria Street at the school crossing and walk across the school crossing
5. To walk my bike, scooter, carry my skateboard or rollerblades in the school grounds
6. To supply a bike lock to secure my bike
7. To keep my bike in a road worthy condition
8. To participate in any road education programmes run by the school
9. Skateboards and rollerblades are to be kept in a safe secure location after consulting with the classroom teacher

Consequences:

If any contract requirements are not followed I will agree to the following:

- After one reminder, I will be suspended from riding to school for one week, and then two weeks and four weeks for further non-compliance.
- If the contract requirements continue to be ignored the contract will be terminated and I will no longer ride to school
- I have talked about this contract at home with my parents/guardian and I agree to the above conditions.

Notices sent home this week!

- Junior Camp Night

Parents Group

There will be a Parents Group sub-committee meeting on Tuesday 24th March at 9:15am in the staffroom. This will be to discuss our goals and events for the upcoming year. Everyone Welcome.

Maths Bags

We have started to distribute maths bags to the grade one to six students who returned their forms.

Ask your child to bring theirs home and show you. Play some games with the dice or cards, for example

1. **Take three cards, eg a two, a five and a four.**

what is the biggest number you can make?

Answer 542

Take more cards for more advanced students

2. **Turn sixteen cards over for a memory game.**

If you turn over a pair you keep them

3. **Roll a die, double or triple the number**

4. **Roll two or three dice and multiply the numbers.**

Get a point every time you make an even number. First person to ten points is the winner.

Remember there are lots of other activities you can do at home that will support your child's maths learning, for example displaying a calendar and referring to it, counting small amounts of money, working out how to give change eg; if I spend 60c at the shop, how much change will I get for a two dollar coin? Jigsaw puzzles and construction are good for spatial learning.

Maria Micallef
Maths Co-ordinator

Bayside Festival

Congratulations to Hayden (SH) and Brooke (SS) who both won prizes in the Bayside Festival Colouring Competition.

27 students had a fantastic time competing in the Bayside Festival Swimming Carnival last Friday night against local Altona primary schools. Our swimmers ranged from Grade 6 - Prep and everyone swam their best.

The highlight of the night was Ella (MS) winning the 9 year old girls 25m freestyle and William (SD) finishing 2nd in the 9 year old boys 25m freestyle. Our 9 and under 25m freestyle relay team and Open 50m freestyle relay team both finished 3rd.



Bayside Festival Swimmers show their medals and ribbons.

Classroom Clippings

Preps

Thankyou for the donations of boxes and cardboard rolls. We would appreciate more of these materials to use in our construction area.

Just a reminder that all children in the prep grades and Junior C are not to bring foods with sesame seeds and nuts in it or egg sandwiches and kiwi fruit to school as we have a child who is allergic to these foods.

Juniors

As Camp Night is next Wednesday we would like to make all payments for the night due at least the day before on Tuesday, 24th March. We need to organise numbers for food and materials that will be needed on the night!

Seniors

Senior maths bags are currently being distributed. Could all students take great care of this costly resource.

We have planned an excursion to the Melbourne Museum and Imax theatre on Monday 30th March. Cost will be \$18 and notes will be sent home tomorrow. This is closely related to our theme about the human body and the effect of drugs. Notices will be coming home this week. It is expected that all students attend this valuable excursion.

Community Notices

Victoria Beauty and Nail Boutique

107a Gamon St, Yarraville has training workshops available including Nails, Waxing, Facials and Make Up.

With one-on-one or small group training, Victoria offers a unique way of learning the most current trends in Beauty Technology.

Students engage skills and knowledge in accordance with industry standards and obtain certificates upon successful course completion. For more information contact Victoria on 9687-7801, 0414-453450 or visit www.vicsbeauty.com.au

Garage Sale



Saturday 21st March - 52 Howard Street, Altona Meadows 9-3. Lots of new items.

No early birds please

Add another limb to your family tree

Foster care provides a home for children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to reside in their family home.

Foster care provides care for children and young people from birth to 18 years of age. Placements vary from overnight to longer term placements, or can be for regular respite.

There is no typical person or family who can become foster carers. Children and young

people come into care from diverse backgrounds, and they need care from people who also come from diverse backgrounds. Potential carers are formally assessed which includes police, medical, referee and environmental checks. The Salvation Army provide compulsory training to all potential caregivers.

For further information contact; The Salvation Army Westcare, 34 Devonshire Rd, Sunshine 3030. Phone 9312 3544

**Less screen time,
more PLAY!**

Screen time refers to time spent watching television, computers, and electronic games.

Leisure time spent using **"screens"** can mean less time to play with friends and family, and overall less time, for outdoor creative play.

So, turn off the screen and switch to play

TURN OFF, SWITCH TO PLAY

Produced for Kids - "Go for your life" by "Filling the Gaps" - The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Centre of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan and Australian Catholic University

go for your life
Victoria
The Place To Be