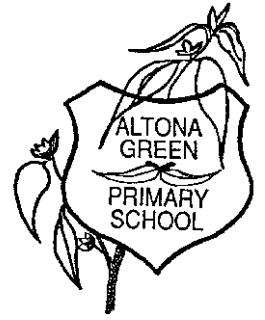


# Altona Green Primary School

Victoria Street, Altona Meadows 3028 Phone: 9360 0777 Fax: 9360 0956  
[www.altonagreen.vic.edu.au](http://www.altonagreen.vic.edu.au) [altona.green.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:altona.green.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 12/09  
7 May, 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...*

#### **FANTASTIC NEWS!!!**

You may recall that in a previous newsletter I had mentioned that we had applied for federal funding, to build a permanent building where our portable classrooms currently are. On Monday we received the BEST news....

The Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard MP announced that 1499 schools across Australia will receive \$2.8 billion in funding for the construction and refurbishment of major infrastructure, under Round One of Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21). Two hundred and forty-two of those schools are within Victoria and **Altona Green Primary School** is one of them, with our project actually starting tomorrow when I meet the Project Manager of the building works!

So that Victorian government schools could maximise this funding opportunity, the Victorian Education Department significantly fast-tracked design, procurement and construction processes. Successful schools needed to demonstrate that the project could meet the Commonwealth's implementation timelines and that they were ready to start. Design templates were provided and our school chose one that we believe will best meet our needs for our school community. When putting in our proposal, we also factored in the important issues: least disruption as necessary for our students and teachers, additional costs and areas in our school that were special to us and that we did not wish to be dismantled if possible (eg. our vegetable garden, our chess tables and boat etc...)

The fact that this construction CANNOT happen in the 5 weeks over the summer holiday break means there will be disruption and a little pain for us all.....but what gain we will have in the long run will far outweigh any inconveniences.

I have included the template that we have chosen in this newsletter. It may be slightly modified to fit in the area identified. Have a look at it closely and you will see that there are 6 classrooms, some open spaces, reading areas, meeting rooms, outside learning and ICT designated places all providing a building for the type of teaching and learning that is happening and should be happening in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As you would understand, schools are not the same as they were when we adults, went through them as students, however our buildings sometimes reflect schools of the past. Many times our teachers feel frustrated because of the lack of space or inadequacies of the 4 walled classroom that prevent the type of curriculum design they want to develop. This construction will hopefully address some of those issues. So let's all celebrate this week and then its 'heads-down' as we all follow the project through and support it as a whole school community team!

*Karen O'Dowd*

#### **Notices sent home this week!**

- Juniors - Parent for Literacy Learning Information Sessions
- Eldest Child - Student Photo Publication

## Student Photo Publication

At Altona Green Primary School we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in our school newsletter.

Occasionally photographs of the students are included. We also use photographs of students in our school brochures, for display in the classroom and school building and the school website.

We also invite the local press to school events and have photos published in the newspaper.

To enable ease of permission, school council has approved a new "Permission Note for Student Photo Publication/Video Making". This note has been sent home today with the eldest child in each family. Please read, complete and return to school.

## National Walk Safely to School Day



**When:** *Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009*

**Where:** *Start from home and either walk or ride to school.*

*If your house is too far to walk from, park your car a couple of blocks from the school and walk from there.*

**Why?** We would like children to be happy, healthy and safe. Active kids are healthy kids

In March, our school participated in 'Ride 2 School' day. We had 230 participants, ten more than the previous year. Let's see if we can increase the number of participants on this day.

## Westside Arts

Middle students who are participating in Westside Arts are to hand in their form with \$5.00 enclosed by Friday May the 8th.

*Michelle Yacoub - Music Teacher*

## ICT NEWS for Middle Grades

Over the next few weeks Altona Green's Middle children will have the opportunity to participate in a new and safe online learning network called SuperClubsPLUS Australia.

SuperClubsPLUS Australia (SCPA) is an actively protected, social learning network for young children 6-12 years. It provides an engaging learning experience centred on ICT, literacy and citizenship and allows students to chat and collaborate in a protected environment online.

Through this site, children can meet other children from around the world. They can work on projects, create their own web page, talk with friends online and be members of and contribute to a wide selection of Clubs. They can participate in Hot Seats where they can meet politicians, artists, scientists and authors. They can create animations, art works, slide shows for others to see and share their opinions on a range of topics and issues with other children from around the world. They may write articles for the site's newspaper or radio station or enter regular competitions. By contributing to this website, children work to achieve their Star Awards (all awarded for excellence in IT and Cybersafety).

The Department Of Education And Early Childhood Development is conducting a two year trial of SCPA. By providing free access for up to 100,000 Victorian year 3 and 4 students to use SCPA as a classroom learning and teaching tool, the Department will be able to evaluate the program's impact on student learning.

In the next week or so, a permission form will be sent home to parents in regards to their children participating in SuperClubs Plus.

For more information, please view the following site: [www.superclubsplus.com.au](http://www.superclubsplus.com.au)

## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden



Does anyone have any old pavers for our garden path? If so, leave a message for Zanni at the office. Thanks!

## Classroom Clippings

### Preps

A big thank you to everyone who helped out on our zoo excursion. It was very much appreciated.

As the wetter weather is approaching, please send along a change of clothing for your child eg; pants, underpants and socks.

### Juniors

What a wonderful excursion we had to The Melbourne Zoo last Friday - and yes we were very lucky with the weather. A very big thank you to all our Parent Helpers who made the day very successful!

### Middles

Middle LR students had a special visit from Western Bulldog players Andrejs Everitt and Liam Picken yesterday. The players arrived during our lunch break, so had a game of kick-to-kick with everyone outside before heading into the classroom.

In class the players talked about team work and how it is used both on the football field and at school. Students then made posters about team work, and the players helped out.



### Seniors

The Senior students have been working hard in the S.A.K.G and the orchard area is looking terrific. We need more volunteers for our kitchen and garden sessions so please ask nana, pa, uncles and aunties to come, we promise they will enjoy it!

Our theme this term is 'Water Makes The World Go Round' and we will be studying catchments, water bills, sustainability and the environment.

Bayside SC are presenting a talk on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May about their school at 11:30am in the library, all seniors will be attending.

## Year 6 - Year 7 Transition News

Due to my absence in Term 1 (Long Service Leave), I have not been able to organise a 'transition night' to discuss with you the issues arising from enrolling your child into the local secondary colleges. If you have any queries about certain schools please contact the Year 7 co-ordinator of that particular secondary college and they will be of assistance. I am more than happy to help with forms etc. If your child has been accepted by a college, please send a copy of the acceptance letter to school to attach to their enrolment form.

*Barbara Holmes*

*Transition Year 6 co-ordinator*

## Car Club

Last Friday there was Car Club. A German man named Heiko came. He told us some German car manufacturers such as Porsche, Audi, Mercedes, Volkswagon and BMW. He also told us about car designers designing a car based on the most important part of the driver, which is the heel. We then watched a short DVD about cars. The third last thing we did was we all got to hop in the brand new V6 prototype Camaro. Heiko revved the Camaro engine for us! It sounded like a V8. Last but not least we got a Holden poster and other items. Thanks General Motors. Car Club was great  
- Daniel



On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May the people who signed up for Car Club went to the kitchen in the morning. There was a man named Heiko from Germany, he told us how to draw and build a car. After watching a DVD about Holden history and learning a bit more about cars we were told to go outside. What a surprise! We saw a cool car. It was a prototype from Canada. It was dark blue and comfortable. Did you know that they drive on the left hand side in Canada? Heiko turned on the motor and it went on full speed of 160 miles and it was super loud.

Katie & Krystelle - Senior D



# Make play a priority!

**Sedentary behaviour is time spent in tasks requiring minimal energy.**

Children aged 5–12 years should not spend more than **two hours** each day using electronic media for entertainment (e.g. television, internet), particularly during daylight hours.

Viewing of television and electronic media is not recommended for children under two years of age. Sedentary activities can be associated with health and social problems.

Prioritise limiting screen time and promote play during the day, especially outdoors.



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

## Community Notices

### Volunteering In Your Community

Volunteering is a great way for you to help your community, learn new skills, meet others and have fun.

Volunteers do a variety of activities in the community, including: visiting elderly people, tutoring refugees in English, helping families with a child with a disability and caring for the environment.

Opportunities are available on weekends and after office hours. Most importantly these volunteer roles only take a time commitment of 2 hours a week!

Training is provided, and no experience is necessary, just a patient and caring approach. Volunteer West has a number of vacancies in your local area. Contact Volunteer West on 9932-1193 or email [info@volunteerwest.org.au](mailto:info@volunteerwest.org.au)