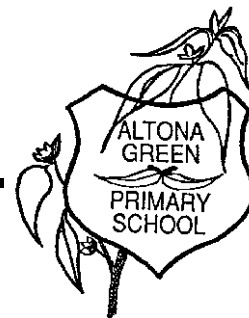


# Altona Green Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER

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22 October, 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...*

I attended the department's *Innovative Learning Environments Conference* last Monday as we are in the process of building one of these 'innovative' environments. The department's commitment to new buildings is as follows:

"Awareness of the relationship between the educational and architectural design features and principles when planning new learning environments in Victoria has escalated. Not only should school buildings be durable and aesthetically pleasing, but they also need to be functional and fit for purpose.

The design of new learning environments should enable teachers to:

- work together differently
- learn and practise new skills together
- readily access resources to support the teaching and learning relationship.

New learning environments are always welcome for schools and their communities. However, the most awarded designs will seem to be failures if the activity and behaviours of the people who occupy them are not innovative and characteristic of 21<sup>st</sup> century education".

Our school's challenge therefore is the pursuit of sustainable and transformative practice within our 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments.

Could I ask that all parents discuss with their child the road rules and the importance of using the designated pedestrian crossing? At Altona Green Primary School we are constantly teaching these skills to the children. We are all in this together in being role models for our students with respect to following the road rules, particularly when it comes to stopping, parking, etc. when dropping off or picking up their child from school. Staff continually report to me about parents stopping on the crossing, or calling children across the road. I make regular requests of this type all in the best interest for our whole school community.

Our painting continues with offices and the library being completed at the moment. As we are on a timeline set by the federal government to complete the job by the end of term 4, our painters may soon be moving into classrooms. We will need to relocate classes into the library if this cannot be avoided. Dave, the painter and his team want all parents to know that only water based environmentally paints are being used.

We wish all our Middle students, who are off to camp on Monday, have a terrific time at Sovereign Hill.

*Karen O'Dowd*



### School Closure

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
(Melbourne Cup Day  
Public Holiday)**

## End of the Year Celebration Evening

Dear Parents and Friends,

On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December Altona Green PS will be having an End of the Year Celebration Evening. This will be a free event held on the school grounds where the students will be entertaining families on the night. It is an expectation that all our students attend as they will be preparing for this function with their class this term. More information will follow soon.

Grades will be organising 'Special Baskets' that will be raffled on the night.

These baskets are themed. Could you please support these raffles by sending an item based on your child's grade theme.

The Themes are:-

**JJ & JC- Chocolate Basket**

(chocolates/sauces/cookbooks/mugs. etc)

**JV & JD- BBQ Basket** (aprons. utensils, sauces, drinks, cookbooks. etc)

**SN & SB- Cooking Basket** (Spices, recipe books, ingredients, aprons. etc)

**SS, SD & SH - Gardening Basket** (gloves, seeds, plants, ornaments. etc)

**MI & ML - Car Care Basket** (car magazines, wax, shampoo, chamois. etc)

**JM & MLR - Party Basket** (balloons, napkins, nibblies, drinks, lollies. etc)

**MJ & MS - Breakfast Basket** (spreads, cereals, napkins, coffee. etc)

**JS & JA - Pamper Basket** (oils, body creams, oil burners, candles. etc)

Please send your item(s) to your child's class, by Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

Thankyou

*EOY Celebration Committee.*

## Walk To School Day



What a fantastic effort!

Our target for the day was **300** children participating in such a valuable event, our result was **299**. Can you believe it? What an achievement! Lots of children and parents had their walking shoes on while others were actively riding their scooters or bikes. Overall it was a very successful morning.

Thank you to all the parents and children who supported us on this day. It was great to see such great community spirit!

## Active After School Communities

The Active After School Communities program is an Australian Government funded initiative that encourages a healthy and active lifestyle for children. Altona Green PS is fortunate to be part of this program.

Each term, 3 activities after offered, one is for our OSHC program and two are offered to different year levels. This term we have Netball for Grade 3/4's on Wednesday nights and Circus Skills for Juniors on Thursday nights.

We still have some vacancies in the Netball program which began last night so if your child is interested in joining in next week please contact the office. The Circus Skills program for Juniors has been the most popular so far, with places filling very quickly. The program begins tonight and if it is deemed worthwhile and an instructor is available we will endeavour to offer this again next year to Grade 1/2 students. Priority would be given to those who did not attend this term.

## Canteen Closure

The canteen will be closed on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Children will need to bring lunch and snacks from home on these days.

## Outside School Hours Care

This week's activities:

Monday: cooking - Blissballs

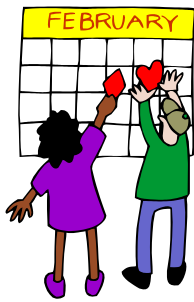
Tuesday: AASC - Multi skill games

Wednesday - Science activities

Thursday - Science activities

Friday - Masks and creepy caterpillars

## 2010 Family Organiser



Last days to order your 2010 Family Organisers.

The organisers proved very popular last year and for only \$12.95 you can keep track of all the happenings in your family.

Order forms need to be returned to school by the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

## Classroom Clippings

### Juniors

The Juniors have settled well into Term 4 with a lot happening. The 1's and 2's are working on a Multicultural theme and are very motivated to learn about the customs and traditions of other cultures. Staff have been very busy administering the new Online Literacy Assessment Interviews. JD, JJ and JV are very excited to be off to the Museum today and JA, JC, JM and JS are looking forward to performing at the Hobsons Bay Children's Picnic next Wednesday. If parents want to attend it is being held at Laverton Park which is near the football ground at the Laverton end of Merton St.

### Middles

5 more sleeps until camp! We are all looking forward to going away to Sovereign Hill. Camp preparations are moving along and this week we will be sending home some more information to families.

We have been in contact with Sovereign Hill staff this week and they have told us about Ballarat weather over the past few weeks. At the moment Ballarat temperatures have been between 4 - 6<sup>o</sup>C cooler than Melbourne.

We would strongly urge families to pack warm clothing for camp students especially for our Monday night activity 'Blood on the Southern Cross'.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of October when camp children arrive to school at 8:30am, they are to go straight to the gym with their luggage to be marked off the roll. Any medication needs to be in a plastic bag clearly labelled with the student's name and dosage and given to Tracy before we leave. No medication is to be packed in luggage. Children with asthma must carry their own inhalers and can collect these from the sickbay on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Please read through any camp information sent home this week to make the organisation of the camp run smoothly.

## Community Notices

### **La Brocque Golf Academy**

New Junior programs - include golf instruction, skills tests and on course comps  
Sharks: 5-8yo, Tigers 9-12yo, Advanced 13-17  
Sessions run for 75 minutes in conjunction with school term.

Please call Gareth Hawkins 0410 692409 or Lucas Fearn 0401 322771

## Free Children's Week Picnic at Laverton Park

Hobsons Bay City Council invites the community to participate in a free Children's Week Picnic at Laverton Park, Corner Merton St and Hall Ave Altona Meadows (Melway 53 F10) 28th October, 10.00am - 1.00pm .

*Entertainment and activities include:*

- The Airforce Band 'Force 10'
- Music, songs and storytelling from Rockin' Russell, Sketch and Tell, Dharma and Blue African drumming, Waterwatch
- Street theatre and performance by local schools
- Kids Go For Your Life activities
- Fire Brigade Smoke Buster, SES and Police
- Bike education session, Games
- Soccer session
- Bendigo Bank Sausage sizzle
- Bunnings Craft, Kids craft activities
- Face painting, Animal farm, Juggling
- Free fruit, tea and coffee
- Bubbles and more!



water safety since 1916  
**VICSWIM**

Many children will visit the beach this summer, spend time in backyard and local pools, whilst others will spend their time on the river and channel banks or around lakes. Unfortunately not all of them are safe but we can help minimise the risks.

VICSWIM is the oldest aquatic education course in Victoria and is available to every student in the state. VICSWIM Summer Kidz is a three week program at pools and beaches around the State commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Enrolments are now open; visit [www.vicswim.com.au](http://www.vicswim.com.au) or call 8843 2000. Online enrolments close 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

## School Gate Etiquette

**An eight point checklist for dropping and picking up children from school safely**

- ☑ Always set a good example when crossing roads. You are your child's best - and worst - road safety teacher. Setting a good example will help ensure their safety when you're not there.
- ☑ Walk to the school gate to drop off or collect your child - you should always hold the hands of children under the age of eight and always supervise children under the age of ten in a traffic environment.
- ☑ Never call out from across the road - excited children can forget to look for traffic.
- ☑ Have children use the car door on the footpath side - it keeps them away from traffic.
- ☑ Obey all the parking signs around your child's school. These signs are there to save lives.
- ☑ Take extreme care when pulling into driveways close to the school. Child pedestrians can be unpredictable and unaware of your presence.
- ☑ On wet days be prepared, drive extra slowly and be patient. Keep an umbrella in the car and be prepared to walk further than usual. Continue to abide by any school parking restrictions.
- ☑ Obey the school speed limit.

**Choose safety over convenience and protect all our children.**