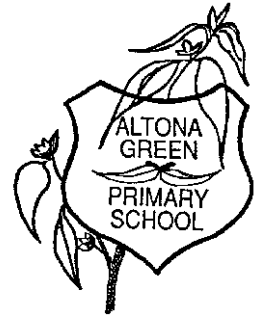


Altona Green Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 29/09
17 September, 2009

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A Message From Karen...

Last term, our School Council formed a working party to investigate the vandalism/graffiti problem that our school had been facing over a number of years. The Education departments 'Education Security' section was called on to assist with the investigation and tabled a report on our school earlier this term. The report stated:

- *Altona Green primary School despite the ongoing acts of criminal and unwanted activities is a well presented school overall.*
- *The school leadership is to be commended for their proactive approach to the schools criminal damage problems; however in the time the Principal has been at the school the criminal damage and other incidents seem to be increasing as is the severity and seriousness of incidents.*
- *It needs to be stated that without fencing this site with a substantial fence there is no other way of reducing the disheartening amount of mindless destruction and serious criminal incidents that the school has suffered and will suffer.*
- *A pleasing and secure appearance will deter offenders and reinforce the ownership of the school by the school community to outsiders. Selectively or completely fencing schools has proven to be the most effective defence against unwanted visitors and acts of criminal damage. Fences such as the palisade type provide a physical barrier and if installed and sited correctly are not intrusive into the day to day activities conducted in and around schools.*

- *The Emergency and Security Management Unit has conducted research across a regional network where most of the schools have been fenced for a number of years. Compared with other unfenced schools in other networks across that region this particular network expenditure on the restoration of vandalism and graffiti and other criminal incidents was negligible.*

At the last School Council Meeting, the recommendations from Education Security were adopted on the proviso that funds allocated through School Pride money previously allocated to a covered shelter be able to be redirected to the fencing. These funds will almost cover all of the costs of the fence with the school council picking up the shortfall. This recommendation was endorsed by School Council at their last meeting on 17/8/09. As the funding is part of the stimulus package funding, we needed to wait for approval before we could proceed. This approval was given this morning. Although many of our school community always liked the openness of our school, it did have its disadvantages. Often our students' learning is affected by the disruption caused in relocating classes on Monday mornings whilst broken windows are repaired. Our students' outside learning areas are also disrupted as graffiti and outside vandalism issues are dealt with as a matter of priority.

Singing and Performing

Well done to our Juniors for their wonderful performance at our assembly last week. Thanks also goes to a group of our Middle students who represented Altona Green Primary School at the Hobsons Bay annual Festival of Performing Arts held at the Paisley campus of Bayside College on Tuesday. On both occasions our students worked together as a team, producing their personal best whilst having fun. Both groups also appreciated the full house who attended to listen, watch and offer support. They are also grateful for the assistance of Michelle Yacoub and Irene Bennetts who prepared them for their performances.

National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (Naplan) Tests -The Naplan tests were administered in May to students in Years 3 and 5 throughout Australia. Teachers assess their students' learning in literacy and numeracy on a regular basis. NAPLAN testing is another form of assessment and does not replace information that teachers gather. Your child's report will be sent home with your child this Friday. If there are any questions please approach your child's teacher to discuss them in the new term.

Farewell

Tomorrow we farewell Sally Williams who leaves us to prepare for the birth of her first child. Our best wishes are extended to Sally and Sebastian at this special time of their lives. Thanks Sally for the great job you have done in Senior 5 this year.

School Security

During holidays, schools can suffer vandal damage. If you notice any untoward behaviour in the school grounds during the holidays it would be appreciated if you would contact the police on 000.

Late Collection of Children

Teachers supervise the yard until 3:45pm each day. During this term an increasing number of children are coming to the School Office at 3:45pm to wait until parents are here to collect them after school. I realise that on occasions plans can go awry at the last minute which can make collecting your child by this time difficult, but if you are aware that you will be late please arrange for them to be enrolled into After School Care.

Please remember that school will finish at 2:30pm tomorrow due to it being the last day of term.

A Parent's Guide to Victorian Government Schools

Parent information about Victorian Government schools is a key part of the 'Shine' campaign currently airing on metropolitan television, with viewers invited to request a copy of a parent information booklet via SMS.

The booklet is brief and is designed to guide you the parent to more detailed information online. The booklet can also be downloaded or ordered via DEECD website (www.education.vic.gov.au/shine) and copies will be available at the DEECD stand at the Royal Melbourne Show.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS ~ STAY SAFE AND WELL.... and "Go PIES!!"

Karen O'Dowd



School finishes at 2:30pm tomorrow for the end of Term. School resumes for Term 4 on Monday 5th October.

Festival of Performing Arts - FOPA

On Tuesday some of our Middles performed at FOPA (Festival of Performing Arts). FOPA was held at Bayside Secondary College. All schools from the Hobson's Bay District performed a musical item. Our Middles performed the following songs; "Hold on I'm Coming", "Jailhouse Rock" & "Shake Your Tailfeather". Congratulations to all the students who performed. You were all fantastic!

Michelle Yacoub
Music Teacher



Thanks

to all Parents and Teachers who helped at the school disco. Thanks for making it a great night for all, the disco raised \$1800.00 which is a fantastic effort.



Footy Finals Fever - out of uniform day



Tomorrow is an out of uniform day. Come dressed in the colours of your favourite footy team.

Bring a gold coin donation with funds raised going to State Schools Relief, which provides clothing and footwear to disadvantaged children in Government schools.

Classroom Clippings

Preps

We wish all prep children and their families a safe and relaxing holiday.

All take home and library books need to be returned to school.

Next term all the prep grades will be attending an excursion to the Melbourne Museum. Information about this excursion will go home early next term.

Juniors

Just a quick reminder that we are still waiting for some children's 'Take Home Books' to be returned! A big thank you to everyone that promptly returned the material last week - this assists staff in getting ready for Term 4.

Middles

The Middles Teachers would like to wish all middle students and their families a safe and happy holiday. The students have been fantastic through the challenge of moving classrooms as we relocated the portables. It was great to see that so many students were able to adapt positively to change demonstrate wonderful flexibility. Great life skills to learn!!!

Seniors

Our Senior students had a wonderful time at Scienceworks on Tuesday. They visited the Starwars exhibition, which had many hands on exhibits. They viewed many props and costumes that were actually used in the movies. The students had a session in the planetarium where they learned about early understandings of space and the reasons why Pluto has always been a problem planet. Sportsworks was great fun and students had opportunities to test their speed, reactions, strength and lots more. Our Seniors were excellent ambassadors for our school, their attitude and behaviour was commendable.

Assembly Awards

Congratulations to these children who received an award at last week's assembly.

- SD** Jamie -willing to assist others.
Dannielle - making a super effort with her inquiry question project.
- SH** Alex - always doing her personal best.
Mohamed - improved maths skills.
- SN** Tam - for the wonderful work and effort you have put into your space project
- SS** Jessica - improvement in completing homework.
- MI** Philip and William - fantastic attitude towards all class work and excellent research skills.
- MJ** DJ - his hard work during class and for extending himself.
- ML** Milena - her great effort adding decimals.
Maysa - being a polite and courteous member of the classroom.
- MLR** Dylan - trying his personal best in maths.
Sarah - supporting her own and others learning.
- MS** Ella - 'Having-a-go' and sharing her thoughts in maths.
Blake - trying hard to listen attentively in class.
- JA** Shanay - trying hard with practising her reading.
- JC** Atareta - always trying her personal best and school and for being a wonderful helper in the grade.
- JD** Muskan - a good effort with her reading.
- JJ** Chris - working very hard in class.
- JM** Riley- great ideas during class discussion.
Saiyan - being a fantastic and efficient class librarian.
- JS** Liam - writing a very creative story.
Bodhi - fantastic story writing.
- JV** Spencer - a wonderful effort with reading.
- PE** William (JA) - a terrific effort at sport.
- MUSIC**
Chris (JJ) - trying his personal best in music.
Jasmine (MLR) - displaying great rhythmic and music theory skills.
- SAKG**
Michael (SN) - well thought out answers in the garden.
Saja (SS) - well remembered garden facts.

Samuel (MS) - listening really well and doing a great job in the garden.

Jack (MJ) - fantastic 'season' answers in garden class.

Brandon (MLR) - best effort ever in the garden

Community Notices

For Sale

2 x baby seat/capsules. Newborn to 3 years old. Fisher Price and Safe n Sound. \$40 each, only used for 1 year. Phone: 0432 204799

Come and join **Westona Little Athletics Club** - great exercise for kids between 5 and 15 years old. Season starts Saturday 3rd October at 8:30am. Bring the kids down and have a trial day (blue shorts and white t-shirt) Registration days are Saturday 19th and 26th from 9am-12pm at the club. Address - Sugargum Drive, Altona. Further details contact Mark or Rachel on 9315 6833

Little Athletics is a great way to get fit and meet new friends.

Come along and join **Altona Meadows / Laverton Little Athletics Club** for season 2009 / 2010.

Our registration days are being held at the Altona Little Athletics Centre on Saturday 19th and Saturday 26th September from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

If you would like information regarding Little Athletics and our club please contact Kerrie on 0488 663153.

Altona North Cricket Club is looking for Junior players for age groups U11 and Milo in 2 Cricket participants. Boys & Girls aged 5-11 welcome. Come to training at WLJ Crofts Reserve, Blackshaws Rd, Altona North on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30 or call Brian Bouchier 0407 365001