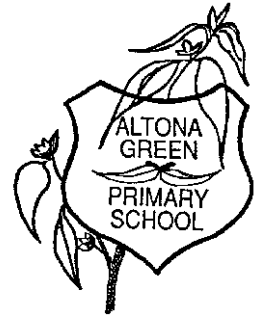


Altona Green Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 27/09
3 September, 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.

The last word from Karen Mackay...

For those of you who know me well, how true always wanting to have the last word!

This week I am actually finding it very hard to believe that everything I am doing is for the **last time**.

As I always say to the children when they are feeling tired of being at school, do you realise I have been at school since preps and I am now 55. I knew what I wanted to do way back in primary school and that was to teach and 35 years later I have no regrets.

The reason I wanted to do this has altered a little since primary school, as then I just wanted to be in a position to boss every-one around, some would say I still thrive on that.

To me, teaching has always been about forming trusting relationships with children where you are able to watch them develop positive senses of self, identifying their strengths and attributes, learning from their errors and developing a genuine love of learning. Smiles, laughter and fun should be as compulsory in a classroom as literacy and numeracy.

I have always chosen and applied for schools who I believe have this philosophy at the core of all they do, which is the very reason I ended up at Altona Green Primary School. My time here has been a huge learning experience, leaving the classroom to take up the Assistant Principal role. I have been extremely fortunate to have a brilliant mentor in Karen O'Dowd. As a leader her vision, work ethic and commitment to the Altona Green School Community is outstanding.

You are all very fortunate to have some-one like Karen at the helm. Our beliefs about children, their learning, growth and needs are compatible and made for a strong working relationship.

The staff here are one of the most dedicated and hard working groups I have met and I have taught in many different settings. By staff I mean not only teaching staff but all support staff, OSHC staff and of course the two admin staff who I would be lost without, Tracy and Raelene. Thank-you all for the support you have given me in this role.

To all the parents, carers and grandparents I have worked with over my years thanks for your support and friendship. We have shared some laughs some tears and even some cross words, but at the end of the day we all agreed we were working towards the same end, education and care of your children.

Last but not least I want to pay my biggest thanks to all the children at our school. You're the reason I was there and the reason I loved my job. I loved listening to you, learning with you, laughing with you and helping you out when things weren't going so well. On my worst days at work your visits to my office or my visits to your room made my job all seem much better and you always bought a smile to my face.

Well my last words ended up being many...I guess I will finish with something a junior said to me the other day, "Karen are you leaving because you are tired like Mr. Barton?" I think I am!

Karen Mackay

A Message From Karen...

This week we finally saw the relocation of our portables to make way for the start of our new building. The building team are working flat out to re-connect services to the classrooms so that we can have the 4 classes that have been affected, move back safely into their rooms as quickly as possible.

The teachers at Altona Green Primary School are continually striving to improve their teaching practice so that all children are learning more effectively. Teachers frequently attend meetings and workshops after school and sometimes for whole days to keep up to date with teaching strategies and programs. Part of the Professional Learning is also through visiting and observing other teachers. During this term teachers have been visiting other classrooms to observe each other. We have also had teachers hit the road to observe colleagues at other schools. Our staff also can be heard in informal discussions about their teaching effectiveness and strategies for assisting individual children with their learning. The 'new' classrooms that are about to be built are of a very different design than what we are used to. The design of the rooms will shape the style of teaching required to provide 21st century learning. They will provide space and opportunities for students to be engaged in small groups in a variety of activities that the confine of 4 walls currently prevents.

Our staff have begun to consider what this 'teaching approach' and curriculum design will look like. Next Thursday there will be a parent **Information Session /Coffee Morning at 9.15am** in the Before/After School Care Room- come in and listen to news about Altona Green Primary School or ask questions about this topic or anything you have been wondering about!

Many of our Middle and Senior students spent yesterday competing in the local district's annual athletics carnival. Unfortunately other commitments prevented me from being there but from the feedback I received from staff, I would like to congratulate the children on the way they competed and represented our school. Thanks to the staff and parents who prepared and supported our children.

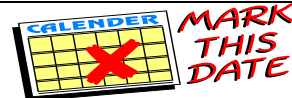
You may have been selected to participate in our annual survey of parents. This is an important source of data and feedback on our school and its programs so I would urge you to take the time to complete the survey and return it to the office as soon as possible.

As mentioned last week we farewell Karen Mackay today and also Jan Snowden who will be on long service leave for the remainder of the term. Sandra Chapman will be taking Junior J during this period.

Karen O'Dowd

Notices sent home this week!

- School Disco



SEPTEMBER

- 11th - School Disco
- 15th - Festival of Performing Arts
- 15th - Senior excursion to Scienceworks
- 18th - Last day of Term 3 - 2:30pm finish

OCTOBER

- 5th - Term 4 begins
- 12th - School Council
- 22nd - Prep excursion to the museum
- 26th - 28th Grade 3/4 camp to Sovereign Hill
- 28th - Hobsons Bay Childrens Week picnic
- 30th - Final payments due for Swimming Program

Calling all carers/parents/grandparents

Altona Green Walking Group

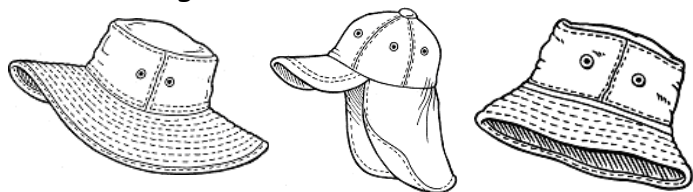
We meet at school office on Tuesday mornings, (term times) at 9.00am

We walk, chat and stop for coffee,
Fun social active way to meet other people and keep fit!!!

Please come and join. All welcome.
Contact Louise for details
8307 8331

Sunsmart

A reminder that September is here and it's the start of our spring / summer campaign where children wear sunsmart hats at recess and lunchtimes from the 1st September. As of Monday children who are not wearing a sunsmart hat will be required to sit under the gazebo during recess and lunch breaks and other outdoor activities. Our sunsmart policy is available on our school website: www.altonagreen.vic.edu.au



These hats are available from the uniform shop - Wide brim Hat \$8.50, Legionnaire Hat \$5.50 and Bucket Hat \$9.00

School Disco

Friday 11th September -

5.30- 7.00pm - Juniors/Middles - **THEME**

'come dressed as your favourite character'

7.15-8.45pm - Middles/Seniors

Tickets are now on sale \$3.00 per child or \$6.00 per family



Disco Posters

Design a disco poster for the school! Best poster wins a prize

Classroom Clippings

Preps

The children will be singing and performing at assembly on Friday 11th September.

Please continue to encourage your child to read each night.



Middles

The middles teachers would like to thank all middles students and parents for their support and understanding as we move rooms. The moves have been successful and the students are enjoying their new learning areas. Congratulations to all the middle students who participated in the athletics day yesterday. They were well behaved and did themselves and their school proud.

Seniors

Excursion notes for our visit to Scienceworks will be sent home on Friday. If there have been any changes to your child's secondary school placement, please let the class teacher know. Congratulations to those chosen to be part of our LPSSA Athletics team yesterday. Everyone performed very well and it was wonderful to see so many family members in attendance. The students involved in the Chris Judd Visy Bin Clinic last week had a great time.



Assembly Awards

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

- SB** Ashlea - her wonderful effort with her homework.
Ema- trying hard to improve her mathematics.
- SD** Ashlea - working independently to complete set tasks.
Aldin - being a keen participant in discussions.
- SH** Damon - excellent maths thinking skills.
Moana - an excellent homework project.
Well done
- SN** Georgia and Jacob - making good contributions in their group.
- SS** Saja - attentive listening
Stefan - maths skills
- MI** Alim - having a more settled term and completing tasks on time.
Natalie - 'Personal Best' effort with your Lotus Chart.
- MJ** Nikita - her hard work during maths fractions
- ML** Jamie - his excellent results in his reading.
Maria - her excellent dreamtime story.
- MLR** Griffin - a fantastic dreamtime story.
Isabella - always trying her personal best.
- MS** Shoshanna - doing her personal best in Maths.
Thomas - participation and enthusiasm in music
- JA** Peter - doing well in all of our reading activities and trying hard.
- JC** Joey - a fantastic effort with his maths work.
Kiriana - being kind to others and always making a great effort with all her work.
- JD** Christopher- working with classmates to make a pet shop.
Tiana- good reading of her guided reading book.

- JJ** Haylee - being a cheerful and considerate class member.
Mackenzie - writing a very creative script.
- JM** Manaia - always having a positive attitude.
Vanessa - making an effort to improve.
- JS** Kizzy - showing fantastic knowledge of Homophones.
Eyno - contributing to class discussions more.
- JV** Nathan - his improved effort with counting.
Khiara - an excellent effort with reading.
- PE** Dana (SD) - for sporting excellence in all activities.

MUSIC

- Tyson (SN) - always trying his personal best and achieving outstanding results on his listening tests.
Kevin (SB) - displaying great improvement in his drumming skills.
- SAKG** Tyler (MLR) - great answers in garden class and good listening.
Anastasia (ML) - great garden memory.
Madison (SB) - remembering how to plant a fruit tree.
Julian (SH) - asking great and intelligent garden questions.
Shaye (SD) - great job of seed planting and tidying up.
Milena (ML) - great answers in garden.
Ary (MI) - good problem solving in garden.
Liam (SB) - excellent leadership of his group in the kitchen
Ben (MS) - excellent kitchen skills.

PRINCIPAL

- Kyle (SH) - your horticultural knowledge and skills.

Happy, Happy September Birthdays

3 rd	Thomas
4 th	Ayden
5 th	Lyzel
6 th	Alana
8 th	Daniel
12 th	Patrick, Emily
14 th	Haidar, Monika
16 th	Ralph, Mohamad
17 th	Taylor
18 th	JT
19 th	Kaitlyn
20 th	Milena
21 st	Jessica
22 nd	Monica
23 rd	Chloe, Julian
24 th	Kristian
27 th	Daimon
29 th	Valentina, Ella
30 th	Georgia

Community Notices

Want to play CRICKET in
Season 2009/10?

ALTONA NORTH CRICKET CLUB



The Club is looking for Junior players for all age groups
and Milo In 2 Cricket participants

Boys & girls - aged 5 to 17

*All gear supplied * Friday nights / Saturdays / Sunday
morning *Beginners welcome * 5 senior mens/ 2 Senior
women teams *Fun social atmosphere * Social members
welcome

Come to our Registration Night next Wednesday 9th
September 5.00-6.00pm at WLJ Crofts Reserve
Blackshaws Rd, Altona North (Mel Ref: 40 H12)

For more information please contact:

Brian Bouchier 0407 365 001 (Under 13 Coach)

Darrin Bouchier 0419 521 900 (Under 15 Coach)

Artspiration - Hobsons Bay Libraries School Holiday Activities

Colour your school holidays by checking out a range of
creative activities available for young people of all ages
at your libraries. Draw on your imagination at the **Star
Wars dress up day** or try Painting Pandemonium, the
Circus with Punch puppet show, Tiny Puppet craft, **Mr
Winkle the Wizard**, Coils of Colour, **Origami**, the Big
Draw Evening Storytime and remember to enter the
illustration competition as well.

Details are available on the Hobsons Bay Libraries
website

<http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>
or phone 9932 3020



For 50yrs **Altona College** has played an
important part in the life of the Altona
community. On the weekend of 11th,
12th and 13th September 2009, we are
going to celebrate. **11th September A
50th Anniversary Reunion Celebration**

Night will be held at the school.

Continuous finger food will be provide between 7-10pm,
drinks available, door prize, memorabilia, good company,
socialising with old friends and lots more.

TIME: 6.30 - 11.30pm **WHERE:** The gym **COST:** \$35

BOOKINGS: A booking form is available from the
school or your year contact.

CONTACT: Email altona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au or
Telephone Caterina or Wendy on 92508050

Altona Cricket Club Juniors.

Registration Day

- ❖ Altona Cricket Club is a not for profit family club that provides an opportunity for young boys and girls to be active, enjoy the spirit of cricket and form lasting friendships through a local community club.
- ❖ We have teams in all age groups including Under 11's, Under 13's, Under 15's and Under 17's in the newly formed Western Region Junior Cricket Association (WRJCA).
- ❖ Being an affiliated sub-district club we also participate in the R.M. Hatch Shield U15 competition and have a strong development pathway into our senior club.
- ❖ All our coaches hold a Working With Children Check and Cricket Victoria Level 1 coaching accreditation.

Date: Sunday 6th September 2009 (Fathers Day)

Time: 9 am to 12 noon

Venue: Club Rooms
Bluegum Drive Altona

New players welcome.

Discount if fees are paid in full on the day.

Pancakes and coffee supplied.

For further information contact:

altona.ccejuniors@hotmail.com
or 0416 765 876