A message from Karen.....

We had a wonderful Mother's Day High Tea last Thursday. It was great to see the interaction on tables as our guests mingled with familiar and not so familiar faces. Every class had been involved in preparing ‘Mother’s Day tribute posters’ for our gym as well as table decorations and take-home gifts.

There were even some treats made by students in our Kitchen. Some students came in to entertain, some assisted with AV requirements and many with the furniture set up.

When I think back to the times when we did Mother's Day Stalls, our students involvement was very little. Isn’t it terrific to see our students taking other opportunities to celebrate this special day. We hope they also treated their mums on Sunday at home!

We collectively use this occasion to highlight and celebrate all the females (mums, grandmas, aunties) who nurture our students.

Our Parents' Club had worked tirelessly to plan and organise on the day and their efforts are to be congratulated. Thanks so much for your time, energy and cooking!

During the High Tea, the mums and grandmas at each table all thought about the qualities of the mothers at AGPS and the words that they all agreed on are below. The ones in bold are the qualities they thought most important. What do you think? Agree?
WEBSITE
Our website has gone live: http://www.altonagreen.vic.edu.au/
Have you visited the site yet?

NAPLAN- National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy
Our Grade 3 and 5 students have been participating in NAPLAN on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week.

EARLY DEPARTURES
We seem to have an increase of parents picking up students early, perhaps not always for appointments. We ask that you consider the learning time that they are missing out on when this occurs. We appreciate your assistance in this area.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
At School Council last Monday night we heard about and discussed:
- As you may be aware, public hearings started last week as part of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)’s investigation into the Education Department. The investigation into the Department, known as ‘Operation Ord’, is one of IBAC’s first inquiries. In Operation Ord, IBAC is Investigating the circumstances in which the Department, its employees and/or former employees designated certain government schools as ‘banker schools,’ and the alleged misuse of funds going through these schools. ‘Banker schools’ is a term used by IBAC and the media to describe the unauthorised practice of transferring funds to a school to be used by Departmental officers to avoid procurement rules and scrutiny. We have not been one of these ‘banker schools’.
- The Buildings and Grounds Team are planning a Road Safety Play area for Juniors. It will be in the area where the cubby currently is. The cubby will most likely be relocated as the area gets re-surfaced for the Tonka trucks and road signs that will soon appear!
- Following the request from students last year to build a ‘Ga-Ga’ pit, plans are well underway.
- The Grade 5/6 Camp for 2016 to Roses Gap was approved.
- The Policy Group is beginning their review of the Homework Policy and parent input will be sought through an online survey.
- School Council approved our Annual Report and reviewed and endorsed our Anaphylaxis Policy. Both documents are on our website.
- School Council members spent some time discussing communications across the school and the connections/links between Konnective → website → newsletter → notices home.

We look forward to seeing as many families as can make it during Education Week next week. The benefits for children involved in math’s from an early age and throughout their education journey are enormous. Curiosity and a sense of adventure are the perfect combination for getting young inquisitive minds interested in math’s. (See more details contained in this newsletter).
Thank you to all the families who attended the BYOD and Cybersafety Information session on Wednesday night.

Our guest speaker Alan from the Australian Federal Police presented an informative session to raise awareness of the issues facing young people online including:

- Technologies and apps popular with children and young people;
- Privacy management;
- Scams, fraud and identity theft;
- Online grooming;
- Sexting;
- Cyber-bullying;
- Reputation management;
- Where to go if things go wrong;
- Steps to improve cyber safety and security

You can find more information about Cybersafety on the following websites:

http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

If you could not attend the evening, another BYOD information session will be held during Education Week on Thursday 21 May at 9:00 – 9:30am in the Library.

**HOMEWORK SURVEY**

We kindly ask parents to complete a survey in regards to homework. Maximum participation is required to generate more accurate data. Please follow the link below:

https://www.surveymoneky.com/s/YHS29N7
Prep
The prep excursion to the Melbourne Zoo is on Friday 22 May. Please return permission slip and payment to school by Wednesday 20 May.
On Tuesday 19 May, a student from University of Melbourne Veterinary School will be talking to the prep students about the needs of pets.

Year 1
The year one community rugged up and went on a walk to Skelton Creek with Local Council Ranger Andrew on Monday. As part of our Inquiry unit the students got a chance to see our local wetlands to gain a better understanding of this habitat and the living things that are found there.

Year 2 & 3
The 2/3 Community are focussing on Design and the design process this term. We have a few eager designers who will be talking with the students about their work. The students will also be participating in design projects in the classroom. If you have boxes (shoe boxes, cereal boxes etc.) could you please send them to school with your child.
The grade 3 children have now completed Naplan, the results will come later in the year.

Year 4
We have planned an excursion for this term on June 11, linked to our Inquiry topic of 'Australia's Identity'. The excursion notes will be sent next week. Please check your child's bag.
A reminder that appropriate warm clothing needs to be worn on cold and wet days.

Year 5 & 6
This week our students have continued to immerse themselves in our inquiry of ‘Our Australia.’ We have been looking at inspirational Australians and key events that have shaped the Australia we live in today. Students will be creating their own inquiry question which will lead them to research and present their findings on an aspect of Australia’s history, culture, laws and political systems, economy or environment.

Education Week Maths Open Morning
Families are invited to attend an open morning on Monday 18 May from 9am – 10am. The focus of the session will be Mathematics.
News from the Music Room

The Preps have been exploring how to keep a steady beat using instruments.

In Grade 2, we've been writing our own musical scores using ta, ti-ti, too-oo and zaa.

Using xylophones, the Grade Ones have been creating pitch maps. We can use pictures in a pitch map to show when sounds are getting higher or getting lower.

The Grade Five and Six students have begun Band Rehearsals! In Term 3, students will have the opportunity to enter Altona Green's Battle of the Bands! They've been busily learning basic guitar, keyboard and bass guitar chords and tabs, a basic drumming backbeat and some have been perfecting their singing skills.

We've started the Little Kids Rock pilot program! As part of this exciting opportunity, Grade 3's will be learning to play the keyboard, and Grade 4's will be learning to play the guitar. We'll soon have some rock stars among us here at Altona Green Primary School!

Interested in learning more about what we're doing as part of the program? Head to: http://www.littlekidstrack.org/
Mother’s Day 2015

The grade 5/6s wanted to make something special for mum on Mother’s Day, so they created one of a kind necklaces using FIMO clay. They turned out beautifully and I’m sure there were many happy mums on Sunday.

I liked how we could make our own beads.
Alice Law

I liked making different colours by mixing them together. Jake Hansson

It was creative and we had fun. Selby Rose-Kormos
Cross Country Results

Congratulations to all students who participated in our Cross Country Team who competed in the LPSSA District Cross Country on Friday 1 May at the "100 Steps". We had a total of 24 students represent AGPS, a quarter of whom have progressed through to the Division Cross Country after placing in the top 10.

The following students will be progressing to the next stage: (5/6A) Peter Trimbonias, (5T) Kai Pennings, (6S) Emily Siljanovski, Natalie Marchione, Bella Kolodziej and (4D) Tui Huta.

FRIDAY 22ND MAY IS “WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY”

“Walk Safely to School Day” is an initiative that encourages road safety awareness and active travel.
All families are invited to “ditch the car and walk safely to school” on Friday 22nd of May.
If you live close enough, why not leave the car at home and walk or, if you live too far away to walk, why not park 500m away from school and walk the rest of the way!

Kitchen Garden Workshops for Parents, Guardians and School Community

As part of Education week next week Sarah and Carolina would like to invite anyone in the Altona Green Primary School community to participate in a kitchen and garden session.

HOW DOES MY GARDEN GROW?
Your children would love to start a vegie patch at home but I don't know where to start! Let Carolina show you and tell you how easy it can be.

Date: Tuesday 19th May 2.30-3.30, Venue: Our Garden

PACKING A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH
Preparing a packed lunch for your child everyday can be a bit of a chore. It's tempting to fall into the trap of using packaged, ready made options. Although they seem like an easy answer, they tend to be high in fat, salt and sugar, not to mention more expensive. During this session you will learn some quick and easy ways to make your child's lunch box a bit more interesting and healthier!

Date: Wednesday 20th May 9.15-10.45, Venue; Kitchen

Please RSVP by Monday 18th May by calling Jenny or Tracy in the office 9360 0777
BOOK TALK

This week we again thank the Anderson family for their very generous recent donation of non fiction books to our school library.

Our 2015 Premier's Reading Challenge has begun!

Well done to the 116 students who have registered at our school. So far you have already read 160 books!

We also have our first student complete their Challenge for 2015........Well done to Ace Young of 4A.

WHAT’S OUR SCENE

Junior coach of Hobsons Bay Chess Club Tony Davis, runs tournaments and coaching every Saturday at the Yarraville Club, Yarraville.

Each year they run a 'Rookies Cup' which is for the best junior chess players in the Western Suburbs to meet up in a four hour competition.

Last Saturday, Pooja Kamath from Altona Green PS was the leading girl and also the top player in the U/8 section. Her older sister, Gauri Kamath also competed and is improving quickly.

If your child is interested in learning to play chess please contact Tony on 0408 306 063.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

We have had a lot of students with wet clothes lately and have run out of spare clothes. Now that winter is around the corner we kindly ask if families can put a change of clothing in your child's school bag—including underwear, track pants etc.

Thank you.

HOUSE COLOUR T SHIRTS

We are encouraging all students to wear their House Colours to represent their teams in various events throughout the year. Students in the same family are in the same HOUSE for their time at school.

T-Shirts are $10 each and sample sizes are available at the office to try on. It is recommended that you do try the t-shirts on as they are a smaller make and are from a different supplier.
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.

Werribee Support & Housing
Bridges Foster Care Program
Bridges Foster Care is looking for Caregivers to provide a safe, supportive, caring, and stable environment for young people aged between birth & 17 years in your own homes.

As a Foster Carer, you can help to make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child or children who are unable to live with their natural family.

Caregivers can be individuals, female or male, couples, or families, can work part-time, full-time, or be at home full-time.

Bridges program workers provide on-going support and training to caregivers and their young people, including a 24 hour, 7 day a week on-call service.

If you are interested in making a positive difference in a young person’s life and want to find out about becoming a foster carer please give us a call on 9742-6452 and request an information pack.

Sanctuary Lakes Sharks Football Club is in its 3rd year and we are looking for kids that want to join our club and have fun and keep active at the same time!

In our junior team’s children, both girls and boys will learn to play football, through practising the skills of the game in an exciting, social and safe environment. Also, they will learn the fundamental motor skills vital for future physical activity and sport participation as well as learning how to interact with other children as part of a team.

If you are between the ages of 7 and 11 and want to come down and join in the fun please contact the club by emailing the following: operations@sanctuarylakessharks.com.au or Call Gavin on 0411 567 200
The club also provides a great opportunity for parents to interact with their kids through football, have the opportunity to make new friends, learn about the game and spend quality time with their children.
MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE

**MSJ Open Mornings**
9.30—10.30am Thursday May 29, June 18, August 13, September 10, November 12

**MSJ Open Day**
Sunday October 11, 11am—2pm

**MSJ College Production**
Beauty and the Beast is coming MSJ. Keep the following dates free:
Friday June 19 @ 7pm
Saturday June 20 @ 12.30pm & 7pm

**MSJ 2016**
Limited places are available for 2016. Further information can be found on our website www.msj.vic.edu.au or by contacting the College Registrar at registrar@msj.vic.edu.au or Telephone 8398 2007
Help your children make sense of natural disasters

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

Recent natural disasters wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. **Reassure children that they are safe**
   The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. **Be available**
   Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3. **Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television**
   Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

4. **Support children’s concerns for others**
   They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5. **Let them explore feelings beyond fear**
   Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6. **Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish**
   Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7. **Avoid keeping the television on all the time**
   The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. **Be aware of your own actions**
   Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

9. **Take action yourself**
   Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something, it will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children. In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.