Calendar

**JUNE**
1—Grade 1 Botanic Gardens
2—Grade 2 Drama Toolbox
4—Grade 2 & 3 Melbourne Museum
5—Grade 3 & 4 Drama Toolbox
11—Grade 4—Melbourne Museum
25—Parent/Teacher Interviews & Curriculum Day—Students are only required to attend for their interview time.

**2015 Term Dates**

Term 2
13th April—26th June

Term 3
13th July—18th Sept

Term 4
5th Oct—18th Dec

A message from Karen.....

“Thank you to all our family members who came to help us with our maths last week. We enjoyed having you join us in our classrooms.” from the students at AGPS.

Congratulations to Hayley Robertson and her partner Mike on the safe arrival on Saturday of Charlotte Maree.
Looking forward to a visit sometime soon!

To support families in speaking with their children on **gender diversity and transgender students** in schools, a representative from the **Safe Schools Coalition Victoria** will be at our school on **Wednesday June 3 at 2.45pm in the staffroom**. Safe Schools Coalition Victoria is based at La Trobe University and is funded by the Department of Education to assist schools in implementing their Gender Identity Policy and to support schools to make every student feel safe and included at school. This session will provide an avenue for families to have any queries answered. I would appreciate it if you intend attending this information session, that you contact the office or email us: altona.green.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Last Friday our Prep students attended the Melbourne Zoo as part of their current Inquiry Unit. On return, the staff reported that our students enjoyed their excursion and the learning that occurred. On Monday we were contacted by several media outlets concerned for the wellbeing of our students following the passing of Julia, the gorilla. We reported that our students were not at the exhibit for very long and there were no students presenting with any changes in behaviour and no reports passed on from parents. We appreciated the phone call from Zoos Victoria who were concerned for us following all the media interest. http://www.zoo.org.au/news/vale-julia

Nola and I recently joined 500 other principals and assistant principals at Etihad Stadium recently for the South West Regional “Successful Schools Conference”. The theme of the conference was around developing cultures of Professional Learning Communities across our region. Our school had previously joined with Williamstown Nth PS, Laverton College and Seabrook PS to start this work 3 years ago. The conference enabled us to see the next level of work that our schools need to embark upon to make our good practices, even better practices. We will continue to learn with and from our local schools, sharing what we do and learning from what they do. Last week the specialist team from Williamstown Nth PS came to our school to meet with Deanna Ganyu, our Specialist Team leader to see, hear and learn about our planning and assessment processes within our school’s professional learning community.

Need help with paying for excursions, camps and sporting events?
The Victorian Government have unveiled a new $148 million initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will run over four years and provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and be tied to the student. Parents or legal guardians are required to complete a CSEF application form and lodge it with their child’s school for processing. Application forms should be completed and lodged with schools before the end of term two each year as payments are made each year during term three. Application forms are available for download on our website or printed copies are available at schools.

SchoolMate

The Department of Education and Training has released an App which is designed to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day. The App, called SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets. SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS).
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level.
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day. Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community. SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10.

I encourage you to download SchoolMate and to please talk with your teacher or myself if you are interested to find out more about how our school teaches the curriculum.
At Altona Green Primary School we always encourage students to be respectful and supportive of each other. We are excited to be participating in the AFL and Victorian Government competition using football as a way to celebrate multiculturalism and diversity.

In the competition – One Team, One Goal: Celebrating Diversity – our school can win a $2,500 grant, tickets to an AFL match during Multicultural Round and limited edition AFL footballs.

To enter, students need to create a radio commercial, video or visual that reflects the themes of the competition – inclusion, diversity and respect.

This is a wonderful opportunity to talk to your children about diversity and to support them to develop their submission.

The competition website has more information about how to enter: www.education.vic.gov.au/oneteam.

Karen O’Dowd

BOOK TALK

This week we have received two large donations of books to our school library. Special thanks to Osker Harrison and his Nan and also to Jo and Spencer Tyers for all these books.

Congratulations to the following students who over the past fortnight have now completed their Reading Challenge:

- Yvonne Doan Nguyen 6S
- Lachlan Shields 2C
- Sarah Smith 1M
- Gabrielle Trajkovski 3L

Our total of books read so far is now 612. Well done everyone!

Trish

STUDENT BANKING

The revamped Dollarmites website is now live – There are some great activities to do on this site. https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/kids/school-banking/dollarmites.html

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.
Prep

Ainslie & Leon showed the office staff their books about what animals live in the sea. Leon had drawn an orange fish just like Tracy’s fish in the tank.

The preps had a fun day at the Melbourne Zoo last Friday. The new Lion Gorge enclosure allowed us to get up close for a better view. We were all thrilled and excited when one of the lions came up to the mesh and let out a great roar. The preps have been engaged in writing, making animals and drawing about their experiences. A big thank you to all the parents who helped out on the day.

Grade 1

The year one excursion to the Botanical Gardens is on Monday 1 June weather permitting of course. The children will be participating in an educational program called ‘Minibeasts’. Please ensure that your child is dressed in full uniform plus a warm jacket and appropriate footwear.

Grade 2 & 3

A big thank you to Heiko, Jo, Vivienne and Dave who gave up their time to talk to the children about their design processes which are related to their jobs. The children were very inspired, using these ideas to create their own designs.

The grade 2/3 students will be going to the museum next Thursday, please make sure that your child arrives to school by 8.50am and dressed in their school uniform.

Grade 4

A reminder that our excursion to the Melbourne Museum is happening soon. We have already had some parents approach us who are willing to assist with supervision on the day. If you are interested in attending please see either Anne or Debbie about this. It is important that you have the relevant ‘Working with children’ check. Please remember that the students are required to wear school uniform and can bring their lunches and snacks in a plastic bag, clearly marked with their names. A disposable drink bottle is also a good idea.

Grade 5 & 6

Last week our senior students were lucky enough to be visited by players from the Western Bulldogs Football Club. The players spoke to the students about Leadership; the commitment, the sacrifices, the teamwork, and the ups (and sometimes downs) of making your dreams come true. This complemented the work we have been doing towards supporting students to become great Student Leaders of our school and the work they have been doing in their own Student Leadership teams. Some photos from this session are included in this newsletter.
Year 5 and 6 students got to meet and chat with Western Bulldogs’ players Lin Jong, Tom Boyd and Matthew Boyd about leadership. The players openly talked about their successes and disappointments and what it takes to bounce back after set-backs such as injuries.
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.

**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
TOTALLY RAD

80's TRIVIA NIGHT

GRAB SOME LEG WARMERS, DUST OFF THE ACID WASH DENIM & GET YOUR MULLETS OUT!

Altona Green Primary School

Friday 31 July

GYM DOORS OPEN AT 7.00 PM

Raffle prizes, silent auctions, games, trivia and lots of fun!

BYO nibbles & drinks

TICKETS $15 PER PERSON OR BOOK A TABLE

Tickets available from the office