Welcome back to the new school year for what we hope is an enjoyable, exciting year full of learning challenges for every child. Thankyou to all our parents and guardians for ensuring our students were all equipped with school clothing including hats and a keen attitude for their return to school last week – staff appreciated it.

We have several new families to whom we extend a special welcome as well as many of our families in our 4 prep classes who join us for the first time. We hope that you soon feel very much at home in our school community. We will introduce our new students and staff at assembly next week, Friday 13 February at 3pm in Gumbuya.

We welcome on to our staff Gareth McLean (PE), Alana Curran Year 3), Jenny Armstead (Admin Office), Tracey Hall (Year 5) and Amanda Lee (Indonesian). A staff list is included in this newsletter for your information.

The names for our buildings:
I am aware that many of our new families might not be familiar with the names that we give our buildings so here they are:

GUMBUYA: (means the meeting place) This is the outside covered area over the stage.

KANANDAH: (means in the west) The newest building formerly known as the BER building. This building now houses Years 2, 3 and 4.

TANDARA: (means to camp here) The building formerly known as the main building, which houses the office, library, classrooms, art and music rooms and gym

THE COTTAGE: the building on its own with the bullnose verandah and the ramp. Our new Indonesian program will be operating from here.
Family Bush Dance Night
On Friday 27 February we will be holding a Family Bush Dance Night for all families to come and enjoy a social time together. It is also an opportunity for us, as a school community to welcome all our new families to our school. The night will be jam packed with exciting educational fun and includes whip cracking, the teaching of 2-3 age appropriate dances, and a very funny introduction to some of our bush music instruments. They include didgeridoo, musical saw, lagerphone, banjo and others.
On the 20 February, the week prior, all students will be attending an incursion where the Blackberry Jam Bush Band members will be at school to teach the students the dances that they will be doing on the night.
We hope all members of our school community will attend. Our School Council have decided to fund the costs of the band on the Friday night. There will be a small charge for the incursion for our students. This event will replace our traditional ‘Family Picnic night’. We thought we needed a change! Hope you all put the date in your diaries. More information to follow soon.

Parent/Teacher Contact Interviews
On Tuesday February 17 we plan to hold our first formal parent-teacher contact. The purpose of these meetings are for you to meet your child’s teacher and to exchange any information about your child to them.
An Online booking system will be available for parents to book their conversation time.

Building and maintenance
During the holiday break we had air conditioners installed in all classroom spaces in KANANDAH. Of course, since then we have had the coolest start to a school year that I can remember! Hopefully there will soon be some warmer weather to test them out.
We also had new blinds and tint put on some of our windows, including the gym during the last 2 weeks of last year.

Parents’ Club Meeting
Our first Parents’ Group Meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 12th February at 9am in the Staffroom. Our aim is to have every class represented. Please come along and support our school community in this way if you have the time.

First Assembly for the year
We plan to hold our first whole school assembly on Friday 13 February at 3pm in Gumbuya.

Routines and Reminders
- We are a Sunsmart School and require all children to wear a Sunsmart hat in the playground at all times. There is sunscreen available in each room and children are also encouraged to apply sunscreen before recess and lunch breaks.

- We dismiss the children from classrooms at 3.30 each day through all external doors. We ask that parents wait outside all buildings until their children are dismissed. If you regularly collect your child at 3.30 or if they meet their brothers and sisters, please establish a meeting point somewhere outside the building. eg. “Your family’s waiting tree”. Please remember to communicate with your child each morning if the routine after school will change. Meeting at the car one day and then inside the school grounds on another day can often cause confusion.

- Dogs are not permitted in the school yard at any time.

- We encourage all children to bring a piece of fresh fruit/vegetable to eat during fruit snack time in class. We also encourage students to bring a bottle of water to place on their table to hydrate themselves throughout the day.

- As per our school policy, we ask that birthday cakes and food snacks are not sent along to school as a birthday treat to share with classmates.

- Children are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school. If parents do wish that their child carry one to school then our policy requires them to hand them in at the office each morning and pick them up after school.
All children are responsible for their personal belongings at school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school by students, staff and visitors as it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Families are reminded that schools do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Families are able to take out Student Accident Insurance for 2015 if they wish. There are a number of insurance companies who provide Student Insurance. We have some information available in the office if you are interested.

Just a reminder to all families that the school carpark is a staff carpark and for safety reasons, we ask families NOT to park in there. We also ask that families do not walk through the carpark with their children before or after school. We value your child’s safety and it is for these reasons that our School Council has these rules in place.

School Council Elections
School Council is the school’s governing body made up of parent and staff representatives. Parent and staff reps are elected for two year terms. Around half the positions on School Council expire at the end of each year.

- Our ‘retiring’ parent councillors for this year are: Robert Krstevki, Rachel Johnstone, Annette McQuarrie-Kearton and Monica Schaak
- There are, therefore 4 parent vacancies.
- The ‘retiring’ staff reps on School Council are Nola Byrne and Eugene Korbut
- There are 2 staff vacancies. All retiring members are welcomed to renominate.

All parents of students at our school are able to nominate for School Council. Parents wishing to stand for School Council may nominate themselves or be nominated by another parent of the school. All ‘retiring’ parent Councillors are eligible to re-nominate for School Council for the next two years, if they wish.

If we exceed this number of nominations an election will take place.

Nominations are now open.
Please see the Election notice included in the Newsletter and on the front foyer door. Nominations for Council close at 4.00 pm on Thursday 12 February.

Being on School Council requires attending two meetings twice each term, a Sub Committee meeting and a School Council Meeting. School Council meetings are currently held on Monday evenings at 6.30pm. Meetings are usually 90 minutes duration.

As a School Councillor you will have an active say in the leadership of the school. School Council has a number of very important roles including:

- Determining the general education policy of the school.
- Overseeing the school’s 4 year Strategic Plan and Annual Plan.
- Reporting to the School Community.
- Approving and monitoring the school’s annual budget.
- Exercising a general oversight of the buildings and grounds.
- Overseeing fundraising for the school.
- Promoting parent engagement.
- Promoting a positive school environment.
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of:

Altona Green Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on 12/2/15.
The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on 26/2/15
Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The
terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Karen O’Dowd

2015 STAFF LIST

Principal—Karen O’Dowd
Business Manager—Tracy Henderson
Prep D—Debbie McKenna
Prep S—Suada Dzaferovic
Prep J—Janine Gardiner
1H—Hayley Robertson
1M—Michelle Williams
1N—Nancy Di Tello
2E—Eugene Korbut
2C—Celia Iao
3A—Alana Curran
3L—Liz McNerney
4D—Debbie Markovic
4A—Anne Rabach
5T—Tracey Hall
5T—Tracey Hall
5/6A—Anna Zipevski
6S—Sarah Bergin
Music—Andrea Belfall
Art—Deanna Ganyu
Indonesian—Amanda Lee
Library Assistant—Trish Allen
Teacher Aide—Ann De Lima
Teacher Aide—Carly Challinger
Teacher Aide—Jo Wood
Gardener—Konnie Christke
Garden Specialist—Carolina Cordeiro
Cleaning Staff—Tala & Tom Cameron
Assistant Principal—Nola Byrne
Student Administration—Jenny Armstead
P.E.—Gareth McLean
Literacy Intervention—Janet Conlan
Maintenance—Gerry Romanyk
**Middle Camp 2015**
**Lady Northcote Recreation Camp**

A reminder that the $50 deposit for the camp is due this Friday 6th February, 2015. Permission notes, medical forms and packing lists will be sent home with the students shortly. If you have any questions regarding the Middle Camp please see your child’s teacher.

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**BOOK TALK**

Welcome back everyone!
Library borrowing is currently underway with all grades now coming to the library during their allocated borrowing times.
All students have their books for one week but can renew these books during their next library session if they need too.
Preps, Grade 1 and 2 can borrow one book each week.
Grades 3 and 4 can borrow two books and Grades 5 and 6 can borrow 3 books.
If students don’t return their books on time then a reminder is sent to that students classroom and then if the book is lost we ask for a $15.00 donation to replace that lost book.
The library is open Mon-Thurs at 8.30 if you have any enquiries.
Thanks to ex students Emma Gray, Tessa and Sarah Allen who donated books recently to our library which they no longer wanted.
Donations like this are always welcome and gratefully appreciated.
Happy Reading everyone!
Trish

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**IS YOUR CHILD READY TO TAKE ON AN INTERGALACTIC SAVINGS MISSION?**

School Banking is back for 2015 at Altona Green Primary School for students who are ‘Outer Space Savers’.

![Image of space mission](image_url)

All students have been given a Parent Information pack containing information about the program and how to join. All you need to join the program is a Youth Saver/Dollarmite Account. If your child already has a Youth Saver/Dollarmite Account at home there is no need to open a new one; simply bring their existing book to school every week for banking day and hand it to their teacher.

**SCHOOL BANKING DAY IS : TUESDAY**

**STUDENT REWARDS**: With each weekly deposit your child will receive a token, when they get 10 tokens they can then redeem them for a reward (see picture above)

**SCHOOL REWARDS**: The school receives $5 for every account our students open PLUS 5% commission on all deposits.
**Happy, Happy January Birthdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dylan Rafferty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Connor Norris</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Lachlan Robbins</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tannah Pawlowski</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Iti Ashta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yasmin Zogheib</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Aryan Dinavahi</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Rania Zoghaib</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Caleb Sebastian</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Matthew Joveski</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tahlia Moorfoot</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Arthur Robinson</td>
</tr>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Alvina Ahmed Khan</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Katrin Christke</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leila Zogheib</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Kim Tran</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Artie Cornish</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Nikola Coso</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Astrid Pagel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tiffany Duong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eddie Morgan</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Taylah Underwood</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liam Schaak</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ben Gerada</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Ashley Parsons</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Sean Tikena</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lucas Kotevski</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jack Clarke</td>
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**Happy, Happy February Birthdays**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>William Heng</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole Degenhardt</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Lizzie Beckwith</td>
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<td>Avni Chhetri</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Iyla Haque</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Esha Haque</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Addis Phan</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Aidan Deverell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sophie Hofman</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Gabrielle Trajkovski</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Selby Rose-Kormos</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lachlan Arundell</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Jack Blanche</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Montana Paton</td>
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<td>Talon Ha</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Phet Gurry</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Jazz Gosper</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Skyla-Raine Grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Jasmine Liggett</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lily Sabotkoski</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admyra Palavi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Eleni Geysen</td>
</tr>
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**ICY POLE DAYS**
The Parent Group will be selling Icy Poles at the canteen every Friday until the end of Term 1. Cost — $1.50

Parent Helpers are welcome to add their name to the roster at the office.

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**
We are looking for 10 volunteers for the First Aid Room. Once a term you will be rostered on to change the linen on the beds in the First Aid Room on a Friday afternoon. The clean linen can then be returned some time the following week. If we have 10 volunteers, it would mean that you would have to do the task only 4 times a year. We would really appreciate your offer of help. Please drop by the office to leave your name or phone number with Tracy or Jenny on 9360 0777.
Dear Parents,

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held between 2.00pm—7.30pm on Tuesday 17 February.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.

The purpose of these meetings are:

- For the teacher to introduce themselves to parents and for the parents to become know to the teacher.
- To offer information about your child to the teacher which might be relevant in their academic and social growth.

These meetings are not intended as a progress report on your child as early timing prevents accurate educational assessments being given.

Please click on the link below to book. Bookings are now open.

BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY AT 12PM

Click on or enter the link below into your browser


Enter the school event code: NTR92

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically—check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews—until bookings close.

For parents who don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, computers will be available in the school library from Tuesday 10 February until Monday 16 February between 8.45—9.15am and 3.00—3.15pm, so that parents can still make their own bookings. Staff will be available to assist. Alternately parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require, or phone the school on 9360 0777.

Interviews are strictly 10 minutes duration and all families are expected to attend. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 9360 0777.

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website and leave some feedback—anonynously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.
This year the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the first ever **WILLIAMSTOWN FAMILY FESTIVAL** at Seaworks 82 Nelson Plc, Williamstown on SUNDAY MARCH 1st from 10am - 4pm. The event is designed to showcase the array of Williamstown businesses and community groups that provide goods and services for Williamstown families, by hosting a great day of free, family entertainment and active participation. The event will feature entertainment including live stage shows, interactive events, educational activities, performers, face painting and rides. We are looking for displays, interactive activities, story-telling, retail vendors etc that will engage and interest toddlers, teenagers and adults of all ages. If you are interested in having a presence or sponsoring this event please register your expression at info@visitwilliamstown.com.au

**TRACKERS COURSE**

Please note that the next Tackers course commences at the Altona Yacht Club this Saturday 7th Feb 2015. The following links will provide more information.
or facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Altona-Yacht-Club/158950627464711?ref=hl

**ALTONA MAGIC SOCCER CLUB**

Altona Magic Soccer Club is seeking soccer players to join our "miniroos" this coming 2015 season. We have positions available for the following age groups;
- Under 7s (5 to 7 yrs)
- Under 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s.
Training is on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6pm to 7pm. Venue: Paisley Park Soccer Complex, Cnr Mills St. and Ross Rd, Altona North.
For further inquiries please visit www.altonamagic.com.au or contact us at altonamagic@hotmail.com or 0411 023 661

**Summer Sounds: In Your Neighbourhood**

Summer Sounds is moving ‘into your neighbourhood’, local music in local parks
Enjoy classics and country in a Sunday afternoon musical sampler
Bring a picnic, relax, enjoy
Sunday 15 February – Trafalgar Reserve (Altona Meadows Community Park) 2pm-4pm
Music from the neighbourhood, in the neighbourhood
Bring a hat, sunscreen, picnic rug or a deckchair and enjoy with your friends and family.
For more information call 9932 4310 or visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**ATA ACTING CLASSES**

Altona Meadows, Hoppers Crossing and other locations.
Acting Classes for Children, Teens and Adults
FREE Trial Class
Call Adam on 0419 593 257 for details