A message from Karen…….

We welcomed back our students last week from the midyear break. Last week was also planning week where our teams of teachers planned this term’s curriculum together. They also met with our consultant, Jenni Wilson as they planned the Inquiries that our students will be active learners in this term.

We’d like to extend a special welcome to the new students and their families who have joined us so far this term.

- Ana Maria Moreno Nunez (Prep V)
- Mila Vuckovic (1N)
- Skye Graham (2E)
- Tahlia Uerata (4D)

The winter weather has had a strong presence in the past fortnight. The school classrooms are well heated however the external areas of the school can be very cold. Please ensure that your child has dressed accordingly for these cold days. Sometimes children are oblivious to the cold when they leave home, but get very cold without warm clothes at lunch and recess times.

Each year a parent opinion survey is posted to a randomly selected number of parents. If you receive the survey, please return it to school in the sealed envelope. Surveys are then sent off for processing. The school receives a report later in the year on the outcome of the surveys.

PREP ENROLMENTS 2016
If you have a child already attending Altona Green Primary School and have another child for Prep next year, please collect an enrolment pack from the office. Sometimes our families leave this to the last minute and we want to make sure we have your child on our list.

Our Athletics Sports for Years 3-6 is scheduled for Friday 31 July. We hope that all students wear the House t-shirt or colours that day. If there are any parents who are able to assist on the day, please give your name to our office staff and I am sure Gareth will put you to work!

Our Parents’ Club have been planning a great Trivia/Auction Night. Please get behind them and offer support if you can. At the moment they are looking for donations of Scratchie-tickets for the raffle. Tickets for the night are on sale now from the office. Hope to see you there.
HOMEWORK AT AGPS

Last term we conducted a review of our Homework Policy. We were mindful of the feedback through the Department’s annual Parent Opinion Survey from our school community over the last 2 years on the issue of Homework. This information informed our discussions which resulted in a review via an on-line survey as well as teacher and Policy Committee discussions.

As a result of our review we are trialling Homework Grids across the school this term. These grids will be set for completion over a 2 week basis. It will be consistent across each year level with expectations increasing in complexity as the students move through the school.

The purpose of homework at Altona Green Primary School is to:
- support the school program
- respond to each child’s specific need
- involve parents in their children’s learning

Our Homework Grids:
- support students to practise concepts learnt at school, within time constraints.
- emphasise diversity, family life and active pursuits.
- gradually increase in time and complexity from Prep to Year 6.
- support parents in having children help in the home.
- connect with family activities outside the home eg. shopping, physical activity such as sport training and family outings such as walking, fishing and exploring the world – activities which enhance family life.
- cover areas such as reading, being read to, playing a game with parents, researching, music practice and many others.

The Role of Parents:
- spend a few minutes each night with your child to look at their grid and help them organise their homework before they start it.
- help them order the sequence of tasks and then set an amount of time to finish it.
- direct your child to speak to their teacher if the homework is too difficult or email/make a time to speak to the teacher yourself.
- give positive feedback for good work completed.
- show an interest in your child’s work.
- ask children questions prior to, during or after their reading, assisting their comprehension skills.
- ask your child to verbalize what they are about to write prior to writing. This can mean talking to you about the topic or explaining the main points. This process greatly aids fluency and helps develop thoughts prior to writing.
Victoria- The Education State. Get involved and have your say:
The Minister for Education is working with the government to create Victoria as the ‘Education State’. As part of this process the government is asking all stakeholders to put forward their ideas and concerns. The following statement has been released to encourage everyone to ‘have their say’. Education influences every corner of our society and is the key to ensuring our state remains one of the world’s best places to live in the decades ahead. We want to hear your ideas on how we can make Victoria the ‘Education State’. It’s vital that those in the system – parents of children in kindergarten and school, students, teachers and educators and the principals who lead them – have a say in what we need to do to become the ‘Education State’. Join in the Education State Consultation today at: www.educationstate.education.vic.gov.au. The consultation closes on 31 July 2015.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM
This term Altona Green Primary School will be involved in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Program. The program enables school’s to earn educational resources when anyone from the school community shops at Woolworths! The program commenced on Wednesday July 15 and finishes on Tuesday September 8. Whenever a parent or staff member shops at Woolworths they can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers from the checkout operator and place them on a Woolworths Earn and Learn sticker sheet (provided at the front desk). There will be one sticker rewarded for every $10 spent; (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards) once the sheet is completed you can place the sticker sheet in the collection box in our school’s foyer. I thank you in advance for your support to help our school earn valuable resources which will no doubt make a significant difference!

Karen O’Dowd

URGENT – Parent Helpers Wanted for House Athletics Day.

The AGPS House Athletics Day is scheduled for Friday 31 July. It will be held on the school grounds and ovals from 9:00 am.
All students from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be competing in athletics events to determine the House Athletics Champions for 2015.
Gareth McLean needs as many parent helpers as possible to assist throughout the day.
If you can help him out, please leave your contact details at the office or come and see him at the Gym.
Environment News
This Friday is National Tree Day for Schools. All students will be participating in a ‘growing seeds’ activity. Preps – grade 4 are making Hairy Heads and the grade 5/6s are making herb gardens to use in the kitchen garden program. Families are welcome to collect a free tree from the Altona library from 3.30-4.30 pm on Thursday 23 July.

Nude Food News
The Environment group have been concerned with the amount of rubbish in the school ground and packaging in students’ lunchboxes. To reduce the amount of rubbish and improve students’ eating habits, the Environment Group are asking students to bring nude food to school. It is the school’s goal to become a Nude Food School by the end of the year. What is nude food? Food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic or commercial wrapping.

We are asking for your support at home by providing your child with a nude food lunch box and selecting foods with your child that could be included. For example, fruit kebabs, muffins, wraps not rolled in plastic, popcorn or yoghurt in reusable containers.

Mark Monday 3 August as our launch day for ‘Munching Mondays’ – each student needs to bring nude food snacks to school on this day.

Munching Monday 10 August will be the launch of totally nude food lunch boxes for each Monday in August. There will be a Nude Food Workshop offered in the kitchen garden by Sarah Bath on August 18 to give you ideas for nude food lunch boxes.

Student Engagement
At Altona Green student engagement focuses on the following programs:

The Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program – a program encouraging students to be healthy in every aspect of life.

Student Leadership – a group of senior students take a role of responsibility in the school community. This role includes organising lunchtime activities, modelling and encouraging students to use KEFAR values, and being responsible for aspects of the curriculum, for example Performing Arts, I.C.T.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden – this involves students growing and harvesting their own food to use in the kitchen to create healthy meals.

Environment Group – involves environment leaders and interested students. They organise events to develop awareness of environmental issues, such as Clean Up Schools Day, Tree Planting Day, and Nude Food Week.

Sport in Schools – students are given the opportunity to participate in different sports led by professional coaches at lunchtime, such as tennis, badminton and netball.

Junior School Council – students discuss issues that concern the school community and take action where appropriate.

Bounce Back – all grades are involved in the Bounce Back Program which promotes resilience and the development of social skills.

Watch this space in the newsletter to discover more about student engagement at Altona Green.
BOOK TALK
Welcome back to Term 3 everyone!
This Term will be an exciting one for the library as we read all this year’s short-listed books and then on Friday 21 August we will be going to our musical incursion “Shine A Light”. This show is based around a selection of this year’s short-listed books. Notices will go out next week regarding this.
A big thank you to the De Lima family for their very kind donation of books for the library.
Also congratulations to the following students who have completed their Reading Challenge:
Our total of books now read by all the students is 1,355.
Well done everyone!
Trish

MANAGING STRESS
Free Public Event
29 July 7pm—8.30pm
Laverton Community Hub Centre
95—105 Railway Avenue, Laverton
Please book your place on 9391 9866

Stress is a state of mental or emotional tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances. It is a normal psychological and physical reaction to the ever increasing demands of life. We are all familiar with stress—it’s a fact of life. With the rapid pace of modern living, it feels increasingly difficult to keep up. Sadly, the negative effects of stress are widespread and growing.
Without stress management, all too often your body is always on high alert. Over time, high levels of stress can lead to serious health problems and have a negative impact on your relationships and overall quality of life.
Benefits of stress management:
- Improved coping skills
- Improved relationships
- Improved general well being
- Improved immune system
- Better sleep quality
- Sense of ease and inner calm

SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT
DO YOU HAVE CONNECTIONS?
We are looking for prizes for our Trivia Night which will be held on Friday July 31.
If you have any connections with businesses or work for a business that could donate prizes, we would greatly appreciate it….. The more prizes, the more chances for people to win!

If you would like us to send an official letter to your company or if you require more details please send an email to the school on altonagreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Don’t forget to book your table for a fun night with Jenny or Tracy on 9360 0777

NED SHOW
The NED Show is coming to Altona Green on August 7 during a whole school assembly beginning at 2.30pm. NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. The excitement begins with the assembly and continues year round to promote a culture of kindness and excellence at our school.
Yo-yo’s will be available for sale after the demonstration and prices range from $8—$20

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Donations Required for Prep Outdoor Learning Space

We are seeking donations of the following: sandpit equipment and transportation vehicles.
If you are able to help please give items to the Prep teachers or office staff. Thank you

Prep
The preps are celebrating the 100th day of school on Monday 27 July. As part of the celebrations we would like students to dress up as a 100 year old person. Some ideas for dressing up are included on a separate note. Students will be participating in a variety of activities related to the number 100.

Grade 1
The year ones have kicked off the term with a confident start showing how grown up they are by walking into the classroom independently and organising themselves ready for the day’s learning.
Please note that the Homework matrix was sent home on Monday and is due back Friday 31 July. In addition, the optional Bring Your Own Device program begins Monday August 10 (Week 5) for Grade 1s.

Grade 2 & 3
This term, the 2/3 Community is learning about Indigenous History and Australian Culture. We are inviting parents and grandparents to come and speak to students about their culture and the country they came from. If you are available in the next few weeks, please speak to your child’s teacher to organise a suitable time.
If your child is participating in swimming, please remember to return swimming notes to classroom teachers or the office.

Grade 4
This week all students took home with them a new homework book, which included several activities for your child to complete over the next fortnight. Please make sure that your child has completed all the required activities and sign the form provided. If you have any queries, talk to your child first and then Anne or Debbie.

Grade 5 & 6
Our Year 5 and 6 students have been introduced to our Inquiry for this term, ‘Discover Science.’ Last Thursday two of our classes went to the Victorian Space and Science Education Centre which is located at Strathmore Secondary College. The other class will attend this coming Monday. Our students are very excited about their new Inquiry and are already coming up with their own Inquiry questions.
Last term our Year 1s went on an excursion and how wonderful was it to see a parent of a year 5 student’s mum attend with Nancy’s Year 1 class. Here is an account of that parent volunteer’s experience:

Recently the grade one classes spent the day at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. I was fortunate to be able to attend as a parent helper even though I don’t have a child in grade 1. This opportunity arose because I had returned the parent interests form and had noted that I enjoy gardening and outdoor activities and that I am interested in being involved with all areas of the school, as well as my own child’s grade.

We set off from Altona Green on buses with lunch bags in hand and high hopes of an enjoyable and interesting day, which were amply fulfilled. After our snack (beside the conveniently placed coffee stall) we took a long casual walk and explored the gardens. I found it fascinating that the children were attracted by different aspects of the gardens - they all found it an interesting experience but all got something different from it.

After lunch, the structured activity in the Children’s Garden gave us an opportunity to play with worms and find out how they operate and why we need them; explore microscopic pond life; and clamber through a centuries-old tree root system. The gardens staff were brilliant at leading the children to see into the intricacies of the garden.

Back on the buses and heading homewards, the children were chatty and friendly and sharing their ideas about the things they’d seen - high on the list were the worms, and a big tree with drooping branches that would make a great cubby.

The excursion was a great experience for me and I highly recommend that you put your name down with Jenny in the office as someone who’d like to be a parent helper. Susan Campbell Wright

We know that there are many parents who are willing to help. If you haven’t thought of helping in another class, please consider it. Your own child will benefit by seeing how connected you are to their school and how much you value volunteering. Thanks Susan.

HELPING HANDS

The Year 1 Community are learning about different leisure activities for their Inquiry Unit this term – ‘Healthy Me’. If you have an interest or hobby that you would like to share with groups of students, we are looking for some guests to come along to any of the following sessions: August 3, 10, 17 at 2.30PM. Please express your interest before these dates to a Year 1 Community staff member, Nancy, Tina or Michelle.

“Supporting My Child Into High School”

Our Community worker, Janet Greenwood will lead the discussion on the strategies that assist students in a smooth transition to Secondary School. On Tuesday September 1 at 9am in Library
BUILDINGS AND GROUND UPDATE

NEW JUNIOR PLAY AREA
Parents may have noticed some changes in our playground and the opening of a new sandpit area, complete with sandpit toys, Tonka trucks and the like, located right next to the chicken coop. Part of our work in the Buildings and Grounds committee has been devoted to developing a greater choice of activities for children to become engaged in during break times. Shortly you will also see road traffic signs on the paved areas within the enclosure, seats and garden beds being planted by the children in P-2. This area is specifically for our younger children and has proven very popular so far.

As part of developing other play activities we would like to fit out the cubby located in this area, as a home corner area, complete with tea sets, cooking utensils, small chairs and a table. If you have any unwanted furniture or play equipment that you no longer need, then please consider donating them to the school for the children to use. Any donations will be gratefully accepted at the office.

Also we have purchased sets of large Lego that will remain outside for those Junior students who love Lego, to design and build structures on a much bigger scale.

GARDEN AREA
Our next project is the re-fencing of the garden area and Gerry our maintenance person will begin this task in the next few weeks. The idea is to create a lower fence line that is more fitting with our surrounding features, yet still provide some protection from the wind for our garden beds.

GA GA PIT
The major project for the older children this year is the building of a ga-ga pit for senior students. This will be located on the grassed area directly next to the small basketball court. A ga-ga pit is an eight sided timber enclosure where children can play games with a softball - rules are similar to those in poison ball.

Junior School Council had written a letter of request after a visit to Lady Northcote Camp last year where they first experienced playing in a ga-ga pit and absolutely loved it. They then put a proposal together and presented this to the Buildings and Grounds Committee which we have factored in to this year budget and work programs. The ga-ga pit will be exclusively for older students.
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.

Workforce Development Centres

Are you facing redundancy or an uncertain future in your job? Do you need advice on career transition or retraining for a new industry? Hobsons Bay City Council is excited to announce that the North Western Workforce Development Centre will be trialling, a 'pop-up' office at Altona Meadows Library one morning a month. They are offering Hobsons Bay residents a range of free services, including:

- Career planning
- Personalised career transition plans
- Workshops to develop and update job seeking techniques
- Referrals to support services that can help you with employment opportunities, education and training, welfare and financial guidance.

Book a consultation session to discuss your current situation, identify your requirements, explore options, and access support in developing a personalised career transition plan.

To learn more about the services available at the Workforce Development Centre, visit the website: www.education.vic.gov.au/wdc

Appointments are essential as places are limited - Please book on 9041 3893.

Where: Altona Meadows Library.

When: By appointment from 9:00am, every first Tuesday of the month.

ATA ACTING CLASSES

Altona Meadows, Hoppers Crossing, Yarraville & Williamstown

Acting classes for children, teens and adults

Free trial class

Classes will place emphasis on self development whilst building professional acting skills.

Call Adam on 0419 593 257 for details

www.adamturnbull.com

Come and Join Us!

We wish to invite you and your family or community group to our working bee and afternoon tea.

SUNDAY 26 JULY

NATIONAL TREE DAY

SKELETON CREEK

Location: Markham Way/Merton St
Altona Meadows

Meet and register at the sign-in table, corner Markham Way and the access gate to the Skeleton Creek shared path.

Melway Ref. Map 208, D3
Times: 2 pm to 4 pm

Afternoon tea provided

* Please wear comfortable clothing, sturdy footwear, hat and gloves.

For further information contact
Dilate Peterson
9131 2871

www.creekandco.com

The Centenary Concert

Featuring the best of our musical alumni including award winning musicians & current music students

Wednesday July 29 7.30pm Williamstown Town Hall

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/85295
TOTALLY RAD

80's TRIVIA NIGHT

GRAB SOME LEG WARMERS, DUST OFF THE AID WASH DENIM & GET YOUR MULETS 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
80's TRIVIA NIGHT

Just a few of the great Auction items available at our Trivia Night.....

2016 School Photo Package Vouchers
Family Pass For Luna Park
Movie Tickets
Comics Lounge Tickets
Art Program
Piano Lesson & Book
Adult Passes To Melbourne Museum
Pancake Parlour Hamper & Vouchers
Round Of Golf
Tupperware Hamper
4 X Tickets To Footy Show
4 X Tickets To Big Bash Cricket
Hairhouse Warehouse Hamper
Food & Wine Hampers
A380 Emirates Model
Case Of Ultra-premium Black Label Olive Oil
Dining Vouchers
Qantas Holiday Vouchers
Heating & Cooling Service
Jumping Vouchers For Bounce Inc.
Family Pass To The 2015 Royal Melbourne Show
Gooseneck Sink Mixer
Party Grill
Retro Style Phone
Swimming Lessons
Deluxe Pedicure

Don’t forget to book your tickets!!!