As this is our first newsletter of the term, it is a ‘belated welcome back’ to school everyone – I hope that you had a great holiday, taking time to relax and do those things that you often don’t get a chance to do. We are looking forward to a busy but productive final term for 2015. It is pleasing to see the students settling quickly back into the daily routine and approaching their learning with energy and enthusiasm. As we get to the business end of the year it is important that we work closely with students to set goals so that they too have an understanding of where they are heading in their next stage of learning.

Well done to the year 2s who ran a great assembly last Friday with lots of news and information and performances. It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends attending.

Yesterday I attended a Parents’ Club meeting and heard of the plans for the term. I hope those who are able to, continue to support the group whenever possible.

Thankyou
Last week we sent a KONNECTIVE out inviting help in supporting a family who sadly lost their house and possessions due to a fire. The generosity and kindness of our school community is amazing. We will pass on the donations once the family has secured their own accommodation.

Class and specialist curriculum planners will be available today on our website. These provide an overview for parents of what the students will be learning about in term 4 and any major events. Please take the time to read these documents so that you are able to share your child’s learning journey over the term. If you have any questions about these documents please contact your child’s teacher or a member of the specialist team.
Class Placements
Early this term we will begin working on student placements into class groups for 2016. The formation of new classes is based on a combination of individual needs and those of a class as a balanced group. If you think we need to have any further information about your child regarding placement, you must address this in writing, or email, to me by Friday 6 November. If you have written to me previously and assume that this will apply again, then I stress that you need to do this every year. Written parent requests based on educational grounds are considered. We do not support requests for individual teachers. Now is the time to raise any concerns. After the process has been completed, placements cannot be changed.

This week we have included two draft policies for final feedback from our school community. They are: Our Homework Policy and our Nude Food Policy. Please have a read of them and email any comments to: altona.green.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or send your written feedback to me through our office before 30 October. The Policy Committee will then meet to discuss the feedback before they go to School Council next month.

Thank you to parents who have informed us of students who will not be returning to Altona Green Primary School in 2016. If your child will NOT be returning to our school in 2016 (not Year 6s) we ask that you put this in writing or send an email to the school to confirm this as soon as possible to assist with our planning for next year. Please include to which school they will be transferring if this is already known.

If you, or someone you know, have a child ready to start prep in 2016 at our school, we would appreciate if these enrolment forms could be lodged at the office, as soon as possible, particularly as we are about to begin our transition program and we would not like families to miss out on this.

Karen O’Dowd

TRANSITION SESSIONS FOR PREP STUDENTS
COMMENCING IN 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>9.15—10.15am</td>
<td>Wednesday 28 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>9.15—10.15am</td>
<td>Thursday 5 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>9.15—10.15am</td>
<td>Wednesday 11 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>9.15—10.15am</td>
<td>Thursday 19 November</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LEAPING FORWARD TENNIS

Current Tennis Australia Talent Development and Tennis Australia Club Professional Coach Kate and her team are offering 45 minutes classes to students for $15 (Max 6 players per group) on a Monday/Wednesday or Friday during term 4. Lessons will be held at the Altona Green Park Tennis Club.

Hoping to have every day of the week in term 1, 2016.

Kate and her team are Official Tennis Australia Coaches. Private lessons also available $80 per hr. or $90 per hr with Head Coach Kate.

Expressions of interest forms are at the office or for further information please email leapingforwardtennis@gmail.com
Rationale
At Altona Green Primary School we believe in practising healthy eating habits and showing respect for our environment. In line with this, Altona Green Primary School will operate as a *Nude Food School*. This is a practical, real and positive way to encourage healthy eating and teach waste minimisation. Being a *Nude Food School* allows students to develop their understanding of how their actions impact the environment and also the steps they can take to minimise this impact.

Aims:
Through the application of this policy we aim to:
- Provide students with an understanding of healthy eating practices.
- Provide opportunities for our students to be actively involved in preparing and making decisions about healthy nude foods to include in their lunchboxes.
- Provide a learning environment that promotes healthy eating and emphasises life-long attitudes and practices within the community, for example our Stephanie Alexander program.
- Have a whole school approach of which waste minimisation and rubbish free food plays a vital role.
- Have zero tolerance to rubbish in the school yard. This will make our grounds more attractive and be respectful of the animals that inhabit our school environment, for example our chickens.

Implementation

Classroom/School Expectations:
- Students are encouraged to bring their snacks and lunch to school in reusable containers with no wrapping. For example, no glad wrap, foil, chip packets, juice boxes, or commercial yoghurt containers.
- Students are to bring fresh water in reusable drink containers which can be stored in the classroom.
- Students need to bring fresh fruit in reusable containers for our daily fruit break. Cut up fruit is easier for younger children to eat.
- Students are encouraged to assist with the preparation of their nude food and make choices about nude foods to be placed in their lunchboxes.
- Promotion of policy through the newsletter, assemblies, Konnective, posters, school website, and nude food workshop offered to parents in Term 1.
- Register and participation in National Nude Food Day- www.nudefoodday.com.au
- Recipes for healthy Nude Foods to be added to the website.
- Special food days need to consider alternative food packaging wherever possible.

Family/Community Expectations:
- Provide students with reusable containers.
- Where possible purchase bulk items instead of individually packaged items.
- Label all containers and encourage students to be responsible for them.
- Students are encouraged to assist with the preparation of their nude food and make choices about nude foods to be placed in their lunchboxes.
RATIONALE
The Altona Green Primary School community believes that homework is a valuable extension of classroom learning. Homework complements classroom learning, fostering time management skills and provides an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their learning. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/learning/Pages/homework.aspx

AIMS
We believe that targeted, relevant and purposeful homework:

- supports and extends classroom learning.
- develops a responsibility for self-learning and can develop skills in effective time management.
- enables families to become involved in their child’s learning thereby building collaborative learning partnerships between parent, child and teacher.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

- Homework will reflect departmental policy and will be delivered consistently across each year level being clearly communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each year.
- Homework is to reflect the individual’s capability and classroom practice.
- Aims to be open ended or modified where necessary to meet specific needs of students
- All children must be able to achieve success
- Homework will include a form of reading to occur each night
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

Teachers will:

- provide homework tasks relevant to class work, consistent across each year level;
- clearly communicate expectations to students and parents;
- clearly communicate instructions for specific tasks;
- encourage students to complete tasks with positive reinforcement; and
- give prompt feedback which may include acknowledgement of completion, sharing with the class
- communicate with parents if a pattern of incompletion of homework has been identified.

Students will:

- commit to completing homework tasks to the best of their ability;
- take home/organise all necessary materials to complete the task;
- understand that homework is a regular part of their week and schedule time for it;
- return homework to school on time; and
- seek assistance if required.

Parents will:

- provide a quiet and comfortable environment in which to work;
- provide regular, activity-free periods in which the child can complete homework;
- engage in discussion with the child about tasks: e.g. How will the child prioritise tasks? What does the child need to do to complete the task? And
- contact the class teacher if their child is having difficulty completing homework tasks.
ACCOUNTABILITY
We acknowledge that students and families have varying responsibilities and priorities outside of school. We also recognize that students may have special needs e.g. an individual learning plan (ILP). We therefore encourage open discussion between teachers, parents and students regarding homework tasks.

If homework is consistently not submitted parents will be contacted to discuss how the student can catch up. Teacher discretion is required as often there may be an extenuating circumstance regarding incomplete or homework not handed in. Communication will be sent home to parents if a pattern of incompleteness has been identified.

**Homework at Altona Green Primary School may take the form of:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep—2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Every child should read for approximately 10 minutes daily. This may include reading to an adult, reading with an adult or being read to by an adult.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Additional tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times. For example, students may be asked to bring in an object from home that relates to a unit of inquiry or to interview a parent about a given topic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Play a game with an adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Practising the reading and writing of letters and high frequency words</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Practising the reading and writing of numbers, counting patterns and number facts</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Complete Mathletics tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Practise Indonesian words</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Do something physical to support health and wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Teach someone at home something that was learnt at school recently</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Remember to bring things eg. Bathers for swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Help at home with a job</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Go shopping and practise mathematical language</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3—4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All of the above activities as well as:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Every child should read for at least 20 minutes daily.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Revision/learning of spelling words and related activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 15 minutes of literacy related activities per week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Find out something related to their unit of inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Practice times tables.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Additional open-ended tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5—6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All of the above activities as well as:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Every child should read for at least 20 minutes daily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20 minutes of literacy related activities per week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20 minutes of numeracy related activities per week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Additional open-ended tasks linked to units of inquiry may be set at times.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation:**
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s review cycle

Endorsed by School Council:
On Wednesday evening, 28th October, Andrea and Deanna are proud to present our Whole School Community Arts event. Our theme for the evening is all about belonging to our school, community and wider world. This night will showcase visual artwork by every student, a range of singing, acting, animation and band performances from years prep to grade 6.

The whole school Visual Art Exhibition will be set up in an area between the Music Room, Gym, Foyer and moving up toward the Grade 5/6 and Grade 1 corridor. This amazing exhibition of students work will include: art installations, clay sculpture, painting, drawings and photography. Every student will have a masterpiece displayed. The exhibition will begin at 6pm and finish at 8:30pm. You can purchase your child’s artwork with a gold coin donation. All proceeds will go toward the students’ Arts Program.

The whole school Performing Arts event will showcase singing, storytelling, animation and dramatic performances between 6 and 8:30pm. A program will be sent on Konnective next week, to give details of when students must arrive prior to their performance. A letter will also be sent home to parents outlining more detailed information such as times to arrive and costumes.

In Year Prep each grade will be part of a performance of two traditional Indonesian Folksongs that have been developed in conjunction with Amanda, in the Indonesian program. In Year One, each grade will perform an individual Australian Indigenous Dreamtime story. In Year Two, students will be part of a class performance based upon stories developed around The Great Barrier Reef and conservation. Year Three will showcase their animations which have been developed in collaboration between creating images in Visual Arts and sound FX in Performing Arts. Students have been exploring sustainability and the importance of preserving our environment in Antarctica. Year Four will showcase their animations which have been a collaboration between creating images in Visual Arts and sound FX in Performing Arts. They have been exploring sustainability and the importance of preserving the rainforest in Sumatra. Year Five and Six will showcase their musical strengths with a range of instrumental and vocal performances outside in Gumbuya to give a concert feel.

This will be an amazing evening giving students the opportunity to show their incredible talents and abilities in The Arts.

Hope you can join us.
BOOK TALK

Thank you to the Downey family for their kind donation of books for our school library.
We have had an amazing number of families donate a large amount of books this year and on behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank you all.
We are very lucky to have such a well stocked library.

Trish

SUN HATS

Sun hats are to be worn from September 1 until the end of April.

INDONESIAN WORD OF THE WEEK

means “Colour” in Indonesian
Prep
Today the preps enjoyed an Indonesian puppet play. The characters in the story were based on animals performing Indonesian tales. The children were taught dances with many movements. Please make your $5.00 payment if you haven’t done so.

Grade 1
The grade ones have had a wonderful start to term 4. Students have been busy writing about different characters and settings in preparation for their narratives. We have also started our Inquiry topic “All Mixed Up” where students will be investigating how different materials can be combined for a particular purpose.

Just a reminder students should be encouraged to read their take home books every night.

Grade 2 & 3
The 2/3 community have been exploring our Inquiry topic 'The Universe' this week. Activities involving the concepts of day and night, shadows, gravity and our planets have given the children an opportunity to question and explore their wonderings.

During the next two weeks the children will be working on a variety of number problems involving the four operations. It would be great if you could give children some real life maths problems to explore, asking them which one of the four operations they would need to use. Mathletics also has a problem solving unit that the children can do.

Grade 4
We have made a great start to the final term of 2015. The students are once again busy in the kitchen and the garden with all the new Spring plantings and tidying up of garden beds. Our new Inquiry unit is linked to the SAKG program and the students will be gaining a lot of knowledge and understanding. We are asking each student to bring along a clean and empty plastic 2 litre soft drink bottle with a screw cap.

Grade 5 & 6
Our Year 5 students visited Altona P-9 College on Monday 12 October. They got to sample what secondary schooling may be like. They experienced Italian, P.E., Food Technology, Woodwork and Science. Our students were very impressed with the lessons, teachers and facilities. This visit was organised to support Transition for our Year 5 families who will need to make decisions about secondary school in the new year.
Again this term the Student Engagement and Wellbeing group will be placing items in our newsletter until the end of the year. These items will contain a number of brief social and emotional messages that can be used for families and our school community. They are designed to give you information about actions that can be taken to enhance students’ social skills.

**Communicating effectively with your children**

It is important to discuss bullying with your children on a regular basis. Regular communication with a person they trust and respect will help them form their own opinions and beliefs about bullying. Your children will also feel more comfortable telling you if they are being bullied.

Consider trying some of these ideas to improve the way you talk with your children about tricky issues.

**Sit shoulder to shoulder or walk with your child as you talk**

Talking face to face can be quite confrontational, particularly for boys. Sitting or walking side by side will encourage both you and your child to talk freely.

**Use open-ended questions**

It is easy to ask your child if they had a good day or if they would like toast for breakfast; however these questions only require a yes or no answer.

Try asking questions such as “What did you do today?” or “What would you like for breakfast?” These types of questions encourage discussion between you and your child.

**Talk with your children about what to do rather than what not to do**

It is common for us to focus on negative behaviour, such as “don’t step in that puddle” or “stop swinging on your chair”.

Try telling your children what you would like them to do rather than what you don’t want them to do. You can do this by using positive statements such as “please step over the puddle” or “please put the chair legs on the floor”.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

It has been great to see students continuing their enthusiasm for bringing nude food lunches to school this term. Don’t forget our 3 Nude Food days every week – Munching Monday, Chomping Tuesday, and Wrap Free Wednesday. Well Done to all the families that have supported our nude food days. On Friday 30 October we will be having a nude food picnic to celebrate National Nude Food Day. Spot prizes will be given to students with interesting nude food lunches.

Should I update my child’s iPad to iOS9?

In September Apple released a new operating system for iPhones and iPads called iOS 9. You may have seen a notification on the home screen advising you of the update availability. The update is available on all devices from iPad 2 to current models although some new features such as multiscreen are not available on older iPads e.g iPad 2. Further information about iOS 9 can be found on www.apple.com.au

The keys changes and upgrades that are of benefit to students are:

- Keyboard – the keyboard now displays both upper and lowercase letters making it easier for the younger children to identify the letters when a password is written in lowercase.

- Storage – iOS 9 (1.3GB) requires considerably less space on your device than iOS 8 (4.8GB). This is a huge advantage to those who have a 16GB device.

If you have any further questions please feel free to come and see me.

Suada Dzaferovic
A group of parents meet Thursday mornings in the library. They bring their toddlers and help making some classroom resources. They get to know other parents. It’s very informal. Everyone is welcome.

Commonwealth Bank School Banking Update – Please Read

Following the decision to recall the Cosmic Light Beam Torch due to a potential safety issue, a decision has been made to also withdraw the upcoming Lunar Light Band reward from the School Banking Rewards Program.

To avoid disappointment there is a new reward item available for redemption in Term 4 while stocks last. Students can now test their skills with a game of frisbee with the new Galaxy Glider!

Once students have collected 10 tokens, they can simply include a note, along with their 10 tokens in their deposit wallet on banking day to advise that they would like to redeem their tokens for the Galaxy Glider reward item.

Don’t forget the Outer Space Savers Money Box is also available in Term 4. Plus we have a limited stock available of: ET DVD; Intergalactic Rocket; Invisible Ink Martian Pens; Knuckles Game; Headphones; Scented Pencils, Shark Plush Keyring and Swimming Bag.
FOOTBALL: the fun game for all!
BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 4-9

Club: Altona East Soccer Club
Venue: Paisley Park Pitch 2, Ross Rd Altona.
Start date: Saturday 7/11/2015 (6 sessions)
Contact: Robert 0408 804 098

Register at miniroos.com.au

Altona Miniature Railway
Carnival Chaos
18th OCTOBER 2015
Step Right Up
Come and join us for a fun carnival themed day with lots of activities for all ages
Activities include:
- Jumping Castle
- Petting Zoo
- Face Painting
- And much more!
Food Stall includes:
- Wood FirePizza Van Sup
- It's Sweet Forbidden Journey

10:00AM-4:30PM
1 Blenheim Road, Altona North VIC 3025

Further Details can be found on our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/altenaminaturerailway

Parenting After Separation - Helping Kids Thrive
Successful parenting following separation minimises the known risk factors to children such as ongoing parental conflict, and provides children with a secure and co-operative parental alliance. Topics include:
- The effects of ongoing conflict on children
- Strategies to reduce conflict
- Ways to connect positively with their children
- How to understand the emotional needs of each child in the family
- Types of parenting relationships after separation
- Mindfulness techniques for managing emotions
- Strategies for effective goal setting

This is a 4 week program with a weekly session of 2 hours.
Fees apply based on a sliding scale according to income and ability to pay.

Werribee
Thursday 15th, 22nd & 29th October and Thursday 5th November

For more information, please visit: www.mediation.com.au
Call 1800 639 523

THE MISSING PIECE PRESENTS A TRIVIA NIGHT

All funds raised will go to AMAZE to help support people on the Autism Spectrum
24th October - 7:00pm for a 7:30pm Start
Altona Sport and Game Fishing Club Inc.
Cresser Reserve, Altona Road, Altona/Seaholme

Bring gold coins for games throughout the night
Reverse Raffle - Choose your own prize raffle
AMAZE merchandise available to purchase on the night

Tickets $15.00 each
Booking is a MUST as there is limited seating and NO tickets will be sold on the night
BYO: Food, Drinks at bar prices (NO BYO)

CONTACT: Matt - 0411 846 502 - themissingpiece@outlook.com.au
www.facebook.com/tstmp

Amaze - fulfilling lives, growing minds

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

- A. Einstein