A message from Karen.....

TRANSITION SESSIONS FOR PREP STUDENTS
COMMENCING IN 2016
Session 3:  9.15—10.15am  Wednesday 11 November
Session 4:  9.15—10.15am  Thursday 19 November

What an interesting start to our day this morning! We haven’t had a wet start like that for quite a while. The rain however didn’t dampen the excitement of our soon-to-be Kinder Graduates who joined us at 9.15 for the 2nd of their transition sessions.

Our Arts Night was again a terrific success with so many families attending to see the wonderful visual art as well as witness some special performances. The artwork on display left many of us gobsmacked. From the 3D installations, the iPad portraits and the work of our very own ‘dressmakers’, we were all able to see what is possible when all students are engaged in the creative process. The links that were made between the music program, the art program and the classroom were also on display. Lots of preparation and many hours of organisation went into last Wednesday’s celebration of the Arts. We thank Deanna Ganyu and Andrea Belfall for putting the program together. The looks on the students’ faces as they proudly showed off their artwork or performed were priceless. Thanks to the group of parents who responded to the call for help and assisted with the preparation as well.
The Altona R.S.L. sub-branch made presentations of scholarships to 4 of our Year 6 students on Wednesday the 4 November. These scholarships provide each student with $1000 which will assist in their transition to secondary school. Our 4 students chosen, display our school’s values, always try their best and consistently represent AGPS in a positive way. We congratulate Patrick Kieley, Libby Harmer, Nathan Stewart and Yvonne Doan Nguyen. Well done!

**World Teachers’ Day**

Last Friday was ‘World Teachers’ Day’. At AGPS, we prefer to acknowledge all of our staff on this day. Our staff enjoyed a morning tea whilst we acknowledged special years’ of service milestones. At this time each year, we also take some time to appreciate the things that make AGPS staff so special:

- I appreciate the manner in which our staff contribute to our school’s culture every day by the way they model our school’s values.
- I am grateful to work alongside a committed team who have their students as their focus each day.
- I’m grateful that they go the extra distance in their quest to make a difference for each and every child by trialling new ideas and strategies.
- I appreciate for our staff’s sense of humour!

If you appreciate the work of your child’s teachers or aides, and if you have time, maybe you could send an email of appreciation.
Apple Excursion

Last week I managed to get out of the office and accompany some students on an excursion. Our eLearning Team Leader, Suada organised for 20 students from Yrs. 2-5 to attend a workshop at the Apple Store at Highpoint. Dressed in the yellow t-shirts that were given to us, we entered the store to a very special greeting. All staff and visitors in the store stopped and applauded us as we entered. Feeling very special, the students worked in team to solve two problems using iPads and some new apps.

Planning for 2016

Planning is well on the way for the new year and several parents have already informed the office that their child/children will not be returning to AGPS in 2016. Early notification of your intention to leave our school will help us in finalising our class numbers and forming the new classes. If your family will not be attending AGPS next year it would be appreciated if you could notify the office as soon as possible or via email: alto-na.green.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

2016 Term Dates

- Thursday 28 January - Students in Years 1- 6 return
- Friday 29 January - Prep students commence school
- Term 1: Thursday 28 January-Thursday 24 March
- Term 2: Monday 11 April-Friday 24 June
- Term 3: Monday 11 July-Friday 16 September
- Term 4: Monday 3 October-Tuesday 20 December
This term the prep students were joined by preps from Altona Meadows Primary School and had the opportunity to view a “wayang kulit” (shadow puppet) performance, after learning about them in Term 3. They watched some short stories about Kancil the mouse deer and how he got himself out of trouble. Here are some students’ reactions:

I liked it when the goats got berries all over their face (Zoe, Prep S).
I liked it when Kancil made the crocodile help him get across the river (Dylan, Prep S).
I liked the bit when the crocodile ate the stick but not Kancil (Cooper H, Prep S).
I liked it when the snake bit the tiger’s butt (Raakin, Prep J).
I liked the goat screaming (Attar, Prep J).
I liked it when the tiger thought the snake was a belt (Joshua, Prep J).
I liked when Kancil tricked the dog (Jazz, Prep D).
I liked it when Kancil got trapped in the cage (Arthur, Prep D).
I liked it when Kancil went through the fence to eat the cucumbers (Jake, Prep D).
I liked it when Kancil tricked the tigers (Ella, Prep V).
I liked the tigers (Rania, Prep V).
I liked it when the farmer was going to cook Kancil (Max, Prep V).
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

On Wednesday November 11 we will be having a second hand uniform sale under Gumbuya at 9am. Items will be sold for $2.

BOOK TALK

Special thanks to all those families who have followed up on recent overdue book notices. We now have the lowest amount of overdue and lost books since I took over the library nearly 5 years ago. Because of this, our budget has been spent on a lot of new books this year and not replacements for those lost.

Thank you to the Morgan & Coote families for their donation of books to the library.

Lastly as you all know I am an avid Rugby Union fan and all that is left for me to say is .......“GO THE ALL BLACKS”

Trish

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Thirsty Thursday

Today saw the introduction of our 4th Nude Food Day – Thirsty Thursday. It is important for all students to bring a drink bottle of water to school, especially now with the warmer weather. Students need to have water throughout the day to rehydrate their bodies. Students are encouraged to have drink bottles filled with water in their classrooms to drink from throughout the day. Thank you to all the families that are supporting our Nude Food days—Our school grounds are looking much more attractive without the rubbish.
Prep
Thank you to our prep families who attended our Arts and Music night. The children were very proud of their art work and were excited when families purchased them. The children also enjoyed performing their Indonesian songs. Our Nude Food Picnic was enjoyed by all as they shared this with the rest of the school last Friday.

Grade 1
What a wonderful performance the grade ones did during our Arts Night last week! Students have begun working on their individual narratives. Over the next couple of weeks they will be planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their work.

Grade 2 & 3
Well done to the 2/3 children for all their hard work in preparing for the Arts Night, it was amazing. On Monday November 23, the 2/3 community will be attending an excursion to Scienceworks. A note has been sent home—if you require another copy there is one on our website.

Thank you to all of the parents who are assisting us with our kitchen program. There are some classes who do need extra helpers, so if you are able to assist please notify your child's teacher prior to the class.

Grade 4
Thank you to everyone who brought along the clean, empty soft drink bottles for all the students in the grade four community. The students successfully set up their own terrarium, sowed carrot seeds and hopefully in a few weeks time they can transplant healthy seedlings from their terrarium into their own garden at home - then in January of next year enjoy eating some yummy home grown carrots with their family.

Grade 5 & 6
Year 6 Graduation notes have been distributed that outline details of the school’s graduation celebrations. If your child has not returned their note and you require another copy, one is available on our website.
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.

**How to teach your children how to respond if they are being bullied at school**

Many children who are bullied do not tell a trusted adult as they think they are dobbing.

‘Dobbing’ is when a person deliberately tries to get attention or to get someone else into trouble. ‘Asking for help’ is when someone feels the situation is out of his/her control and he/she is unable to deal with it alone. If anyone sees someone else in this situation they should also ask for help.

**What are students being taught at school to help them deal with bullying situations?**

All students at our school are being taught that...

When I have a problem I can:

- Try to stand up for myself in a positive way
- Try to talk with the person I am having a problem with
- Walk away and ignore the person completely
- Get help from a teacher or another person I trust
- Ignore the situation and keep playing or working
- Talk to a friend to get some ideas to help me make a decision or
- Try coming to an agreement with the other person

You can reinforce these messages by discussing them with your children at home.

**Practical strategies families can use to discourage their children from bullying others**

Talking with your children if they are bullying others

All children are capable of bullying and it is important for you to respond in a calm and helpful manner if your child is displaying bullying behaviours. These strategies also apply if you believe your child may be bullying others online.

Encouraging your children not to bully others

You can:

- Talk with your children about what is acceptable behaviour and what is not, online and offline e.g. “we should not send nasty messages to people to make them feel bad”.
- Work together with your family to establish simple rules and expectations about how your family treat each other.
- Work with your family to establish clear guidelines about internet use at home.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for your children to openly discuss bullying issues, including cyberbullying with the family.
- Discuss friendships and help your children to make friends by encouraging them to play with other children at school, at home or in the neighbourhood.
- Discuss with your children how to be a friend online.
- Invite other children to your home for visits and teach your children how to make their guests feel welcome.
- Encourage your children to share and be aware of the feelings of others.
LOUD SHIRT DAY
This Friday November 6

Get loud and wear colourful clothing to raise money for hearing impaired people. Please bring a gold coin donation.

Commonwealth Bank School Banking

Due to the confusion for both parents and students I have decided not to distribute the ‘Dollarmite Tokens’ in the student bank books. The Commonwealth Bank have had a new program over the last 2 years which notifies me when each student banks 10 times. I then contact the student to select their gift which usually arrives a week later.

Last day for student banking this year will be Tuesday December 1.

Thank you—Jenny
ICY POLES

Icy poles are available for sale each Friday for $1.50 each.

Thank you to all the parents who have offered to sell the icy poles each Friday—it is greatly appreciated.
A roster will be going home shortly.