Calendar

NOVEMBER
20—School Assembly P—2
23—Scienceworks Excursion
27—School Assembly 3—6

DECEMBER
1—Last day for Student Banking
18—Whole School Assembly

2015 Term Dates
Term 4:
5th Oct—18th Dec

2016 Term Dates
Term 1
28 Jan—24 Mar
Term 2
11 Apr—24 June
Term 3
11 July—16 Sept
Term 4
3 Oct—20 Dec

A message from Karen.....

Dear Parents/Guardians
It is with great pleasure we can announce the provisional appointment of Lisa Conibeer as our new Principal. Lisa is currently Assistant Principal at Bellbridge Primary School in Hoppers Crossing.
The principal selection process has been thorough, challenging and rigorous. I thank the members of the Selection Panel for their commitment to the task.
The timeline allows for a handover between Karen and our newly appointed principal.
Lisa will commence her role at the beginning of Term 1 in 2016.
We congratulate Lisa on her appointment and our School Council looks forward to a strong partnership with her and our school community.
Yours sincerely,
Trent Anderson
School Council President

Let’s put the spotlight on our Specialists!
Last Friday we held our Junior Athletics. It was great to see all our Preps, Year 1s and 2s decked out in their House colours and so excited. Thanks to all our family members who came to cheer and support our budding sports’ stars. Well done to all our children for giving their best, working together and having a go. Gareth McLean had done a terrific job in preparing the students to ensure it was inclusive for all. Thanks to our Parents’ Club for organising the Coffee Van for our spectators and staff.

Last Thursday our whole school got involved with our Indonesian Program. Our preps have been lucky to be involved all year so it was a time for all our students to become more aware of the Indonesian culture. Amanda Arnott and Celia Iao planned the activities that each class then used. Next year we look forward to our Preps and Year 1s experiencing our Indonesian Program and we hope to continue to engage our whole school community in our language program.

In this week’s newsletter you will find some reflections on our recent Arts Night. Our kitchen will soon begin the planning for our Graduation as our Year 5 students continue our school’s tradition of cooking for the special night for our year 6s. Our students will also harvest and sell our produce at our Farmers’ market at the end of the year. Term 4 is definitely a celebration of our valued specialist programs.

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**Wedding Wishes**

Next Wednesday we farewell Michelle Williams as she prepares for her upcoming wedding to Nathan. We send our best wishes to them, hope they have a wonderful day with family and friends and have a great honeymoon. Michelle will return for the last week of school.

**Advance notice- Special Parent Helpers’ Morning Tea**

We are extremely fortunate to have such a supportive parent community who are willing to help out in so many ways. We will be holding a ‘Parent Helpers Morning Tea’ on Tuesday 8 December at school at 11:00am. If you have assisted in any way this year we would love you to join the staff and Parents’ Club to celebrate another very successful year.

**End of year reports**

In all schools at this time of the year, students and teachers are reflecting on learning growth as the end of year reports are prepared. Assessment tasks, reflective journals, summative, conferencing, self-assessments and benchmarking of reading are all happening in classrooms at the moment. These written reports will go home on Friday, December 11, the second last Friday of term.

**Transition Helpers**

This morning was the last Kinder-Prep transition session for this year. We hope the series of sessions not only benefit the kinder-graduates but our new parents as well. This morning our parents were treated to a performance from Prep J who shared with us all the things that help them to make friends, play well and co-operate together. We were also assisted by several of our Junior School Councillors who spoke so confidently about our school values, Kefar, circle-time, restorative practices, leadership activities, JSC and house colours. Without any script or notes our four students spoke from their hearts and in their own words about what they know, understand, witness others doing and what they do at AGPS. Thankyou Prep J, Jorja, Leyla, Selby and Joseph. I couldn’t have delivered those words any better!

**Victoria– The Education State**

The Department has just released a new Improvement Model including school improvement initiatives to assist schools in improving student outcomes in achievement, engagement and wellbeing.

The vision of Victoria as the Education State is to build a system that provides every student with the knowledge, skills and attributes to help them thrive, regardless of where they start, the path they pursue or how the world might change around them.

The Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (the Framework) is a practical tool to support schools to realise this vision and plan and implement improvement initiatives, monitor progress and evaluate impact using a common approach.

The Victorian Curriculum will replace the Australian Curriculum which means reviewing some of our programs as we transition during 2016. The eight learning areas will be English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Languages, Humanities and Social Science, The Arts and Technologies.
The Education State identifies six initiatives to help schools lift student achievement, wellbeing and engagement. Schools need to select one or two of these initiatives to focus on for 2016. The initiatives are:

1. Building practice excellence: Schools will work together to exchange ideas, strengthen teaching and assessments, master the use of learning interventions and data, and enhance feedback to build a culture of collaboration.

2. Curriculum planning and assessment: Schools will embed a culture of planning and assessing learning programs, and adjusting them to suit student needs with the use of student assessment data.

3. Building leadership plans: Schools will strengthen induction and succession plans, using coaching and feedback to develop future leaders.

4. Empowering students and building school pride: Schools will give students a greater say in the decisions that affect their learning and school life.

5. Setting expectations and promoting inclusion: Schools will work with their communities on a shared approach to supporting health, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement of all students, including setting behaviour expectations.

6. Building communities: Schools will partner with the community sector and providers to build relationships with the broader community and increase the services delivered "inside the school gate". ‘Student Achievement, Engagement and Wellbeing’ will continue to underpin everything that happens in schools. Learning is for life, children need to be happy, healthy and resilient and we should all be taking pride in our school. This definitely echoes the vision of AGPS “...lifelong learners who value themselves and others.”

I am confident that AGPS will travel smoothly in the direction of the ‘Education State’

Karen O’Dowd

INDONESIAN WORD OF THE WEEK

Selamat siang! Good afternoon
During the week we had a close call with one of our students running out between two parked cars on the curve of Victoria Street near Hoddle Way. PLEASE ensure your children cross at the crossing at all times. Parents are encouraged to collect their children from the school crossing—We realise at this time of year our lives are busy and we all have lots to do, but your child’s safety comes first.

We kindly ask parents to remind their children about the STOP, LOOK, LISTEN & THINK campaign.
The environment group was very pleased with the number of nude food lunches at our picnic. There were lots of interesting nude food lunches. Thank you to everyone for your participation. On Friday 27 November we are launching our next Nude Food Day – Fruity Friday. Please bring some fruit in a Nude Food container or a piece of fruit to celebrate this day.
Prep
Last Thursday the preps enjoyed Indonesian Day. They got to sample a variety of different fruits and voted on their favourite fruit. The students made Indonesian masks and listened to a Traditional Indonesian Tale. The preps are also enjoying creating and looking after our special garden in the prep outside area. The students are observing changes in the garden and are recording their observations on their iPads.

Grade 1
Thank you to all the parents who came along to the junior athletics day last Friday. The children had a great day participating in all the different activities and it was wonderful to see so many parents/grandparents/carers showing their support.

Grade 2 & 3
Well done to the parents and students who have returned their notes for the excursion to ‘Science Works’ next Monday November 23. Those that have not yet done so please hand them into the office as soon as possible. For Monday’s excursion, please provide your children with a hat, disposable bag, lunch, a snack and a disposable plastic bottle of water. Name and grade on the outside of the bag would be greatly appreciated. Some grades are short of parent helpers for the excursion, so if you are available and would like to come please see your child’s teacher.

Grade 4
The year is coming to a very fast close and there is still lots to be achieved in the grade 4 community. In the next couple of weeks we will be recalling all books, including take-home books and library books. Please make sure that students look in bookshelves, under beds and around the house to find any misplaced books.

Grade 5 & 6
This week our students took part in a special Kids Helpline session via the Polycom system. Our Year 5 students discussed issues relating to stepping up to becoming school leaders in 2016 and our Year 6 students discussed transitioning to secondary school.

We invited parents and carers of year 6 students to an information session on a Sexual Education program we are running for our Year 6 students later this term. Liz from Family Life Victoria talked through the topics she will be covering and gave helpful tips on how to discuss these issues with students. Notes for this program have been sent home with Year 6 students.
Talk with your children about bystanders

Bullying involves more than the students who are bullied and those who bully others. Bullying often continues because people who are involved do not talk about it and seek help. This includes people who observe bullying – the bystanders. A bystander is someone who sees the bullying or knows that it is happening to someone else.

There may be bystanders who are afraid they may be bullied next and this may influence their decision about what they will do if they see bullying happening. There are different types of bystanders and in this model, they are described as:

**Contributors** – This group offer support to the person bullying, either by helping the person to bully the other person or by encouraging the person bullying. This group might gather to watch the incident (sometimes from concern for the person being bullied, sometimes to see what will happen, and sometimes for enjoyment).

**Supporters** – This group dislikes the bullying, is concerned for the person being bullied and actively tries to help the person being bullied.

What can bystanders do?

If students see another student being bullied they should:

- Ask a teacher or support person for help
- Let the person doing the bullying know that what they are doing is bullying
- Refuse to join in with the bullying and walk away
- Support the student who is being bullied
- Support their friends and protect them from bullying (children who are alone are more likely to be the target of bullying, so encourage your children to be aware of children who are left out or on their own in the schoolyard).
KITCHEN 4D

In kitchen 4D made Lebanese food. We made 2 dips - a fetta one and a hummus one. We also made flatbread and tabouli and carrot falafel. For desert, we had frozen yoghurt. The frozen yoghurt was delicious. It had raspberries, blackberries, banana and peaches from our garden. We had a try of everything.

Today I was the head chef. We had lots of helpers and Parents. We learnt lots. Lebanese food tastes great!!!

Violet.

PARENT GROUP

There will be a parents group meeting this Friday November 20 at 9am in the staff room.

All welcome.

BOOK TALK

Special thanks once again to the Nathan Stewart for the very kind donation of books he brought in today.

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.

On the 13th of November we had Loud Shirt Day. Most people came in their brightest clothes. Thank you for all your donations. We were able to raise $313.

Joseph Gaudiano

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
RESILIENCE AND SCHOOL TRANSITION

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2015

Any transition period is a critical time for a young person, often evoking a variety of emotions, behaviours and concerns for both young people and their parents. For many, these transition periods are considered a major stepping stone on the way to becoming an adult. Secondary school can be marked by several changes; young people interact with many other young people, in different classrooms, with more teachers and often with different expectations for both performance and responsibility. A well supported transition can maintain the strong sense of belonging and enable young people to continue to enjoy and succeed in school and everyday life.

Presented by Sharon Witt, a dynamic educator, author and speaker. Sharon has authored 12 books for young people including the best selling Teen Talk Series and Girlwise series. She is also the author of Surviving High School.

This Parenting Forum is free for all parents, guardians and workers who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay.
Athletics for Everyone.

Friday 33rd November was not full of bad luck here at Altona Green Primary as we saw the AGPS Junior House Athletics take place. The weather held out for us with mild temperatures and a sea breeze providing ideal conditions for the day.

All students from prep to year 2 took part in a series of modified athletics events with some great displays of athleticism and teamwork.

Students participated in the following events:
- Basketball shot put
- 400m race
- 60m sprint
- 60m hurdles
- Long Jump
- High Jump
- Vortex Throw
- Target Throw
- Egg and Spoon Race
- Sack Race.

Now I don’t want to be seen as biased but I think Blue House has a pretty good chance of winning this year!

The whole event took a lot of organising and there were many who helped out on the day. Our senior school sports leaders were fantastic and helped conduct events and even demonstrated to the juniors to assist them. All of the staff who took part were great too, scoring the events and keeping to a very strict timetable of events.

And a special thank-you needs to go out to all of the parent helpers who assisted during the event. Their help was invaluable and the students got a real buzz competing in front of them.

Gareth McLean
"Think and wonder.
Wonder and think”
Dr Seuss

ARTS NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

On Wednesday the 28th of October the whole school came together to celebrate Performing and Visual Arts.

The amazing exhibition of students work included: art installations, clay sculpture, painting, drawings and photography. Every student had a masterpiece displayed. The whole school Performing Arts event showcased incredible singing, storytelling, animation and dramatic performances. In Year Prep each grade was part of performing two traditional Indonesian Folksongs that have been developed in conjunction with Amanda, in the Indonesian program. In year one, each grade performed an individual Australian Indigenous Dreamtime story. In year Two, students were part of a class performance based upon stories developed around The Great Barrier Reef and conservation. Year Three and Four showcased their animations in a twilight screening. Year Five and Six displayed their musical strengths with a range of instrumental and vocal performances outside in Gumbuya.