A message from Karen.....

Just over two weeks to go everyone – hard to believe! There are many events and activities happening at this time of the year. Please ensure you have checked the calendar and are up-to-date with what is ahead. I certainly know that I need to check it constantly at this time of the year.

Last two week’s routines
We are very quickly coming to the end of the school year and we have the following events scheduled:

December 4 Prep camp program
December 7 Last day to order senior windcheaters
December 8 Step Up Day (P-5) & Yr 6 Transition
December 10 End of year celebration and newsletter
December 11 Yr 6 Adventure Park excursion
December 16 Yr 6 Graduation Dinner
December 17 Meet the Teacher Day and final newsletter
December 18 Whole School Assembly  12 noon
Last day of term 4—1pm finish

School Council news
On Monday 23 November, we held our last School Council meeting of the year. The members of our school council have been generous with their time and have shown a tremendous commitment to the task of making decisions for the good of all at our school. This year they had the additional responsibility of leading the selection of the new principal. I would like to thank all who served on council this year. They supported and demonstrated inclusion at all times. Their thinking was always for all children, all families, not just their own. On behalf of our school community I thank Trent Anderson for his role of President and to the members of the executive: Jo Tyers and Annette McQuarrie. They steered the ship and kept us all on task.

At the last meeting, School Council endorsed:
- The Homework Policy
- The Nude Food Policy
- The fee structure for 2016. There will be NO increase in school levies for 2016.
**Step-Up Day is coming!**

*Step-Up Day* is coming up on Tuesday December 8. Our Year 6 students will go off and visit their new secondary schools and our students in years Prep-Year 5 have an opportunity to ‘step up’ into their 2016 new year level. The groups they work in next Tuesday will not be the class they will be in next year. The students will be involved in a range of ‘getting to know you’ activities designed to help them become more familiar with new students in their year level. They will meet their new class during the last week of school.

Transitions mark milestones in our lives. A transition marks moving from one place to another. Some of our students will be moving from Primary to Secondary School. All students will be moving from one class to another. Fourteen new students in grades other than Preps will join our school in 2016 and have also been invited to participate in this day.

Starting something new is a normal part of life. However, it can create mixed feelings of anxiety, excitement and nervousness. These feelings can be due to the uncertainty associated with change. Young people need different types of emotional and practical support when transitioning. A supportive family environment assists young people in preparing for and adjusting to a new situation. Discuss changes your child can expect to face when making a transition. Talk about feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. Ask your child what they think the challenges will be for them and discuss potential ways to handle these challenges. If your child is anxious about whether or not they will be able to make friends, discuss possible ways that they can initiate conversation and work towards belonging to a social group.

When your child comes home next Tuesday, we encourage parents to ask their child to talk about what went well. Often a focus can be placed on the negatives so it is important not to focus on what went wrong, but to lead your child into a discussion of potential ways to overcome any challenges. In this way we can be enabling the development of resilience. The research shows us that it is more beneficial to empower than to step in and rescue children from any potential difficulties. *Step-Up Day* is a great opportunity to share and discuss expectations and questions about the new school year and support transition.

**Which House will win this year? Red, Blue, Green or Yellow?**

The “Flash Twinkle Toes Silly Circus Show” will be entertaining the winning house on Monday 14 December at 2.30pm for the House colour team reward. There is no charge for any student in the winning house.

Karen O’Dowd
UNIFORM SHOP

Our uniform shop is open every day during school hours. If you need to purchase uniform we recommend you do it in the next two weeks to beat the end of year rush. We have plenty of stock at the moment.

*The last day for uniform sales for 2015 will be Wednesday 16th December.*

VOLUNTEERS TO LOOK AFTER OUR CHICKENS

Carolina is looking for 2 more families who can volunteer to look after our chickens for 1 week each during the summer school holidays. All you would have to do is come in to the school on three occasions during your nominated week to top up their food and water. This should take about 30 minutes. As a reward, you can collect and keep all the eggs laid during your week.

If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch with the office and be sure to let them know if there are any dates you are unavailable.

Thank you from our chickens!

A huge thank-you to the parents who completed the recent ‘Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program’ survey. There were 59 people who participated in the survey. 49% of the participants knew the school was part of the program. 88% of participants believed that the school was a healthy environment for the students. 92% of participants indicated that they were willing to participate in making the school a healthier place. 5 parents indicated that they would like to join the committee. Hope to see those parents in 2016. Times and dates for meetings will be published in the newsletter early next year.

The Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program team.

INDONESIAN WORD OF THE WEEK

*Selamat Sore!* … also means “Good afternoon” (later in the day, around sunset)
Prep
Just a reminder the Prep breakfast money is due by Friday. Don’t forget to wear your pyjamas and bring your favourite soft toy to school on Friday 4 December. School clothing, tooth brush and toothpaste need to be packed in your school bag.

Thursday 10 December is the end of the year celebration. The students will need to wear Christmas colours (red, white and green) or Christmas clothing e.g. Santa hat, tinsel, reindeer antlers etc.

Please return all word, alphabet and number cards to school by Friday.

Grade 1
The grade one community has been busy rehearsing for the End of Year celebrations. It’s starting to feel like Christmas!
All students have worked really hard all year and can be proud of their achievements.
Final reminder that all take home books and library books need to be returned to school this week.
Thank you to all parents and friends for your support over the year and special thanks to the volunteers that have helped support the learning programs.

Grade 2 & 3
The Science Works excursion was a big success. The children enjoyed all of the exhibitions and learnt a lot about space at the planetarium. They all followed the KEFAR values and made our school proud. We would like to thank all of the parents who attended the excursion for assisting us with the day. Your time was very much appreciated.

Grade 4
As it is the almost the end of the year, we are now beginning to pack up and clean up our community. Please make sure that your child has a spare plastic bag to carry home extra items. All students need to search for any missing books that belong to Altona Green. Please note there will be no further reading books being sent home. Could all students who are attending next Thursday’s End of Year Celebration please wear Christmas colours for our musical item.

Grade 5 & 6
This week Isabella, one of nine Australian UN Young Ambassadors, came to our school to talk about the role of the UN and UNICEF in promoting the rights of children in Australia and around the world. Our students asked some very interesting questions and were eager to learn more about the challenges some children face on a day to day basis.

Don’t forget to return all your ‘Home Reading ‘and Library Books  

Thank you
Helping your children respond to bullying
It is natural for families to feel upset and want to protect their children if they are being bullied. However, children can be distressed when families react with anger. These same strategies apply if your child is being cyber bullied.

Family responses found to be helpful include:
- Encouraging your children to discuss the situation
- Being aware of your own responses and reacting in a calm, helpful and supportive manner
- Believing your children – it is important that your children feel confident talking to you about problems
- Telling your children that bullying is wrong and reminding them that they have the right to feel safe and happy
- Making sure your children know how to get help and support at school
- Helping your children to make friends (having at least one good friend has been shown to reduce the likelihood and impact of bullying)
- Talking to your children’s teacher
- Asking your children what they would like you to do

Life Education 2016
As part of our drug and health education programs across the school, the Life Education Van will be visiting Altona Green in Term 1 2016.

We have the van visit our school every two years to provide an ongoing and sequential program for our students.

This makes it a really short time line to organise at the beginning of the year, and at this stage we are just informing families that permission notes will be going home in the first week back in the 2016 school year.

As this will be a whole school focus and grades will be following topics up in their classroom programs, School Council have generously decided to subsidise the program so that each student will only have to pay $6 to attend. Hopefully this assists families with costs and allows all children to attend.

There will also be a parent information session happening which you will be able to book in for.

There will be more news to come at the start of the 2016 school year so be on the look out!

Nola Byrne

The Life Education mobile classroom will be at our school:

4 – 10 February, 2016
As this is the very last Book Talk for 2015, I would like to thank some very special people who have assisted me in the smooth running of our school library.

Firstly, to Carly Challenger, Ann De Lima and Jo Wood - your wonderful support not only this year but during all my time in the library has been amazing and I could not have done this job without you!

To my 2015 library monitors:

Ayush Lal         Bella Kolodziej
Kai Pennings      Artie Cornish
Libby Harmer      Jesse Phelan

and my special helper Connor Stewart (Ella’s brother from Prep V).

You have ALL been fantastic and a great help to not only me but also to your Grades and the whole school community as well.

Thank you so much!

Trish Allen

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A thank-you message from Leisa, Jack and Amelia:

Most of you know that our home and belongings were destroyed in a house fire on September 30th this year. We wish to thank the Altona Green Primary School community for their help through this hard time. I read an anonymous quote that sums up our gratitude for the support we have received:

"In that Moment,
On that day,
Your kindness changed a life".

Everyone's kindness, generosity and compassion has certainly changed ours. We can not thank you enough. From Leisa, Jack and Amelia.
Student Engagement & Wellbeing

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen

Garden Program

5T in the kitchen

By Head Chef Jouihaina

Sarah our kitchen teacher prepares all of the ingredients for us to start cooking. She also shows us what to do. At the end, we all get to eat the tasty food.

We all enjoyed the food. It was really delicious!

We made English food. We had Yorkshire Puddings, Mushy Peas, Pasties and Bubble and Squeak
**What's new in OSHC?**

Over the past few weeks there has been a few new changes to the OSHC program. Sarah has moved from another service to coordinate the program here at Altona Green, working with Kim and Shania. Parents may have also noticed the room set up has changed a little. This is to allow the children more opportunity for play spaces and for educators to provide adequate supervision.

Our aim at Altona Green OSHC is for all children to be actively involved and engaging in the activities provided. We also value your feedback so that we can ensure the service is of a high quality.

**Children's Program:**

As there is new staff, over the past couple weeks we have been getting to know each other and understanding the interests of the children. Some activities have included playing outside; rugby, playground, cricket, soccer and group games. Children have shown interest in the new board games we received and also the riddles that have been on the board for the children and parents!

Leading to the end of term, the children will be participating in Christmas activities over the next few weeks.

**Holiday Clubs!**

There are many Holiday Clubs available and bookings are NOW OPEN! It is vital that parents enrol their children prior to the program starting so that Camp Australia can meet the needs of all the children in care.


**Program Details**

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit [www.campausralia.com.au](http://www.campausralia.com.au)

We look forward to seeing you soon.
Sarah, Shania & Kim.
2015 IN REVIEW
BY 5/6A

Class of 2015

INSIDE OUT

halogen Foundation