

Altona Primary School Newsletter

6th MARCH 2025: TERM 1 WEEK 6



Principal's Report

As we are halfway through week 6, it is hard to believe we are already at the mid point of Term 1. Over the last few weeks it has been great to see many of our new parents engage with the Classroom Helpers course. Along with this, the support that many of you are providing by volunteering for our excursions and events is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2025

After another call for nominations, I am pleased to share that Elyse Rider and Melissa Connolly have filled our final two vacancies on our school council. They will join Said Shafa, Martijn Van Den Brand, Martina Otten, Tanja Hausler, Joel Chamberlain, Michael Sperling and Olivia Marchionni as our parent representation on our council. Along with these parents, Tim Jenkins, Christina Reginato and Andrew Gilpin hold the DE positions. Our first meeting of this council will be on the 19th of March. The first agenda item will be the presentation of our Annual Report which anyone is welcome to attend. This will be approximately 15 minutes and will commence at 6pm in our staffroom.

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Our FFC is calling for members of our community to join. This year, new members have taken on the Vice President and Secretary positions. Our FFC plays an integral role in enabling our community events which all students benefit from such as Canteen Days and our Mothers/Fathers Day stalls. If you have been thinking of helping out, now is the time to join the FFC. With new faces and a fresh approach, many other things can be imagined that will add to the school experience for our community. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Emma Hamilton by emailing apsfriendsandfamilies@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

10th March
Public Holiday

12th–21st March
NAPLAN testing

21st March
Harmony Day

26th March
P-2 Cross Country Event

27th March
Grade 3–6 Cross Country Event

31st March – 2nd April
Showcases of Learning
(Dates and times further in newsletter)

3rd April
School photos

4th April
Last Day Term 1: 2.30 Dismissal

2025 CURRICULUM DAYS
6th June
21st July
3rd November

See our whole school calendar
on our website for all dates

We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We are grateful for the land that we live, learn and play on every day.

www.altonaps.vic.edu.au





CAPITAL WORKS - PLAYGROUND AND FENCING UPGRADE

In the 2023–24 State Budget, Altona Primary School received \$1.2 million to upgrade and modernise fencing and the spider playground area. Since then, we have sought input from our students and community and have been working through the planning process with the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA), appointed architects (Smith + Tracey) and appointed builders (Reliance Construction). I am now very pleased to share that we will see this project commence onsite in the coming weeks. Below are the landscape plans, along with renderings of two new playgrounds that will be installed.



The space in the area known as the spider playground, will have 2 new playground spaces installed, a large hardcourt surface with 3 four square courts and 'mini' basketball court, amphitheater style seating under a new large shade sail and improved landscaping along Upton Street. Outside Room 12 and 13 (under the shade sails) a deck and synthetic turf will be installed to cover the bitumen surface. Outside Room 8 and 9, new concrete seating spaces will be installed with a large shade sail, along with landscaping works. Added to all of this, a new fence along the entire Railway Street boundary will be installed including a wider entry gate, and the fence along Blyth Street in front of the main building will be replaced with a new palisade style fence. This is an exciting time for our school and we are looking forward to seeing the commencement (and completion) of this project.



NAPLAN TESTING

NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy that all Grade 3 and Grade 5 students across Australia complete every year. The testing period for these assessments commences next week, with our schedule below. Our Grade 3 and 5 students have been working on their test taking skills, along with developing a mindset to support them through these assessments.

March 10th	March 11th	March 12th	March 13th	March 14th
PUBLIC HOLIDAY		Writing Grade 3 Grade 5 (Online)	Reading Grade 5 (Online)	Reading Grade 3 (Online)
March 17th	March 18th	March 19th	March 20th	March 21st
Language Grade 3 (Online) Grade 5 (Online)	Maths Grade 3 (Online)	Maths Grade 5 (Online)	Make Up Tests	Make Up Tests

All tests to commence at 9:15am

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Please be advised that our photo day that was originally booked for the 11th of March has now been changed to Thursday the 3rd of April.

HARMONY DAY

This year, Harmony Day will be celebrated at Altona Primary School on the 21st March. This is a day for us to recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community. On the day, we encourage students to come dressed in something that represents their culture and/or beliefs, or alternatively, to dress in Orange as this is the colour of harmony. In their classrooms, students will have the chance to share their understanding of their cultural background and learn about those of their peers. If students would like to bring in an artefact to share, they are most welcome to. Please note, this is a not a day to recognise sports teams and clothing worn to school needs to be suitable for students to still participate in the school day.

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#). Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).

SCHOOL TOURS and 2026 ENROLMENTS

Prep enrolments for 2026 will open on 22nd April and school tours will commence later this term. If you know any families who have children starting school next year and are keen to join our learning community, enrolment information and tour dates and times are now on our website.

As always, if there is anything that our Principal team can support you with, something you would like to talk further about or feedback you would like to provide, please don't hesitate to come and chat, or organise a time to meet with myself, Tim or Nicole.

Take Care,
Sarah



VALUES AWARDS WINNERS: Week 3, 4 and 5



STUDENT VOICE LEADERS

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen by their classmates to be our Student Voice Leaders for Semester 1.

This group has already met several times with the Principal to canvass and share the ideas of their peers to contribute to the decisions being made that impact our school.

Oliver - 1T
Aurora - 1D
Samuel - 1C
Millie - 2R
Jack - 2W
Jeremy - 2B
Scarlett - 3/4G
Cole - 3/4S
Rosalie - 3/4F



Oscar - 3/4C
Kaylee - 3/4P
Hilton - 3/4B
Gloria - 5V
Revaan - 5M
Dex - 5H
Polly - 6M
Annie - 6L
Grace - 6A

COMMUNICATION AT APS

COMPASS: Ongoing communication. Newsfeed items contain reminders and timely information. All payments and consent for events and activities are made through Compass.

NEWSLETTER: Reports what is happening and coming up at APS. Published 3-4 times per term via Compass and the school website.

YEAR LEVEL NEWSLETTERS: Outlines the learning program of each year level. Published twice per term.

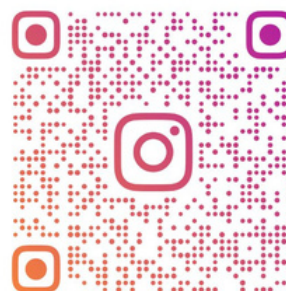
SCHOOL WEBSITE: Information about the school, parent info and whole school calendar.

INSTAGRAM: Visual reminders and photographic updates. Posts updated weekly.



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM

@altonaPrimaryschool



ALTONAPRIMARYSCHOOL





DIVISIONAL SWIMMING

Today, we had 14 talented swimmers compete in the Divisional Swimming Carnival, which was held at the Werribee Outdoor Pool. These students qualified for this event through our District Swimming Carnival.

The APS competitors swam really well, with all their hard training over the years at swim schools/clubs paying off. Children that finished first or second in an individual event and first in a relay, qualify for the Western Region Swim Championships held in Geelong. I was super proud of how the students of APS supported each other and how each student swam giving their all to the finish line. The results were:

50m Freestyle

Amelie S finishing 1st in the 11 girls event. Qualified.

Sam H finishing 3rd in the 11 boys event.

50m Breaststroke

Jude L finishing 6th in the 9/10 boys event.

Backstroke

Isla F finishing 4th in the 9/10 girls event.

Michael H finishing 2nd (Qualified) and Sam H 3rd in the 11 boys event.

Hannah S finishing 3rd in the 11 girls event.

Butterfly

Isa R finishing 4th in the 9/10 girls event.

Amelie S finishing 1st in the 11 girls event. Qualified.

Michael H finishing 1st in the 11 boys event. Qualified.

Henry T finishing 5th in the 12/13 boys event.



Well done to the 9/10 girls 50m Freestyle Relay team (Kara M, Isla F, Alannah S and Isa R) who finished 2nd, 11 boys 50 Freestyle Relay team (Baxter K, Michael H, Sam H and Rory H) who finished 2nd and 11 girls 50 Freestyle Relay team (Annabel T, Matilda A, Hannah S and Amelie S) who finished 1st and will progress to the next stage of competition.

The open girls 50m Medley Relay team (Hannah S, Annabel T, Isla F and Amelie S) finished 1st and open boys 50m Medley Relay team (Henry T, Baxter K, Michael and Sam) finished 3rd overall.

Good luck to the students who will compete in the Western Region Championships.

**photos are from the District event*



Altona Primary School

TERM 1 2025 SHOWCASE OF LEARNING



PREP

**WEDNESDAY
2ND APRIL
2.45 PM**

GRADE 1

**TUESDAY
1ST APRIL
9.00 AM**

GRADE 2

**TUESDAY
1ST APRIL
2.45 PM**

GRADE 3/4

**WEDNESDAY
2ND APRIL
9.00 AM**

GRADE 5

**MONDAY
31ST MARCH
9.00 AM**

GRADE 6

**MONDAY
31ST MARCH
2.45 PM**

In primary school, some students **miss 3 weeks** on average **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

