

Altona Primary School Newsletter



2nd APRIL 2025: TERM 1 WEEK 10



Principal's Report

Our last week of Term 1 has been a busy one and it has been great to see so many parents and visitors attending our Showcases of Learning. These experiences provide the opportunity for parents to check in on the learning progress of their child/ren, while also providing the chance for students to reflect on their learning outcomes. I hope you have enjoyed this experience and as always, if you have any further questions about your child/ren's progress, their teacher will be able to discuss this with you.

STAFFING NEWS

Most of you will be aware that Megan Farrow is expecting her first child and will commence maternity leave early next term. We wish Megan the best of luck as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Tim Rouse will be taking all of Term 2 as a period of leave. We are currently working to recruit a teacher to continue to deliver a music program and we will keep you updated of arrangements for this. We wish Tim well.

Next term, we warmly welcome back Helen Xinomilakis and Hannah Liacopoulos who have been on periods of leave.

I would like to also advise you all that I will be taking a period of medical leave, anticipated to be for the first five weeks of next term. In my absence, Tim Jenkins is the appointed Principal.

CROSS COUNTRY

It was great to see so many people attend our Cross Country events last week. Results of the event are further in the newsletter. I extend thanks to Stephen Fava for not only organising these events, but also for running morning training sessions. The amount of students (and parents) who chose to come to these was remarkable and proved to be a great way to start the morning. Our cross country team will continue these sessions as focused preparation for their next competitive events.

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.



Dates to Remember

3rd April
School photos

4th April
Last Day Term 1: 2.30 Dismissal

21st April
Easter Monday Public Holiday

22nd April
Term 2 commences

25th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

12th - 14th May
Grade 5 Camp

6th June
Curriculum Day
(no students at school)

9th June
Kings Birthday Public Holiday

4th July
Last Day Term 2: 2:30pm dismissal

TERM 3 and 4 CURRICULUM DAYS

21st July
3rd November

See our whole school calendar
on our website for all dates

www.altonaps.vic.edu.au



SCHOOL REVIEW

We are currently undertaking our school review and I extend my thanks to everyone who has been involved in this process. Our leadership team, teachers and support staff, parent focus groups and student leadership group have provided our panel with great insight through discussions earlier this week. Previous observations and analysis of our data sets has also proven to be incredibly positive. On our final panel day we will determine the goals and targets for the school for the 2025-2028 strategic plan. We will share the outcome of this with our community at some stage next term.

PLAYGROUND WORKS

Our playground works have well and truly commenced, with demolition works well underway. The safety of our community is of the utmost priority through the build, hence the hoarding that has been set up around the school. Through the course of the build there will be some distractions and disruptions, however we are working with the builders to ensure that this is kept as minimal as possible during class time. It will be exciting to see how much progress is made over the upcoming holiday period.

SCHOOL TOURS and 2026 ENROLMENTS

Prep enrolments for 2026 will open on 22nd April and school tours have commenced. If you have younger learners who are due to commence next year, or you know any families who have children starting school and are keen to join our learning community, enrolment information and tour dates are published on our website.

CANTEEN DAY

Our Friends and Families Committee (FFC) have been busy organising Canteen Day which will run this Friday. For families new to the school, all classes will visit the onsite 'canteen' which is run by our FFC and volunteers. Students have the choice to purchase from a variety of items with money brought from home (coins being preferred). Items that are sold are treats and are not a replacement for lunch or snack on the day. Depending on what is purchased, teachers may suggest that items are taken home to avoid over consumption on the day. All funds that are raised are put towards the FFC fundraising efforts to support with school improvements.

As we head towards the holidays, I thank everyone for their support over what has been another great term at APS. I hope you are able to enjoy spending time with your child/ren over the break. Please take note that our first day of Term 2 is Tuesday the 22nd April and this is NOT a curriculum day.

While the first week will be a short one as there is a public holiday on the Monday and Friday, it is three days of expected school attendance, with all planned units of learning commencing in that week.

I look forward to seeing you all when I return from leave in the middle of the term.

Take care,
Sarah

VALUES AWARDS

**Weeks 6, 7,
8 and 9**



Respect Gratitude Responsibility Aspiration Resilience Collaboration



Introducing our School Council President

Hello everyone,

I'm Melissa, and I'm excited to have taken on the role of School Council President at Altona Primary. I first joined the School Council in 2023 when my son started Prep, as a way to get involved at the school and meet new people. Serving on the Council has allowed me to witness firsthand the dedication of teachers and fellow parents who are steadfastly committed to enhancing our school's environment, always prioritising the children's best interests. It has been a rewarding experience to observe the collective effort and careful consideration that informs each decision. This was my motivation to commit to another two-year term and put my hand up for the President role. I'm hopeful that I can continue to support the school leadership team and add value to the school's governance and decision-making processes.



Outside of School Council, I work in the energy industry, leading a Learning and Development team. And when I'm not working, I'm spending time with my family; my husband Tim, our two kids, two dogs and cat moved to Altona three years ago. While we love living by the beach, we love the family-friendly community and the wonderful friends we've made even more. Our son Phoenix is in 2B, and next year, our daughter Clover will begin Prep, so I'll be around at APS for quite a few years to come!

If you see me in the school yard, please feel free to come have a chat. I'm always keen to meet new people and would love to hear your thoughts on our school!

With thanks,
Melissa



SUMMER INTERSCHOOL SPORTS WRAP UP



Well done to all teams that participated in the Summer Interschool Sports Competition. I know our students had a lot of fun playing other schools and represented the school with pride.

There were 8 schools that participated in the summer competition. Here are the final results.

Our Girls basketball team finished 3rd and both T-ball teams finished 4th. Our Hot Shots Boys team finished 3rd and the Girls team finished 5th.

We had three teams that made the final. The Boys Basketball team finished runners up and lost the final 17 points to 30. The Girls volleyball team were in a battle, losing the first set but managed to win the next two and are district champions. The Boys volleyball team went down in a narrow game losing 2 sets to 0.

Stephen Fava



Cross Country

The Altona Primary Cross Country events were held last week. All children participated enthusiastically and encouraged each other, especially along the back straight! We are super proud of the effort all children put in. The senior children of the school should be congratulated on the support they gave to their peers and for running morning training sessions over the last two weeks. What great leaders. Below is a list of the place getters.

PREP GIRLS

- 1st Jo Jo S PS
- 2nd Tami G PH
- 3rd Harlow W PR
- 4th Zoey M PR



GRADE 1 GIRLS

- 1st Chloe S ID
- 2nd Esme D IC
- 3rd Zoe C IC
- 4th Millie M IC



GRADE 2 GIRLS

- 1st Aalia T 2W
- 2nd Melba G 2W
- 3rd Annabelle W 2R
- 4th Harper B 2B



PREP BOYS

- 1st Archer H PM
- 2nd Tyler M PS
- 3rd Ryan M PM
- 4th Trent P PH



GRADE 1 BOYS

- 1st Andres M ID
- 2nd Sam J IC
- 3rd Harvey R ID
- 4th Levi H IC



GRADE 2 BOYS

- 1st Cameron M 2W
- 2nd Joey S 2B
- 3rd Jackson F 2W
- 4th Archie D 2R

8/9/10 Year Girls

- 1st Isla F
- 2nd Ava F
- 3rd Isa R
- 4th Ruby S
- 5th Chloe S
- 6th Aria S



8/9/10 Year Boys

- 1st Kai M
- 2nd Aaron L
- 3rd Jake C
- 4th Bennett W
- 5th Toby W
- 6th Flynn M



11 Year Girls

- 1st Zoe W
- 2nd Zara H
- 3rd Annie T
- 4th Hannah S
- 5th Amelie S
- 6th Macey K



11 Year Boys

- 1st Aaron B
- 2nd Rory H
- 3rd Archer M
- 4th Dex K
- 5th Alistair P
- 6th Edward M



12 Year Girls

- 1st Bella C
- 2nd Sophie V
- 3rd Delilah W
- 4th Alula S
- 5th Polly G
- 6th Adelaide D



12 Year Boys

- 1st Jackson J
- 2nd Desi M
- 3rd Henry T
- 4th Jake H
- 5th Owen I
- 6th Joseph D



From the 8/9/10, 11 and 12 year age groups, the top four children will progress to the District Cross Country Carnival.

Thank you to all the teachers, parent who offered their assistance, parents who supported their child/ren, and the children for making this event such a great one.

The Jack Rayner Cross Country Trophy went to Blue House this year.
Captains Amelie Simoes and Aaron Bright



WESTERN REGION SWIMMING

On the 1st of April, we had 6 talented students compete in the Western Region Swimming Championships in Geelong. The Western Region covers a huge area, schools from Bellarine to Footscray to Sunbury. Therefore any result is a great achievement considering how many students are in this pool (pardon the pun).

- Michael H competed in the 11 year old boys 50m backstroke event and finished strong, placing 3rd. Top swim Michael. He also competed in the 50m butterfly event where he finished 4th in the West.
- Amelie S competed in the 11 year old girls 50m freestyle and butterfly events, leading from start to finish. Hours in the pool has paid off. She now progresses through to the State Championships next month at MSAC, Albert Park. Exciting times for APS, her family and herself. APS is right behind you!
- The 11-year-old girls 50m freestyle relay team of Annabel T, Matilda A, Hannah S and Amelie S worked well as a team, just finishing 2nd. Excellent swim girls. 2nd best relay team in the West is very impressive.
- Finally, our Open Medley Girls team of Amelie, Hannah S, Isla F and Annabel T had very smooth changes between swimmers and finished 5th overall. Top job girls.



COMMUNICATION AT APS

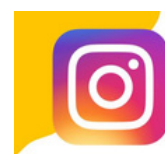
COMPASS: Ongoing communication. Newsfeed items contain reminders and timely information. All payments and consent for events and activities are made through Compass.

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.

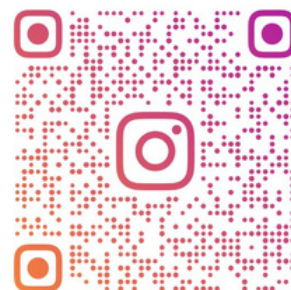
SCHOOL WEBSITE: Information about the school, parent info and whole school calendar.

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



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM

@altonaPrimaryschool



ALTONAPRIMARYSCHOOL



The place to be
these holidays!

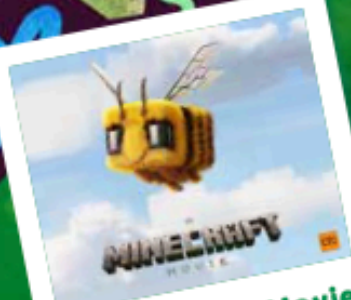
TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

presents

MAD FUN

AUTUMN Holiday Festival

featuring... YOU!



A Minecraft Movie



Bubble - O - Fun



Talent Spectacular



Super Silent Disco

Book now at theircare.com.au

Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy



Excursion



Super Excursion



Special Activities



In-house Fun



Public Holiday

Excursion & Super Excursions days: Arrive at the service by 8:00 am. Pick-up after 2:30 pm. Wear runners & socks.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



7 APR



Lil Rockstars

Get in touch with your musical side! Use your creativity to make DIY Drums and Pan flutes and experience the water xylophone experiment that can unleash your inner musician.

Test your minds by putting your memory to use by joining in on a variety of memory and group games. Become an artist, musician and creator for a day!

From as low as \$7.48*
Full fee \$74.81**



8 APR



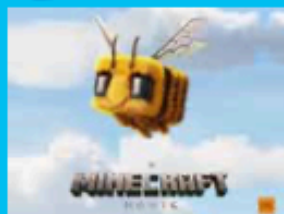
Bubble - O - Fun

Get ready for a splash of colour with Rainbow Bubble Magic! Blow and catch magic bubbles and enjoy making rainbow bubble snakes, you will get to take home your own reusable bubble kit. Afterward, continue the fun with Bubble Hydrangea Art, the Broken Windows Group Game, and Nature's Stamps. It's going to be a colourful day!

From as low as \$8.31*
Full fee \$83.14**



9 APR



Pass the Popcorn

Welcome to the world of Minecraft, where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival! Four misfits - Garrett "The Garbage Man" Garrison, Henry, Natalie and Dawn find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld!

From as low as \$11.31*
Full fee \$113.07**



10 APR



Carnival of Colour

Today the TheirCare services come together for KABOOM an interactive sporting fun zone! It's a unique tabloid sports adventure like no other, a day of explosive atmosphere and music! Back at service, let's dive into more fun! Challenge yourself in the Back & Forth Monster Drawing Challenge and then join in for the Beat Detective Group Game!

From as low as \$12.46*
Full fee \$124.58**



11 APR



M.A.D Science

Dive into some sensory science fun at service today! Engage in a variety of art science activities, create beautiful sensory autumn leaves, DIY soap slime experiments and creating your own stylish DIY Croc Jibbitz, then spark your creativity with monster exploding bags and we'll even get to craft our very own pom-pom launchers!

From as low as \$7.48*
Full fee \$74.81**

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



14 APR



Butter-flying By!

Housed in a magical mobile enclosure, children are offered the unique opportunity to engage and interactive with these beautiful and vibrant flying friends! Afterwards, enjoy creating your own Autumn themed slime, craft beautiful 3D Butterfly Paper Garlands and take part in a wacky Caterpillar Race!

From as low as \$8.97*
Full fee \$89.71**



15 APR



Zoo Explorers

Embark on an exciting zoo journey where you'll meet fascinating animals and explore their incredible world! Then back at service we'll be jumping into a bunch of fun themed activities! Craft Autumn Leaf Suncatchers and Echidna Pom Pom Crafts before finishing with a game of Pin the Tail on the Kangaroo!

From as low as \$11.31*
Full fee \$113.07**



16 APR



Talent Spectacular

Step into the spotlight with TheirCare's School of Talent Spectacular! Engage in the amazing Dancing Milk Experiment, create charming Dancing Sun Puppets. Rock the floor with G.O.A.T Dances and see what moves you'll get to rock with the Dance Move Cube! Let your creativity and imagination shine!

From as low as \$7.48*
Full fee \$74.81**



17 APR



Bunny's Picnic

Today, the bunnies are in charge! Get ready to hop, paint, and play with our bunny-themed activities. Create Scrape Painting Bunnies and DIY your very own Pom-Pom Bunnies. Savour a playful treat of Fairy Bread Balls, test your skills with Pin the Tail on the Bunny, and join in lively Picnic Games! Let the bunny adventure begin!

From as low as \$7.48*
Full fee \$74.81**



18 APR

Service closed!



In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school 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>

