

Altona Primary School Newsletter

22nd NOVEMBER 2024: TERM 4 WEEK 7



Principal's Report

We are well over halfway through Term 4 and we have an incredibly busy final four weeks ahead. As we head into December, lots of excitement about the end of the year sets in along with the anticipation of what 2025 will look like. Through this time, we continue to remain focused on continuous learning, with reporting and assessment being a key part of our teachers' work. Attendance at school is of a high importance as we complete our 2024 school year, however if you are heading away early, please make your child's teacher aware so that they can plan accordingly.

With everything happening towards the end of the year, we will not have Showcases of Learning this term, however our Art Show and Xmas concert provide the opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the year.

STAFFING NEWS

Today we wished Yolanda Brunner the best of luck as she commences her family leave. This is an exciting time for Yolanda and we now await the news of her new arrival. 3/4Y will finish their year with Miss Freya who has been working across our school as a casual relief teacher all year.

I can also share that Claudia Robinson has announced that she will retire at the end of this school year. Claudia has been at APS for over 30 years and has made a significant contribution to our community over that time. Recently, she has been working with students in our intervention program, the impact of which has been to support learners (and teachers) across the school to enhance their literacy achievement. Our staff will celebrate the career of Claudia later in the term, but we wish her well as she heads into retirement.

Dates to Remember

25th November
Prep Excursion

29th November
STUDENT FREE DAY

3rd, 4th and 5th December
ART SHOW
3.30-5pm (Tues/Wed)
5-7pm (Thurs)

5th December
Xmas Concert
5-7pm

10th and 17th Decembr
Whole School Transition
12.30-1.30pm

11th December
Grade 6 Graduation

18th December
Grade 6 Mystery Tour

20th December
Last Day of Term 4
1:30pm Dismissal

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



CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTION PAYMENTS 2025

Our school council has approved the Curriculum Contribution payment for 2025. We have continued to manage to keep this cost as low as possible and I am pleased to share that it will remain the same as it has for the past two years, at \$180 per student. The charge covers the cost of stationary, books and curriculum resources that all students will be provided in their classroom and specialist subjects. We have looked closely at the predicted and maintenance costs for our Buildings and Grounds and have increased that suggested contribution by a small amount to support projects that need to be attended to in 2025.

Paying Curriculum Contributions supports the school to provide a rich and engaging experience for all children. While government schools receive student funding, the amount received has to spread across the whole school budget to cover all stationary resources required, books, equipment, furniture, technology, maintenance, utilities, service fees, first aid resources, administration costs and casual staff wages. Attending to the Curriculum Contribution payment covers the costs of the basic stationary that all students will require and supports the school to ensure all other budgets can cover the costs of not only the teaching and learning program, but also the day to day running expenses of the school. Payments will be open in January 2025 and notifications will be sent through Compass. 2024 payments are still open through Compass if you wanted to attend to these.

2025 CLASS STRUCTURE

2025 will see our total enrolments from Prep-6 remain almost the same, however we have an increasing number of Preps commencing with us, meaning we will introduce a fourth prep class and increase to 22 total classes across the school. Our structure will remain the same as it has been for the past two years, with the exception of the increase to 4 x Prep classes. Grade Prep – 2 classes will maintain lower class sizes, with an average of 21 across P-2, while our Grade 3-6 classes will ensure the average from P-6 remains below the expected total school average of 26.

2025 GRADE STRUCTURE

- Prep = 4 classes
- Grade 1 = 3 classes
- Grade 2 = 3 classes
- Grade 3/4 = 6 composite classes
- Grade 5 = 3 classes
- Grade 6 = 3 classes

TRANSITION

We are half way through our transition program for our 2025 preps, with another two transition sessions in the coming weeks. Our current grade Prep-5s will have an opportunity to engage in transition sessions in Week 10 and 11, on the 10th and 17th of December. This will involve all students working in their 2025 rooms with their class and teacher. We are still working on student placements for 2025, with a great deal of work put in by our teaching staff and leadership team to ensure the needs of all learners are balanced and supported across the classes. These will be made available as we head into our first whole school transition session on the 10th December.

STUDENT FREE DAY

A reminder that next Friday the 29th November is a student free day. This day is our common professional practice day which all staff are entitled to. If you need to access care for your child, Their Care will be running on the day so you can book with their service.



ART SHOW

Not long to go now until our community get to enjoy our Art Show. All our students will have a piece displayed in the gallery, with the theme of Alice in Wonderland anticipated to provide a magical experience. I cannot convey in words how hard our children have worked to prepare pieces and how proud they will be to share these when they are displayed. As part of any art show experience, children's pieces are available to purchase and I urge everyone to action this so that they can be enjoyed beyond the gallery. You can currently purchase the art work through Compass, with each child's work costing \$15. We are not charging for families to enter the gallery and we are not auctioning off any items this year. The funds that come from sales will go directly back into funding our Art Program.

Please note that the dates of the gallery are spread over 3 afternoons/evenings. While it will be open at the same time as our Xmas concert, this will no doubt be a very busy evening so please be aware that we have to limit the amount of people moving through the Art Show. To avoid a possible long wait, if you are available to attend on the Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, viewing will be open between 3.30 and 5pm.

DISMISSAL BELL

Recently we have introduced a second dismissal bell which rings at 3.25pm. All children are still dismissed from their classrooms on the bell at 3.15, however the second bell is the indication to leave the grounds. Our staff have scheduled meetings which commence at 3.30 most afternoons, so it is important that our grounds are locked and vacated by this time so that we can continue to attend to our work. Any child that has not been picked up at this point in time will be directed to the office to wait.

We appreciate the community connection that the 'stay and play' enables and we are not stopping this, the bell just indicates that it is time to start leaving our grounds. Thanks to everyone for your support with this already.

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

My thanks to our FFC who have again run a very successful Canteen Day for our students. The FFC continues to provide experiences for our community and we appreciate the input of families to support fundraising efforts. This year, this has resulted in the development of our sandpit, a project that ran at an approximate cost of \$25,000, including all landscaping and excavation, sand, equipment and a high quality cover and bench seat. In recent years, we have seen FFC fund the development of our Gaga Pit, replacement of the Spider playground structure and purchase of table tennis tables and soccer goals. These additions to our outdoor areas have created an exciting space, all enacted by seeking ideas from our students.

Watch out for the upcoming Xmas raffle that our FFC has been busy coordinating. This is set to be our biggest raffle ever, with some amazing prizes up for grabs. Information about tickets and prizes will be sent home in the coming week. With all prizes being donated, this will prove to be a major fundraising opportunity for our school.

An exciting few weeks ahead as we wrap up our 2024 school year. The coming weeks will see our Grade 6s on their Graduation journey, new school and house captains nominated and our transition sessions to prepare us for the 2025 school year.

I am heading off on a week of leave next week (25th - 29th November) and in my absence Tim Jenkins will be the Acting Principal. I look forward to seeing you all for our Art Show week on the 2nd December.

Take Care

Sarah



APS ALUMNI

Lucca Grego, a former student of Altona Primary School, was recently drafted into the AFL by the West Coast Eagles in the national draft. Lucca consistently exemplified our school values, and his dedication has now led to this incredible achievement. Today, Lucca visited APS to express his gratitude to the students and teachers for their unwavering support, showcasing the true essence of his character. Well done, Lucca! We eagerly anticipate the exciting journey of your AFL career.



SCHOOL SAVING BONUS

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus – a one-off \$400 support for government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

From Tuesday 26 November 2024, you will receive an email from the Department of Education with your unique \$400 School Saving Bonus code.

The School Saving Bonus will help families cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions, activities and more.

If you have multiple children enrolled in Victorian government schools for 2025, you will receive one School Saving Bonus code email per child. These emails might arrive on different days.

Please make sure to check your spam/junk email folder.

Parents and carers can use the School Saving Bonus code in store at school-nominated suppliers. Parents and carers can also choose to access the School Saving Bonus online system, where they can allocate part or all the \$400 bonus to use at school nominated-online suppliers or for school activities.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, visit School Saving Bonus | [vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au) (www.vic.gov.au). A step-by-step user guide will be available on the webpage on 26 November.

If you have not received your School Saving Bonus code via email by Friday 29 November, please contact the Department of Education by emailing school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au



Save \$400

**on school uniforms,
textbooks and
activities**

**Parents and carers
of Victorian school-aged children
will receive the one-off**

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Find out more



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