Traditionally this term passes very quickly because there are so many events on the calendar that mark the conclusion of the year. However, for our 5/6 students the beginning of Term 4 represents a wonderful opportunity to grow.

NAPLAN results are now available for collection for all our Year 5 students. If parents have concerns or queries regarding the results please make an appointment to see your child’s classroom teacher.

On Tuesday 10th of December our year six students will attend an orientation day at their 2013 secondary college. This is to assist with the transition from primary to secondary school.

We look forward to the Year 6 Graduation and celebrating this milestone with all our parents and school community. The Graduation will take place on the night of the school concert on Thursday the 28th of November in the BER. This is a night of both celebration and reflection of their time and journey through their primary school years.

We wish to remind students that it is vital for them to keep working hard for the remaining few months. The homework and study routines need to remain in place, so that students end the year with a sense of accomplishment and fond memories of their time at Altona North Primary School.

Within the key learning area of English the focus will be on students developing their questioning and reflection skills in reading and writing poetic texts. Students will be guided to consolidate spelling strategies throughout the writing process. The emphasis will be on using correct grammar and punctuation in written work. They will be involved in proof-reading and editing their writing to ensure it conveys the intended meaning. The focus will be on reading and writing poetry. This will involve the craft of poetry, the features of poetry and the meaning of poetry.

All classroom libraries are now a part of the Independent Reading program. Students practise choosing “Just Right” books and being involved in Reading Conferences with their teacher. Students will continue to develop their reading comprehension skills during independent reading sessions. We encourage parents to talk with their children about the books they are reading to support the Home Reading program.

As part of the Inquiry Unit on Natural Disasters, students will be required to give oral presentations on a research project.

In Mathematics, the students will continue to broaden their understanding of place value and problem solving that involves the four operations, for example + - X ÷. Students will also study 3D shapes, mass, volume and capacity.

Numeracy walls in all classrooms will continue to display student generated thinking about mathematics. These walls are used as part of the teaching and learning of all topic areas. Students will revise mathematical concepts that have been undertaken this year. These include place value, fractions, mapping, chance & data and measurement activities. Online testing will continue to assist the teachers with future planning and final assessments.

The learning domains that will be emphasised through the Inquiry unit will be Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning, Thinking Processes, Communication, Science and Geography. Students will have the opportunity to use the internet to research areas related to the topic and report their investigations using multimedia aids.

The 5/6 students will be working on the inquiry unit called “Nature’s Forces - Natural Events.” This unit will encourage students to research and investigate how natural events are interrelated and shape the Earth’s structures and characteristics. Students will be investigating and responding to the focus questions:

- What and why do sudden geological changes or extreme weather conditions operate on earth?
- How do these geological changes and extreme weather conditions affect the Earth’s surface and living things?
- How do humans use scientific understanding to manage and minimise the effects of natural disasters?
- Where is Earth positioned in the solar system?

We look forward to your continued support.

The Year 5/6 Teaching Team.
Lisa Ousley, Wally Raghdo and Rob Avolino (ES Support)
Visual Arts
Throughout Term 4, the children will explore a variety of Christmas traditions celebrated through different parts of the world and create art work associated with these. The children will make use of recycled materials, drawing on their imagination and skills to create an artwork. They will engage in construction, collage and sculpture activities. Other activities will relate to the school concert theme for the Grade 5/6 unit. Could children please bring small boxes to school. For example; biscuit / cereal.

Sustainability
The students in grades 5/6 will continue to develop the biodiversity of the school grounds with further plantings and improvements to existing gardens through the weekly “Enviro sessions”. The students are involved in planting, mulching, weeding, general garden upkeep and worm farm management. These tasks give ownership to the students of the school ground in which they play each day.

The school’s garden wall is continuing to develop with the students learning how to plant into the wall pots and look after them whilst the garden wall is being constructed. The students have the opportunity to choose the design they like best for the wall having completed their own designs in the classroom.

The vegetable garden is underway since the 5/6 students voted on their favourite design. They will be learning about growing different herbs and vegetables and the seasons/conditions in which they grow best. This links in with our Inquiry topic on Natural Forces in that there is a focus on weather patterns.

Health and Physical Education
The year will be wrapping up for the grade 5/6 students with a fitness-based program that will encourage the students to assess their participation in physical activity and the impact it has on our lifestyle. The grade 5/6 students will again participate in the 20m shuttle run in order to determine if they have had any improvements in their fitness levels. The students will also be involved in match play and skills based sessions in the sports of cricket, bat tennis and volleyball. The students will be exposed to the rules and will be applying tactics for improving the team’s performance.

Music and Performing Arts
During term four in Music & Performing Arts, grades 3-6 students will focus on developing, creating and performing a class item for the end of year school concert with the theme of ‘Musicals’. Students will discuss, create and plan their concert item by developing characters, choreography, acting parts, dance routines, props, costumes and lighting ideas for their performance. There will be a focus on building students co-ordination, timing, acting, dance and music skills through practice and performance. Grade Six students will also plan and develop a performance for their 2013 Graduation. Students will work together to select a