Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to TERM 4.

It was so nice to see a large number of parents at assembly to join in. I certainly appreciate your participation and look forward to your continued support. We welcome back Mrs Paterson, Mrs Enright and Mrs Hardman from their leave. They all looked refreshed after a well earned break.

At assembly I focussed on two aspects of schooling at ANPS: Our school motto - “Consider Others” and “Habits of Mind”. If parents would like to know more about our expectations around the school motto and habits of mind, please ask. A good example re a learning habit is: ‘perseverance’. Where would we all be without the ability to persevere? The interesting thing is that it can be taught in the home and at school.

SWIMMING:

Our intensive swim program for all students starts NEXT MONDAY the 15th October and will run through until Friday 26th October. Please ensure you have returned the blue medical form if your child is attending this program. If we do not receive a completed medical form, your child will not be permitted to attend.

I was delighted to hear that we had so much interest in the swimming program this year and at the same time a little disappointed that we had to create a waiting list and some may miss out. Let me assure all families that we are doing our best to make all programs accessible to everyone, however on occasions, we are limited by facilities.

PROPOSED 1/2 DAY STOP WORK:

Next Friday, 19th October, the AEU are exercising their industrial right to take a HALF DAY stopwork (am). This will cause significant disruption to student attendance on this day and parents need to be forewarned so they can make suitable arrangements. I will be sending home a complete list of classes that will be affected early next week.

Please note that the swimming program for that day will be cancelled and we are in negotiation with the pool as to when we can have a make-up lesson. Once know we will inform everybody.

PREP PICNIC - CHANGE OF DATE:

We were originally scheduled to hold a Picnic for our current Prep students and their families next Friday, 19th, but due to unforeseen circumstances this will now be taking place on WEDNESDAY 24th OCTOBER from 5pm-6:30pm.

Full information regarding this event will be sent home with all Prep students this afternoon.

2013 PLANNING:

In order to assist us with planning for 2013, it is important that we know whether current students will be returning in 2013.

All children took home gold notices earlier this week requesting families to indicate whether or not your child(ren) will be returning to ANPS for 2013. Please complete this form and return it to the office tomorrow.

This will enable us to plan for grade sizes and staffing so we can continue to offer your child the best possible education and learning environment.

PREP 2013 TRANSITION DATES:

We will be holding transition mornings for next year’s Preps on Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th November. Families who have completed enrolment forms will have already received full information regarding these session in the mail.

Please ensure that you have handed in enrolment forms if you have a new child starting school next year so your child doesn’t miss out on these very important sessions.

Our new corner signs in Mason St do mention ‘Limited enrolments’ and this is the case for our Prep classes. We already have 36 Preps enrolled for 2013 and 42 would see us at a maximum for two classes. If we were to consider a third we would need to know sooner rather than later and we would need to have at least another 18 Prep enrolments. Please confirm your enrolment for 2013 asap.

Thought for the WEEK:

“If we succeed in giving the love of learning, the learning itself is sure to follow”.

The message is clear - learn to love every day and every aspect of it, but particularly, learn to love learning.

Have a great week,

Brendan O’Brien, Principal
Catalogues for Issue 7 of Bookclub will be sent home today. Orders and payment for this issue of Bookclub are due back to school by WEDNESDAY 24th OCTOBER. Please ensure correct payment is with the order as it is difficult to issue change. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Scholastic Australia. Late orders cannot be accepted.

**MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL:**

If your child has a medical condition and requires medication during school hours, please inform the office in writing of their requirements. We are unable to administer medication sent to school without written consent from a parent/guardian.

If your child is asthmatic, please ensure you supply the office with a current Asthma Plan along with a Ventolin puffer or any other medication required.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this procedure, please contact either Mr O'Brien or Mrs Gregson via the Office.

**FINAL PAYMENTS NOW DUE !!!**

A medical form for each child MUST be returned to school immediately for children enrolled in the program to attend.

**NO MEDICAL FORM = NO SWIMMING**

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**YEAR 7 2013:**

Parents of students in Grade 6 this year, are asked to please make a note on your calendars that the Year 7 2013 Orientation Day for all Victorian Government Secondary Schools will be held on TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER.

Grade 6 students are not required to attend Altona North Primary School at all on this day.

**SHOPPING TOUR:**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are holding a Shopping Tour on Saturday 17th November. The cost of this event is $53 per person, lunch included, and we will be visiting some fabulous outlets. A great chance to pick up some bargains and also raise much needed funds for our school. We still have a couple of spaces available on the bus. If you would like to know more or book a seat, please contact the office during school hours.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS:**

It’s nearly Christmas and the P&F will be holding a wonderful Christmas Raffle once again.

In order for this raffle to be a success, we are currently seeking donations of non-perishable items to use in making up hampers. Please note for health and safety purposes, all donations must be new and unused. All donations can be left at the school office.

**3/4 UNIT BIKE ED REMINDER:**

Please remember students in the 3/4 unit are to bring their bikes and bike helmets to school for Bike Education sessions which will be taking place on the following days:

- Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th October
- Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th November
- Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th November
- Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th November
- Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th November

Please speak with your child’s class teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding this program.

**5/6 UNIT BIKE ED:**

Students within the 5/6 unit will also be participating in Bike Education this term. A timetable is currently being finalised.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION/PHONE NUMBERS ETC:**

It is imperative that parents keep our staff completely up to date with any new or changing family information. Too often we phone families to only find the number has been disconnected or changed. This is a concern for all involved and creates unnecessary stress for your children and staff. We do need to be able to contact you during the day.

Asthma and other medical details are also essential for student safety and well being. We have trained staff to care for students who are ill or injured. Our staff’s capacity to undertake the correct treatment is often limited by the lack of available information supplied from home. Please ensure that we have every necessary detail at school regarding your children’s medical needs.

**INTENSIVE SWIMMING PROGRAM:**

**FINAL PAYMENTS NOW DUE !!!**

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**A.N.P.S. WEBSITE:**

Our Webpage is a wonderful way of keeping up to date with what’s going on in our school. Visit www.altonanorths.vic.edu.au and take the time to set our page as your homepage and then you can be almost certain of never missing out on important information again. Subscribe to receive the newsletter via email - another great and easy way to stay aware of all current events.

**Current Subscribers Please Note:** Our webpage has been updated - you will need to re-subscribe in order to continue receiving the weekly newsletters. Apologies for any inconvenience, but our new site promises many wonderful new features.

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Have a Great Week Everyone