Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

Last week I mentioned that now was the time for parents and children to work together on their continued learning. I also covered the important ‘habit of mind’ of perseverance. It is often too easy to walk away from a given task and to not try to problem solve possible outcomes.

Today I would like to build on this by highlighting the importance of ‘team work and collaboration’.

Research informs us that if we work together to resolve matters, then the outcome will be more beneficial to all involved and will probably be a ‘higher order outcome’.

In education we talk about schools as ‘LEARNING COMMUNITIES’ and we encourage the notion and practice of ‘professional learning teams’. Families are an integral and essential part of our professional learning community and the family unit is a most powerful professional learning team. Research supports you if you play, work and problem solve as a team. Try it, you might also enjoy it as well as benefit from it.

We have been delighted with the community response this year to our Information Evenings, Prep Transition program, Children’s week parent involvement, parent interest in interschool sport and the list goes on - all of these demonstrate the strengthening Learning Community that exists at Altona North Primary.

PREP ENROLMENTS/TRANSITION:

To date we have 41 Preps enrolled for 2013 and so far 33 have attended the transition program. I can only encourage families to take advantage of this opportunity to assist their young children with the transition to school process.

I look forward to meeting our new parents and future students on Wednesday and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

SCHOOL CONCERT:

Ticket order forms have been distributed to all students today. Please read the information carefully to ensure you place your order correctly. Weather permitting, families attending both performances are welcome to bring a picnic and sit somewhere within the school grounds between performances. This is not a school run event and therefore parents/guardians are responsible for all children at all times.

Please send back ticket orders quickly, along with money, to secure your seats. The children and teachers can’t wait to show you all the performances they have been practicing!

2013 STUDENT PLACEMENT REQUESTS:

Our usual practice is to offer parents the opportunity to highlight any placement ideas they may have for the coming year. Parents are invited to put into WRITING their ideas and hand them to either Mrs Gregson OR myself for consideration by Wednesday the 21st November.

We will take all letters into consideration at the time of placement, but will not guarantee any expected outcomes.

ABSENCES:

Thank you to those families who have been telephoning into school either prior to a student’s absence or on the morning of the absence. This has been most helpful.

MEDICAL ADVICE:

With the warmer weather and the persistent North wind, a good number of students are ending up in sick bay with hayfever and sore eyes. If you have specific medication at home for your child please send it to school with the appropriate notification (letter) so that our qualified first aid staff can take good care of your child(ren).

Thought for the WEEK:

“Inspiration comes from working and learning every day”

Oh, how true, and my office staff have just informed me that this is the reason why I enjoy coming to work so much each day. They inspire me. In fact every staff member and student at ANPS inspires me. I am always amazed by the many challenges and also the many achievements at ANPS. A big thank you must also go to our caring parents.

If we can support you in any way with your child’s education - please ask.

Have a great week,

Brendan O’Brien, Principal
**PARENTS & FRIENDS:**

**BEANIE KIDS:** P&F are holding a “Beanie Kids” fundraiser. Cute, cuddly 21cm bean-filled plush bears that are fun to collect and make great gifts.

Forms will be sent home on Monday 19th November with the eldest/only child in each family attending ANPS. Completed order forms and money are due back at school by Friday 30th November to ensure delivery takes place prior to the end of the school year.

Each bear will sell for $11.99, (the same price you pay in the shops), and ANPS will receive $4.99 from the sale of each Beanie Kid.

Any orders which need to be a “SURPRISE” can be held at the office for personal collection. Please remember to make note on your order form if you would like this delivery option.

ALL ORDER FORMS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU ARE PLACING AN ORDER OR NOT. It is a legal requirement that we account for each and every form sent home to families.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS:** Don’t forget we are currently collecting 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.

Thank you to the following businesses who have kindly donated to this event. We thank them for their continued support of Altona North Primary School:

- Dizzy’s Castle, Fun Galore Braybrook, Wyncity Werribee, Sun Theatre Yarraville, Hoyts Cinemas Highpoint, Nandos Altona Gate, Millers Inn, Victoria Sweets, Puffing Billy, Luna Park, Wonderland Docklands, Laverton Swim Centre, Paul Sadlers Swimming, Adventure Park Geelong, Enchanted Maze, Contours, Lombards, Bunnings Altona North, Scienceworks, Altona Fresh Second Avenue, Kmart Altona Gate, Safeway Borrack Square and Playshack.

Thank you to those families who have already made generous donations to our Christmas hampers.

Thank you to the following businesses who have kindly donated to this event. We thank them for their continued support of Altona North Primary School:

- Dizzy’s Castle, Fun Galore Braybrook, Wyncity Werribee, Sun Theatre Yarraville, Hoyts Cinemas Highpoint, Nandos Altona Gate, Millers Inn, Victoria Sweets, Puffing Billy, Luna Park, Wonderland Docklands, Laverton Swim Centre, Paul Sadlers Swimming, Adventure Park Geelong, Enchanted Maze, Contours, Lombards, Bunnings Altona North, Scienceworks, Altona Fresh Second Avenue, Kmart Altona Gate, Safeway Borrack Square and Playshack.

**SOCIAL SERVICE:**

**Annual K-Mart Wishing Tree:**

This is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the term. Children are asked to start donating some of their loose change towards the purchase of a gift to be placed under the K-Mart Wishing Tree. The gifts will be collected by the Salvation Army and distributed to families or individuals who may not receive a gift at Xmas.

A reminder to everyone that school uniform is compulsory at ANPS. All pants are to be bottle green and tops can be either white or bottle green and must have the school logo on them. If you need to order uniforms please either visit the uniform shop during the below hours or alternatively you are welcome to leave your order along with payment at the office.

Opening Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Afternoons
  - 3:15pm - 3:30pm

Please ensure your child has an ANPS sun smart hat and that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Hats must be worn by all students every day.

If you would view a copy of the ANPS Uniform Policy, please visit www.altonanorth.vic.edu.au

**UNIFORM:**

For more info: www.rch.org.au/cah/research/

The Royal Children’s Hospital is doing a study to find a better way to support overweight young people, aged 12 to 17 years, to make healthier choices about weight management. Participation involves completing online questionnaires and having height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured at the beginning and then at 3, 6 and 12 month follow-ups. Parents are also invited to take part. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those who have kept their appointments. The results will help us to find out a helpful way to teach young people about weight-related behaviours during adolescence. We need overweight young people aged 12-17 living in metropolitan Melbourne to join in!

Enquiries: Karly Cini 03 9345 6954 or stayingfit@mcri.edu.au

**PARTICIPANTS NEEDED:**

**FREE study for overweight teens looking for help!**

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is doing a study to find a better way to support overweight young people, aged 12 to 17 years, to make healthier choices about weight management. Participation involves completing online questionnaires and having height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured at the beginning and then at 3, 6 and 12 month follow-ups. Parents are also invited to take part. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those who have kept their appointments. The results will help us to find out a helpful way to teach young people about weight-related behaviours during adolescence. We need overweight young people aged 12-17 living in metropolitan Melbourne to join in!

Enquiries: Karly Cini 03 9345 6954 or stayingfit@mcri.edu.au

**For more info:** www.rch.org.au/cah/research/

The_Staying_Fit_Project/

**5/6 UNIT NEWS:**

The 5/6 unit are learning about writing different types of Poetry and here are some examples from Mr Jaggard’s students:

- *Flowers:*
  - In the ground growing
  - From the rain clouds and sunshine
  - Flowers pretty to see
  - (Haiku - Racheda 5/6J)

- *Birds:*
  - Colourful, fast
  - Soaring, swooping, gliding
  - Swirling through the clouds
  - Birds
  - (Cinquain - Rachelle 5/6J)

- *Cheetah:*
  - Fast, colourful
  - Running, sitting
  - Lives in the desert
  - Wild
  - (Cinquain - Sophie 5/6J)

- *Monkey:*
  - Live in Jungle trees
  - Playing in the tall branches
  - A monkey dancing
  - (Haiku - Saeed 5/6J)

- *There once was a boy called Zack:*
  - Who had a large lunch pack
  - He eats lots of food
  - Is a pretty cool dude
  - Just like his friend Jack
  - (Limerick - Zack 5/6J)

- *There once was a boy called Karim:*
  - Who went to the beach for a swim
  - But he wanted to go to the park
  - And ended up chased by a shark
  - And that was the end of him.
  - (Limerick - Karim 5/6J)

- *Support Offside Corner kick Concentrate to win Energy Red Cards*
  - (Acrostic - Yonas 5/6J)