# From the Principal

**Dear Parents and Families:**

**Welcome to this week’s newsletter.** Every Monday I am amazed by the number and quality of certificates that students receive at assembly. We have students who have been good citizens, some who have achieved great success with their learning and a range of other awards, (Friendship/improving their learning/persisting with learning etc). I feel extremely proud of these student achievements and I do hope families take the time to praise their children for their successes.

**PREP Transition:**

Congratulations to our Prep staff and team of helpers for yet another successful transition program. It was pleasing to have a good number of new faces at ANPS connecting with our school and curriculum. Special thanks to all staff involved in the information session which provides families with a complete overview of life at ANPS. Well done. We can now all look forward to greeting our new students in 2013.

**SCHOOL CONCERT:**

They look so cute, they are so clever, they have rehearsed so well! To see so many students in costume this week and on stage was heart lifting. Congratulations to Miss McCawley and all of our staff, students and parents for the efforts put in so far. With only one week to go, the excitement continues to build as the final preparations are refined. Chookas everyone.

**Grounds Work:**

We have been working very hard on the school grounds in recent weeks to improve our facilities and to rectify a few problems. Last week I thanked our parent helpers for their contribution to the bus shed development and the surf boat clean-up.

Over the weekend we had the ‘Corrections Victoria' crew work on a massive clean-up of old tree cuttings, unwanted excess furniture and weeding on hard surfaces. The crew also commenced work on the Junior Adventure surrounding border of railway sleepers. This work will be completed shortly.

Megan Antonini has worked on our front gardens and given them a nice tidy up and replant - thank you.

The school bus was given a good scrub by Dan, (the maintenance man), this week and now just needs some minor detailing to be fully operational. This will be a wonderful asset for our students. The current bus bookings we have are for the Choir, the Preps and the Parents and Friends before the end of the year.

Major drainage works were undertaken today and earlier this week on the front stormwater system to ensure the flooding of the front entrance is no longer a problem. My apologies for the inconvenience this has caused over such a long time. This is our fourth attempt at rectifying this matter and hopefully it will work for some time.

In the next few weeks we hope to complete the bus shed, have the surf boat located in the Junior Adventure Playground, install another 40 cubic metres of soft landing material to the playgrounds, purchase the final two Interactive Whiteboards (thanks to the hard work of our dedicated Parents and Friends team) and keep our school grounds nice and tidy.

If you have an hour or two available and would like to trim, tidy our plants and garden beds, we would greatly appreciate your support. Please call by the office.

**Thought for the WEEK:**

“\[The educator is like a good gardener, whose function is to make available healthy, fertile soil in which a young plant can grow strong roots\]”

E.F. Schumacher.

The message rings true yet again - we must support and guide our next generations so that they can be the best they can be. Stimulate their thinking, nurture their responses, let them take risks and enjoy the learning journey with them.

**Have a great week,**

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

**BEANIE KIDS:** Orders and payment are due in at school by tomorrow, Friday 30th November.

*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 RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets will be going home with the eldest child in each family next Monday, 3rd of December. These tickets are in a book of 10 per family and each ticket will sell for $1. We have approximately 30 prizes in the draw to be won. Thank you to those families who have made donations.

Raffle tickets and money are due to be returned to school by Wednesday 12th December.

**ALL RAFFLE TICKETS, SOLD & UNSOLD NEED TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.** It is a legal requirement that we account for each and every raffle ticket distributed.

**CONCERT NEWS:**

Seating is currently being allocated and tickets will be sent home with children on Tuesday 4th December.

If you have not already ordered your tickets, please do so immediately as we will NOT be selling tickets on the evening.

Entry is by pre-purchase and presentation of tickets only.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** No stiletto heels are to be worn in the hall. No food is to be consumed in the hall. Water bottles will be permitted. There will be a designated PRAM parking area.

We ask that you adhere to these restrictions in order make the evening comfortable, pleasant and enjoyable for everyone.

**APPROVED LATE START:**

Friday 7th Dec - Late Start the morning after the concert:

Students will be permitted to arrive at school no later than 10:30am the morning following the School Concert. School will commence at 8:45am for those who wish to send their children at the normal time. This is providing families with an opportunity to have a sleep in; after a late and exciting night, have breakfast together and to share some of the magic memories from the night before. If family circumstances do not cater for this then students will be expected to be at school at the normal time.

**LIBRARY NEWS:**

It’s that time of the year where you need to return all books borrowed from the library in preparation for the New Year. If you are having trouble finding overdue books, a good place to look is under your bed or maybe on a bookcase amongst other books. Maybe Mum or Dad can help you look.

There will be no more student borrowing for the rest of the year!!

**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.

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE:**

Don’t forget - if you hold a Centrelink Pension or Health Care Card, you may be eligible to receive family financial assistance including EMA in 2013.

To claim EMA for 2013 you need to have a Centrelink Pension or Health Care Card that is valid on the 29th January 2013.

Application forms are now available from the school office. Please bring your Health Care or Pension Card when making the claim.

**2013 ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES:**

Thank you to those families who have already made either part payment or full payment for the 2013 Essential Educational Supplies (EES).

School Council has determined the costs to be $160 per child for the 2013 school year. These supplies will be purchased by the school in individual packs for each student through a supplier and contain items to meet the school’s specific criteria.

*Don’t forget, presenting your Health Care Card or Pension Card at the office can assist with the payment of these supplies as mentioned above.*

If you have not received this information, a copy can be obtained from the office or from ANPS website.

If you have any questions regarding Essential Educational Supplies, please contact Mr O’Brien or Mrs Gregson via the office.

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2012:**

**FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER EARLY FINISH:**

Please be aware we will be having an early dismissal on the last day of school for 2012.

A whole school assembly will be held at 12:30pm and all students will be dismissed at 1:00pm. The children will not be required to bring lunch to school on this day.

Please contact Camp Australia on 1300 105 343 or visit www.campaustralia.com.au if you are unable to collect your child from school early on this last day for 2012.

Camp Australia also run School Holiday Programs which will be held during the Christmas break.

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

**MELBOURNE BALLPARK, Merton Street, Laverton. 3028:**

Melbourne Ballpark are holding some free and exciting events from Friday 30th November - Sunday 2nd December.

Visit their website @www.melbourneaces.com.au to find out exactly who, what, where and when.

**REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL BAG REGULARLY IN ORDER TO NOT MISS OUT ON ANY IMPORTANT INFORMATION OR UP-COMING EVENTS!!**

Visit our webpage regularly at www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au to stay in tune with what’s going on, in and around ANPS.

Our webpage is a great way to keep up-to-date and download forms which may have been misplaced.