Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

SCHOOL CONCERT: It’s been an extremely busy and exciting week for everyone at ANPS in the build up to tonight’s concerts. Parents/guardians need to drop participating students off at their classroom, where they will meet class teachers and the children will be signed in.

Students in the junior concert, (Prep – 2), are to be dropped off, in costume, at their classroom by 4.45pm.

Students in the senior concert, (3-6), are to be dropped off, in costume, at their classroom by 7.15 pm.

Upon conclusion of the concert, parents/guardians are asked to remain seated and await instructions from myself, over the PA system, with regard to collection of students. Students will be taken back to their classrooms where parents/guardians will collect their children. Students will need to be signed out by the teachers. It is important that this procedure is followed to ensure the safety of your children and family members.

All Students must remain seated with their teacher until the conclusion of the concert. Early pick-ups are not allowed.

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 tomorrow morning. School will commence at 8:45am for those who wish to send their children to the normal time. If family circumstances do not cater for this, then students can arrive at school 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 can arrive at school at the normal time.

BUS SHED CONSTRUCTION: Work continued Tuesday on the construction of our Bus Shed. A huge thank you to Kevin Dunn and Wayne Berryman for their volunteered time and hard work. (See pics on page 3)

Yr 7 2013 TRANSITION DAY: Grade six students are about to make a huge step from Primary to Secondary school. An important phase of this is their Transition Day next Tuesday, (11th December), where they venture off to their new schools and spend the day familiarising themselves with the new surroundings. These students do not need to come to ANPS before heading off to their Secondary Schools on this day.

Canteen: On behalf of all staff, parents and especially our students, I would like to pass on my thanks to Megan Antonini for the outstanding work she carried out whilst being our canteen manageress during Coral’s absence.

Megan came to us well qualified for the position and certainly impressed us with her commitment to the job.

Thank you Megan and welcome back Coral.

CHOIR: Next Thursday, 13th of December, the choir head down to Altona Gate to perform. It would be great if some of our families could be in attendance to watch and support our choir. This will also be our first official outing for the school bus to transport our students.

PREPS to PLAYSHACK: The Preps and staff will be heading down to the Playshack in Blackshaws Rd next Friday the 14th of December as part of their ‘end of year’ celebrations. This should be an exciting time for our youngest students and we do hope all goes well.

REPORTS: Parents would now be fully aware that student reports will look very different this December. The reports will ONLY have progression points on them as they will be without any student comments. This is the direct result of ongoing disputation between the AEU and the Government over wages and conditions for teaching staff. If you require further information on this please speak to staff.

Student portfolios will be going home next Friday and these are an excellent example of student progress during the course of this year. Take the time to sit and talk through your child’s portfolio with them.

Thought for the WEEK: “I am convinced that it is of primordial importance to learn more every year than the year before. After all, what is education but a process by which a person begins to learn how to learn.”

Peter Ustinov.

Have a great week,
Brendan O’Brien, Principal
**IMPORTANT CONCERT 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 to make the evening comfortable, pleasant and enjoyable for everyone.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS:**

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets have gone home with the eldest child in each family. 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.

If you would like to purchase additional books of tickets, please send a written request signed by a parent/guardian.

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.

**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.campaustrali.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.

**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.

**IMPORTANT CONCERT INFORMATION:**

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.

**WILLIAMSTOWN BASEBALL CLUB:** Holding Come-and-Try Sessions for Tee Ball, (6 to 10 year old girls & boys), and Baseball, (8 to 14 year old boys & girls), each Tuesday through December from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. No equipment or experience is necessary. Come along to Greenwich Reserve on The Strand Newport and enjoy the fun. Parents please ring 0419 750 916 and speak with Ray at WBC if you have any questions.

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

**CONCERT PHOTOS:**

Last week we had a photographer visit our school during the concert dress rehearsals. Students were photographed, in full costume. Samples of these photos are on display in the hall & building A for viewing. Order forms are available from the office if you would like purchase photographs of you children. These are $5.00 each and payment must be made at the time of placing your order. Orders will close on Wednesday 12th December.

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

**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.

**ALTONA CITY SOCCER CLUB:** Are you interested in playing outdoor soccer in 2013? Altona City Soccer Club caters for all, boys, girls, women and men of all age groups. Everyone is welcome to come and try before joining. It all recommences in late January 2013. Keep an eye out on their website for more information www.altonacitysoccerclub.com.au or telephone 9398 3974.

**BOOK AND PAPER WILLIAMSTOWN:** Award Winning Author, Andy Griffiths will be signing books at Book and Paper, 20 Ferguson Street, Williamstown. TUESDAY 11th DEC at 4pm. Bookings are essential: 9397 7784 or bookandpaper@bigpond.com.au
CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUS SHED CONTINUES:

Our Bus: Altona North Primary

Visit our webpage at: www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au to view these pictures in colour. Remember: our webpage is a great way to keep up-to-date on what's happening in and around Altona North Primary School.