Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

The end of the year is approaching fast and there are so many wonderful and exciting learning opportunities still available to our students. On Tuesday of this week our grade sixes spent time at their new schools for 2013 and have come back to ANPS very excited about venturing into a new school. We wish them all the best for a most successful transition into the secondary years. Parents can support their children during this transition process by keeping in close contact with the new school staff and by spending time listening to their children’s stories about their new adventures into Secondary school.

SCHOOL CONCERT:

Congratulations Miss McCawley, staff, students, parents and helpers for creating such a wonderful night. The smiling faces, the bright eyes, the high levels of engagement, the combination of contemporary dance tunes, with choir, instrumental band work and drums made for excellent variety of presentation and performance.

We have received extremely positive feedback from families and students. We thank you for your comments. Staff and Council have also evaluated this year's concert and rated it very highly. As always though, we want to continually improve every aspect of our teaching and learning. If you have some feedback please put pen to paper and drop us a line.

CHOIR PERFORMANCE TODAY:

Our choir headed down to Altona Gate today and represented ANPS by performing for the public on the lower stage. This was an exciting occasion for our students and Miss McCawley as they ventured out into the public.

REPORTS:

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, semester 2 reports will be sent home with students tomorrow afternoon. We have set aside time next TUESDAY afternoon, 18th December, for parents/guardians who would like to meet with teachers to discuss reports.

Please contact your child’s teacher via the office to make an appointment time.

Please NOTE that this semester 2 reports will ONLY contain the progression point data and NOT have any comments from teachers. Teaching staff are in dispute with the Government over conditions of employment and they have APPROVED permission to NOT include teacher comments on reports. If you do feel concerned about this, make the time to meet with a teacher to discuss your child’s progress in person but NOT TO DISCUSS THE FACT THAT THE REPORTS DO NOT HAVE COMMENTS.

This is an industrial matter between the Government and the AEU and our staff’s time would be better served focussing on your child’s learning. I thank you in anticipation of your understanding over this sensitive matter and let me assure you that our staff, and the staff of other schools, have not found this action easy to follow.

GRADE 6 BIG DAY OUT:

Our Grade sixes head off to Adventure Park, just past Geelong, tomorrow for a well earned celebration to mark the end of seven years of Primary schooling. We wish them all the best for a successful day - enjoy. Don’t forget to Slip, Slop and Slap.

THANK YOU PARENTS & FRIENDS and SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Many parents contribute in extra ways to School life, none more than the P & F and School Councillors. On behalf of the school community I would like to pass on our special thanks to you all for your outstanding service to our students - well done.

To our retiring members: Marie Long, Liz Long and Vanessa Hardie, a BIG thankyou for your many years of service.

Have a great week,
Brendan O’Brien, Principal
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Raffle tickets and money are due back to school NOW.

The raffle will be drawn next week. The Parents & Friends have worked extremely hard gaining donations from local businesses and as a result, there are over 25 PRIZES to be won.

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.

BEANIE KIDS: Have arrived and have been distributed to students. If you requested to have your order held at the office, please call by and pick up your Beanie Kids. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser which has raised a little over $300 for ANPS.

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COMMUNITY NEWS:

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.

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.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE:

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 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.

SOCIAL SERVICE:

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.

ANNUAL K-MART WISHING TREE:

Gifts purchased by grades will be presented at assembly next Monday morning before being delivered to Kmart Altona Gate where they will be distributed to families in need this Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of loose change for this very worthwhile cause.

PARENTS & FRIENDS:

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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.

ALSO: OUT OF UNIFORM DAY on the last day for school. GOLD COIN DONATION in support of THE RED CROSS “Murray River Marathon”.

Please ensure students remain SUNSMART whilst out of uniform. APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR MUST BE WORN - no thongs.
GOODBYE TO THE 2012 SCHOOL CAPTAINS - ADAM & ASHLEIGH
WELCOME TO THE 2013 SCHOOL CAPTAINS - PEGGY & BILL

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.