Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

On behalf of our staff may I wish all in our community a wonderful Christmas and New Year. For those who do not celebrate this time of the year, I do sincerely hope that you have many happy hours enjoying the company of your children at home.

I have a special request for our students, your children: please make every effort to remain safe on the roads and at the beach AND ask mum and dad how you can help at home over the holidays.

STAFFING news:
At this time of the year we bid farewell to staff who have served our community well. We thank them for their professionalism and commitment to our students, and the community, and wish them well for their future career endeavours.

Leaving us this year are:
- Jenni Green.
- Caitlin Walker.
- Chris Anastasiou.
- Kristy Carland.
- Gemma Aktolga.

A huge thankyou to each and every one of you for your dedication to ANPS. We are a better school for having you work with us and I know that your future schools will benefit greatly from your presence.

We will be sending home a full staff list tomorrow with all students and, of course, students will be meeting their new teachers for 2013 in the morning.

Family / Student news:
To our new families for 2013 - welcome and please feel comfortable in seeking advice or asking for assistance at any time. A special welcome to our new Prep families for next year.

To families who are moving on - thankyou for being a part of our community and best wishes for your future learning journey.

To our exiting Grade Sixes: you have been amazing this year and have led the student community well. I know that your secondary education will be as rewarding as your primary one has been at ANPS.

2013:
I am looking forward to another year filled with high level learning and engagement. We have been able to maintain our rich and diverse curriculum programs for next year, (all specialist programs remain intact), and still hope to develop additional programs for students. All this has been achieved with a shrinking budget for 2013.

Grounds:
Over the holidays we will be undertaking minor maintenance activities to ensure we start the year with a safe and well kept school environment.

The surf boat will be installed in February, as will the last two interactive white boards. Our school bus has already been used and will be a wonderful asset to students and staff throughout 2013.

We can always do with help on the upkeep of our facilities. This week Kevin Dunn was most helpful by finishing off the detailing of the surfboat - thankyou Kevin.

If parents would like to spend time in the garden, oiling external decking, doing a little painting etc in 2013, please drop by the office.

Thankyou:
Thankyou to our parent helpers, canteen workers, school councillors, P & F members, fruit distributors, bookclub co-ordinators, concert supporters - the list goes on and on. We are fortunate to have so many parents backing ANPS and together we all achieve the great results.

Importantly, thankyou to you, the parents, who care for your children and take the time to make sure their education is on track. Thankyou for backing our staff on more sensitive matters at times. Thankyou for understanding the circumstances around the different reports this year. This was difficult for everyone involved. Thankyou to our full compliment of staff who I know work tirelessly to ensure we have a vibrant and cohesive learning environment for your children.

Have a great break,
Brendan O’Brien, Principal
Parents & Friends: $7,646.69
P&F funds raised enabled the purchase of the two final Interactive Whiteboards. Now all classrooms, including specialist rooms, will have Interactive Whiteboards for 2013.

Social Service: $1,639.15
Social Service funds are collected through Out of Uniform Days and other novelty events, such as Crazy Hair Day & Loud Shirt Day which are held throughout the year. The organisations ANPS supported this year were:
- The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal
- State Schools' Relief
- The Alannah & Madeleine Foundation
- The Deafness Foundation
- Cystic Fibrosis Victoria
- The Y.M.C.A.

Thank you & Congratulations to everyone on this wonderful achievement.

Kmart Wishing Tree: once again this social service event was a huge success. All grades collected spare change and purchased a gift, and in some cases several, which have now been placed under the Kmart Wishing Tree at Altona Gate. Students raised $129 through the canteen alone by putting their change into the jar which Coral has in place all year round for this event.

Thank you to the students for deciding the type of gifts they would like to donate and to the teachers who take the time to make the purchases. All students did a wonderful job at assembly on Monday morning presenting their gifts to the whole school.

Thank you also to Deb Morgan, Helen Myszka and Bev Hardman for leading the social service events for the year.

The office WILL NOT be accepting any payments tomorrow.

**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.

**Also: Out of Uniform Day** on the last day for school. GOLD COIN DONATION in support of THE YMCA and THIS WAY UP “Murray River Marathon” team.

Please ensure students remain SUNSMART whilst out of uniform. APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR MUST BE WORN - no thongs.

PARENTS & FRIENDS:

Parents & Friends would like to thank everyone who participated and supported our raffle. It was a great success and we raised $851.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners. The major prize winners were Jana 3/4T (Laverton Swim Centre Voucher), Satine 5/6J (Dizzy's Castle Voucher) and Fleur 5/6O (Paul Sadler Swim Voucher). Thank you again to all of our sponsors who donated such wonderful prizes. We had 38 in total!!!

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.

P&F wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED BY THE ALTONA NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY:

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The Office will be open on from 9am - 12 noon on Wednesday 30th January 2013 for Uniform Collection and Final Payments of Essential Educational Supplies. EMA Claims can also be made on this day if you hold a Centrelink Healthcare or Pension Card valid as of January 29th 2013.

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.

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.