Dear Parents and Families:

**SWIMMING PROGRAM:** Our 5 / 6 students have braved the weather to commence their involvement in this high quality program. The students are being instructed, by 6 Life Saving Victoria Instructors, at Altona Beach on skills that will give them greater confidence and safety in the water this Summer. I have already been impressed by their enthusiasm and efforts in the cold conditions. Keep up the good work students!

**2014 PREP TRANSITION STARTS NEXT WEEK:** This is always a very exciting time of year when we introduce many new families to ANPS. We are always intrigued by their smiles, their genuine interest in learning and their inquisitive nature. Children come to school wanting to learn, they are like little sponges ready to absorb new knowledge.

We welcome all of our siblings and new families to our ANPS family and hope you benefit greatly from our excellent programs and caring, committed staff.

**WORLD TEACHER’S DAY - tomorrow.** Have you planned something nice for your teacher?

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE:** Staff and School Council have been briefed on our most recent data for our school - Parent Opinion Survey, Student’s ‘Attitudes to School’ and NAPLAN.

We are all feeling extremely proud of our efforts and performance and believe it is extremely important to share the good news with our community.

**NAPLAN:** Let us start with NAPLAN - The data that has the best representation of a school’s performance is the ‘Matched Cohort’ data set. What does this mean or represent ? A ‘matched cohort’ is the group of students who were tested in grade three; two years ago, have remained at ANPS and were tested again in grade 5. We know that if your children remain with us and are exposed to the high level of teaching and learning that we provide, they will improve dramatically. Our data set on matched cohort proves this beyond doubt.

We have equalled or bettered the State growth in all areas. 47% greater than the State in grammar and punctuation, 30% better in reading, 27% better in spelling, and 6% better in writing.

These are amazing results. Our programs and structures are certainly working!

**PARENT OPINION:** The excellent news continues with parent opinions of our school at record high levels. We are in the top 10% in the State for ‘reporting to parents’. We are in the top 25% in the State on: School improvement, approachability, teacher morale, parent input, stimulating learning, behaviour management, transitions, extra curricula, homework, general satisfaction, classroom behaviour and student motivation.

We would like to thank our parent community for their incredibly strong support.

**STUDENT - “Attitudes to School”:** For Teaching and Learning areas of: Learning confidence, student motivation, school connectedness, teacher effectiveness, stimulating learning and teacher empathy, our students rate our school at or above the state level. Another amazing result for ANPS.

We have worked extremely hard as a staff and community team to achieve these outstanding results and everyone is to be commended. The challenge is to now continue to grow our performance.

It is also time to celebrate and tell others about our high levels of performance. Why not speak to your friends and let them know what a great school Altona North Primary is.

If you would like to know more about our data please take the time to speak to us.

Have a great week,

Brendan O’Brien, Principal

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**NAPLAN RESULTS:**

NAPLAN testing took place earlier in the year for all Grade 3 and Grade 5 students. The results have arrived at ANPS and will be available for collection from the office, by an adult.

Please keep these in a safe place at home along with your child’s school reports as these are an important piece of your child’s school history.
TERM 4 ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:
The Grade 3-6 students will be starting Lawn Bowls tomorrow afternoon - Friday 25th October.
The program starts straight after school on these days and finishes at 4:20pm.
If you have any questions with regard to this program, please speak with Miss Lisa Ousley, as she will be the Coach for this term.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB:
Orders have CLOSED for Issue 7 of Bookclub. Late orders cannot be accepted.
Delivery is expected to take place during the first week of November.

SOCIAL SERVICE UPDATE:
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.

SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE:
Redeem your tokens this year!
In 2014 the School Banking program will be launching a new set of exciting reward items for students to redeem their tokens for. Each reward item will continue to be valued at 10 tokens (i.e. 10 deposits) and there will be two new reward items for students to choose from each term. Please be aware that the Dollarmites moneyboxes will no longer be available next year. To avoid any child missing out on claiming their moneybox, please let your children know of this change and encourage them to redeem their moneybox this school year.

Tokens collected in 2013 CANNOT be carried over to 2014 so please select and order your rewards by Tuesday 3rd December.
If you have question please call at the office and speak with Bev or contact Susan Brailsford – Commonwealth Bank School Banking Specialist Phone 0422 116 040 or email susan.brailsford@cba.com.au

Treasure Chest Competition. Students can enter a competition in Term 4 to win one of 60 Apple IPods 16GB or DVD packs. Simply make two or more deposits between 21 October and 30 November to automatically go into the draw. Saving regularly is an important habit to get into, whether you are saving a little or a lot. Keep up the great work and remember to bring in your deposit book each Tuesday.

LIVING FUNDRAISER: Parents and friends are offering Australian-made organic herb, vegetable and flower kits for only $6 each. These kits are not available in stores. Each kit contains everything you need to grow your own seedlings or herbs. Just add water to grow these fun and easy kits. Full information and order forms have been sent home with the eldest child in each family. Orders, and payment, are due back to school by Friday 1st November. A selection of the items available to order is displayed in the cabinet behind the office or visit www.livingfundraisers.com.au to find out more.

SHOPPING TOUR: On Saturday 16th November we will be departing ANPS at 07:30am for a fun filled day of shopping at various outlets around the Richmond / Brunswick area. The cost is $40 per head. If you would like to know more, please contact Corie via the office.

REPORT PREPARATION DAY:
REMINDER!! On Monday the 4th of November our school will be closed. Staff will all be busy preparing/writing reports for the end of the year.

PARENTS & FRIENDS:
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