Dear Parents and Families:

**PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS:**
Congratulations to all parents and guardians who attended last night’s interviews. Your exchange of information with our staff will assist in setting the scene for an improved learning year for your children, our students. I have received very positive feedback from staff and those parents I spoke with last night about the interviews.

Thank you to our staff for their thorough preparations and also to Coral for preparing food for the staff, keeping away the tummy rumbles as the night grew longer.

For the few parents who were unable to make it last night—please make contact with the school so that an interview time can be made with your children teacher(s).

**HOUSE CAPTAINS:**
Congratulations go to ALL grade six students who had the confidence and courage to stand for House Captain positions this year. It was an incredibly difficult and nerve racking task to stand before the whole assembly and deliver your wonderful speeches, especially when you have to talk about yourself publicly. Well done!

If you are a parent of a student who committed to the task of presenting, then you should feel particularly proud of your child’s effort.

In the final analysis there can only be eight House Captains and the successful candidates are:

- **Cresser/Green:**
  Mustapha El Haouli & Jamele Melhem

- **Yellow/Mason:**
  Karl Abdo & Sophie Tsarbopoulos

- **Blue/Millers:**
  Bililal Melhem & Kaiesha Elechi

- **Red/Blackshaws:**
  Ben Thompson & Teresa Mulvenna

**Special congratulations to these new school leaders.**

**STUDENT LEADERS CONFERENCE:**
Tomorrow, Friday 1st March, our student leaders, all captains, head into the city to participate in a full day conference on ‘leadership’. No less than five community leaders will present to our students on the day.

Past experience has informed us that this is a significant program which sets the scene for our student leaders for the remainder of the year.

Miss Ousley and Mrs Angela Toutziarakis will accompany our leaders for the day.

**INTER-SCHOOL SPORT:**
All staff have been thoroughly impressed with the manner and effort our inter-school sport players have demonstrated. We have also been delighted with the comprehensive sport reports presented so capably at assembly by the sports captains of the day.

This week we play Bayside/Altona College; a combined set of teams from the two schools. Without our School & House Captains available for selection, the challenges will be of a high order for Altona North this week. Good luck coaches and teams.

**EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR CHILDREN:**
It is very important that all children have their eyes tested/examined by a professional optometrist or ophthalmologist regularly. A condition such as Lazy Eye is a common cause of poor vision in young children and often goes undetected as there may be no outward signs.

If this condition is treated early it can be corrected but it cannot be corrected at an older age. All children should have their eyes tested regularly. Children from the age of 6 onwards are able to understand and respond more efficiently to the questions asked during these examinations.

An eye examination by a professional is covered by Medicare therefore FREE of charge.

Please take care of your child’s eyes now.

**Thought for the week:**
"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge"

Albert Einstein.

This quotation comes from one of histories greatest talents and therefore cannot be ignored. Teachers have a professional responsibility and duty of care to educate. Parents have the same responsibilities and for a greater portion of each day, week, month and year than teachers do. It might be worth stopping in mid stream and considering the way in which you cultivate the “awakening of joy in creative expression and knowledge” in your children. If you find you would like help in doing this please ask.

Have a Great Week,

Brendan O’Brien. Principal.
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

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LIFE EDUCATION – LETTERS TO HAROLD.

Dear Harold,
I enjoyed the session with you and Ainslee. Thank you for teaching us about all the different healthy living tips. It was funny when you fell over your cousins Barbie doll. I loved it so, so much.
(Yevete 3/4J)

Dear Harold,
I learnt how to know all my food groups. Thanks for the stickers. I had a great day. I hope you had a great day too. One day you can come to my house. Maybe we can play my X box. Please come back to our school next year.
(Kaleb 3/4J)

Dear Harold,
Thank you for teaching me and my class all about healthy eating, healthy drinking, exercise and bullying. Now I don’t want sugar in any of my soft drinks.
(Fatima 3/4J)

Dear Harold,
I learnt that Coke has drugs and 15 teaspoons of sugar in it. I learnt that chocolate, tea and coffee has drugs in it. I learnt that sodium is salt. I learnt that medicines have drugs in them. I learnt that if your wee is yellow you are dehydrated.
(Zak 3/4J)

Dear Harold,
You are such a good friend because you help people if they are hurt. I liked your videos. They were good and helpful. You were so funny when you tripped over the Barbie doll. It made me laugh. Thank you Ainslee for our stickers. You were a kind and helpful teacher. Thank you for sharing Harold with us.
(Fatima 3/4J)

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PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS:

EASTER RAFFLE: Parents & Friends will be holding a huge Easter Raffle and we are now seeking donations of eggs / Easter goodies to allow us to make up various raffle prizes. Donations can be left at the front office.

Raffle tickets will be sent home with the eldest child in each family on Monday 11th March. These will be in books of 10 tickets with each ticket selling for 50 cents.

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COMMUNITY NEWS:

ALTONA SOCCER CLUB:

Interested in playing outdoor soccer in 2013? Altona City Soccer club caters for all, boys, girls, women and men of all age groups. It welcomes all to come and try before joining. Under 5s to 7s are starting from March 16, 10am at H.C. Kim Reserve, Millers Rd, Altona with its Nationally recognised and focussed program for this age group. A player's first session is a free “come and try session”. Registration and payment is due the following week if you decide to return. Other teams (under 8s to 18s) have just started and there are some vacancies in some age groups. Coaches are also needed in some teams. More information is available on our website.

www.altonacitysoccerclub.com.au or call on 9398 3974.

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BARNESTONEWORTH UNITED JNR FOOTBALL:

Now inviting boys & girls between ages 5-16 to register for the 2013 season. Based in Williamstown, the “Barnies” is a family-friendly, FFV-affiliated soccer club with a wide community membership. Where: J.T. Gray Reserve. Kororoit Creek Rd. Registrations now open. For more information telephone Maria 0487 916 590

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PARENTS & FRIENDS EASTER RAFFLE:

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________________________________ GRADE: __________________

Please DO NOT SEND HOME RAFFLE TICKETS for the Easter Raffle with my child.

PARENT / GUARDIAN’S NAME: ________________________________________________

SIGNATURE: _________________________________

Please return this slip to the office by FRIDAY 1st MARCH. Thank you P&F.