Dear Parents and Families:

2013: I would like to thank everyone in our community for their continued support during this year. Special thanks goes to all of our staff for their dedication and commitment. We have had an absolutely stellar year with incredible academic results, highly favourable parent and student opinion survey data outcomes and many resource improvements. Our goal will always be to provide a SAFE, HAPPY and HIGH performing learning environment for your children.

To Miss Kehoe and Mr Henry - we wish you both all the best as you move on to another stage in your careers. Thankyou for your passion in educating our students. We do hope all goes well. We also say goodbye to Maddie as she moves on to another career choice. Thankyou for caring for our students. Gina will be taking Long Service Leave for all of next year, although she will spend time volunteering her help to us. Enjoy a well earned break Gina.

We welcome on to our staff: Gemma Aktolga, Warren Davies and Lewis Bainbridge. Please make them welcome as they begin their journey with us next year.

A full staff list will be sent home tomorrow after students meet their 2014 class teachers. Take care and all the best to everyone for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

GRADE 6 BIG DAY OUT: Our Grade Six students had a wonderful time on their adventure to Docklands and to the theatre in Yarraville. They are to be congratulated for their outstanding behaviour and positive representation of our school whilst on a school organised excursion - thank you.

Thank you also to Miss Ousley, Miss Shiels, Rob and Miss Jackson for making this a very special day.

GRADE PREP PLAYSHAK: Our Preps were so excited on the way down to the PLAYSHAK and ever so tired on the way back to school. This certainly indicates that high levels of fun were had. Once again our students behaved themselves extremely well and had great fun at the same time. Many thanks to our parents who attended and also drove children down to the PLAYSHAK.

Thank you to Mrs Paterson, Mrs Kam and Tara for your organisation and support.

LIVING WALL: This project has required a huge commitment from the Victoria University engineering staff, funding from City West Water, initial planning and consultation from Mr Ragho as well as Sustainability work, Miss Ousley and our grade 5 / 6 team of students. The result is stunning! We could not be happier with this ‘nearly finished’ project. We will endeavour to construct the other half in the New Year and I will be looking for support from our community. Please take the time to enjoy this new aspect of our school landscape that does provide us with improved sustainability by reducing heat to the toilets and adding oxygen to our environment. (Picture over page.)

MOBIL ENGINEER VISIT: Please take the time to read the full page story about the Mobil Engineers visit and work with our senior students. This was a great experience for students, staff and our visiting engineer. A big thankyou goes out to MOBIL for their ongoing relationship with our school and community. (article on back page)

A RIDDLE for you to find a solution to: No Googling allowed please.

Which 7 letter word -
* Has 7 letters.
* Preceded God.
* All poor people have this: ……
* Is greater than God.
* Wealthy people need this: ……
* Is more evil than the devil.
* If you eat this: ….. You will die.

Have a great week,

Brendan O’Brien, Principal
OUT OF UNIFORM DAY:
TOMORROW will be an out of uniform day to support MURRAY RIVER MARATHON. The YMCA runs this event and any sponsorship raised goes to them. This year we have three principals paddling in a full distance relay team. They are Mr Reid (Altona Meadows), Mr Moss (Newport Lakes) and myself. We are hoping for mild weather to help us get through the 404km on water. Students are asked to wear casual SunSmart clothing and please bring a gold coin to donate to this very worthy cause.

KMART WISHING TREE:
During Monday’s assembly each class presented the gifts purchased for the Wishing Tree. Funds to make these purchases possible were raised through the students donating loose change throughout the term. Mr O’Brien and Mrs Blunt delivered the many wonderful gifts to Kmart on Tuesday. Almost $1,000 was raised in total for the Kmart Wishing Tree.

THANK YOU to everyone for supporting our Social Service events. We donated approximately $2500 worth of cash and goods to various charities.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:
We had an outstanding 44 prizes in our Giant Raffle this year. Thanks once again to EVERYONE within the school community for their support of not only this event, but every fundraising event held throughout the 2013 school year. Our committed team of hard working P&F members organized and ran a vast array of events which raised a total of $6,441.20 for our school in 2013.

Please remember that new faces are always welcome to attend the P&F meetings which are held on Monday mornings following assembly.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2013:
FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER EARLY FINISH:
Please be aware we will be having an early dismissal on the last day of school for 2013. 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 2013.

Camp Australia also run School Holiday Programs which will be held during the Christmas break.
COMMUNITY NEWS:

Interested in playing outdoor soccer in 2014? Altona City Soccer Club, on Millers Rd, opposite Cherry Lake, caters for boys, girls, women and men of all age groups with an even greater focus in 2014 on adopting the Nationally recognised curriculum and coaching program. No need to register or pay up front. Simply come and try. It all recommences in January / February 2014, Under 5s to 7s in March. Huge pre-season tournament planned as well as new strips, bag, tracksuit and spray jacket (all to keep) ... with no increase in fees. We are always also looking for coaches that believe in the curriculum, development and fun. Keep an eye out on our website for more information www.altonacitysoccerclub.com.au, call 9398 3974 or join us on Facebook.

GRADE 6 BIG DAY OUT:

ICE-SKATING:
On Tuesday 17th of December, the entire grade sixes went ice skating in the Medibank Icehouse, in Harbour Town.

We were there for an hour and a half. The first half hour was a lesson on how to skate and the other hour was free time. Our instructor was Caleb. We all had trouble skating. Many people had a little fall but some people were really good at it. It was still a lovely time. Once it was all over we took our skating shoes and gear off. We had a really great time and we wish to do it again.

AT THE MOVIES:
On Tuesday the 17th of December, Grade 6O and 6R went on their big day out. The last activity for the day was a movie at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville. The movie we watched was Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2.

As we walked into the cinema, we received a small popcorn and drink. We were lucky that we had the whole cinema to ourselves. We all enjoyed the movie except the people that were snoozing that were all worn out from previous activities. Thank you to the entire grade 6’s on such a wonderful day, and of course Mr Raghdo and Miss Ousley on organising everything and Mr O’Brien and Miss Jackson for driving the mini bus and Miss Shiels for attending on the day.

By: Peggy, Sophie and Ben

GRADUATION CAKE:

On behalf of all the Graduating Grade 6 students of ANPS 2013, a HUGE THANK YOU is given to Maria, (Nicholas B 6R), for making this wonderful Graduation Cake.

It was a lovely surprise for us to be able to celebrate the end of our Primary School Years with this very special treat.

CAMP AUSTRALIA NEWS:

LAST DAY OF TERM: Camp Australia After School care will run from 1pm tomorrow, Friday 20th December under 6:15pm which is our regular finish time. If you are unable to arrange to have your children collected at the early dismissal time of 1pm tomorrow, please give Camp Australia a call on 1300 105 343 to BOOK YOUR CHILD/REN into the session. You need to be registered in the program in order for your children to attend.

Don’t forget Camp Australia runs holiday programs; the summer program runs for 3 weeks starting 6th January 2014 through until 28th January 2014, there are lots of fun and exciting activities planned.

Thank you - Nicole (Co-ordinator OSHC ANPS)
Mobil Altona Refinery’s Ambassador Program gives local schools the opportunity to enhance their maths and science curriculum by offering engineering experts who can talk to students about relevant classroom topics. This month, Refinery Coordinator Michael Baker spent some time with Altona North Primary School Grade 5/6 students discussing their recently completed Bridges Projects.

Michael was able to relate some of the scientific concepts used in the students’ bridge building to real-life scenarios, discussing scientific concepts such as gravity and motion along the way.

Students also gained an insight into what it’s like to work as an engineer at Altona Refinery, and were particularly interested in what initially led Michael to choose engineering as a career.

“Although these students are only in Grades 5 and 6, it was clear that some of them were already considering careers in science and maths for their future, which is great,” said Michael.

“There were a lot of questions about what it’s like to work at the refinery, what’s involved in my role day-to-day and what different types of engineering careers are available in a workplace like the Altona Refinery.

“Hearing directly from someone who works in the field can have a really positive impact, especially for students who already think they might be interested in an engineering career one day,” he said.