Dear Parents and Families:  
Welcome back everyone to Altona North for 2014.  
A special welcome to our delightful Preps and families. A big thank you for bringing your children up to school for the important testing we are undertaking on Wednesdays. This opportunity will provide our staff with accurate learning information for your child.  
I would also like to welcome new families to our school community. I do hope to meet you all in the coming weeks. Please feel free to drop by the office to say hello if we do not bump into each other around the school.  
Next Monday we are having a “meet and greet’ cuppa and a chat for all families in our school. This will take place in our hall foyer straight after assembly. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone if you are available.  
2014 STAFFING:  
On page 3 of this newsletter you will find a full list of all of our staff. If you are wanting to speak to a staff member, please drop by the office or call in to make an appointment time. Our staff are always interested in speaking to families but often have meetings before and after school. It is best to make arrangements in advance that suit everyone in order to ensure the meeting is able to take place. We are fully aware that there can be exceptional circumstances and you may need to speak to a staff member urgently - once again, this can be organised through our office staff.  
SWIMMING TRY-OUTS:  
Yesterday afternoon Mrs Soto, Miss Shiels and I took students from Grades 3-6 to the local pool for swim trials.  
We certainly have some talented swimmers and also some very keen, as well as brave students, who all gave of their best yesterday. I was most impressed with our student’s behaviour, attitude and effort - well done. Special thanks to Mrs Soto, Miss Shiels and parents who attended.  
SUCCESSFUL COMPETITORS will be notified by Mrs Soto and are required to attend training sessions next Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th at the BayFit Swim Centre, Mason Street from 8:00am - 9:30am in preparation for the Swim Carnival which is being held on Tuesday 18th February.  
SCHOOL COUNCIL and ELECTIONS:  
Our parents on Council continue to demonstrate their commitment to our students, your children. We are constantly reviewing our school policies and programs at a Council level and we are very keen to have parent input on Council. ANPS is always on the move, endeavouring to improve, to refine our delivery of education to your children. Are you interested in contributing? If the answer is yes, then please speak to one of our current Councillors or myself and we will fill you in on the details of being a parent representative on Council.  
Details regarding School Council and the Election process accompanies this newsletter.  
WORKING BEE:  
On Friday the 14th of February we will be having an ALL day working bee at ANPS. Our main goal will be to undertake continued work on the Kitchen Gardens development at the rear of the hall. We will also undertake tree and shrub trimming across the school site.  
No expertise required for many of the tasks set. If you are available any time between 9.00am and 5.00pm, please pass a message on to our office staff so we can allocate the day’s work and tasks for our willing helpers.  
SUNSMART:  
A friendly reminder to all in our community that we live in an environment that has great potential to do damage to our skin. Our school sunsmart policy requires children to wear polo shirts, collared clothing and sunsmart hats during school hours. We encourage the use of sunscreen but DO NOT allow students to share this at school as it may cause rashes to other students.  
We also encourage students to be sunsmart out of school hours and are pleased to see our students wearing their school hats before and after school.  
PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION SESSION:  
On the 26th of February there will be an opportunity for all families to catch up with our staff for scheduled interviews. This is a three way information sharing session. It is one where staff, students and families can collate valuable information in order to assist our ability to educate your children in the year ahead. When the documentation comes home please avail yourself of this essential opportunity to meet our staff.  
Thought for the week:  
“The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil” - Ralph Waldo Emerson.  
Brendan O’Brien - Principal.
If you need to order uniforms please either visit the uniform shop during the below hours or alternatively you are welcome to leave your order along with the correct payment in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name & grade at the office.

Regular Opening Hours of the Uniform Shop:
Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings
08:45am - 09:00am
Thursday Afternoons
3:00pm - 3:15pm

Please ensure your child has an ANPS sun smart hat and that all items of clothing are clearly labelled.
Hats must be worn by all students every day of Term 1.

Please supply your child/ren with one large box of tissues for use in their classroom.

All children are required to bring an Art Smock to school for use during art sessions. An old over-sized shirt is ideal for this purpose.
All adults wishing to assist Altona North Primary School in 2013 by either attending school excursions, coming in for class sessions or assisting in the canteen are required to have a valid Working with Children Check. Each deposit is rewarded with a silver token. Once 10 tokens have been collected, the tokens can be redeemed for rewards. In 2014 the rewards are more exciting than ever; moneyboxes, handballs, scented pencils, shark pencil cases, swimming bags and penguin keyrings each on offer during the dates listed on the rewards card. Information packs providing details of how to participate and open an account will be sent home Friday.

A few reminders to our regular student bankers:
- Please ensure all yellow wallets are handed to your teacher first thing in the morning to ensure your deposit is processed.
- All money should be securely enclosed in the velcro pocket and deposit slips MUST be completed.
- Your child’s book will be sent home the next day.
- Each deposit earns a SILVER TOKEN to be kept safely at home….when you’ve collected 10 tokens, they can be redeemed for an exciting reward!

Please see the information pack for details on how to open an account and join the Student Banking Program. A representative from the CBA will visit the school on Monday 3rd March to assist with account openings. More details to follow.

If you have any questions please see Bev at ANPS office or call Susan Brailsford, School Banking Specialist on 0422 116 040 or email susan.brailsford@cba.com.au

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Families are invited to subscribe to receive our weekly newsletter via email. Subscribing is a great way of ensuring you always receive the newsletter—you will never miss out on important information again!

Please take the time to visit us at www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au and familiarise yourself with our site.

STUDENT BANKING:

TUESDAY is our Student Banking Day.
This year the Student Banking is themed the “Deep Sea Saver” taking students’ imaginations on a voyage into the ocean to the ‘Lost City of Savings’, whilst teaching smart savings and good money management. Once a Youthsaver account is opened, students take their weekly deposits to school in their Dollarmite wallets. Each deposit is rewarded with a silver token. Once 10 tokens have been collected, the tokens can be redeemed for rewards. In 2014 the rewards are more exciting than ever; moneyboxes, handballs, scented pencils, shark pencil cases, swimming bags and penguin keyrings each on offer during the dates listed on the rewards card. Information packs providing details of how to participate and open an account will be sent home Friday.

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All adults wishing to assist Altona North Primary School in 2013 by either attending school excursions, coming in for class sessions or assisting in the canteen are required to have a valid Working with Children Check.

Forms are available at the post office and there is no charge for Volunteers. These checks are valid for 5 years and replace the old system of police checks.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS:

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE:

2014 STAFFING:

ALTONA NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Leadership:
Principal - Mr Brendan O’Brien.
Assistant Principal - Mrs Robyn Gregson.
Leading Teacher/Coaching - Mrs Lee Blunt
Business Manager - Mrs Kaylene Enright

Classroom Teachers:
Prep P - Mrs Elizabeth Paterson
Prep D - Mr Warren Davies
1/2K - Mrs Sarah Kam
1/2M - Mrs Helen Myszka
1/2T - Mrs Chantal Touma
3/4B - Mr Lewis Bainbridge
3/4J - Mr David Jaggard
3/4S - Mrs Jenny Sipthorp
5/6O - Ms Lisa Ousley
5/6R - Mr Wal Raghdo
5/6S - Ms Vanessa Shiels

Specialist Teachers:
Visual Art - Mrs Deb Morgan
Physical Education - Mrs Lynette Soto
Music & Performing Arts - Ms Cassie McCawley
ICT - Miss Joanne Jackson

Education Support Staff:
Speech Pathologist - Suzi Josevski
Office Admin - Bev Hardman & Wendy Curran
Classroom support: Robert Avolino, Mary Day, Tara Gibbon, Gemma Aktolga, Fay Kapp
Library / Uniform - Katey Thompson
Canteen Manageress - Coral Leonard
**KEEPPING OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE:**

**Medical Information/Phone numbers etc:** It is imperative that parents keep our staff completely up to date with any new or changing family information. Too often we phone families to only find a number has been disconnected or changed. As you can well imagine your children can feel extremely stressed at these times as can our staff.

Asthma and other medical details are also essential for student safety and well being. We have trained staff to care for students who are ill or injured. Our staff’s capacity to undertake the correct treatment is often limited by the available information supplied from home. Please ensure that we have all important information at school regarding your children’s medical needs.

The best place for an unwell child is at home. If your child does not appear to be well in the morning, please do not send them to school. **You are required to either telephone the office or send a written note when your child returns.**

**REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL BAG REGULARLY IN ORDER TO NOT MISS OUT ON ANY IMPORTANT INFORMATION OR UP-COMING EVENTS!!**

Visit our webpage regularly at www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au to stay in tune with what’s going on, in and around ANPS. Our webpage is a great way to keep up-to-date and download forms which may have been misplaced.

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE CANTEEN:**

Please be aware that there will be a slight price increase on items available from the canteen as of Monday 10th February. A new price list will be sent home tomorrow.

Lunch orders are to be written out neatly on a paper bag at home and then placed in the classroom lunchbox. Please make sure there is enough money placed in with the lunch order. If there is not enough money, an item will be removed. Please also remember to write HALAL on the paper bag if required.

**Please Note:** The canteen is unable to run accounts for families. Payment must be included with orders. All orders must be placed in the classroom lunchbox at the start of the school day. Telephone orders will not be accepted this year. The canteen is NOT OPEN BEFORE school.

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**PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS:**

**Cuppa & Chat Monday 10th February.** Following assembly this coming Monday, EVERYONE is WELCOME to join P&F in the Foyer of the Hall. We are looking forward to meeting some of the new families at our school.

Each **Monday** morning following assembly, P&F meet to discuss and prepare fundraising activities. We are always ready to welcome new families and new ideas. Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Each **Tuesday** morning fresh fruit is delivered to the school for distribution to all classrooms. The P&F wash and put the fruit into bowls and then deliver these to the classrooms. Helpers are welcome and always needed.

Watch this space for more information in the coming weeks.

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**MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS:**

Instrumental group auditions will be held this Friday 7th of Feb in the afternoon for grade 5/6s who are interested in being a part of the group. We encourage students who play an instrument outside of school to audition, as well students who have an interest and passion for playing.

Senior Choir auditions will be held Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 12th of Feb in the afternoon. Students should audition either on their own or with a partner. They will be asked to sing a small section of a song of their choice or they may sing ‘Advance Australia Fair’ as an alternative.

Junior Choir auditions will be held Thursday 6th and Thursday 13th of Feb in the afternoon. Students may choose to sing a song they already know or they may sing the ‘Hello Song’ as an alternative option.

Students who are selected will receive a note sent home to inform parent. Good luck to everyone who is auditioning!

Instrumental and choir sessions take place during school hours. - Miss McCawley

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**Back to School Asthma Checklist**

Back to school time presents a phenomenon called the ‘Back to School Spike’, which is a well-documented occurrence of an increase in asthma hospital admissions in children. This trend occurs two weeks after school goes back, with the spike generally occurring in mid to late February. Ensure your child with asthma is prepared for the new school year by following this simple back to school asthma checklist.

- **Doctor Review**
- **Updated Asthma Action Plan** (advise the school of any changes to their plan)
- **Medication Review**
- **Preventer medication scripts**
- **Technique Review** (good device technique will ensure more medication reaches the small airways)
- **School Asthma Action Plan returned**
- **Blue Reliever Medication & Spacer**

(This needs to be updated at least annually or as required. Also ensure your child has their blue reliever medication / spacer device available at all times. Remember to check the expiry date and amount of medication left in the canister)

- **Your child is aware of their asthma triggers**

For further information please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email advice@asthma.org.au

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**COMING EVENTS!!**

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