Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome back everyone to Altona North for 2015. Thankyou staff, students and parents for the very smooth start. It has been delightful to have our happy smiling faces return to learning. The Preps have settled in well and are really enthusiastic about being at school and involving themselves in learning. Such a pleasure to have them in our community. Staffing news: Congratulations goes to Wendy Curran who will now step up into being our Office Manager for the rest of this term.

SWIMMING TRY-OUTS: Yesterday afternoon Mrs Soto and Miss Shiels took students from Grades 3-6 to the local pool for swim trials. Thankyou to the improved number of students who ‘tried out’. You are putting your best foot forward and that is what we are looking for from students at ANPS.

Successful competitors will be notified by Mrs Soto and are required to attend training sessions next Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th at the Bayfi Swim Centre, Mason Street in preparation for the Swim Carnival which is being held on Tuesday 17th 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 will be sent home with students next week.

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 4th of March 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.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: Please keep the week Monday the 16th to Friday the 20th of MARCH free to help us celebrate 50 years of serving the community in Altona North. Past members of our community are encouraged to join with us in this celebration. Students will be planning activities for the week as will our staff, Parents and Friends and School Council teams. We are organising special commemorative ANPS pins for everyone, there will be a twilight function and Open Day, the opening of our 25 year old time capsule and the securing of our 2015 time capsule. This will be a real celebration for all to participate in.

MURRAY 2 MOYNE BIKE RIDE: Once again we are privileged to be able to partake in this iconic event. There will be a number of ways families can help support this valuable ‘fundraising event’ for our school. Please take note of the activities we are planning and place them in your diary once the dates have been set.

There will be a community BBQ and Bike Experience early in term 2 and once again we will hold our M to M Trivia Night later in the year. Donations are currently being sought for non perishable food items that will support the team on the ride. Please refer to page 3 of this newsletter.

Thought for the week: “What greater gift can we offer the public than to teach our youth?”

Cicero.

Parents can support the education process strongly. I am requesting you sit down with your children and discuss our school values and how they might demonstrate them while they are at school.

Brendan O’Brien - Principal.
STUDENT PAYMENTS: All monies paid by students for supplies, excursions, fundraisers etc. must be placed in a sealed envelope with the student’s name, grade and the purpose of the payment. Envelopes should be given to the class teacher at the beginning of the school day. Payments will then be sent to the office for processing. Correct money would be appreciated as the teachers do not open the envelopes and will not be able to give change.

ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES: Most families have paid for their supplies or made arrangements by claiming Family Assistance. This is a great start to your child’s school year. Teachers will allocate supplies once they receive notification from the office that payment has been made. If you have not as yet made a payment, please do so by Friday 13th February. Families who made part payments in 2014 also need to pay the balance by 13th February 2015. If you have any queries or need assistance please contact Mr. O’Brien or Mrs. Gregson on 9391 4233 during school hours please.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CLAIMS NOW BEING PROCESSED: If you hold a Heath Card or Pension Card, valid as of the 28th January 2015, you may be eligible to claim Family Assistance for the 2015 school year. Forms are available at the school office. If you require more information about Family Assistance please speak to one of our office staff.

STUDENT BANKING:
Altona North Primary School has been involved with The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program for many years. TUESDAY is Student Banking Day and many of our students bring their banking to school every week (you can make deposits of as little as 5 cents.) This program teaches children lifelong money skills and also rewards them for their healthy savings habits. In return for the deposit into their very own Youth Saver account, they receive a token. Once 10 tokens have been collected, the tokens can be redeemed at school for a reward. The 2015 rewards are “Space” themed and are pictured above. Our 2015 Preps should receive an information pack today. Grades 1 to 6 can collect a pack from the office.

CBA Banking Specialist, Susan Brailsford, will be at our school to address our whole school assembly and open up accounts on:
MONDAY 23rd February 8.45am-10.00am
No Child I.D Required.....Only parent’s drivers licence and 2 minutes of your time.
Please call at the SCHOOL OFFICE and chat with Susan. Enquiries: susan.brailsford@cba.com.au
M: 0422 116 040

FROM THE OFFICE:

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Parent/Teacher Information sessions will take place during the afternoon & early evening of Wednesday 4th March
Please place this most important date on your home calendar and take the time to meet your child’s 2015 teachers.

Full details will be sent home with children shortly.

STUDENT BANKING:

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.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS:

All adults wishing to assist Altona North Primary School in 2015 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.
Applications can be made online at http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/ there is no charge for Volunteers. These checks are valid for 5 years and replace the old system of police checks.
It’s exciting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In March 2015 a team of riders and crew will be riding for Altona North Primary School in the Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay to raise money for Student Welfare, Health and Wellbeing. We endorse that all children have the right to learn and to be their best throughout life and Altona North PS is “where the journey begins”. We have a diverse community culture and extensive welfare system across the school which we wish to embrace for all students and their families.

On the 28th and 29th March our riders will ride from the Murray River in Echuca to the Moyne River in Port Fairy (520 km) over a 24 hour period to raise much needed money to support our children. Our riders and crew are a dedicated group of people from various backgrounds who are ready to take on the challenge of riding day and night to assist in providing valuable resources to the welfare of children at Altona North Primary School.

The Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay is a well-established fundraising event for health related organisations. This ride has been going each year for the past 26 years. In 2015 there will be 1700 riders participate in the ride leaving from three destinations: Echuca, Swan Hill and Mildura. The ride covers 520 km within 24 hours through the country towns of Victoria and raises money through sponsorship to assist schools and organisations to care for a range of health related issues. All money raised goes to our school.

We are asking for support from our families to get behind Team 101 in getting sponsorship, helping to provide us with the food/ drinks needed during the ride or any other assistance you can give. Sponsorship forms will be sent home with students shortly.

To keep our riders fed during the ride, we are asking if people can help with donations of any of the following which will enable us to keep costs down and put more money into the school:

- Tetra fruit boxes
- Long life Big M
- Jube lollies
- Dried fruit
- Snack packs of chips/ biscuits etc
- Mayonnaise
- Peanut butter
- Vegemite
- Nuts
- Margarine
- Chocolate bars
- Cans of drink
- Gatorade / sports drinks

Some people may find this way of supporting the bike ride easier and ANY assistance is appreciated. Donations can be left at the school office.

If you would like to know more about the M2M ride please don’t hesitate to ask. Regards Robyn Gregson

MUSC & PERFORMING ARTS:

2015 Choir / Instrumental / Ukulele Auditions:

**JUNIOR CHOIR:** This year Junior Choir students (P-2) will be selected within the music classroom. They will not have to do individual auditions. All junior students will learn a song together as a class and be assessed on their participation, behaviour, singing ability and attitude. Junior students who are selected to become a member of the Choir will receive a note at the end of Week 3.

**SENIOR CHOIR:** All Senior Choir auditions will be held as they have been previously. Students who wish to audition for the Senior Choir should practice a song of their choice and be able to sing it with no backing music. They will only be required to sing one chorus but may do a verse and chorus if preferred. Miss McCawley will call auditioning students during Wednesday and Thursday afternoon of Week 3 to sing in the music room. Students may audition in groups of 2-3 or individually if preferred. Senior students who are selected to become a member of the Choir will receive a note at the end of Week 3.

**INSTRUMENTAL:** Grade 5/6 students will have the opportunity to audition for the Instrumental group on Friday the 13th of Feb (Week 3). Miss McCawley will call interested students after lunch to do a short audition. Please come practised and prepared. Students should be able to play a short section of a song or piece of music on their chosen instrument. Selected students will be notified in Week 4.

*If you are not in Grade 5/6 and learn an instrument outside of school and would like to audition, please talk to Miss McCawley.*

**UKULELE:** Grade 3/4 students will have the opportunity to audition for the Ukulele group on Friday the 13th of Feb (Week 3). Miss McCawley will call students over at 12.30pm in small groups to participate in a Ukulele workshop. Selected students will be notified in Week 4.

Good Luck to all!
**Twilight Car Boot Market**: Friday, 20th March, 2015
4pm-8pm
To help celebrate the school’s 50th birthday, we will be holding a car boot sale within the school grounds. As well as stalls selling an assortment of clothes, food, home decor and much more, there will be something to interest both young & old. Craft tables, school tours, Halal sausage sizzle, coffee, popcorn, fairy floss, ice cream, face painting, bake stand, balloons, jumping castle and much more.

To hold a stall, it will be $20 per car or $30 per car & trailer. We would appreciate more volunteers to get involved on the day. If you can assist with set up, spinning some fairy floss, BBQing a sausage or two or perhaps offering some expertise in running a kids’ craft activity centre or helping with pack up, WE NEED YOU! Any time between 3pm - 8:30pm. Please fill in the slip below or just drop in at the office to express your interest.

Watch out for flyers and posters over the next few weeks for more on the planned 50th birthday celebrations leading up to the market.

**Easter Raffle**
We are asking for any donations towards our annual Easter raffle. Nothing is too big or too small, but all is greatly appreciated. Donations can be left at the office.

**Murray 2 Moyne Family BBQ & Bike Ed: Early Term 2**
Team BIOYA will once again be participating in the annual 520kms cycle relay. Spearheaded by Mrs Gregson, they will be flying the ANPS flag riding to raise much needed funds towards our student health & well being programs. The team will be running a bike education session. So remember to bring your helmet & bike & join in. Get to meet & talk to the riders themselves!!

On sale also during this event will be Halal Sausage sizzle, ice cream, coffee & M2M merchandise. Watch out for more information over the next few weeks.

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**VISIT OUR WEBPAGE:**
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.

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**Sustainable February:**
As part of the Sustainable Living Festival's State of Sustainability, taking place between 7 February and 1 March, February is ‘Sustainability’ month in Hobsons Bay. Want to hear about how you can reduce your energy bills? Or how to make healthy school lunches? How to prune your fruit trees? Or have you found yourself with an excess of homegrown produce and would like to swap with other gardeners? All these and more activities, talks and workshops are happening right here in your neighbourhood throughout February.

**LOCAL COMMUNITY SKILLSHARE PROJECT**
Sunday 8 February 10am to 12.30pm
Williamstown Library Gallery Space
104 Ferguson Street Williamstown

Want to learn to play the guitar or make sourdough bread, get advice on veggie gardening or learn how to repair broken chairs? Find out how Streetbank Australia and Transition Hobsons Bay can help you organise a skillshare to spread the knowledge, develop greater self-sufficiency and connect with and learn from your neighbours. Come along with ideas of what you want to learn or may want to teach.

Cost: FREE  Bookings: Not required
RSVPs welcome at http://skillshare2015slf.eventbrite.com.au
Hosted by Transition Hobsons Bay and Streetbank Australia

**Who's got the Power:**
Check the link for Location Details
Session 1 – Energy:
Learn more about how to measure, control and reduce your home energy use with a range of options, systems and skills. Hear about better use of user friendly resources (i.e. energy portals) to help you save and also reduce your carbon footprint.  BYO power and gas bills.

Cost: FREE           Bookings: Not required
http://tinyurl.com/Who-sGotThePower
Hosted by Transition Hobsons Bay

If you would like to know, please speak with Mr. Raghdo