Dear Parents and Families:

I hope you have all had a good week. How the weeks are flying by - before you know it the term will be over.

**SOMER’S CAMP:**
The students and staff had a good trip to Somers Camp with the rain clearing as they got closer to camp. Everyone settled into their rooms and got to know the other campers. I am looking forward to hearing lots of stories and seeing our happy campers today when Mrs. Blunt and myself venture down to visit so we will be able to report back on all the news.

**OPEN EVENING:**
Don’t forget to come along and participate in loads of fun activities during our Open Evening on the 10th May. We have always surprised our parents and families with all the fun we have while learning at school.

**EDUCATION WEEK:**
Thankyou to all the staff who have been working very hard to bring us an exciting Education Week with many challenging activities for all our students and staff.

**CHOCOLATE DRIVE:**
Thankyou to those families who have offered to support the Parents and Friends with their chocolate drive. Chocolates will be sent home Next Friday 29th May. Remember NOT to eat them all at once.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE:**
Parents and Friends will be holding a sausage sizzle on Tuesday 26th May. Don’t forget to get your orders in and remember that the Canteen will only be open for snacks at recess and lunch. NO LUNCH ORDERS on this day.

**CAMPS SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND:**
The Victorian Government have unveiled a new initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will run over four years and provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for CSEF. $125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and will be tied to the student.

The cut off date to get your applications in is 26th June. For further information and to fill out the forms please contact the office.

Or visit the website: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENSUS:
Every 2 years the Australian Early Childhood Development Census is carried out in schools. This census is for Prep families only. If you DO NOT wish for your child to participate in the testing you must come to the office and request an OPT OUT form to be signed by the parents.

Further information can be found later in the newsletter.

EFTPOS:
I am pleased to inform families that we now have EFTPOS available in the front office. This has been a common request for some time now. We are hoping this make payments easier for our families.

COLLINGWOOD CHILDREN’S FARM:
On Monday our Preps will be heading off to the Collingwood Children’s Farm. LOTE this week was based on animals that they might see at the farm. Mrs. Tomkins our AUSLAN teacher has focused on signs that suit the farm. Lets see how many Mrs Patterson and Mr Davies remember when they are at the farm!!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, lets hope it doesn’t rain the whole weekend.

Have a great week
Robyn Gregson - Principal
Rational:
Students travelling to and from school, as well as at school, need to be safe. Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are popular means of transport for students, but require regulation and management. Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are also often involved in serious accidents. It is well recognised that young children have underdeveloped motor skills, peripheral vision and judgement.

Aim:
To provide a school environment which is safe for students. Provides an environment that is practical for riders and for storage of bikes, scooters and skateboards. Displays a balance between the rights of individuals and the schools duty of care for all staff and students.

Implementation:
- Our school will provide safe storage for bicycles ridden to school by students under the following conditions:
  - Students wear helmets
  - Bicycles are in road worthy condition
  - Children under the age of 10 years are encouraged to ride to school in the company of an adult.
  - All parents will be made aware of these school rules and the safety reasons supporting them through information newsletters and posters around the school and school grounds.
  - Students who contravene these requirements, but ride bicycles to school will have them stored at school and the parents will be contacted to come to school to pick them up.
  - Bicycle education, road rules and safety will form part of the school curriculum, with an intensive Bike Ed program in the senior grades taught by the class teachers.
  - Teachers will undergo training to run the Bike Ed program.
  - Bikes ridden to school will be stored, by the riders, into the bike shed with monitors to oversee the storage of the bikes.
  - Scooters may be ridden to school by students wearing helmets, but must be folded and stored inside classrooms/storerooms. Scooters which are ridden without helmets, can’t be folded, or are powered by motors of any kind are not to be brought into or stored at school
  - Skateboards may be ridden to school by students wearing helmets, but must also be stored in classrooms/storerooms.
  - Bicycles, scooters or skateboards cannot be ridden inside the school grounds at any time. Clear and unambiguous signs will be prominently erected informing all visitors of this requirement.
  - Students who break school rules will be managed in a manner consistent with the student discipline policy.
  - The Staff and Student Leaders will provide awards to students who demonstrate safe practices with bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school’s three year review cycle. A survey will be sent home to parents to monitor any issues that may arise out of students riding to school.

Chocolate Drive Caramello Koalas & Freddo Frogs
Each box of chocolates consists of a total of 50 chocolates. Chocolates sell for $1 each or $50 per box. ANPS makes $20 for every box sold. (These chocolates are Halal Certified.)
If you have chosen to participate in this fundraiser, your chocolates will be distributed to the eldest child in your family on Monday June 1st at 3:15pm.
It's not too late to offer to sell chocolates - please send a written request, signed by an adult, stating the number of boxes you would like to sell. If you sell all of your chocolates and you would like to order more, you are required to also send a written note, signed by an adult to the office. Additional boxes of chocolates will not be distributed until full payment is received for the first box sold.

All money and unsold chocolates are due back to school no later than Tuesday 16th June.

Sausage Sizzle
On Tuesday 26th May P&F will be running a sausage sizzle lunch.
Halal beef sausage in bread $1.50
Bottle of water $1.50.
Order forms have gone out this week to all children. Please return with money by TOMORROW - Friday 22nd May to assist with planning.

The canteen will NOT be taking lunch orders.
The canteen will only be open for snacks during recess & lunchtime breaks.

Upcoming Events
Mattel Toy Store
P&F will again be offering mid year tickets to the Mattel Toy Store. Watch out for more information in the coming weeks around the school.
Speak to family, friends and workmates to let them know about what’s happening.
Cost: $5 per person per visit.

STUDENT ABSENCES:
Regular attendance of students is compulsory. It is also important to allow children to take part in all learning experiences and to develop the attitudes of reliability and commitment.
The reason for any student’s absence must be reported to the school either by completing the form on our website, telephoning the office or sending a written note upon your child’s return.
To find out how to report your absence via our website go to www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au and click on the REPORT ABSENCE tab that is located on the right hand side of the homepage. If you require assistance please contact the office.
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Victorian Government have unveiled a new initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. **The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** will run over four years and provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. $125 per year will be paid to eligible primary school students. CSEF payments will go directly to the school from the commencement of Term 3 and be tied to the student. (see poster below)

**Eligibility:**
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government Primary School must:

a) be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC), Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or an eligible beneficiary of a Veterans Affairs Gold, OR

b) be a temporary foster parent.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government Primary School must:

- on the first day of Term 2 (April 13th) or
- on the first day of Term 3 (July 13th).

**Applications:**
Parents or legal guardians are required to complete a CSEF application form and lodge it with their child’s school for processing by Friday June 26th, 2015.

**Implications for Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 who would like to attend Camp Coolamatong:**
CSEF may be offset against the payment of $300 for Camp Coolamatong. However a deposit of $100 is required by Friday June 19th.

*Please Note:* If you claimed ANPS Family Assistance at the beginning of 2015 and nominated to carry over funds towards “CAMP”, your balance will be automatically adjusted. Please make contact with our friendly office staff if you are unsure or have any queries.

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**Financial Assistance**

**Information for Parents**

Do you hold a valid concession card OR are you a temporary foster parent?

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**Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

**How to Apply**
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**Closing Date**
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Between May and July this year, our school will be taking part in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which is a nationwide census of early childhood development and helps our school and community understand how children are developing before they start school, what is being done well, and what can be improved. The AEDC is an Australian Government initiative run by the Department of Education and Training.

Children do not need to do anything to be included in the census and will attend class as usual. During the census, teachers record information (including children’s names and dates of birth) based on their knowledge and observations of each child in their class. For your information, the questions to be used by the AEDC in the upcoming collection are available at www.aedc.gov.au/instrument.

Once all schools participating in the AEDC have provided their information, and the AEDC is completed, some of the data collected is compiled and made available publicly as de-identified data, i.e., data that does not include any children’s names, ages, addresses or schools.

This data can be very useful for a wide variety of policy, analysis, and statistical and research purposes, so it is provided to a number of bodies, including government and non-government education departments and organisations, independent school systems and researchers. Some of these organisations may also link AEDC data with information from other organisations (such as health departments) to improve programmes and policies for young children. When the data is linked with other data, extreme care is taken to ensure individual children cannot be identified.

As so much can be learned about children’s development through the AEDC, the privacy of children participating in it is of paramount importance. To ensure that all of the information collected is handled properly, the AEDC is managed in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). The APPs regulate the collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information by Australian government agencies, and some private sector organisations, and is part of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). APPs also form part of applicable state and territory privacy legislation and policies.

The system used by the AEDC to collect and collate the information is a secure site and children’s information is kept secure at all times. Your child’s data will not be used for any other purpose than described in this letter and the Privacy Statement contained on the AEDC website at www.aedc.gov.au/privacy. You can see how data was collected and presented in 2009 and 2012 by visiting www.aedc.gov.au/data. Data from the 2015 collection will be presented in a similar way.

This year’s AEDC is a great opportunity for everyone including parents, local communities, schools and other agencies to work together to bring long-lasting benefits to children and their families. If you would like more information about the AEDC, please refer to frequently asked questions section on the AEDC website at www.aedc.gov.au, or phone 1800 092 848.

The AEDC is voluntary and is not a school test, so should you wish for your child/children’s information to be excluded from the census, please contact Mrs Blunt through the Office by Friday 22nd May.

Thank you for supporting the AEDC.

Lee Blunt
Assistant Principal