Dear Parents and Families,

It has been a pleasure this week being able to step back and watch all the wonderful programs that are taking place all around our school. Sometimes we get so involved in making sure our students get the best of the best in curriculum, extra curricula, support programs, personalised learning, social and emotional support that we take them for granted.

It is nice to reflect on what our students are achieving and to watch the engagement they show in their everyday learning. Thankyou to our wonderful staff who make all this happen for your children.

GRADE 5/6 BEACH PROGRAM: WOW!!!! What a program - Williamstown Life Saving Club ran for our students. I was able to go and see our students participating in swimming skills, life saving activities even to the point of looking for a missing person (actually a dummy that the life saving club uses to practice with). All students tried every task they were given with enthusiasm and excitement.

We were very proud when we received an email from the life saving club's coordinator thanking our students for their wonderful behaviour, their politeness and their participation in the program. She mentioned that we were one of the best schools they have ever had in their program and are looking forward to working with us again. I think the 5 / 6 Unit can give themselves a BIG pat on the back.

COOKING AND GARDENING PROGRAM: Our cooking and gardening program will be running from 16th November until 7th December. All parents, friends and family members are welcome to come in and help out in the classroom. Parents are invited to put into WRITING their ideas and hand them to either Mrs Blunt OR myself for consideration by Wednesday the 25th November. We will take all letters into consideration at the time of placement, but will not guarantee any expected outcomes.

PREP TRANSITIONS: We had our second transition day for our new Preps yesterday. They have come in like they already own the place and full of confidence. Our Prep teachers have organised a range of activities for them to participate in. Covering everything, even how to use the drinking taps! Thankyou to our great Prep teachers for their encouragement and engagement of our young 2016 Preps.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: On Wednesday morning our student leaders conducted an extremely respectful and thoughtful service in honour of all who have fought and fallen for their countries. Thankyou to Ms Ousley and our Student Leaders for putting this ceremony together it was extremely touching.

2015 STUDENT PLACEMENT REQUESTS: Our usual practice is to offer parents the opportunity to highlight any grade placement ideas they may have for the coming year. Parents are invited to put into WRITING their ideas and hand them to either Mrs Blunt OR myself for consideration by Wednesday the 25th November. We will take all letters into consideration at the time of placement, but will not guarantee any expected outcomes.

CONCERT TICKET ORDERS, DVD ORDERS & COSTUME REQUIREMENTS: Remember to keep Thursday 10th December free as this is our concert night. Thankyou to those parents who have offered their assistance in helping with props and costumes already. More help is always needed so don’t be shy to put your hand up to help out with sewing or creating. All costumes are due at school NOW and order forms for tickets and DVD orders will be sent home in the coming days.

Seating is issued on a first in, first served basis and seating is limited, so please avoid disappointment and complete your paperwork now if you haven’t already done so.

We will be offering DVD’s for $25.00 each and will contain both concert performances. These need to be ordered prior to the concert night.

HOUSE SPORTS DAY: Tomorrow all students will gather in their respective Houses and compete in a range of FUN and healthy sport activities. This is always a great day, as long as the weather is on our side. Families can then share a picnic lunch together to conclude the day’s activities.

Enjoy the weekend and have some wonderful family time together - Robyn Gregson - Principal

DATES to Remember

TERM 4:

NOVEMBER
Fri 13th: House Sports Day
Mon 16th: School Council meeting 7pm
Wed 18th: Prep 2016 Transition
Wed 25th: Prep 2016 Transition

DECEMBER
Wed 2nd: Prep 2016 Transition & P16 Parent Info Session
Tues 8th: Yr 7 2016 Transition Day - all Govt. Secondary Schools
Thurs 10th: ANPS End of Year Concert
Mon 14th: Grade 6 Big Day Out
Tues 15th: 3/4 unit Werribee Zoo
Wed 16th: Prep unit Playshak
Class Parties
Canteen closed
Fri 18th: Last Day for 2015

TERM DATES 2016

Term 1:
29 January (Grade 1-6) & 1st February - (Preps) to 24 March.

The office and uniform shop will be open from 10am—12 noon on Thursday 28th January for EES payments & Uniform Purchases.

Term 2:
11 April to 24 June.

Term 3:
11 July to 16 September.

Term 4:
3 October to 20 December

REMINDERS:

HOUSE SPORTS DAY: FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER.
CANTEEN CLOSED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

From the Principal
ANPS BAND

The students in the band have been busy rehearsing their items for our school concert coming up on Thursday December 10th. We managed to sneak in some photos and a little sneak peak video of one of our songs during last practice!

The School Council has determined the cost of the 2016 Essential Education Supplies to be $170.00 per child. This covers essential education items and materials for learning and teaching for next year. Notes will go home tomorrow with full details.

A discount of $5 will be given for FULL payment on or before Monday 14th December 2015.

Families who made a successful claim for 2015 Family Assistance, will have any remaining credit automatically allocated to 2016 Essential Education Supplies. Unfortunately, Family Assistance is not available in 2016. Families who qualify for Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive $215 per child directly into their bank accounts in January and July 2016. The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund can once again be claimed by families with a Health Care or Pension Card in June 2016. State Schools’ Relief is also available to families in serious financial difficulties. Follow this link for further information:

Please contact the office if you have any questions or make an appointment to speak with the Principal or Assistant Principal should you need to make alternate payment arrangements.

This year, our Annual Concerts will be held on the evening of Thursday 10th December 2015. The Junior Concert will be held at 5.15pm and the Senior Concert at 7.30pm. Ticket order forms will go home next week. Tickets will be $8 each plus $2 for non performing ANPS students. Seating will be allocated on a first in, first served basis. Entry is by pre-purchase and presentation of tickets only. Envelopes to order the Concert DVD will also be distributed along with the ticket order form. The cost of the DVD is $25 each.
We're very pleased to inform you that our school has implemented an app called Updat-ed that will make connecting with you so much more effective. The app is 100% FREE.

To download the app just visit the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android’s. Search for Updat-ed. Once the app has downloaded simply select Altona North Primary School from the menu. We’ll receive your registration request and will need to approve you before your app is up and running.

So what will the app do?
The app’s great for sending out alerts and reminders with one of its best features being the ability to save events directly into your phone’s calendar, as well as many other features!

Our Student Bankers have been making regular deposits and many now have 10 tokens to redeem for a reward. The last day to redeem your rewards this year, is Tuesday December 1st. The CBA has advised that some rewards are no longer available. At present, the following items are available.
- Galaxy Glider
- Outer Space Savers Money Box
- Invisible Ink Martian Pens
- Intergalactic Rocket
- ET DVD
- Shark Key Ring
- Scented Pencils
- Swimming bag.

Please collect your 10 tokens and redeem before the 1st December to avoid disappointment.

Annual K-Mart Wishing Tree:
This is an ongoing fundraiser throughout Term 4.

Children are asked to start donating some of their loose change towards the purchase of a gift to be placed under the K-Mart Wishing Tree. The loose change is collected in the classroom. The gifts are purchased and collected by the Salvation Army and distributed to families or individuals who may not receive a gift at Christmas.

The Parents and Friends will be holding a huge End of Year Christmas Raffle. Tickets are to be distributed at the end of November. $1 per ticket or $10 per book.

If you DO NOT wish to participate in this year’s raffle, please complete the tear off slip below and return it to the school.

PARENTS & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:
NO TICKETS PLEASE

Child’s Name: ___________________________________________  Grade: ___________________________

I DO NOT wish to receive a booklet of Raffle Tickets to sell on behalf of ANPS

Parent/Guardian Name: ______________________________________________________