Dear Parents and Families:

Counting down the days now and only 7 school days left can you believe it! And what a way to celebrate with last night’s concert. It was lovely to hear so many compliments from our parents, grandparents and family friends who attended. We truly have a wonderful school with the most wonderful students and staff.

**SCHOOL CONCERT & STUDENT LEADERS:** We were all very excited about last nights concert. The hall looked amazing—thankyou to the 5/6 team, Dan, Mr John, Parents & Friends, staff and helpers for the attention to detail and preparations for this annual highlight. The hall was abuzz with our “Battle of the Bands”. From the Wiggles to Queen we had something for everyone. Thankyou Mr. John for your leadership and organisation of our concert it is certainly a big job and to all the staff who put in many hours of extra work to make sure our students were given every opportunity on concert night. CONGRATULATIONS to our new School Captains, Noah C. and Mylan T, two very deserving students who I know will lead our school community well in 2017.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Cecylia and Obi for their outstanding leadership in 2016. I am sure the new school captains will follow in the positive footsteps that have been paved for them. A big thank you also goes out to our 2016 House Captains and Peer Leaders - you have all played a significant role in helping to positively shape our school culture and behaviour—thank you. Ms Shiels and Mr Raghdo have been the teachers in charge of our student leaders and have done an incredible job, thank you.

Last night we also saw a new award presented - our school Academic Achievement Award. At ANPS we celebrate many achievements across the school and ensure we are fully inclusive of all learners. There are many students at our school doing extremely well academically and need to be recognised for their hard work and achievements. So CONGRATULATIONS to our “Academic Achievement” recipient Victoria Pierias. Vicky has worked hard for her achievements and has an excellent attitude towards her school work and involvement at ANPS. Vicky also received a $100 voucher towards her school books for 2017.

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**BUNNINGS BUDDY BENCH:** During assembly on Monday we will be visited by Maria from Bunnings who will be presenting with our Grade 6 students two “Friendship Benches”. These benches are a parting gift from our Grade 6 students to our students at ANPS. These benches will assist in developing friendships in the yard for all students at ANPS.

**ESSENTIAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES (EES) 2017:** Forms were distributed last week to inform parents of the costs associated with Class Supplies for 2017. There are two payment options. Both require either full or part payment by next Wednesday 14th December. If you need financial assistance or a payment plan, please make an appointment to speak with either Mrs. Blunt or myself.

**TERM 4**

- **TERM DATES:**
  - Term 1: 30 January - 31 March
  - Grade 1-6 Students start Wednesday 1st February.
  - Grade Prep Students start Thursday 2nd February.
  - Prep Students do not attend school on Wednesdays for the month of February.
  - Term 2: 18 April to 30 June
  - Term 3: 17 July to 22 September
  - Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

**REMINDERS:**

**MONDAY: ALL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS SENT HOME!!!!! CANTEEN CLOSED WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY NEXT WEEK!**

**From the Principal**

**Dates to Remember**

**TERM 4**

**DECEMBER:**
- Monday 12th: Reports & Portfolios HOME
- Friday 16th: CLASS PARTIES.
- GRADE 6 BIG DAY OUT
- CANTEEN CLOSED

**TUESDAY 20TH:**
- LAST DAY OF TERM 4
- 1PM FINISH.

**2017 JANUARY:**
- Tuesday 31st: ANPS OFFICE & UNIFORM SHOP OPEN 10am-12pm

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**DECEMBER 8TH, 2016**

**NEWSLETTER NO: 39**

**Mon 12th: Reports & Portfolios HOME**

**Friday 16th:**

**CLASS PARTIES.**

**GRADE 6 BIG DAY OUT**

**CANTEEN CLOSED**

At Altona North Primary School, we are working very hard to ensure that all of our ANPS students were able to get the best choice available for their secondary education.
From the Principal Continued....

ANPS INTERNAL TRANSITION: On this same day, all current ANPS students had the opportunity to experience education at their next level. Thank you to all staff and to Mrs Blunt for leading this internal transition process. All of our students were excited about either moving to the next Unit level or welcoming others into their Unit. This is a wonderful way of preparing our students for the next step in their schooling.

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS: All students will receive their 2016 final reports and portfolios on Monday to take home and share. It is important that parents and families take the time to read over the reports and share the highlights as a celebration of a year of learning. If parents would like to meet their child’s classroom teacher to discuss any elements of their child’s report, please either send a note to the teacher or call and leave a message at the front office. Staff have allocated next Wednesday 14th December after school for this purpose.

K-MART WISHING TREE: On Monday morning at assembly we will once again witness the generosity of our community when all of the Wishing Tree Christmas presents are on display. We are always amazed at the careful selection and thoughtfulness that goes into this, another of our annual fundraisers. Special thanks goes to Mrs Morgan, and Mrs Hardman for their management of our social Service Program in 2016.

BIG DAY OUT: Our Graduating Grade Six students will be celebrating the end of their Primary School years next Friday 16th December by attending their “Big Day Out”. We wish them all the best for a fun filled day that has lasting positive memories. Enjoy the breakfast and your waiters!!!!

CLASS PARTIES: Also on Friday of next week, all grades will be participating in End of Year Class Parties. We encourage each student to bring a plate of food to share with their classmates, reflecting your families’ cultural background.

CANTEEN: The canteen will be closed Wednesday AND FRIDAY next week. Our hardworking Canteen staff will take this opportunity to celebrate their efforts and prepare for end of year.

MURRAY TO MOYNE: 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 that we will be planning activities to support this event early next year.

LAST DAY OF TERM 4: The end of the school year is fast approaching. All students will be dismissed from school at 1pm on Tuesday 20th December. We will be holding our last assembly for the year on this day at 12:30pm and students will be dismissed from the school hall. Please put this important date in your diaries and make arrangements to have your child/ren picked up at this time. Also please note that the Office will be closed at 1:00pm on this day, it would be appreciated if ALL payments could be finalised by Friday 16th December.

Have a wonderful Weekend and I look forward to our last few days of the school year.

Regards,

CONGRATULATIONS Tia for the Tim Watts Book Award, Vicky for your ANPS Educational Achievement Award and Cecyilia for the Wade Noonan Book Award.
HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

The aim of the House system is to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our students. Students are encouraged to do their best in every aspect of school life. Students gain points for their house by displaying ANPS values and receiving achievement awards.

With now only 2 weeks to go, the battle for House of the Year is certainly very close. Congratulations to Mason who won last week.

Last week’s scores were …

MASON 29  CRESSER 26  BLACKSHAW 22  MILLERS 20

The final scores for the year will be revealed on our final assembly on Tuesday 20th December from 12:30pm.
So remember to keep doing your best and may the best house win.

LIBRARY AND UNIFORM NEWS:

ALL library books should now be returned to the Library, if you have not returned your books please do so ASAP.

There is no more borrowing for the rest of the year!!
The library will no longer be open at lunch time.

If you wish to buy school uniforms for the beginning of 2017 please put in an order, along with a 50% deposit, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This way it will be ready for you to pay the balance and collect your items on Tuesday 31st January between 10am-12pm when the office is open. If you don't place an order now, we cannot guarantee stock will be available.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEWS:

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.
Auslan at ANPS 📣

It's been an absolute pleasure teaching the students of ANPS. Their enthusiasm for Auslan has made my job so easy. We have been learning signs for the classroom, feelings, greetings and questions, and a favourite of the younger students, animal signs. Finger spelling is an important part of sign language and it has been noted that it seems to help some students with their spelling too!

One of the best ways for the students to learn is making sure it is fun. I’m frequently bombarded with the question “can we play Pacman?” as soon as I walk in the 3-4 classrooms. This game is a great way for the students to practice, and for me to see how many signs they have retained. It has also shown me how competitive some of the students can be!

I look forward to working with all the students at ANPS in 2017.

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**END OF YEAR RAFFLE**

Tickets have gone home via the eldest child in the family. Tickets are $1 each or $10 for a book of 10.

If extra books are needed, a note from home signed by an adult needs to be sent to school ASAP.

**ALL TICKETS ARE DUE BACK WITH MONEY THIS MONDAY 12th DEC. RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN ON TUESDAY MORNING 13th DEC.** (Please ignore the dates printed on the sticky label on the raffle book).

It is a legal requirement for all sold or unsold tickets are to be returned to school.

Prizes to be won are: Puffing Billy Family Pass, Lantern Ghost Tour, Sun Theatre Movie Tickets, Wyncity Bowling & Lasertag Pass, hampers and lots more.

Donations for hampers would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off ASAP to the school office.