Dear Parents and Families:

Here we are in Week 6 and I see the children really focusing on their learning and I hear our wonderful staff talking about different ideas they have for engaging our students. ANPS is an exciting place to be at the moment with lots of activities to challenge, engage and broaden our students educationally, socially and emotionally.

**PREP PICNIC:** What a wonderful night it was last night at our annual Prep Picnic. I really enjoyed catching up with both parents and Preppies in a relaxed atmosphere. Thankyou to Mrs. Paterson and Mrs. Pearce for their organisation and setting up. I would like to thank our staff who came along to enjoy the evening and all those who helped to pack up. It was the perfect weather to celebrate being a Preppie at ANPS.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER:** Look out for the Table Tennis Challenge Josh is setting up at lunchtime. I believe this is a popular activity so see Josh if you are interested in having a game of Table Tennis. At the moment it is open for the Grades 3/4 but younger children will have an opportunity soon.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL and ELECTIONS:** I would like to thank all our parents who stood for council I find it exciting that we had more than enough parents nominated to sit on council this year. For the first time in a long time we needed to have an election. The votes have been tallied and I would like to welcome back onto School Council : Wayne Berryman (Martyn 3/4D), Neil Chennery (Noah 5/6 S and Gideon 1/2 J) and Petar Rogan (Patrick 5/6 R). Thankyou to Kylie Swan (Amity Prep M) for standing and I'm sure we will see Kylie attending our School Council meetings as an observer. A BIG thankyou to all.

**MURRAY 2 MOYNE BIKE RIDE:** Don’t forget to get online and sponsor our Murray to Moyne Bike Team who are riding to raise money for our school. The website is murraytomoyne.com.au all donations made under Altona North Primary School Team 101 will be paid to our school and these donations are tax deductible. Ask your family and friends to go online also to help sponsor our team. This year we have Ms. Shiels, Wendy and myself attending along with some really wonderful riders and additional support from our local community. The ride this year is the middle weekend of the holidays so don’t forget to think of us spending many hours awake raising money for our school. Sponsor sheets will also be sent home shortly.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL:** Yesterday we practiced our first evacuation drill for the year. This drill was to evacuate the school and gather at Langshaws Reserve across the road. The drill showed that our staff were clearly organised and the students followed all instructions given. We will be having a drill once per term and these will vary from evacuation away from the school, lock down and on ground evacuation so our student are best prepared for all situations. We do hope that we will not have to use these drills for the real thing but at least we can be assured that our staff are well trained and that our students know what to do in an emergency. Thankyou to Mr. Jaggard for his organisation of the Evacuation Drill.

**PEER LEADERS:** On Monday our Peer Leaders for 2016 were voted in and I would like to congratulate a very well deserved group of our grade six students. These students are : Marwa (Head Peer Leader), Ahmed A, Tia, Majid N, Aayan, Tarek T, Victoria C, Anthony and Inass.

I am looking forward to working with these students throughout the year. Well Done to all. Thankyou to Ms. Sheils for her organisation.

Also whilst talking about our students leaders we saw 11 of our Student leaders attend the Young Leaders Conference in the city yesterday. They were most excited and have come back with some fabulous ideas. Thankyou to Tina Mason (mum of Jess 3/4 S and Emma 1/2 J) for driving our school bus and staying with the group for the day.

**CITY KIDS CAMP:** This year we were fortunate enough to apply for the City Kids Camp and be selected. Our City Kids head off next week to Echuca were they will experience country life and participate in activities that are everyday life for a country kid. Thankyou to Mrs. Blunt and Ms Shiels for attending the camp with our students I’m sure they will have loads of fun!

**STUDENT SAFETY:** A reminder!!!! All of our students’ safety, **All parents and visitors to our school must be signed in at the office and receive a visitors badge.** We must know at all times who is on the premises, where and why.

Whilst I am speaking of student safety, **NO PARENT IS TO CONFRONT ANOTHER CHILD WHILST ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA.** If there is any issue please see the teacher on duty, (Mrs. Blunt and Myself are on duty each afternoon), or contact the school. We look into issues and address them straight away without parents stepping in and making students and parents feel uncomfortable.

*Continued over page….*
Easter Raffle - DONATIONS WANTED:
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.

Hot Cross Buns: Order forms will soon be sent home for our upcoming Hot Cross Bun Drive. Routley’s Bakery will be our supplier this year.

Enrolments are now open for Prep 2017. If you have any children ready for school next year or know of family and friends that have Prep aged children please contact the office for further information.

There will be a Prep Information night early in Term 2. Date to be announced.

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.
CAMPS, SPORTS, EXCURSION FUND: The Victorian Government provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports, excursions and incursions. $125 per child is paid to eligible families. Once processed, the CSEF payments go directly to the school and are tied to the student. Successful 2016 applications have been processed and we expect the funds to be available as of next week. Excursion/Incursion permission slips will now have a tick box to check if you would like to use CSEF funds. If insufficient funds are available, the office will make contact with you. If you require more information about CSEF please speak with one of our office staff.

FROM THE OFFICE:

SOCIAL SERVICE

The Royal Children’s Hospital “Good Friday Appeal” will be held over the school holidays on Friday 25th March. As in previous years, we are asking for donations for the wonderful work that the Royal Children’s Hospital does for our children. Donation envelopes will be distributed on Tuesday 15th March and are required to be returned to school by Wednesday 23rd March. The last day of term, Thursday 24th March will be an ‘out of uniform’ day with a gold coin donation to support the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Thank you for your continued support.
Social Service Committee.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND THE SCHOOL?:

Last night our Prep students and their families attended the Prep Picnic, a fantastic night was had by all.

PREP NEWS:

It’s great to see so many of our students enjoying themselves during their recess and lunch breaks - it’s not always hard work here at ANPS!
A GREAT STORY CAN CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM. WAKAKIRRI IS A PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL WHERE SCHOOLS AIM TO DO JUST THAT.

Our school is preparing to enter WAKAKIRRI 2016 - Australia’s Search for the Best Story! Our Story Dance Performance will include the students from years 5 and 6 who are very excited to be taking part.

The costs for your child will be approximately between $15 and $22. This includes Wakakirri fees and bus transportation on performance night.

This term, the students and teachers will be looking at who and how people will be involved, the Story outline and the plan for the weeks ahead before show time in Term 3.

We would love the support of parents so if you can help in any of the following ways, please contact John Koutsonikolas. In the meantime, visit the website www.wakakirri.com for more information and updates.

Perhaps you:
- Are able to arrange some catering for Rehearsals and Performance day.
- Have contacts for transport (students and/or props & sets to the venue on show day).
- Have access to great music and editing programs we can use for our soundtrack or assist with choreography or sets and props.
- Can help with fundraising & Sponsorship.
- Could encourage your child to take part, get involved and ask how it’s going.
- Assist on the day with hair and makeup.
- Purchase tickets to the Show to see your child and school perform LIVE at a Professional Theatre.

We look forward to sharing our 2016 Wakakirri Story with you!

STUDENT LEADERS:

MASTERING THE LITTLE was the theme of the day when the grade 6 Student Leaders attended the National Young Leaders Day at the Melbourne Convention Centre on Wednesday. Our lucky Leaders joined 4000 other students from right around Victoria to listen to a variety of influential leaders about their journey to greatness. Our leaders are now energised and are looking forward to sharing their learning and ideas with the students and staff as the year progresses. A big thanks to Tina Mason for driving the bus.

We would like to congratulate and welcome the 2016 Peer Leaders to the Student Leadership Program. The students will be presented with their badges at assembly on Monday 21st March. All parents and family members are welcome to come along to the presentation.

Congratulations:
- Marwa
- Tia
- Majid N
- Aayan
- Tarek T
- Victoria C
- Anthony
- Inass
- Ahmed A

ANPS VALUES:

RESPECT. EXCELLENCE. ACCEPTANCE. COMMUNITY. HONESTY.
It’s exciting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

On the 1st of April 2016 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 and 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.

Last year we were able to subsidise buses for excursions, camps and assist with a number of incursions. This is done behind the scenes adding to the special events and times we have here at ANPS.

On the 2nd and 3rd April 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 2016 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 funds raised are for ANPS.

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.

To keep our riders feed during the ride and 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
- Chocolate
- jube lollies
- nuts
- dried fruit
- snack packs of chips/ biscuits etc.
- 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.

If you prefer there is the opportunity to go on line and sponsor our team through a donation. ANPS gets this money paid to us when the ride is completed. The website to visit is www.murraytomoyne.com.au All donations made via the website are fully tax deductible.

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

Regards
Robyn Gregson