Dear Parents and Families: It has been exciting to see the teaching and learning happening across the school. The teachers have been planning an exciting curriculum to ensure all students are challenged and extended in their learning. As I have mentioned there is a new Victorian Curriculum being phased in over the next 12 months. ANPS is well on the way to incorporating the new curriculum in all learning areas. This is due to the hard work and dedication of our teachers to ensure our students continue to receive the high level of education that we have come to expect.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL: I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Clarke, Ms Shiels, Mrs Sipthorp, Rob Avolio, parents in attendance and our wonderful swimmers. We are all extremely proud of your individual and team efforts at the District sports this week - well done. It is lovely to hear the children saying “Well I had a go!” and that’s all we ask our students to do is HAVE A GO.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER: We would like to give a big ANPS welcome to “Josh” our new Community Development Worker who is part of the Chaplaincy Program. Josh will be working with us on Thursdays and Fridays replacing “Will” who was in this role throughout 2015. Breakfast Club will start again NEXT Thursday 25th February between 8:00 and 8:30 am in the Hall Foyer. Brekkly Club will run each Thursday and Friday morning from next week onwards.

SCHOOL COUNCIL and ELECTIONS: Nominations for the 2016 School Council election closed yesterday afternoon. I would like to thank the following staff and parents who have nominated themselves to fill the vacancies. Mrs Lee Blunt, Ms Stephanie Kehoe, Mr Wayne Berryman (Martyn 3/4D), Mr Petar Rogan (Patrick 5/6R), Mr Neil Chenery (Noah 5/6S Gideon 1/2J) and Mrs Kylie Swan (Amity PM). As we have only 3 Parent Vacancies open and 4 nominations received, a ballot will be held. Full information regarding this ballot will be sent home next Monday 22nd Feb.

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION SESSION: Parent/Teacher Information Sharing sessions will take place during the afternoon & early evening next Wednesday 24th. Thank you to all the parents who have requested a time to meet with their child’s teacher. Notes with your allocated times were sent home this afternoon. Please contact your teacher as soon as possible if you need an interpreter booked for your interview.

MURRAY 2 MOYNE BIKE RIDE: Our Murray 2 Moynie Bike Ride is getting closer with our team training very hard. They are all excited to be helping our school raise funds for our Student Welfare Programs. To donate please visit: www.murraytomoynie.com.au All donations are passed onto ANPS and a tax receipt is given to you by Moyne Health Services. Sponsorship information will be coming home soon but if you wish to be able to claim your donation on your tax at the end of the financial year, you need to donate via the M2M website. Let’s see if we can beat last year’s effort!!

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL: I would like to inform you that on Tuesday March 2nd, we will be holding an Emergency Evacuation Drill, which will see us leaving the school site and heading to Langshaws Reserve, which is located across the road. Every school in Victoria is expected to have Emergency Drills at least once a Semester. In light of recent events we are pre warning our community so that there will be no panic when this takes place. If you have further questions about this please don’t hesitate to contact me.

HOUSE CAPTAINS: It has been extremely difficult for staff to vote as all of the candidates speeches were of a very high standard and we believe that all of our Grade 6 students would make wonderful leaders. On Monday 22nd February there will be a special presentation at assembly for the House Captains to receive their badges. All students will be attending and we would love to see parents and community members also.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE: We have too many students arriving before 8:30am, please be aware that the school grounds are not supervised prior to 8:30am or after 3:30pm, if your child needs to be dropped of early or you can not get to school by 3:30, please make arrangements with Camp Australia, our before and after school care provider. Students are expected to be in attendance between 8:45am and 3:15pm every day. If you wish to pick your child up early or drop them off late, you need to go to the office to sign them in or out. All parents and visitors to the school must go to the office before they enter the school and sign themselves in and receive a visitors badge.

PARKING: Please note for the safety of all students NO parents are to park in the staff car park. We aim to keep all students safe at all times and have strict rules on cars driving on school premises.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend with family and friends.

Robyn Gregson - Principal.
Please be aware that the Canteen is closed every WEDNESDAY. Please send your child/ren to school with morning tea and lunch on this day as the school is unable to provide food for them. For a full canteen price list check on our webpage. http://www.altonanorthps.vic.edu.au

Please Note: The canteen is unable to run accounts for families. Payment must be included with orders. All orders must be placed in the classroom lunchbox at the start of the school day. Telephone orders will not be accepted this year. The canteen is NOT OPEN BEFORE school.

Prep 2015 Family Picnic: We will be holding a picnic on Wednesday 2nd March for all our Prep students and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Prep families to come together and enjoy a night of games and great food. Full details regarding this fun event will be sent home with Prep students shortly. Please ensure you check your child’s bag regularly.

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Parent Teacher Information Sessions will take place during the afternoon and early evening of Wednesday 24th February. Please place this most important date on your home calendar and take the time to meet your child’s 2016 teachers. Confirmed appointment times will be sent home with each child today.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANTEEN:

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STUDENT BANKING

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 2016 rewards are “Outback” themed and are pictured above. They are also on display in the cabinets in Block A corridor. Our 2016 Preps should have receive an information pack last week. Grades 1 to 6 can collect a pack from the office.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS:

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. If you do not wish to sell tickets for our raffle, please complete the tear off slip below and return it to the office immediately.

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.

PARENTS & FRIENDS EASTERN 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: __________________________________________
BEFORE / AFTERSCHOOL CARE:

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.

PREP 2017:

Situated on site at ANPS this program promotes a healthy and active lifestyle, encourages friendships and supports children to develop new skills – all while having fun!

This high quality program embraces the schools values and builds on your child’s educational experience and individual interests.

The program combines active games with planned and unplanned play, quiet time, homework time and a healthy snack. Everyday is an adventure led by an enthusiastic Camp Australia staff member who is on a mission to bring smiles to kid's faces.

Please contact Nicole on 0412 001 589 or visit the room if you would like any further information.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS:

All adults wishing to assist Altona North Primary School in 2016 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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 telephone the office, enter their absence via our webpage or send a written note when your child returns.

SCHOOL APP:

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 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 will need to approve you before your app is up and running.

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I am looking forward to finding out who our 2016 House Captains are. I know you will all do a fantastic job and be great leaders around the school.

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. House points are tallied each week and the totals announced at Monday morning assemblies. The winning house celebrates their success by flying their flag for the week. To recognise positive outcomes by individual students in the classroom and in the schoolyard, children are presented with achievement awards at the school assembly. Last year’s winning house was **Millers** who won by 15 points. Good luck to all the houses this year. (Mr Jaggard)

**GO MILLERS**  **GO CRESSER**  **GO BLACKSHAWS**  **GO MASON**

**WHAT ARE OUR PREPS LEARNING?:**

This week in Numeracy the Prep students have been learning about Location and Direction. We have been focusing on words that describe where things are and where we are, such as beside, in front, behind, on, together, next, before, over, under.

We took photos around the school to demonstrate our understanding, such as sitting **on** a chair, crouching **under** a climbing frame, or standing **in front** of a bookshelf.

Here is a photo of Prep M sitting **on** the balance beam **together**.

We look forward to seeing what our Preps are learning next week.

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

3 year old Kinder 2016
Taking enrolments NOW.

- High Quality 3 year old program
- 2 sessions per week: Mon/Fri, 9:30 - 12:00
- Experienced Staff

Contact us now to enrol or drop in to visit the kinder.

PH: 9932 2162

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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. What money we raise all goes to the 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.

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 ect.
- 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 are fully tax deductible.

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

Regards
Robyn Gregson
Do you hold a valid concession card OR are you a Foster Parent or an Asylum Seeker?

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

Closing Date
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the School Office by Monday 29th February 2016