Dear Parents and Families:

I think it’s getting very close to snowing now as the chill hits the air. It is timely that we think of colds and our student’s wellbeing. Remember with the cold weather we also see a lot of asthma, so please make sure if your child is asthmatic that they have up to date medication and asthma management plans at school.

If you would like more information or need to update your plans please contact the front office.

SOMER’S CAMP:

On Tuesday we see 16 of our Grade 5 / 6 students attend Somers Camp. This is a great experience for our students and one they will remember for a very long time. At the camp they will make friends with children from many other schools. We are extremely privileged to be able to allow 16 students and 3 staff to attend Somers. I am sure they will all gain new strengths and skills from this experience and will return as resilient, respectful leaders of our school.

2016 PREP INFO EVENING:

I would like to take this time at thank everyone who attended our Prep Information Night last night. A huge thankyou to Mrs. Paterson for her leadership and coordination of the night, Mr Davies for his support and to all the staff who participated in many different ways on the night. Also, I would like to thank our fabulous school choirs who absolutely WOVED their audience and also to their parents for bringing them along. We had a number of new faces in preparation for 2016 and some extremely good feedback from potential parents.

WAKAKIRRI:

Ms. McCawley has just received notification regarding our Wakakirri performance date which is August 13th at The Clocktower Theatre in Moonee Ponds. Please put this date in your diaries. Further information will be coming home regarding tickets and costs shortly.

CHOOKAS

It is important that Parents are aware of our school policies. ANPS has many policies that are regularly checked and kept up to date. A big thankyou to Mr. Neil Chennery (Noah and Gideon’s dad) for double checking these to ensure they embrace the needs for our school. Our School Council which is your parent voice regularly ratify and pass updates that are added to a policy through government policies, local needs and DET recommendations. I will be putting policies in the newsletter as a regular feature so parents and caregivers can keep up to date with our school policies. Please read the policy on Uniforms in this newsletter.

EDUCATION WEEK:

I’m excited with the planning that is occurring in regards to our Education Week. Please keep an eye on notices and newsletters coming home with all the information about our Education Week activities. Please put in you diaries that 10th June is our OPEN EVENING. Fun and learning for all on the night.

CHOCOLATE DRIVE:

Remember Parents and Friends are running a Chocolate Drive. Please support them in any way you can. Don’t forget that chocolates are a sometimes food so we don’t need to eat all the chocolates at once. The Parents and Friends are doing a fantastic job and constantly working to raise funds for all the students at our school. Don’t forget to say thankyou when you see them around the school.

NAPLAN:

This week we had NAPLAN testing for all our Grade 3 and 5 students. All of our students took it in their stride and tried their best and that is all we ask. Our school community have been a great support to our students during this time. With the media hype and so much emphasis placed on the NAPLAN testing at this time of the year we need to remember that excellent learning is happening all year and that teachers are constantly testing students to ensure their learning is focused to the individual and all students are challenged and engaged in their learning.

LATE STUDENTS:

There are a number of students arriving late to school. I know the weather is getting colder but it is very important that children learn the importance of being on time from an early age. The morning is an important time to settle into class and focus on the learning.

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From the Principal
Rationale
School Councils have the authority to develop and implement dress codes for their students as outlined in legislation relating to dress codes. The dress code purposes should be clearly identified. These purposes may include promoting:

- a sense of identity and pride
- cohesion and good order in the school
- allowing all students to feel equal
- preventing bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- ensuring students’ appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhancing the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- strengthening the spirit of community within the school
- enhancing individual student safety and group security
- ensuring all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- encouraging students to develop pride in their appearance
- encouraging students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role

Schools work with their school communities in developing, reviewing, implementing and enforcing dress codes. All dress codes must meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements and include an exemption process, have health and safety considerations and provide advice relating to uniform supply arrangements.

Schools also work with the State Schools’ Relief to support students in need as well as supporting their fundraising activities. School Councils should document their dress code consultation and development process as evidence that they have consulted with their school community. The School Council’s dress code policies may be required as evidence or used by bodies such as Ombudsman Victoria in resolving disputes. The School Council must be able to demonstrate to its school community that it has considered the cost implications of its selected school uniform and taken into account the ability of its parent population to afford it.

Aims
To ensure Altona North Primary School complies with the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, Section 16(1)(c) - Education and Training Regulations 2007 and Section 40 - Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995.

To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.

To ensure the school develops, implements, reviews and enforces its dress code appropriately.

To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.

Definition
A dress code is a written statement of School Council expectations regarding student appearance during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

Implementation
The uniform takes into account among other factors the cost, quality of items, reliability of supply/supplier, re-use or recycling of items.

The school will review the uniform annually to ensure the code reflects the values of the community and that there is a balance between rights of individual students and the whole school community.

The school will communicate its dress code to new families on enrolment. The school will assist families having difficulties with uniform costs. Generally students will not be excluded from activities for breaches of the dress code. However, when all other measures have had no success, a student may be excluded from excursions or interschool sport.

Parents seeking exemptions to the dress code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability or health condition must apply in writing to the School Council for consideration.

Parents can raise specific complaints about the dress code. The Uniform/Dress Code policy applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions. Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools Relief for families experiencing economic hardship. State Schools Relief is a vastly over-stretched resource and any access of this service must be approved by the Principal.

The uniform is available from the school. Please refer also to the school’s SunSmart Policy and the Parent Complaints Policy.


Chocolate Drive
This is your last chance to place your orders. One box has 50 pieces made up of Caramello Koalas & Freddo Frogs which are Halal Certified. Sell these to family, friends & neighbours for $1 each, $20 from all sales goes directly to ANPS.

Sausage Sizzle
P&F will be running a sausage sizzle lunch on Tuesday 26th May. Halal beef sausage in bread $1.50. Bottle of water $1.50.

Order forms will be going out next week to all children.

All money raised this year by P&F will go towards improving outside play areas for our children. This is directly related to improving the health & wellbeing of all students and increasing engagement & learning whilst having lots of fun together outside of the classroom.

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 absence must be given to the school, either, by completing the form on our website, personally by phone or a written note.

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.

If children are unwell the best place for them to be is at home!

As the cold weather sets in now is the time for coughs and colds to start taking hold. If your child is showing signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school.

If you are advised by a doctor that your child has an illness such as chickenpox, the slapped cheek virus or another of the numerous childhood illnesses, please contact the office so we can inform other members of our community of the symptoms to be aware of.

If your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please contact their class teacher via the office to discuss the situation.
Principals are encouraged to invite parents to participate in part two of Parents Victoria’s online conference.

The conference is being held during Education Week on 18 - 21 May and will cover social media, online reporting, career advice and pathways, access to education, parent clubs, and funding. There will also be the opportunity for participants to raise other issues important to them. For updates, visit: Parents Victoria

The online conference will feature live online discussions, hosted by a member of Parents Victoria. Each day a special guest from a relevant organisation will be available to comment on one of the topics. Final dates and times are currently being confirmed.

You don’t need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part and no special software is required. The online discussions will be easy to join in, with guidelines and online resources provided.