Reflection

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
Today, placed on our foreheads, is the sign of Christ’s saving Cross.
May we turn from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.
Create a clean heart for me, O God.
In your compassion wash away my sin.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning: rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:12-14)
That Christians may embrace Lent as a time of repentance and renewal, we pray:
Have mercy, O God, in your kindness.

That those preparing for baptism may trust in God’s mercy and faithfulness, we pray: Have mercy, O God, in your kindness.
That all Christians may be faithful to prayer, fasting and good works in this holy season, we pray:
Have mercy, O God, in your kindness.

Steadfast God, merciful and gracious, you are ready to forgive. Cleanse us of our sin and leave your blessing, celebrate and proclaim the new life offered in Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter. The children will be learning about how they can be mindful of this period. They will be asked to take on small tasks that will help them to be better people. Already this morning, before school I had one child telling me that she had brought some money, for the Project Compassion box, to help the poor. Another told me that they were trying to be stronger each time they felt upset. Easter is the most important feast in the Church year and as Catholics we all try to prepare for it during Lent.

There was a great turn up to the family BBQ last week. I hope that many of you were able to meet new members of our school community and will be able to reconnect with them in the future.

Thank you also to all those parents who have put up their hands to be on our Parents and Friends committee this year. Our office bearers are:

President – Lena Picoula
Vice President – Emma Beik
Secretary – David Velardo
Treasurer – Elliot Donovan.

They have another nine parents who have offered to support them as committee members, which is terrific. I would now call on all parents to try to support this group, in any way you can, because they work hard to raise funds and arrange parent and children’s activities that benefit every child and every family in our school.
The Buddy Program is now operating at school and parents are welcome to come into school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 8:45 and 9:00a.m. to see or join in with Buddy Reading. It is beautiful to see in action and also such an effective way for our children to be learning together. Great relationships are built with these types of activities.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone at Annunciation for your care and support since my mum passed away last week. It was wonderful to experience the love and understanding of this very special community in such a personal way. I will always remember it.

PARENTS WITH A CHILD IN FOUNDATION
All families would have received a letter and a Permission Form about a research project that we have entered into with Melbourne University. The study is based around an investigation into how well children move, think and pay attention during their first year at school. Dr. Katherine Johnson, who is conducting the study will be assessing the language and motor skills of our Foundation children, at the beginning of the year and again in the middle and at the end of the year. We are looking forward to gaining new insights into the children’s development from Katherine’s work.

Can I ask all families to complete the form and return it to school tomorrow please, if you haven’t already done so.

“I WANT TO BE…” DAY
Please note a change of Date for this day, from previous calendar. On Thursday 26th February, the children are invited to dress up and come to school as anything that they would like to be, when they grow up. This is a day to raise money for Children with Cancer, so the children are asked to bring a gold coin donation for the privilege of dressing up. I’m sure the children will love dressing up.

YRS 4/5/6 LIFE-SAVING BEACH PROGRAM
On Monday March 2nd, the children in yrs 4.5.6 have been invited to participate in a program run by Life Saving Victoria. The children will be away from school between 10a.m. and 2:30p.m. A separate note has gone home about this.

PARISH SCHOOLS’ MASS AND PICNIC DAY –March 3rd
Our Parish Priest, Fr. John O’Connor, looks after three Schools – Corpus Christi, Kingsville, St Augustine’s, Yarraville and Annunciation School. Each year Father gathers us all for Mass at St. Augustine’s and then we all go to the Yarraville Gardens for shared games and lunch. This year our Picnic day is on Tuesday March 3rd. It is always a very enjoyable day for everyone. A note and return slip will be sent home next week.

Barry Ennis
Principal

SCHOOL FEES
Thankyou to all families who have paid school fees and levies for term 1. If you have not as yet paid for term 1, could you please do so as soon as possible. If you want to pay by direct debit please see Connie at the office.

FOUNDATION (PREP) CHILDREN STAY HOME ON WEDNESDAYS
I would like to remind all families with a child in Foundation that there is no school on Wednesdays, for the Foundation children, until Wednesday March 11th, after the long weekend. The children need this break in the school week for a little while, while they make the transition to school and while the weather can be so hot.

LIBRARY BORROWING
This year the children, and mums and dads, will be able to borrow books from the library on any day of the week. Katy Hall will be available at the start of lunchtime, each day, to supervise the borrowing of books. Please remind your child that they can borrow any day.

UNIFORMS
Attached to this newsletter is a Winter Uniform order form. If you require any items from the winter range could you please complete the form attached and return by due date together with payment. Thankyou.
### Calendar Dates To Take Note Of

#### Week 5
- **Mon 23rd**: Parents and Friends Meeting at 7:00pm in the staffroom
- **Thurs 26th**: “I Want To Be…” Day – gold coin donation

#### Week 6
- **Mon 2nd Mar.**: Life Saving Victoria – Beach program – Yrs 4/5/6.
- **Tues 3rd**: Parish Mass and Picnic day in Yarraville – whole school.

#### Week 7
- **Mon 9th**: Labor Day Holiday
- **Wed 11th**: Foundation begin attending each Wednesday.
- **Thurs 12th**: School Photos – correct summer uniform.

#### Week 8
- **Mon 16th**: Parents and friends Meeting at 7p.m.
- **Fri 20th**: “Orange Day” – Anti-Bullying
  - Inter-school Summer Sports Day for yrs 4/5/6.

#### Week 9
- **23-25**: Yr 5/6 School Camp in Sydney
- **Wed 25th**: Feast of The Annunciation
- **Thurs 26th**: School Twilight Sports – (3.30pm. – 6.30pm)
- **Fri 27th**: End of Term at 1:00pm.
- **Mon 13 Apr**: Term 2 Commences

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**ALTONA MAGIC SOCCER CLUB**

Altona Magic Soccer Club is seeking soccer players to join our "Miniroos" this coming season 2015, we have positions available for the following age groups.
- Under 7's (5 to 7 yrs)
- Under 8's, 9's, 10's, 11's.

Training is on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6pm to 7pm.
Venue: Paisley Park Soccer Complex, Cnr Mills street and Ross road, Altona North.

For further inquiries please visit [www.altonamagic.com.au](http://www.altonamagic.com.au) or contact us at altonamagic@hotmail.com or 0411 023 661

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**ARTZ COLLECTIVE**

Performing Arts School
"Where Stars Are Made"

Studio: 1/37 Chambers Rd
ALTONA NORTH
VIC 3025
Postal: P.O. BOX 172
Seddon VIC 3011
admin@artzcollective.com.au
PH: 9391 1736
MOB: 0425 731 569