Northern School for Autism

"Learning for Life"

Jacana Campus Ph: 9309 6258

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back for the 2012 school year. I hope everyone is well rested and enjoyed spending time with their family this summer. Each holiday time we hope that everyone in the community remains safe, unfortunately this summer one of our students, Ekrem, lost his mother, Demet, in a tragic drowning accident. Demet was a devoted mother and a joyous woman who will be sadly missed by Ekrem, her family and her many friends. On behalf of the community I extend our sincerest condolences to Ekrem and his family in their time of grief. If any member of the community would like support following this very sad loss please contact Corinne Pupillo or myself.

School Maintenance, Set Up and Groundwork

Thank you to all staff who gave up their holiday time to come in and prepare the school for the community. Thanks to the admin team who worked tirelessly last week and to Rob, Kieron and Graeme for your attention to the grounds and facilities.

Lalor Campus

This year the Lalor Campus officially opens – we hope the 32 students and 15 staff working at Lalor enjoy the freshly painted and refurbished facilities. The Lalor site will provide many new exciting learning opportunities for the Later Year's Preston Campus students.

Jacana Campus

The Early Year’s playground work is well underway – this has included the relocation of the old equipment to the rear of the school for the older students. Thank you Corinne and Annette for overseeing this project during the holiday break.

Preston Campus

New cleaners commenced at Preston and the school is simply sparkling. Tanbark and sandpits have been replenished and the therapy team have relocated – thank you to the staff who came in to assist the team move location.

ICT

Thank you to Toan who oversaw the installation of nearly 20 interactive whiteboards across the school. There is now one whiteboard between two classrooms – we hope that this equipment will enable teachers to provide technology rich learning experiences for students.

New Staff Induction

Thank you to Corinne, Sue and Pamela for running induction for our new staff on Monday and thank you to all the new staff who gave up their time to attend these important information sessions. This year the school grew by 3 groups at Jacana and 2 groups at Preston. Alongside the normal movement of staff this means we have a very large group of new teachers, aides, therapists and administration personnel joining NSA. Welcome to all of you – I wish you the best of luck in your new positions and hope you grow to love working with our beautiful children and dedicated staff.

Principal
Anna Rigoni

Jacana:
Campus Principal
Corinne Pupillo

Assistant Principal
Sue Johnston
Contract Bus Services
The Department have strict guidelines which Mee's Bus Company are bound to follow. The school liaises with the Department on behalf of families. If you have any question related to the bus service please contact Diane Bichler at the Preston Campus on 9478 9711. All pick up and drop off points are at central locations (pick up/drop off from home addresses is not provided for).

Meet the Teacher Night / Family Picnic
The Meet the Teacher Night will be Feb 16th across the whole school. The MTTN is divided into two parts – a formal meeting in your child’s classroom and a BYO family picnic.

School Council Elections
The NSA School Council meets twice a term on Thursday evenings at 5.30pm.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council.
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Please contact Anna Rigoni (Principal) for a nomination form.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember:

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

This year the councillors whose terms have expired are: Anne K, Helen G, Lee-Anne C, Sue J, Denise C, Margot P and Shane G. Thanks to all of you for your contribution to the good governance of the school over the past 12 months. On behalf of the community we greatly appreciate your time and commitment to the school. The vacancies for 2012 are for:

- Parent Member/s - 3
- DEECD Employee Member/s - 2
- Community Member/s - 2

I encourage parents/carers to consider standing for election. Nominations close on Wednesday 29th February, 2012 at 4pm. Please contact Anna Rigoni for further information if you are interested in joining school council.

Anna Rigoni
Principal
Schedule 3.

Notice of election and call for nominations (for first school council election)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Northern School for Autism. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on Wednesday 29th February, 2012.

The ballot will close at 4 pm on Wednesday 14th March, 2012.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Happy New Year to all our families! We hope you had a restful and relaxing time with your families and friends. We welcome 26 new staff to the team at Jacana Campus. Our new members of staff are:

**Early Years A:**

**Teachers**
Julie La Bouchardiere  
Laura Soall (from Preston Campus)

**Education Support**
Natalie Labosco  
Kathryn Szaters  
Elise Gordon  
Sharee Martelli  
Tina Liberatore  
Helen Li

**Early Years B:**

**Teachers**
Annie Susanto  
Briony Smith  
Christine Sheridan

**Education Support**
Dilek Sakranlouglu  
Gabby Prouse (from Preston Campus)  
Elizabeth Marijanovic  
Pina Ciarma  
Anita Dodson

**Junior/Middle Years:**

**Teachers**
Natasha Eracleous  
Stuart Walton  
Joe Newsome

**Education Support**
Lyndall McGrath  
Lisa Ottena

**Later Years:**

**Teachers**
Kym Tonkin  
Megan Kennedy (from Preston Campus)

**Education Support**
Ben Crosby

**Jacana Campus Support** - Hollie Ryan (from Preston Campus)  
**Phys Ed Specialist** - Alice Rice (from Preston Campus)  
**Assistant Office Manager** - Sonja Resuggan  
**Speech Pathologist** - Yvette Maddon

We have 171 students and a total of 22 classrooms (3 additional classrooms in 2012). A very special welcome to all our new prep children and their families. We hope your time at NSA is rewarding and successful. We want you to be an active part of our school community, in particular in your child’s education. We will send out information for parents/carers that are interested in volunteering at the school.

**Early Years Playground Redevelopment**

Over the Christmas break, a team of workmen replaced the old playground equipment in the Early Years Playground (Old Jacana Primary School). I’m sure you will agree that the new project will be enjoyed by all the children in the early years sub school. Thank you to Annette McKee and the Early Years staff for their input on the design. The old equipment has been relocated to the middle years outdoor area.
Installing the new equipment

Relocating the old equipment to the middle Years

The new Early Years Playground
Family Support Meetings and fundraising Committee

Our family support group meets each fortnight. It’s a great opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding about the school and autism. Please put these dates in your diary and join us for some morning tea. The fundraising committee will be held straight afterwards, please feel free to joint Lisa Sette and I to develop a program of fundraising events for 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Leadership team</td>
<td>Anna Rigoni</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th Feb</td>
<td>Early Years – Curriculum</td>
<td>Annette McKee &amp;</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Tippett</td>
<td>9-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th Mar</td>
<td>Junior Middle Years – Curriculum</td>
<td>Elizabeth Smith</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>9-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th Mar</td>
<td>Later Years – Curriculum</td>
<td>Angela Mancini</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre</td>
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The fundraising committee will meet directly following the family support meetings.

Meet the Teacher/Family Picnic
Meet the teacher meetings will commence at 5.30pm until 6.15pm. Family Picnic will then be help between 6.15pm-7.30pm. Please note this is a BYO night and you will need to provide your own dinner, rug, chairs etc.

Research study: Investigating the best method of informing carers about puberty and menstrual management in girls who have a disability.

Last year the Royal Children’s Hospital was running a research study examining ways of providing information about puberty and menstruation for parents of girls with a disability. Three parents from our school attended and found it informative and useful for them.

Invitations to attend an information meeting for parents of girls who could not attend last year have been sent home today. The meeting is next Wednesday evening 8th February at the RCH. There has now been an additional meeting scheduled for 15th February (same details as 7th Feb) but this is not included on the letters.
Parent /Caregiver pick up & drop off areas (8.50-9.10 & 2.50-3.10)
Thank you for your patience and cooperation today on a very busy start to the year. With many parents/caregivers dropping off and picking up their children it was quite congested, however, with your cooperation the flow of traffic will improve if we all follow the following guidelines:

Parents /caregivers of students in room 1-6 should park on Landy Road, Bamburgh Street or the Bamburgh Street car park. If there is a safety concern you may use the Litchfield Avenue car park (area in front of the main reception). Please park in marked bays only.

Parents /caregivers of students in rooms 7-21 can use the Bamburgh Street parent car park or street parking. There are 3 pedestrian gates available on Bamburgh Street.

Parents /caregivers of students in rooms 22 can use the staff car park which is located off Landy Road.

It is safer if parents request their children to stay in the car until the parent/carer can supervise alighting from the car. You could use the child safety lock option for the back seats to assist you. Parents/caregivers could then hold their child’s hand (if necessary) to ensure they walk safely with the parent/carer to the door/gate.

If parking on the street in Bamburgh Street please make sure you leave enough room near the drive ways for buses to enter and exit the site.

Late arrival or early pick up – Please enter from the main reception area as all other entry/exit points will be locked outside regular pick up/drop off times.

**Please refer to the attached site plan for more details.

Corinne Pupillo
Campus Principal
Irabina Siblings Support Camp 2012

Irabina is very excited to inform you that we will be conducting a 3 day Siblings Support camp next year! This camp is open to those primary school aged children who have a brother or sister who has Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Details:

- **Location**: Oasis Camp, 66 - 72 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn, Melway: Map 120 D3
- **Date**: Monday 2nd April to Wednesday 4th April (first week of school holidays before Easter).
- **Cost**: $190 per child, all costs included

Please contact Sarah or Aggie if you have any enquiries about the structure of the camp, or if you would like any information regarding the sibling’s program.

Sarah (sarahi@irabina.com) or Aggie (aggiec@irabina.com)

or if you would like to enrol or express your interest in the camp please contact reception on 9720 1118.

We would love to see you there 😊
Camp Registration Form

Please post or fax (9720 6641) this page to Irabina.

To register your child/children to attend this camp, please fill out the form below by Friday 17th February, 2012. You can either post or fax it back to Irabina. A minimum of $100 deposit is required at this time to secure a place. Once we have received your deposit, a camp information pack will be posted to you. Please return all signed forms to Irabina by Friday 24th February, 2012. Full payment must be received by Friday 9th March, 2012.

Child’s name & DOB: ____________________________

Parent’s names: ________________________________

Postal address: ________________________________

Contact number: ________________________________

Email address: ________________________________

______________________________

Payment Options

Deposit / Full Payment

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque or Money Order. Please write out the cheque or money order to “Irabina Childhood Autism Services”

☐ Payment to be made by Direct Deposit to Irabina Childhood Autism Services
  Westpac: BSB 033 044 Account No: 511970
  (Please use your child’s name & “camp” as reference, ie “Sally Smith Camp”

☐ Full Payment $190 via Credit card

☐ Payment Plan

  $100 Deposit debited on 17/02/12
  $90 Balance debited on 09/03/12

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Credit card no. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Name on card ____________________________________ Signature ____________________

Cancellation Policy: The deposit cannot be refunded. $90 will be refunded if written notification of cancellation is received and a substitute can be found.

ABN: 62 006 245 996 / W. WWW.IRABINA.COM / T: 03 9720 1118 / A:193 Bayswater Road, Bayswater Vic 3153
Special Invitation:

World Autism Awareness Day Celebration

Short Walk & Multi-Coloured Balloon Release

Sunday 1 April 2012, 1.30pm onwards, Arts Centre to Birrarung Marr

Dear Ms Rigoni,

It gives me great pleasure to extend an invitation to you and your staff to join us in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day on Sunday 1 April. We will be releasing 3000 multi-coloured balloons, representing the individuality of those people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), at Birrarung Marr at 3.15pm after a walk of around 1.2km from the Arts Centre in St Kilda Road.

After very successful events in the last two years, we expect to have over 3000 people attending to help raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder, to work towards breaking down misconceptions and to gain better acceptance of ASDs in the community. As you are aware, we still battle the stereotypes portrayed by TV and the movies and whilst gains are being made, there is still a long way to go to provide understanding and acceptance of all individuals who are on the spectrum by the whole community.

As someone with knowledge about ASDs, we would be delighted if you and members of your staff could join us for this celebration, which will bring the whole ASD community together for a highly enjoyable event.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Dawson-Smith, CEO, Autism Victoria trading as Amaze

Event Details

Meeting at the Arts Centre, St Kilda Road: leave at 2pm, walking along South Bank, crossing over the first foot bridge and returning along the north river bank beside Flinders Street Station and Fed Square, arriving in Birrarung Marr for the release of balloons following a short presentation. This will be followed by entertainment in Fed Square, who are “lighting it up blue” for Autism Awareness on Saturday and Sunday nights.


RSVP: Caetelyn Twentyman: admin@amaze.org.au or Fran Ludgate: marketing@amaze.org.au
World Autism Awareness Day

Celebrations

Sun 1 April, 1.30pm

- 1.2km walk beside the Yarra in Melbourne - suitable for pushers/wheel chairs
- Balloon release at Birrarung Marr
- Entertainment at Fed Square after the walk
- Autism merchandise available
- Free event

Come along and join in the fun!


T: 1300 308 699

Proudly Supported by Fed Square

Lighting it up blue for Autism Awareness
Additional Information

Daily Schedule

- *Breakfast* at 8am
- Morning activities – outdoor camp activities and learning about Autism / Coping Strategies
- *Lunch*
- Afternoon activities – outdoor camp activities and learning about Autism / Coping Strategies
- *Afternoon tea*
- Afternoon activities – outdoor camp activities and learning about Autism / Coping Strategies
- *Dinner*
- Night games
- Lights out by 10pm

*NOTE: This is a guide only.*

Camp content

- For new children attending the Irabina Siblings Program, they will be learning about their own gifts and talents, what Autism is including characteristics around communication, behaviour and sensory domains and coping strategies.
- For children who have attended an Irabina Siblings Program previously, the program content will be an extension of what they have already learned particularly focusing on feelings and problem solving techniques.