New Attendance Policy

Last night School Council endorsed the new Attendance Policy. We believe this policy provides clear protocols for managing absences and provides clear shared responsibilities to monitor student attendance. The focus is on improving attendance where there are significant absenteeism concerns. We recognise the importance of maintaining regular attendance to maximise educational and social development. This of course needs to be well balanced with periods of sickness. We do acknowledge that students will get sick and understand that in order to ensure that cross infection is minimised, students will have days off on these occasions. I have attached the new policy for your information. Deb Munt will monitor attendance and provide advice and assistance to families where appropriate, to ensure we closely work with families to monitor student attendance.

Abilities Based Learning and Education Support

Sue Johnston presented an overview of the use of ABLES at JSA. Sue explained how the state wide tool can be used to monitor progress for all students on the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) as well as how JSA is using this data for school improvement. Parents on school council found the information very useful and now have a better understanding of the assessment tool.

Reminder: Curriculum Day

Friday 19th July is a staff curriculum day. Students are not required at school on this day.

Staff will have a full day workshop on Building Positive Relationships - facilitated by Peter Cronin.

Relationships with parents/carers will be the main focus for the day as we acknowledge the important contributions that our parents/carers provide to the educational program here at JSA. Peter will also hold a follow up workshop with teachers and therapists on Managing Successful Meetings. Both these sessions are vital to the work we do here at Jacana and underpin all the work that we do within our teams and with families.

Reminder: Student Family Occupation Data

This week each family received a letter requesting information about family occupation. This information is important to the school as a component of our government funding is based on parent occupation. A stamped, self-addressed envelope has been provided for this information to be returned to school by 26th July.
Fact Sheet is attached explaining the importance of filling this form out. Thank you for your assistance in providing this information.

Community Celebration - official unveiling of the later year’s art mural

I was fortunate to have the privilege of officially unveiling the later years art mural last Friday. It was a beautiful winter day and many later years families joined students and staff to celebrate the completion of the art project. Students from the later years collaborated on the theme of the work as well as the type of medium. Art specialist, Jade Thompson supported the students through the project. Skills that students had been taught during art classes were transferred to the wall-mounted mural, where students managed the project from a different perspective and generalised skills outside the regular classroom environment. Students were extremely proud of their work and even more honoured to celebrate their achievement with the school community.

Lucky Student Number

Every now and again the school receives donations that can be used for raffles, prizes or giveaways. On this occasion when we updated our water filter unit in the staffroom we were provided with two movie passes. The Senior Management Team decided to draw a student number out and give the lucky winner the two movie passes, just in time for the school holidays. The lucky winner is Jei Jei Medio Mota. Congratulations to Jei Jei, we hope you enjoy the Village Cinema movie passes.

Student Council

Members of the JSA Student Council were presented with their official name badges on Friday 21st June. Following the unveiling of the art mural, Kym Tonkin presented the members with their badges. It was great to see so many families and friends in attendance to congratulate our students. The student council members also presented a short video they made in support of the “Bully Stoppers” program. This video is also available on the photo link of the website for the community to view. http://www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au/

Staffing for 2014

One of the roles of the Senior Management Team is to ensure that JSA is well prepared for the 2014 school year. Planning for 2014 generally commences in term 3. JSA has over 100 staff employed in both teaching and Education Support (ES) roles. This is quite a large task in itself and with the addition of financial and other operational tasks, we decided to commence the staffing planning for 2014 in term 2. Offers to staff, where applicable have been completed and we are now in the recruitment stage for 2014. Jobs will be advertised in the school holidays for commencement in 2014.

It is anticipated that we will have 2 new classes next year and plans are underway to prepare these rooms for the new students.

Family Support Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 1st August, 2013. 9.15 am – 10.30
Presenter Heather Kirkhope (ASPECT)

Fundraising Committee

The special lunch order day was a huge success. The inclusion of healthy wraps and sandwiches was a big hit. Even though some of our students are quite fussy eaters and some tend not to choose healthy options, it is our intention to ensure we have a balance of everyday foods and foods that we can eat on an occasional basis. Members of the fundraising team and parent helpers were very busy making lots of healthy wraps and sandwiches on this occasion and it was really great to hear such positive feedback from the students in response to the new menu.

A big thank you to Lisa Sette and her helpers, Carlee Toniolo, Rosa Figliola, Marissa Griffiths and Lisa Stewart.


Calender of events

Father’s Day Stall – 20th August – 23rd August
Book Fair – August 26th – 28th
Shopping Tour – 13th October
Special Footy Day Lunch – 19th September.

www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au
Spirit in Action Project – St. Christopher’s Primary School

On Tuesday this week, Annette McKee and I had the pleasure of attending St Christopher’s Spirit in Action celebration. Four grade 6 students from St Christopher’s applied to undertake their community service project here at Jacana School for Autism. Connor Large, a past student and his 3 friends Anthony, Joshua and Patrick attended for three 2 hour sessions in the early years sub school to get to know some of our children and to observe firsthand how autism can affect student learning. The boys were able to build positive relationships with the students in these classes and assist with developing social skills. The boys came away with a much deeper knowledge of how autism can impact on learning as well as meeting lots of new friends. The program is in its 3rd year of operation at St. Christopher’s Primary School and we were very fortunate to be part of this wonderful experience. Thank you to staff and students here at JSA for welcoming the boys into the classrooms.

Corinne Pupillo
Acting Principal

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Phone 9309 6258
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jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au
Early Years A

We have all had a fantastic term. We have worked hard and are looking forward to a great holiday.
Middle Year
Room 14

Staffs: Nelly, Lyn and Kim

Students:
Bianca, Christian Miko, Khaled Han, John, Ryan and Zahraa

Highlight from Term 2

All students are participating in different programs which have created fantastic learning experiences for each student.

Han, Zahraa, Khaled and Bianca were very happy blowing out the candles on their Birthday

Khaled and Bianca

Miko, Ryan and Christian at Edwardes Lake

John, Ryan and Miko
The opening of the art mural.

A BIG THANK YOU to Liam for the power point presentation and William for designing the certificates. Also to the parents who attended. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to show their work.

The Later Years School Council: presented with their school council badges.
School Wide Positive Behaviour (SW-PBS) have been built into our day to day work for the past 5 years.

Over that time many new staff have been employed to work with your children and they are expected to put these practices into play.

Last week many of our staff attended after school PD where we explored what is SW-PBS and what it means for our students in our classrooms. For some staff it was reflecting back on prior learning and for many staff it was new learning in the theory behind our practice.

Over the next few months the staff will continue to explore and review the way we engage with students and manage behaviour. We will be evaluating our documents as we move through the question posed to them;

“What is school wide positive behaviour?”
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rationale
Regular school attendance enables students to maximise their full educational potential and to actively participate and engage in their learning. It is important that students maintain habits of regular attendance to maximise their educational and social development.

Jacana School for Autism Attendance Requirements
JSA requires all students attend no less than 90% of the school program without a medical certificate.

Who is responsible for attendance?
All of the learning community at Jacana School for Autism is responsible for attendance: Leadership; Teachers; Students; Education Support Staff; Parents/Carers.

Expectations of Principal Class
- Provide leadership and direction to the Leadership Team in regard to Curriculum development and student engagement/wellbeing issues.
- Provide leadership and support to Team Leaders, Team Co-ordinators and Student Services Teams to develop, implement and evaluate programs and policies that contribute to the academic and social development of students.
- Monitor attendance through collection, analysis and evaluation of data against set goals and targets.

Expectations of Teachers
- Mark the roll accurately for Class Group daily (am/pm)
- Contact parents when the student is absent from school or classes without an explanation.
- Provide programs that engage and support students to learn.
- Informally advise parents of their obligations in regards to school attendance where appropriate.
- Refer students to Student Transition and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, when needed.
- If applicable, provide appropriate work when a student is unable to attend.

Expectations of Student Transition and Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- Formally advise parents of their obligations in regards to school attendance where appropriate.
- Refer students to internal and external support services when needed.

Expectations of Students
- Attend daily and all classes (no less than 90%) without medical certificate
- Arrive on time to school to learn.
Expectations of Parents/Carers

- Ensure their child attends school at all times (see Education and Training Reform Act 2006, Section 2.1.1)
- Ensure that their child is on time for school each day.
- Notify the school of their child’s absence as soon as possible on the first day of the child’s absence.
- Notify the school in advance if an absence is planned.
- Support their child’s learning during continued or prolonged absences through the implementation of an agreed student Absence Learning Plan.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively with the school and their child to develop and implement improvement strategies when attendance has been inconsistent due to reasons deemed unsatisfactory by the school.
- Work co-operatively with the school in supporting the child to return to school.
- Ensure that contact details for their child are correct and up-to-date.

Review: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s two-year policy review cycle.

Ratified at School Council: 27th June 2013

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* describes a reasonable excuse for a student not attending school as being due to:

- Illness, accident, an unforeseen event or an unavoidable cause.
- There is no Government school within a prescribed distance of the child’s residence and the child is receiving a distance education program through a registered school.
- The child is undertaking an educational program provided by a registered education and training organisation.
- The child has been suspended or expelled and is undertaking other educational programs provided by the Department or another registered school.
- The absence from school or instruction was because of the child’s disobedience and was not due to any fault of the parent/carer.
- The child is attending or observing a religious event or obligation as a result of a genuinely held belief of the child or a parent/carer of the child.
- The child is exempted from attendance at school by the Minister.
EXTENDED PERIOD OF ABSENCE
APPLICATION FORM
(5 school days or more)

Date: _____/_____/_________ Dates requested: _____/_____/_________

Name: __________________________________________

Home Phone Number: __________________________________

Mobile Number: ______________________________________

E-mail Address: _______________________________________

TYPE OF REQUEST

☐ Family Holiday  ☐ Medical  ☐ Overseas Business

☐ Sporting Trip  ☐ Other: ________________________________

Please describe nature of the extended leave requested:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

All applications for extended absences will be reviewed by the Sub School Leader and Principal. This will be followed with direct communication with a parent or guardian.

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____/_____/_________

For Administrative Use Only: Date Received: _____/_____/_________

Action taken by Sub School Leader:

________________________________________________________________________

Recommendation: ___________________________________ Date: _____/_____/_____

Action taken by Principal:

________________________________________________________________________

Recommendation: ___________________________________ Date: _____/_____/_____
Student Family Occupation

In Victoria, funding is allocated to government schools through the Student Resource Package (SRP).

Research conducted by the University of Melbourne to inform the development of the SRP demonstrated a significant correlation between the socio-economic status of students (as measured by Student Family Occupation) and their educational success.

The equity funding component of the SRP aims to break the patterns of inequality in student outcomes by targeting funds at schools with a higher density of students from low socio-economic backgrounds, who are most at risk of not achieving satisfactory outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

The measurement used to assess student need is based upon parental occupation.

Collection of Nationally Consistent Student Background Information

In 2006, the Australian and State Governments asked all schools to collect and report on information regarding each student’s background.

Student Family Occupation, derived from parental occupation data is an increasingly important component of funding.

Purpose for data collection and reporting of Parental Occupation

Schools will receive a portion of their government funding based on this information.

This classification affects how schools are funded, so it is important that the information provided is accurate.

Important points for parents to note

No individual student or school will be identifiable through published information.

All information which could identify, or would reasonably identify, students to whom particular background characteristics belong, is removed from national reports so that no personal information is reported publicly. Data will be collected, stored and reported in accordance with privacy legislation requirements.

Further information

More information regarding the Student Resource Package can be found on the following website:

Occupational Categories

The nationally defined occupations are classified according to five categories:

Group A
Senior Management in large business organisations, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals.

Group B
Other business managers, arts/medical sportspersons and associate professionals.

Group C
Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff.

Group D
Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers.

Group N
Not been in paid work in the past 12 months.
possum magic 2013
THE FINAL FAREWELL TOUR
After 30 years in print, over 20 years on stage and seen by more than 500,000 patrons, POSSUM MAGIC - THE MUSICAL will tour Australia in 2013, for the VERY LAST TIME! “it all looks and sounds WONDERFUL!”
Adelaide Advertiser
Performance Duration: 1 hour (no interval)

1 PERFORMANCE ONLY!
BOOK NOW AND SAVE WITH THIS SPECIAL OFFER*

THE NATIONAL THEATRE, ST KILDA
(Corner Carlisle & Barkly Streets)
Friday 19 July at 10am
*All tickets booked directly through the National Theatre will save $2.50 per ticket. Normal Price $25.50/ National Theatre Ticket price

$22.50 per ticket

Book online at www.nationaltheatre.org.au
(enter the code POSSUM for this special offer and save on transaction fees)

Box Office Bookings: 03 9525 4611
(transaction fees will apply)

HURRY, BECAUSE TICKETS WILL VANISH LIKE BUSH MAGIC!!
Room on the Broom

How the cat purred
and how the witch grinned,
As they sat on their broomstick
and flew through the wind...

The witch and her cat are flying happily on their broomstick—until a stormy wind blows away the witch's hat, bow and wand.

A helpful dog, bird and frog find the witch's lost things, and they all hop on the broom for a ride. But this broomstick's not meant for five and—CRACK—the broom snaps in two!

When a hungry dragon appears, who will save the poor witch? And will there ever be room on the broom for everyone?

Songs, laughs & scary fun
for children aged 3+ & their grown-ups...

'The audience is... entranced' (The Independent)

'Winning performances, jaunty songs and some delightful puppetry... Undeniably charming.****' (Time Out)

'55 minutes of high-energy treat' (Sunday Times)

'I want to see it again. Now please, mummy'  
(Sunday Times reviewer's child)