FROM THE PRINCIPAL

New Look Newsletter
Welcome to the new look newsletter. Over the past 12 months the school has been slowly rebranding all the documentation to match the new school logo. We hope you like the new design!

Website
Please take some time to have a look at the re-designed website. There are some gorgeous photos of our children highly engaged in the teaching and learning programs. We believe the site offers a really wonderful overview of our excellent school and programs.
www.northernautism.vic.edu.au/

Prospectus
To match the website we have published a paper prospectus. If you would like a copy of the new prospectus please contact the general office. All the information available in the prospectus is included in the website.

Thank you Cilla
Thanks to Cilla Pangbourne for your assistance and support with the creation of the new look stationery, newsletter, website and prospectus. Your creative flair and attention to detail has been much appreciated.

Reports
I would like to extend a hearty thank you to Sue J, Pamela M and Toan who worked very long hours last week to ensure the reports were out on time. As with all things new there are inevitable glitches which need ironing out. The new report formats are excellent and we hope provide easy to read, detailed information about your child’s progress at school. Thanks to the teachers for your support as we implemented the new system.

SSG Week
Thank you to all the parents/carers for attending SSG week and for making alternate arrangements on your child’s teachers’ designated SSG day. I think we are all becoming familiar with the process.

Industrial Action
As the NSA AEU sub-branch has voted to participate in industrial action, parent opinion surveys will not be distributed to the NSA parent community this year.

Fundraising
So far this year the fundraising groups have raised approximately $2900 for the NSA community. These funds will be used to purchase library items for Preston/Lalor and additional ICT for Jacana. Thanks to the hardworking parents/carers.

Voluntary Contributions and Essential Education
Thanks also to the community for your absolutely outstanding financial support. So far this year you have contributed voluntary contributions of $4,784.25 and made essential education payments totalling $23,602.55. This means that nearly 90% of NSA parents/carers are supporting the school financially. We highly value your contributions as these funds go toward providing students with excursions, bike education, literacy/communication materials, ICT, books and other concrete learning materials. This is an outstanding effort on your behalf—many, many, thanks.

Changes to EMA
Please find information attached in regard to changes to EMA for 2013, as well as for the second instalment for 202. Thanks to all the parents/carers who have made EMA contributions to NSA — your contributions are much appreciated.

Anna Rigoni
Principal
CAMPUS NEWS

Jacana Campus

Official Opening of Jacana Campus
On Wednesday 1st August Ms Maria Vamvakinou – Federal Member for Calwell officially opened the Early Years and Administration buildings for the school community. Maria was thrilled to see firsthand the new spaces that have been created for our ASD students and school community. She made special comment about our talented choir and the special abilities of all children on the Autism Spectrum possess. The capital investment from the Federal Government was $2,125,000. The project design and construction took 4 years and the school community was very happy to finally recognize the completion of the project. Special thanks to Teresa Pilone our School Council President who spoke on behalf of the Jacana Campus families. Thank you to Catherine Schmidt, our music specialist for organising the choir to perform for all our guests. Lygin Ang also presented Ms Vamvakinou with a hand painted print of the new building as a special thank-you gift. For me personally, I have had the pleasure of being part of the entire project and I am very proud to have had the opportunity to work with the school community on this project.

Front Entrance Works
Unfortunately the works were delayed however the contractors are nearly finished. The new front car park will be open on Monday 6th August. There will be an entry point on Lundy road and an exit point on Litchfield Avenue. It will be great to have additional car spaces that will minimise the congestion in this area. I’m sure you will agree, the front entrance is looking great!

Family Support Meeting
Please join us for a coffee and planning morning on Wednesday 15th August in the PLC at 9.15am. Deb Munt will gather your thoughts and ideas for term 4 sessions. If you can’t attend please contact Deb directly at school.

Staffing update
We farewell Gabby Prouse on Friday the 10th August and Jess Okines last Friday. We wish Gabby and Jess well returning to full time home duties. Elisia Bartolo and Vicki Law will be replacing these staff members.

Fundraising News
Father’s Day Stall 20th August – 23rd August. Your child’s teacher will send home more information.
The Shopping Tour Sunday 28th October 2012: Please send money to Lisa Sette $50.00 per person
Literacy & Numeracy Week Monday 3rd – Friday 7th September. There will be a selection of books on display for students to purchase during this time. This was a popular event last year and we encourage you to support the school by purchasing a book to share with your child.

Book Fair
A book fair will be held in celebration of National Literacy and Numeracy Week. It will run from 3rd September to 7th September. More information on the book fair will be sent home at a later date.
**Health Living Kitchen**

Thank you to Rob Marsh for co-ordinating the redevelopment of the Healthy Living Kitchen. The cabinets were installed this week and the students and staff are really looking forward to the rest of the works being completed. Students are growing fresh produce in the vegie garden to use in the new kitchen.

**Preston/Lalor Campus**

**NAB Grant**

Thanks to Katherine Davies for applying for a grant for the horticulture program for Lalor Campus – we are not sure of the outcome yet, however, Katherine spent a lot of time writing the grant which is greatly appreciated. Fingers crossed we have a positive outcome.

**Welcome New Staff**

I would like to say welcome aboard to new teachers Jo G, Ashley L and Christine G. Due to enrolment pressures we have started a new Early Year’s classroom. Welcome to new aides Emily (Preston) and Suzanne (Lalor).

**Farewell**

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Heather Kirkhope – Middle Years’ Sub-school Leader. Heather is taking 6 months leave to work for ASPECT in Victoria. Heather will be coordinating the Positive Partnerships program across Victoria amongst other things. I would like to thank Heather for her contribution to NSA as a leading teacher over the past four and a half years... she may be back in January so this may not be goodbye forever! On behalf of all of NSA I would like to wish Heather all the best of luck as she commences her new venture.

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Corinne Pupillo
Campus Principal
Room 15 make rainbow fish.

WE COLOURED OUR RAINBOW FISH THEN PAINTED IT’S SCALES WITH GLITTER PAINT.
Northern School for Autism

Maintenance Allowance 2012: Instalment Two

Education Maintenance Allowance

Instalment Two

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid into bank accounts from mid August onwards for those parents/guardians who chose the EFT payment option on their application form.

Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 29 February 2012 will need to submit a new EMA application form. Applications close on 3 August 2012.

Eligibility information can be obtained from: www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm

Contact: School Office for application form and further information

Key Dates:
- Eligibility Day - 16 July 2012
- Parent applications close - 3 August 2012
- EFT payments - Mid August 2012 onwards
- Cheque payments - Late August / Early September 2012
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TP1) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e. – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013.

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application.
INFORMATION FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

At NSA the Occupational Therapists work with the teachers to assist students’ in developing coordination and strength. Sometimes difficulties with the small movements in the hands (fine motor skills) can actually stem from decreased strength in the tummy, back, hips and thighs. These muscles are referred to as our ‘core’. Our core is our foundation; if it is not strong or stable then our hands will not be either.

The following are some activity ideas that will serve to strengthen the core muscles. Doing some of these activities at home with your children can make a world of difference!!

SUPERVISED PLAYGROUND PLAY:
Most of the equipment on a typical playground challenges our core.
- Hanging from the monkey bars for as long as possible, or travelling from one monkey bar to the next.
- Walking across a balance beam or across suspended/wobbly platforms.
- Swinging on a swing where we have to ‘pump’ on our own
- Climbing.
- Sliding down poles and slides.

BALL GAMES:
Encourage your child to catch or reach away from his/her body or lean from side to side
- Play catch with your child while you are both sitting on the ground with your legs in various positions – legs wide open, sitting legs crossed, kneeling.
- Play catch standing up – start with tossing the ball directly at your child, as it gets easier start to toss the ball a little out to the side or up higher or lower to encourage reaching.

RACES WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY:
- Begin with basic race of running to an endpoint, then vary the ways you can participate in the races:
  - Crab walks
  - Crawling on all fours
  - Combat crawling
  - Rolling
  - Wheelbarrow races
  - Stepping with extremely large steps
  - Hopping
  - Jumping

Then there is the good old bike riding, scooters, roller blading, skateboarding – please don’t forget the helmets and protective equipment! Set up obstacle courses to make it more interesting. Have your child wind in and out of cones.

We are sure many of you are doing these activities, but may have not known the benefits of them. The best part about these activities is that your child is having fun and don’t even know that they are working!!
Keynote Address for VAC 2012

Carol Gray is best known for developing Social Stories™ and Comic Strip Conversations strategies, used worldwide to help individuals on the spectrum to understand situations. Carol has a long career working with individuals with ASDs, beginning as a teacher and more recently as a consultant to students with ASD. Carol has been awarded for her international contribution to the education of individuals with an ASD and is based in Michigan, USA.

Practically Speaking: The Next Generation of Social Stories™
In their twenty-year history, Social Stories™ (and Social Jr. Articles for pre-teens & Social Articles for adolescents and adults) have helped individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) understand and respond more effectively to daily interactions and events. A Social Story™ accurately describes a situation, skill, or concept using a format defined by ten criteria. As an evidence-based practice, Social Stories™ have earned the respect – and the enthusiastic affection – of parents and professionals alike.

This lively and fast-paced presentation puts what we’ve learned from Social Stories – as well as their ‘cousin’ approach Comic Strip Conversations (CSC) – to work exploring the future of the approach. Participants will learn about exciting new practical applications of Social Stories and CSC within a variety of social contexts (home, school, community, and workplace). In addition, we’ll discuss how Social Stories and CSC will be instrumental in charting new instructional ground; how they will help individuals identify, ‘read’ and interpret and respond effectively to the countless, dynamically relevant social factors that are a part of every interaction and event. At the close of the presentation, each participant will be able to:

- Define Social Stories and briefly describe their history
- Explain why many students with ASD have difficulty responding effectively to social context factors
- Describe a Comic Strip Conversation, and
- List and describe three new ways that Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations will support individuals with ASD in the future as they learn to ‘read’ and interpret the complexities of social context. This presentation is suitable for anyone working on behalf of individuals of all ages with social-cognitive delays and/or differences.

VAC Registrations Filling quickly get in fast to secure your place!
http://www.amaze.org.au/events-info/vac/registration/

Autism Victoria, trading as

amaze
fulfilling life's potential
Research on Fathers of children with autism is limited

Now is your chance to have your say!

**Needed**: Fathers of a child diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to participate in a study.

**Purpose of the study**: The purpose of this study is to investigate Father’s adjustment to parenting a child diagnosed with ASD.

**Benefits of the study**: This study will tell us about the Father’s experience of parenting their child diagnosed with ASD. The focus will be on what Fathers value about parenting their child and the barriers that impact on them living according to those values. It will also inform us about designing supportive programs appropriate to the specific needs of Fathers with children with ASD.

**What would be required from you**: This study will involve two interviews that will last approximately one hour each.

If you are interested in participating in this study or require further information please contact Vicki Holmes (researcher) on:

Phone 0400 605 224

or

Email: 1048-11@cairnmillar.edu.au
July 2012

Athletics ‘Come & Try’ day for children with a disability or special needs

The Coburg Little Athletics Centre has been operating since 1966 and is run solely by volunteer parents. We pride ourselves on being a family friendly environment and fostering a community spirit. We also provide a safe sporting atmosphere where children can learn the values of friendship, personal best performance and being part of a team. Our motto has always been ‘Family, Fun and Fitness’.

With the Olympics just around the corner, we are taking this opportunity to forge links with the wider community. We encourage greater participation in athletics and wish to offer a ‘Come & Try’ day for children who have special needs and whom might like to participate in this wonderful sport. This opportunity will be held on Saturday 15th September at the Harold Stevens Track (behind the Basketball Centre).

It is a requirement that parents/guardians stay for the duration of the morning’s activities and we encourage their participation at the events also. After the children have tried out all or some of the events offered, we invite them to stay with their families for a BBQ lunch with an opportunity to talk to other families in attendance on the day.

Enclosed is a flyer and registration form which we would like you to copy and give to interested children and families at your school or Centre please.

If you would like more information about our centre please log onto our website at: www.coburglac.com.au or contact me on 0417 557 302. Alternatively, you can contact Penny Kelly, Assistant Team Manager of the Westbreen club within the Coburg Centre on 0400 912 606.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathleen Marsh
President
Athletics ‘Come & Try’ Day
For Children with Special Needs

What: Athletics Come & Try Day (ages 5 upwards)
When: 15th September, 9:30am till noon
       BBQ lunch afterwards.
Where: Harold Stevens Reserve
       Outlook Rd, Coburg. Melways Ref: 18 A 10
       (Located behind the Basketball centre)
       Register to participate by 07/09/2012

www.coburglac.com.au  coburglac@gmail.com
Registration Form
Athletics ‘Come & Try’ Day
Harold Stevens Reserve, Coburg - 15th September, 2012

Athlete’s Name: ___________________________ Age: _____________
Address: __________________________________________
Parent/Guardian’s Name: ____________________________
Mobile Phone: _________________________________
Email Address: ___________________________________
Permission given to take and publish photographs ______ YES / NO _________________
Disability / Special needs:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Please circle the events you wish to participate in:
100m  200m  400m  Shot put  Discus  Long Jump

Any other information you would like to provide:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Will you be joining us for a BBQ lunch after the events?
If so, how many people in attendance? _____________
Any special dietary needs/ allergies? ______________________________

For more information please contact:
Coburg Little Athletics Centre
Kathleen Marsh – President  (M) 0417 557 302;
Send entry form to 51 Cornwall Street, West Brunswick 3055  or to email coburglac@gmail.com

Closing Date – 7th September

Coburg Little Athletics Centre
Harold Stevens Athletics track, Outlook Road, Coburg
See website for more details www.coburglac.com.au
Employment, Community and LifeSkills EXPO

NMIT's Work Education Centre would like to present a journey to success.

An EXPO for young people to explore work options, voluntary work, community participation, sports, recreational and social activities and to have fun.

There will be over 40 organisations and exhibitors. You can talk to representatives from community organisations, Centrelink, Specialist Employment Services, dance and performance groups. Find out about exciting new things for work, study or to do in your spare time.

Date: Tuesday 14 August 2012
Time: 1–6pm
Place: NMIT Conference Centre
Cramer Street
Preston 3072 (see map overleaf)
Cost: Free

Who can attend?
- School staff, students and school groups
- Young people and adults
- Families/ Carers/ Advocates
- Transition Planners
- Other interested individuals and parties.
The Work Education Centre welcomes you all.

Group registration welcomed.
Please register by Friday 3 August 2012
All welcome on the day.

p: 03 9269 8390
e: workeducationcentre@nmit.vic.edu.au
w: www.nmit.edu.au/wec
NMIT Conference Centre
Building U
Cramer Street
Preston

Enter the St Georges Road student carpark and drive through to the Conference Centre carpark.

Please note: Parking in Cramer Street is limited.
Our annual
Father's Day Stall

Being held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of August 2012.
Timetable to be advised.

Gifts ranging from $1.00 to $5.00
Including a 50c Lucky Dip

***Please send money in an envelope with your child’s name on it as well as a spare plastic bag, also with your child’s name on it to place their precious gift in.
NORTHERN SCHOOL FOR AUTISM SHOPPING SPREE BUS TOUR!!!!

...Sick and tired of not enough “TIME OUT” just for you...Well here’s that “YOU TIME” you have all been waiting for! ...Yes that’s right ladies here comes a day JUST FOR YOU AND ONLY YOU!

Hi everyone my name is Lisa Sette – fundraising co-ordinator at Northern School for Autism Jacana campus. Please join me on a fun-filled FRENZY spending day! We will be visiting great outlets where you can SAVE UP TO 70 % OFF RETAIL PRICES!

TOUR INCLUDES: 11 outlets and a 2 course lunch at The Croxton Park Hotel with a glass of wine, soft drink and tea/coffee. Also throughout the day on the bus there will be raffles, prizes, giveaways, refreshments and nibblies too!!!

OUR PROFIT WILL BE THE 10 % COMMISION ON OUR TOTAL SALES FOR THE ENTIRE DAY!!!

The outlets will be;
Toy worx, Cady stripes, 1999, Beaches, Brucesters, Fila, Classica, Home direct, Natio, Diamond cut, Sirocco

DATE: Sunday 28th October 2012   PICK UP TIME: 8.00am
PICK-UP ADDRESS: Kmart Campbelfield, Hume hwy (across from Hungry Jacks)
DROP-OFF: approx. 6.00pm   PRICE: $50 per person

***PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST BY CONTACTING ME (LISA) ON
0403 737 410 BY AUGUST 28th 2012
FULL PAYMENT IS DUE BY: October 8th 2012

The tour also includes the following: *Luxury coach transport
*A friendly and informative hostess

SO DON’T MISS OUT!

TOGETHER WE WILL HAVE GREAT DAY!