FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the final newsletter of Term 3. The weeks have flown by very quickly. It has been a busy term with Book Fair, Fathers’ Day Stalls, Concerts and news about the separation of the school. Thanks to all the staff for your hard work this term. I hope all of you as well as the students and families enjoy the spring holiday break.

Thank you Steve Shennan
Thanks to school councillor and NSA dad – Steve S – who has organised for 50% of funds raised by the Hume City Outdoor Staff (Coolaroo, Craigieburn and Sunbury) annual Christmas Community fundraiser to be presented to the Northern School of Autism. The Outdoor Staff raised just on $10,000.00 last year so this will be a wonderful bonus for NSA. Thanks Steve – we will all keep an eye out for raffle tickets to support the fundraising events leading up to Christmas.

Jacana School for Autism
Now we have had the wonderful news that the Jacana Campus is to become an autonomous school next year, the leadership and admin teams have swung into action to organise the many things required for Jacana to be a standalone school. Corinne is overseeing the separation and I would like to thank her for her work in this regard. I have been liaising with the Department about establishing an interim council and hope to have definite news about this in early Term 4, I also hope to have some news about the principal appointment/recruitment process. Thanks to Carlee T who has been re-badging documents all week preparing them for the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority. Your work is much appreciated.

Talking Finance
Corinne and I have been attending a series of professional learning sessions in regard to overseeing school budgets and accounting processes. It has been very informative and will be very helpful over the next Term as we work toward the separation.

Principal’s Forum
This week I attended a principals’ forum for all Northern Metropolitan Region principals. This was held by the Regional Director – Wayne Craig. The focus of the day was achieving excellence in education. The NMR - under the direction of Wayne Craig has seen fantastic gains in student achievement over the past five years as the schools in the NMR are all focussed on supporting all students to fulfil their potential. It was a great day to celebrate the achievements of our students and schools.

Department Update
You may or may not be aware that there have been significant budget cuts in the DEECD. This has meant job losses and consolidation of the regions. From next year the DEECD will operate across 4 regions instead of 9. NSA and JSA will part of the Northern Victorian Region stretching from Richmond to Mildura. We will have to wait and see exactly how these changes impact upon our communities.

Anna Rigoni
Principal
Northern School for Autism Newsletter

CAMPUS NEWS

Jacana Campus

Family Support Meeting
Wednesday 24/10/12
POKITTS-Parents of Kids in the Spectrum

Wednesday 7/11/12
Interchange North West- Recreational activities for children and young people with disabilities

Wednesday 21/11/12
TBA

Wednesday 12/12/12
End of year celebration

JSA update
We are in the planning stages for 2013 and with the news of the new school Jacana School for Autism, there is much to do. We are already in the process of registering the new school and re branding all our official documentation. The working party is meeting weekly and will provide ongoing reports to the school community as the information becomes available. It will be a busy but exciting time ahead and I look forward to supporting the community through this period.

Fundraising News
The Book Fair was a great success. A special thank you to Anne Cameron, (literacy co-ordinator) Helen Young, (numeracy co-ordinator) and their support team for organising the display. It was great to see the students visit the book fair and chat about their favourite books. Thanks to Jenelle Braden, Marisa Griffiths and Lisa Sette for assisting with processing the orders each morning last week. We have booked a date for 2013 for the Book Fair. Special Footy Lunch Thursday 20th September: Please remember to get your lunch orders in by Monday 17th September.

Shopping Tour: Sunday 28th October. There is only 3 vacancies remaining. Please contact Lisa Sette if you are interested in coming along. It's a great opportunity to meet people and a fun day out.

Teaching & Learning
The Healthy Living Kitchen is heavily booked by all our budding Master Chef’s. Our students now have opportunities to learn new skills in our new domestic kitchen. The project cost was $50,000 and it is really a great place for these important independent living skills to be taught.

Changes to the preparation and serving of food at NSA
In early May we informed our families that we would be undertaking a review of the Healthy Food Services at Northern School for Autism due to health and safety concerns with food preparation in classrooms. As a result of the review, staff will not be preparing food in classrooms for health and safety reasons. We have 2 fully equipped kitchens that staff/students are able to access to prepare and serve food. If your child brings a hot meal from home to school for lunch, as of term 4 we are requesting that you send your child’s food in a container that will keep the food warm, such as a thermos. In 2013 we intend to employ a Healthy Living Support Staff that will assist in purchasing and storing food for the school. Please speak to your sub school leader if you have any questions in relation to this change. Thank you for your support with this.

JACANARAMA CONCERT
Over the past two days I have had the pleasure of watching our students perform in front of a large audience. At times this can be extremely exciting and stressful for some of our students. I was thrilled to see all of them shine for their families. I was particularly happy to see the faces of the proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles as they watched their child perform. I would particularly like to thank all the staff especially Laura Soall and Catherine Schmidt who worked so hard to put the production together. A special thanks to all the students for their hard work! After all it wouldn’t be a concert without them. It is certainly an event that no one wants to miss each year.

Melbourne Show-Lucky Number Draw
Congratulations to Damien Ahmed who won 4 free tickets to the Royal Melbourne Show.

Corinne Pupillo
Campus Principal
Healthy Living Kitchen- Our Master Chef's at work

School Concert 2012
We have been enjoying our rehearsals in the Middle Years this term for our School Concert. Here’s some snap shots of rooms 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 getting into the concert spirit for our performances.
Exercise you mood

Lapathon 2012

Today’s Lapathon was a huge success. The students had a great time doing their laps.

Parents please send in your sponsorship money by Thursday 13th September.
Thank you to Karen Mac for Organising.
And thank you to students and Teachers for your participation.
HUME CITY COUNCIL AND HUME DISABILITY ISSUES GROUP PRESENT

BEING SOCIAL IN THE COMMUNITY

Get more involved in your community

Come along to the ‘Being Social in Your Community’ Forum and learn about what opportunities exist with sport and recreation, participation in community events, disability programs and opportunities to support local groups.

The forum is open to individuals with a disability, support staff and community members who would like to become involved. Guest speakers on the night will be discussing their roles in the community, experiences, current programs and resources available.

**When**
Tuesday 25 September 2012

**Time**
6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Where**
Hume Global Learning Centre, Seminar Room 4
1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows.

Light refreshments and food will be available on the night.

Register your attendance before Tuesday 19 September 2012. For more information please contact Metro Access Project Officer, Andrew Tranter by phone 9205 2485 or email andrewtr@hume.vic.gov.au

9205 2200  www.hume.vic.gov.au
Go to a sensory-friendly movie this Saturday at 11am!

Village Cinemas

Village Cinemas are showing sensory-friendly screenings of *Ice Age 4, Continental Drift* at 4 of their cinemas at 11am on Saturday 15 September.

*Ice Age 4, Sensory Friendly screenings, will be held at:*

- Airport West
- Century City
- Fountain Gate
- Knox

These are the first of a series of sensory-friendly screenings, where house lights will be kept on and sound lowered to avoid sensory overload. The intention is for it to be and enjoyable and relaxing experience for those with ASD and their families in an understanding environment.

**Tickets are just $6 each: book online at [www.villagecinemas.com.au](http://www.villagecinemas.com.au) - click on “Book Now” and choose the session which says “SFF”**.

We are very grateful to Village for this trial and we hope that it is successful – if it is, it should become a regular event! So please pass this on to anyone else who might be interested.

Enjoy the movie!
The Amaze Membership Team
DISCO MANIA

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Discomania –
rock’n’roll event
Rudely Interrupted and Comfortable OK

Rudely Interrupted are one of Australia’s most unique touring rock bands; supported by Sunbury’s own Comfortable OK who will perform their own new wave ambient rock.

7pm – 10pm, Broadmeadows Leisure Centre
Cnr Pearcedale Parade and Dimboola Road, Broadmeadows
Tickets: $12 (carers free), includes light supper and drinks.
Bookings: 9205 2560

Presented by Broadmeadows Disability Services*
Fri 19 to Sun 21 October
Cost: $60/person*
A weekend of time out and having fun with others who know what it’s like to have a sibling on the spectrum - ‘cos they have one too...

- Camp fire
- Party night
- Beach, canoeing, kayaking
- Giant swing, giant slide, high ropes and flying fox
- Share a fun weekend!

For Grades 6-12 with one or more siblings with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Registrations for The BIG Weekend open Monday 3 September. Places are limited. More details and link to book online at www.amaze.org.au

With thanks to RadioMarathon and the Jack Brockhoff Foundation for their sponsorship of this event.

* Train/bus costs from regional locations (and accommodation if needed) will be met by Amaze.
Digital Learning Hub

Siblings in Sync
Special Needs Access Program

Siblings in Sync is a unique and innovative school holiday program for children and young people with disabilities and their siblings.

It aims to foster relationships between siblings, provide positive shared experiences, and give children the opportunity to express themselves and communicate with their sibling through creative music-making.

The sessions are run by two Registered Music Therapists and are tailored to suit the individual needs of participants within small group settings.

Participants will have the opportunity to:
- Create music together
- Use music technology (including The Special Access Kit™)
- Record their own music and voices
- Create their own CD

A Music Therapist will be in contact with you prior to sessions commencing to obtain relevant information in order to plan for individual needs.

All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the sessions.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW
AS PLACES ARE LIMITED!

Thank you to the generous donors who support the Special Needs Access Program:
Anonymous
Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Mrs Barbara Haynes

For more information or to book, phone (03) 9281 8194, or email snap@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Music Therapy is the planned and creative use of music to attain and maintain health and wellbeing. It may address physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals within a therapeutic relationship. Music Therapy is a registered allied health profession.

STOP PRESS!

Siblings in Sync was recently awarded the Arts Portfolio Leadership Award for Leadership in Disability Access.

The Arts Portfolio Awards recognise outstanding achievement amongst Victoria’s arts institutions and agencies including Arts Centre Melbourne, NGV, the State Library of Victoria, ACMI, Museum Victoria and more.

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<tr>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Ages 5 – 15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Arts Centre Melbourne’s Digital Learning Hub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Times</td>
<td>11am (teens group) or 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Tuesday 25th September and Thursday 27th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>60 mins each day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$25 per family</td>
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Please note: This is a two day program. It is expected that families will attend at their chosen time on both days.

Arts Centre Melbourne

artscentremelbourne.com.au/snap
ALL TICKETS $6 SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS

Village Cinemas Australia are bringing Sensory Friendly Films to families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Sensory Friendly Films allows families to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment with the cinema lights turned up and the sound turned down.

11.00AM Saturday 15th September
ICE AGE 4 CONTINENTAL DRIFT
PG

11.00AM Saturday 20th October
11.00AM Sunday 21st October
MADAGASCAR 3 EUROPE'S MOST WANTED
CTC

11.00AM Saturday 17th November
11.00AM Sunday 18th November
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
CTC

BUY TICKETS AT THE TICKET BOX OR AT VILLAGECINEMAS.COM.AU

VILLAGE CINEMAS

PARTICIPATING SITES: AIRPORT WEST, CENTURY CITY WALK, FOUNTAIN GATE AND KNOX
Secret agent training for detecting and managing emotions

Secret Agent Society (SAS) is an espionage-themed 12-session emotion regulation and social skills program for children with high-functioning Autism Spectrum Conditions (Asperger type), aged between 8 and 12. This highly engaging group program creates a fun and supportive environment at your school or clinic to help your ‘junior detective’ develop essential life skills, such as how to:

- recognise emotions in themselves and others
- express their feelings in appropriate ways
- talk and play with others
- solve friendship problems, and
- cope with change and deal with bullying.

SAS features a multi-level, animated computer game and child group therapy sessions, which are supported by strategic play activities such as the Challenger board game, walkie-talkie voice transmission game and Helpful Thought Missile game.

Child group sessions are complemented by parent education, teacher tip sheets, real-life missions and a system to monitor progress and reward achievement. With this network of support behind them, ‘junior detectives’ learn how to use new skills in a variety of situations.

“This program is a great resource for clinicians, teachers and families. It provides the skills and resources needed to fully engage children on the autism spectrum - and make learning fun! I highly recommend the Secret Agent Society program as the resources are innovative, well targeted and can make a big difference to how children on the spectrum manage their home and school life.”

Dr Tony Attwood, International expert on Asperger’s Syndrome
Supporting children across home & school

Secret Agent Society (SAS) is an internationally recognised program achieving remarkable success in improving the social and emotional skills of children on the spectrum. A randomised controlled trial at the University of Queensland showed 76% of children diagnosed with Asperger Disorder who participated in the program improved from having clinically significant delays in social functioning to showing social skills within the range of typically developing kids. This is currently the most clinically significant change published to date for a social skills program for children with high-functioning Autism Spectrum Conditions in the world.

With an increasing number of teachers and guidance officers being trained to deliver SAS in schools, there is also increasing research interest in the program’s application in schools. A three-year evaluation of SAS is currently underway across five Australian school districts.

DELIVERING SAS GROUPS

The SAS Group Program is a comprehensive 12-session emotion regulation and social skills program which can be delivered in a private practice, community or school setting. It features a multi-level computer game, strategic learning activities and ready-to-use engaging resources. SAS is designed to help children generalise their skills across environments by involving parents and teachers in the program from day one.

A two-day SAS training course provides professionals with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to help prepare them to deliver the SAS Group Program. The Social Skills Training Institute, which disseminates SAS, will deliver 16 training events around the world in 2012. For more information on training or to find a trained facilitator near you, visit www.sst-institute.net.

SAS RESOURCES

Are you interested in SAS intervention tools to complement your work with children? Our SAS Computer Game Pack and Challenger board game can be purchased separately by parents or professionals to help teach children emotion regulation and social problem solving.

The Computer Game Pack contains the multi-level animated computer game and a selection of the espionage-themed visual supports from the SAS Group Program. The Challenger board game integrates role-plays with fun, physical activities to practice emotion regulation and social skills. For more information or to place an order please visit www.sst-institute.net.
The Dads to Dads Program offers fathers (and other significant male carers) of people with a disability or chronic illness the opportunity to meet other dads and to develop the confidence, skills and networks they need to take an active role in the support of their son or daughter.

The focus of Dads to Dads is not on disability or chronic illness; but the strengths and capacity of men and the whole family.

**Weekends Away**

We invite fathers of people with a disability or chronic illness to join a small group of dads on a weekend away.

This weekend includes:

* Two night’s accommodation, most meals
* Entry to an activity or event (eg. Fishing, quad biking, music festival, tour)
* Sharing of stories and skill building

"It was great to meet other blokes who are in the same boat as me!"

Dad to 9 year old boy with Autism

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Program Coordinator

John Page: 0407 840 296
Email: john-dads@bigpond.com

General Enquires & Bookings

Kylie Cleever: (03) 54 353 158
Email: perrin1971-dads@bigpond.com
Northern ASD Network presents

Training for Parents and Early Childhood Professionals.

PreSchool, Child Care, Family Day Care, Occasional Care, Early Intervention, Early Years Primary School and Parents

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Exploring Autism Spectrum Disorders and the impact on a young child.

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<th>WHEN?</th>
<th>INFORMATION TOPICS</th>
<th>BOOKINGS</th>
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| Information sessions will be presented on Thursday evenings, over four weeks. | **Week One - 18th October**  
Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Explores ASD and impact on play and learning | Seating is limited, so book early to ensure a place.  
For further information and bookings contact: |
| Commencing Thursday 18th October 2012  
6:30pm – 8:30pm (coffee /tea available from 6:15pm) | **Week Two - 25th October**  
Communication  
And the use of visual strategies to enhance communication. | Jenny Orso at Kalparrin  
Monday - Thursday  
during school terms  
8.30am - 3.30pm on  
Ph: 9435 8311 |
| WHERE? | **Week Three - 1st November**  
Sensory Integration  
Supporting children’s sensory needs. | COST  
Parents: donation  
Prof: $120 for 4 sessions. |
| Meadow Heights PS  
Paringa Boulevard  
Meadow Heights  
Melways ref. 179 J11 | **Week Four - 8th November**  
Behaviours  
Addressing a child’s behaviour difficulties. | Cheques payable to ‘Kalparrin N-ASD Network’  
Direct Debit available  
ABN: 61 827 714 605 |
| A follow up session will be held on Thursday 22nd November  
“Resources for Children with Autism”  
$40 including materials. | Invoice/Receipt available upon request.  
Payment MUST be received with booking. |
Northern ASD network are currently offering a once off opportunity of financial support for families to attend an approved Autism specific training session of their choice.

This opportunity of $100 assistance is offered to 40 families only on a “first in” basis. Eligibility is also extended to those families on waiting lists for early intervention.

To apply for this support please complete the form below and obtain approval from an early intervention worker. Once completed then forward to Jenny Orso at Kalparrin, PO Box 93 Greensborough 3088

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Course Details

Course Costs

Recommended By

Centre