FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

News from School Council – 30th October

Proposed Fitness Bike / Walking Track - School Council will engage Mark Gabell & Associates to complete this project. Mark has undertaken work in other schools in the western suburbs and comes highly recommended – anticipated commencement for project is Christmas / January holiday period. The school has allocated $220,000 for this project and will also include a storage shed for the bikes and buses, valued at $30,000. I have attached a draft plan to the newsletter for your information. We are looking forward to working closely with Mark and his team to create a much needed recreational / learning space for the students across the school.

Due to the age of one of the school owned buses, School Council agreed to sell the old School Bus, registration WOL 247 / Toyota Hiace. Expression of interest to purchase the bus will be circulated to the school community via the JSA Facebook Page and the school newsletter (attached). Pending the sale date, disposal will be determined in consultation with the new owner. Arrangements to contract one of the MEE’s buses have been put in place to ensure class excursions will not be affected by the sale of this bus.

Policies endorsed – Facebook Policy.

2015 Class Groups

Thank you to families who have been communicating their requests for 2015. Parent / carer requests have been considered and we have endeavoured to accommodate your request. 2015 class list to be sent home to families on Friday 12th December, 2014.

Foundation students - Orientation Program

Our new foundation students will commence their transition to school on Thursday 13th November. The orientation program is coordinated by Deb Munt and well supported by the Early Years teaching team and therapy team. The orientation program is important to ensure that all our new enrolments are well supported when moving from pre school to school. There are a number of important supports to put in place and we will support each family to ensure their child experiences a smooth transition to JSA.

Student Support Group Meetings (SSG’s)

Teachers are currently in the process of writing end of year reports. After a year of intense teaching and support, parents/carers will be invited to attend the last formal SSG meeting for the year. A letter will be sent home, inviting you to attend the meeting in week 9. SSG’s will be held between Monday 1st December and Thursday 4th December. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the successes of the year as well as discuss any further goals for 2015. Please make the time to attend this important milestone in your child’s learning.

Year 6 & Year 12 Graduation

Graduation presentations will be held in the PLC on Thursday 11th December at 2pm. Invitations will be sent home to parents/carers in the very near future if you have a child graduating this year.

Extra Curricular Activities

Schools are generally very busy and engaging places. JSA is no different to any other school and over the past few weeks there have been a number of additional activities outside the regular classroom excursions. Celebrating achievements and acknowledging students for their efforts is so important to us here as well as celebrating some of the international traditions. Students at JSA seemed to embrace the Halloween tradition, dressing up in seriously scary costumes may be your child’s wish however other’s seem to embrace the more traditional extra curricular activities.

2014 TERM DATES:


Tennis Victoria & Origin Tennis

Thank you to Tolly and sponsors Tennis Victoria and Origin Tennis for the opportunity to provide specialist tennis coaching for the students in room 22. Song has been not only preparing students for long distance running but also developing eye hand co-ordination. No better way than tennis to sharpen the co-ordination skills.

A special thank you to Tolly for his enthusiasm and ability to engage students in a game of tennis. Parents and carers of room 22, you should challenge your child to a game or two to see how they have improved.

Whittlesea Agricultural Show - Art Awards

The annual Whittlesea Agricultural Show was held over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd November, five students from JSA entered their artwork under the category of “Decorated Shoe – Special Needs”.

Congratulations to the following students for their awards – we are very proud of you all. Check out the JSA Facebook Page to see the fabulous and creative work or drop in to the front reception to see the shoes.

Ages 15-18
Jacob Cartelli – 2nd Prize

Ages 10-14
Jack Darby – 1st Prize
Nathan Prigg – 2nd Prize
Adam Tsigeridis – Very Highly Commended
Shane Hodgson - Commended
Daniel Matassini - Commended

World Teacher’s Day

On behalf of the school community I would like to sincerely thank all our teachers’ for their hard work and contributions to JSA. Working as a teacher is very rewarding and inspiring however, it can be quite demanding due to the nature of our student's disabilities and expectations from the department. At the end of the toughest days, teachers need to continue to engage in meetings and professional learning to improve on their skills and knowledge. To celebrate World Teacher’s Day JSA held a special afternoon tea where all staff could share each other’s company and take time out of the busy day to acknowledge their super efforts.

Curriculum Day Monday 3rd November

Teachers participated in a full day workshop, facilitated by Joe Corbett. The workshop provided our leaders with the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. Staff worked to develop behaviours that support the school values (respect, responsibility and empathy) and further enrich the culture at JSA.

Joe also facilitated workshops unpacking the following key documents:
- Ministerial Order 199
- Australian Professional Standards for Teaching
- Victorian Institute of Teaching - Code of Conduct

Joe will return on Wednesday 26th November to follow up on some of the discussion and set tasks. The day was very relevant for all staff in attendance and highly engaging.

Volunteers Morning Tea – Tuesday November 11th

Each year, JSA relies on the generous support of our volunteers. We greatly appreciate the time and effort to support the programs here and invite them for a special morning tea to acknowledge and celebrate their contributions. We look forward to seeing all our volunteers at the morning tea.

Family Support Meeting

Our next Family Support Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November. Please join us from 9.15 – 10.30 in the Professional Learning Centre for an Occupational Therapy show and tell.

Fundraising

Shopping Tour: Thank you to Lisa Sette and the fundraising team on a fabulous shopping tour - $1,521.99 was raised on the day. Well done to all the shoppers.

Fundraising events coming up
- Silver Coin Frenzy is back! Monday 17th November – Friday 21st November
- Special BBQ Lunch order day: Thursday 11th December
- Christmas Raffle: Drawn Monday 15th December

Our next Fundraising meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November at 10.30am in the PLC. We always welcome new members to the committee. Please feel free to join us.

www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au
Traffic in Bamburgh Street

Thank you to the parents who are treating Bamburgh street as ONE WAY from North to South.

It is reducing the traffic congestion.

I am also requesting parents do not do U turns nor use the neighbour’s driveway in Bamburgh Street. U turns add to the congestion in the street at a busy time.

The parking in Emu parade is expected to change to time-limited parking shortly.

Reminder: Our newsletter is published each fortnight and will provide you with important information about the school and events that may be of interest to you. I encourage you to read the newsletter that will be sent home with your child, emailed to you or on the school website.


JSA also has a Facebook Page administered by the leadership team. https://www.facebook.com/JacanaSchoolforAutism

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Room 1 visits Werribee

Room 1 had a great time at the zoo last Friday. They loved seeing all the animals especially the hippopotamus, camels and the baby rhinoceros!
We have been extremely busy in Room 2 over the last few weeks. Not only do we enjoy doing all the fun things like Halloween dress ups and excursions, we still have enough time to do our individual learning and some group time too.
We have had the best year in room 9. We have been on lots of fun excursions, and done lots of fun activities. We have made new friends this year, worked hard, and above all WE HAD FUN!!!!
Room 22 has completed their Advance program in 2014, as well as attending a wide range of Travel Training excursions. We wish the students attending VCAL in 2015 the best of luck, and we also wish those students continuing their studies at JSA the best of luck in their future.

ROOM 22 TERM FOUR ADVENTURES!
Room 23 have engaged a tennis lessons from a “Tennis Pro”—Tolly from Tennis Victoria & Origin Tennis. The students are enjoying the opportunity to use their current skills and develop them further with a expert in the field.
Homework is an opportunity for you to help and be involved in your child’s learning.

Homework reinforces what they learn at school and encourages lifelong skills and habits.

At JSA homework may look very different to what is seen in a mainstream school setting. It may look like:-
  ⇒ Reading to your child
  ⇒ Following a schedule
  ⇒ Working on play skills
  ⇒ Using their AAC devices to practice effective communication skills
  ⇒ Working on fine motor skills
  ⇒ Visiting different venues
  ⇒ Tasting new and different foods.
  ⇒ Learning household chores

Some students may have homework in its traditional forms
  ⇒ Take home readers
  ⇒ Work sheets
  ⇒ A project

Homework will look different for each individual child. Here are some suggestions of what you can be doing at home if you want to work with your child.

*Reading is an important way to make the link from spoken words to written words. Reading to your child is a valuable thing to do. Here are some tips:*

- Encourage your child to select books, magazines, catalogues, multimedia stories or DVDs that interest them.
- Discuss the pictures in a book and encourage your child to talk about the pictures.
- Share wordless picture books to develop imagination, ideas and vocabulary by naming things in the pictures.
- Re-read your child’s favourite books and stories.
- Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books.
- Support your child to make their own books with pictures and then ‘read’ the story to you.
When your child reads to you, allow time for working out words and ask questions to see if he or she understands what they have read.

If your child is trying to read a long or tricky word, give your child time and ask questions like these:

- Look at the picture, what can you see that might start with that letter?
- Look at the picture, what word makes sense?
- What letter does it start with? What sound does the letter make?
- What letter does it end with?

It’s also important for you to show your child how you read every day for different purposes, for example: recipes, greeting cards, calendars, shopping lists, food labels, instructions, maps,

Book talk is an important part of reading. Chat about the book before, during and after reading and really encourage your child to talk about their ideas and ask questions about the book.

Here are some questions you can ask at different times before, during and after reading the book:

- What would you like to read about?
- Would you like to choose a book you know?
- Look at the cover – what do you think this book is about?
- What is happening in the pictures?
- How could we work out these tricky words?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What was your favourite part of the book?
- Who was your favourite character in the story? Why did you like that character?

Like reading, writing becomes an everyday activity at home. Let your child see you writing.

Try some of these writing ideas at home:

- Write a shopping list or add items to the list and tick off the items as you buy or unpack them.
- Keep a board to write and read family messages.
- Give your child a pad of sticky notes to write reminders for themselves.
- Plan and write your weekly menu together.
- Write captions for photographs in your family photo albums.
• Write labels for your child's art works and creations.
• Make words using magnetic letters and stick them on the fridge.
• Make and write greeting cards, birthday cards, and thank you notes.
• Keep a family calendar on display and write down family events. Talk about upcoming events with your child, for example, where, when, and who will be there.

Children need lots of experiences in making, counting, drawing and talking about numbers. Make connections for your child by explaining how numbers and counting are a part of everyday life. The activities below will help your child develop these skills. You may feel that the maths your child is doing at school is different from how you were taught, but you will still be able to support your child in many ways.

Playing shop: Collect food and grocery items and label them with prices written on sticky notes or prices cut out of shopping catalogues.
• Talk about how we pay for items using notes and coins.
• Make paper money or use play money to buy and sell goods from the shop.
• Order the food items by height (tallest to the shortest) or by cost (least expensive to most expensive).
• Introduce kitchen scales to the shop to weigh some foods such as a box of tea bags or a bag of rice and order items by weight.

Making patterns: Recognising and making patterns are important maths skills for exploring numbers, shapes and symmetry.
• Identify and explain visual patterns on clothing, wrapping paper, crockery, cards and furniture.
• Use coloured pegs, blocks, beads or cutlery to begin a pattern for your child to continue. For example, red, blue, white, red, blue, white.
• Encourage your child to draw, create and describe their own patterns. Use them for borders or greeting cards or on material.
Measuring things

- Use a wall measuring chart to measure the height of people in your family.

- Cut a piece of string for your child, any length will do. Use the string to measure the objects in your house to find out what is longer or shorter than your ‘string measuring tape’. Ask your child to identify anything that is the same length.

- Explore other ways of measuring using a cup, jug, teaspoon, icy pole sticks, foot prints or hand lengths.

- Build a tower of blocks that is taller than a favourite toy. Ask your child to count the total blocks to measure the height of the tower.

Go on a number hunt

- With your child find numbers around you, for example house numbers, calendars.

- Look at and say the numbers on car number plates, signs, calendars, newspapers, shopping catalogues, speed signs, house numbers.

- Use different numbers as the starting point for practising counting, for example start counting from 6 or 10. Ask your child to count forwards and backwards. Ask what number comes before or what number comes after.
Expression of Interest
We are selling one of our Toyota Hiace Commuter Bus - Rego Number: WOL-247

Model: Toyota Hiace 1990
Kilometres: 212,716

Transmission: Manual 4cyl 2.8L
Rego: April 2015.

A road worthy certificate will be provided with purchase of vehicle.

Purchase Offers close: 4pm, 21st November, 2014. Please complete the form below if you would like to submit a purchase offer. Vehicle inspection by appointment only.

Contact: Glynis Lawson - 9309 6258

Please submit your Purchase Offer in a sealed envelope marked confidential to Glynis Lawson.

Disposal date: to be agreed with successful buyer.

________________________________________________________________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Contact Details: __________________________________________________________

Purchase Offer: $ ______________________________________________________

Signature: _______________________________________________________________
Schoolkids Bonus

Important update about the Schoolkids Bonus

Legislation has passed to end the Schoolkids Bonus payments. The Schoolkids Bonus will continue until the end of 2016. This will allow families time to adjust to the change. The last instalment will be paid in July 2016.

An income test will also apply to the Schoolkids Bonus starting on 1 January 2015.

Any updates and news will be published here on the DSS website and the Australian Families Facebook page.

The Schoolkids Bonus aims to help eligible families and students with the education related costs of primary and secondary school studies, such as school fees, uniforms, books and sports, music or other lessons.

Each year, eligible families and students will receive up to:

- $422 for each child in primary school (two instalments of $211)
- $842 for each child in secondary school (two instalments of $421)

Half is paid in January and half in July.

Eligibility

The Schoolkids Bonus is available to families and carers who have a child in primary or secondary study and receive one of the following payments in respect of that child:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Veterans’ Children Education Scheme
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme

The Schoolkids Bonus is also available to students, under 20 years of age*, who receive one of the following payments for themselves:

- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme

*students aged 19, must have turned 19 in the relevant calendar year. In order to receive the final instalment of Schoolkids Bonus for a 1 January eligibility day a student may be aged 20, but must have turned 20 on that eligibility day.

Eligibility is determined on 1 January (for the January payment) and 30 June (for the July payment) each year. This means families and students must be receiving one the payments above on these dates to receive the Schoolkids Bonus.

In order to be eligible, a family or individual must not have an annual adjusted taxable income of more than $100,000 for the year in which the bonus test day falls.

**More information**

For more information about the Schoolkids Bonus visit the Human Services website.

Last updated: 1 October 2014 - 3:06pm
Free two day workshop and information sessions for parents and carers of school age children on the autism spectrum

Workshop: 2014VICPC10  Location: Craigieburn

Like all school-age students, children with autism spectrum disorder benefit from strong, positive relationships between the home and school. Positive Partnerships uses evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers.

What will you learn?

When you come along to a Positive Partnerships workshop, you will:

- Develop a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- Understand how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- Learn specific strategies that will help you:
  - advocate for your child
  - support your child’s participation at school
  - develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
- Receive information about your local school system’s processes
- Have the opportunity to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
- Have the opportunity to discuss a range of topics relevant to students with ASD and their families

People who work to support families living with autism in your community will also be invited to take part with the goal that there is an ongoing community focus beyond the workshop.

Workshop details

Venue: Highgate Recreation Reserve
229 Grand Boulevard, Craigieburn VIC 3064

When: Two day workshop — Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 November 2014
Day 1: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm (Registration from 8.15 am)
Day 2: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Registration available from Tuesday 7 October 2014 and closes two days prior.
We strongly recommend you register as soon as possible to secure your place. You will receive confirmation of your registration.

Online registrations are preferred directly through our secure website www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet. Return the completed form to:

Email: parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au
Mail: Positive Partnerships, ASPECT, PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087
Fax: 02 9451 9661

Phone the Positive Partnerships Infoline if you have any enquiries: 1300 881 971

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.
Broadmeadows Disability Services invites you to attend an important FREE forum about the future of disability services and supports

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The NDIS is a new way of delivering disability support in Australia. It is a nation-wide, demand-driven system of supports tailored to the needs of individuals and established on a sustainable, long-term basis. It is a system of supports that allows people with disability to live with dignity, choice and control.

How will the NDIS affect me and my family?

Come along and join the discussion regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to learn more about it and ask any questions about how it will impact on you and your family

Where: Broadmeadows Disability Services
241 Camp Road
Broadmeadows (Mel: Map 7 Ref A10)

When: Thursday 13 November 2014
5.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 18 November 2014
11.00am – 1.00pm

Where: Connections at Craigieburn
59 Craigieburn Road
Craigieburn (Mel: Map 387 Ref B9)

When: Monday 17 November 2014
12.00pm – 2.00pm or
5.30pm – 7.30pm

To RSVP - call BDS Reception - 9309 7488
Thursday 16 October 2014

Dear White Ribbon Supporter

RE: HUME WHITE RIBBON WALK

Thank you for your support of Hume City Council's White Ribbon Campaign.

Our active and family friendly event returns in 2014 to promote awareness of the message of White Ribbon – that violence against women is not acceptable in our society.

Event details are as follows:

- **When:** Sunday 9 November 2014
- **Time:** 9:45am for a 10am start
- **Where:** Jacana Reserve, Lorraine Crescent, Jacana (Melway Map 6, D8)
- **Distance:** 3 kilometres
- **Entry Fee:** By donation

*Entry is by donation with all proceeds going to the not-for-profit organisation, Berry Street, which has been supporting Victorian children and families since 1877.*

The three kilometre walk will be held off-road starting at Jacana Reserve, and will then follow the picturesque pathways along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Participants can also enjoy a healthy BBQ after the walk.


We look forward to seeing you at the 2014 Hume White Ribbon Walk.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

CR CASEY NUNN
MAYOR
WHITE RIBBON WALK

9 NOVEMBER

9.45am – 12pm
Jacana Reserve
Broadmeadows

Phone 9205 2200
www.hume.vic.gov.au
Jacana School for Autism is once again undertaking a silver coin frenzy for 1 week of term 4. This involves sending any loose silver coins in to school with your child. The school will send out a tally at the end of the frenzy. All the money raised will go towards the Bike Education Program. We thank you for your support!