FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

Every Minute Counts

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. The building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses can affect their educational outcomes.

We do know that autism affects students in different ways and we are very supportive of an inclusive education for all our students. We also know that at times different things impact on school attendance and there are individual arrangements with home and school in place to support these situations.

If you have concerns about attendance please contact Deb Munt the Student Transition and Wellbeing co-ordinator and we can support your child.

Volunteers Morning Tea

On Tuesday the 11th November we celebrated the contributions of our fantastic volunteers. Members of the leadership team had the privilege of personally thanking our volunteers for their support throughout the year. I spoke about the school’s vision and mission, in particular about the importance of the professional multi-disciplinary team.

Vision: Jacana School for Autism fosters resilience and lifelong learning enabling students to be active participants in family and community life.

Mission: Students are supported by a committed professional multi-disciplinary team, working towards developing their personal and educational potential.

The school strives to continually develop highly customised teaching and learning programs in line with evidence based practice in a safe and supportive environment.

Family members and community members bring their own highly valued professional experience to the role of a volunteer and together we can make a difference to the quality of program delivery. A special thank you to D’Arcy Owen and Dunedin Ngau for presenting the small gifts on behalf of the school.

2014 Hume Whittlesea VET/VCAL/SBAT Awards

We are very proud to announce that two of our students undertaking VCAL (foundation) this year have been recognised for their efforts throughout the year. We are now in our 3rd year of offering VCAL and the number of students enrolled in the VCAL – Foundation course is increasing each year.

Congratulations to the following students, it is certainly a very special achievement and a great honour to be recognised at this level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tekaria Miki</td>
<td>VCAL – Encouragement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Bartolo</td>
<td>VCAL - Achievement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tekaria and Josh and their families have been invited to the award ceremony on Thursday 20th November at NMIT Bundoora. Great effort boys and I hope you enjoy the celebrations with your family.

Thank you to Kristie Giannakis, (Later Years Sub School Leader), Karen MacDonough (VCAL teacher), Vi Troung and Elise Gordon (Teacher Aides) for supporting all the VCAL students to achieve their goals this year.

2014 TERM DATES:

Term 1: 30 January – 4 April
Term 2: 22 April – 27 June
Term 3: 14 July – 19 September
Term 4: 6 October – 19 December

Building and grounds

Oval redevelopment - Mark Gabell and Associates will commence the project prior to Christmas. The project will commence prior to the end of the year to enable the grass to be established for term 1. We are really thrilled to be able to commence the project with Mark eager to proceed with the removal of the trees and levelling the area so the concrete path can be laid and cured prior to the installation of new screening plants, shrubs and instant grass.

The area will be transformed into a wonderful, less structured recreational space where students can ride, walk, play ball sports or just hang outdoors in the learning area.

Disposal of school owned bus – WOL 247

Reminder: Expression of Interest to purchase the bus is due by 4pm November 21st 2014. Please contact Glynis for further information or see the JSA Facebook page.

Foundation students - Orientation Program

It was exciting to see all the new foundation students commence their transition to school program. The orientation program is coordinated by Deb Munt and well supported by the Early Years teaching team and therapy team. There is another transition session planned for Thursday 27th November where students and families will have the opportunity to continue to familiarise themselves to the school environment as well as get to know some of the operational aspects of the school. We look forward to seeing all our new students, including students who are transferring in from other settings in the new year.

Student Support Groups Meetings (SSG’s)

Reminder: SSG’s will be held between Monday 1st December and Thursday 4th December. A letter will be sent home, inviting you to attend the meeting in week 9. 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

Reminder: 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.

Family Support Meeting

Our next last Family Support Meeting for the year was held on Thursday 20th November. Our Occupational Therapy team was on hand to share all of the great therapy resources we have here at JSA.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has attended throughout the year. The meetings provide an opportunity for families to meet and access information and advice that is most relevant to their child’s education, health and wellbeing. We have designed a brief survey to canvas ideas for the 2015 Family Support Meetings. Deb would appreciate your feedback so we can design the meetings in line with what families need.

2015 – VCAL Information evening

Parents and students intending to undertake the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Foundation Level) in 2015 attended an information session on Wednesday 19th in the PLC. The information provided will enable students and parents / carers to make the best choices for future pathways to post school options. Pathway selection will be finalised prior to the distribution of the 2015 class groups. Thank you to staff and families for attending the information session and we look forward to continuing to support your child in their education journey.

Fundraising

Fundraising events coming up:

Silver Coin Frenzy: Monday 17th November – Friday 21st November – The winner is Room 1, raising $332.95.

Total amount raised: $796.45

Special BBQ Lunch order day: Thursday 11th December

Christmas Raffle: Drawn Monday 15th December

The Fundraising Committee met this week for the last time for 2014. A special thank you to Lisa Sette and the entire support team for their fundraising ideas, hard work and enthusiasm in 2014. It has been a hugely successful year and students benefit significantly from the generosity of the entire team. A special mention to Carlee Toniolo for all the administration support as without her organisation and diligence it would be a challenge to manage so many activities on the calendar. This year our target is to generate additional funds to purchase bikes for the bike program.

It has been a pleasure working with you all and we look forward to continuing the great work and supporting the programs in 2015.
Cyber Safety

The Australian Government has a website to support parents who want advice about cybersafety or to be informed before their children are at the stage of using technology [http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx]

I’ve attached some information sheets from one of their publications to the newsletter. You cannot know too much about cyber safety.

If you suspect or know that a child is being negatively impacted by things happening to them online, consider seeking professional support for them, including through the Cybersmart Online Helpline, provided by Kids Helpline. The service provides free, confidential online counselling for children and young people. Visit cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx

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.

[http://www.jacaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au/]

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

Like Us On facebook

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www.jacaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au
Room 7 Newsletter

Room 7 have been enjoying lots of excursions and special days in term 4. We have been on local walks to the Degani's cafe, Collingwood Children's Farm, Williamston Beach and swimming. We have been learning lots and having fun!
Classroom Fun in Room 8!!

In Term 4, there have been many achievements and successes for all of the students in Room 8. The students have all worked hard and should be very proud of what they have achieved in all areas of their learning. As we head into the final weeks of Term 4, we look forward to having lots of fun with our friends and begin the count down to the holidays.

Well done Summer, Mackenzie, Kosta, Ahmad, Liam, Giovanni and Daksh!!!
Room 3

We have been out and about, going for walks, going to the Trampoline Park and Skinners Adventure Park. We all love the bus drives and have a great time at all the venues and get some exercise. We have also had some fun dress up days for footy and Halloween. And we always have fun choosing songs and doing activities in class.
Room 4 have had a great term. We have been having lots of fun and learning lots of interesting things. Our latest adventures were to La Porchetta for lunch and to Bundoora Farm.
Room 14 have been very busy! We have been learning about social skills such as turn taking, waiting, sharing and playing co-operatively together!
Room 23 have been busy in The Healthy Living Kitchen throughout the year. Students have used their skills to cook a variety of foods including pancakes, sausage rolls, lasagne, chicken pie and chocolate chip cup cakes. All students were active participants, working cooperatively in small groups. They followed illustrated recipe books and quickly learnt skills to produce some delicious meals.
Last night I had the pleasure of attending the award ceremony for this year's recipients of the Hume Whittlesea VET/VCAL/SBAT awards. We had 2 students that were nominated for awards. Joshua Bartolo and Tekaria Miki. Josh attended with his mum and was supported by his classroom teacher Karen MacDonough. Karen also accepted Tekaria's award as he is presently overseas and could not attend. On behalf of the staff and wider school community congratulations Josh and Tekaria on your achievements this year in your school work.
Volunteers Morning Tea

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR

WONDERFUL

VOLUNTEERS
Cooking plays a very important role in part of our school curriculum. Many of the AusVELS curriculums such as English, Mathematics, Science, Personal Development and Interpersonal Development can be taught using cooking as a thematic approach, we can teach a range of curriculum area. Cooking also allows us to address some of sensory difficulties our children may face with food.

Some of the important areas we work on are below:

**English** (Language/communication skills):
- Labelling and vocabulary development – for example; ingredients, utensils, actions, appliances etc.
- Responding to an instruction (verbal/visual) – here we are checking for understanding
- Responding to *who, what, where, how and when* question
- Learning verbs – cut, open, pour, stir, peel, grate etc.
- Requesting opportunities – generalisation of communication skills in other areas.
- Giving an instruction to another – working on expressive communication to peers
- Reading and following a recipe – looks at comprehension and whether they can follow step by step instructions
- Learning concepts – empty / full, dirty / clean, hot / cold, melted/frozen
- Commenting opportunities – again opportunities for our students to use and develop their expressive skills.

**Mathematics**:
- Counting
- Responding to an instruction – e.g. get 4 chopping boards.
- Responding to a question – *how many? What colour?*
- Identifying how many are needed
- 1-1 correspondence
- Measurement – 1 cup, ½ cup etc.
- Sequencing – i.e. what to do next (peel the carrot, chop/grate,)
- Concepts – full / empty, not enough/ too much, long/short, dirty/clean

**Personal Learning**

**Independent Living Skills:**
- Washing and drying dishes
- Wiping tables, benches
- Sweeping & mopping floors
- Using equipment safely
• Danger awareness around kitchen appliances and utensils
• Desensitizing to smell, taste, touch etc.
• Increasing diet range
• Eating skills – managing a knife / fork/spoon /food

**Fine motor skills:**
• Pouring
• Spreading
• Cutting
• Grating
• Stirring
• Carrying
• Open and closing of containers

**Problem solving:**
• How to open
• Where to find
• What is needed
• What to do next
• How to clean up a mess
• Where things belong – cold items/fridge, frozen foods/freezer
• What to do if you cannot find something
• Finding space in the cupboard/fridge

**Interpersonal Learning**
• Sharing
• Turn taking
• Working in a group (small and large)
• Cooperation skills

**Long term:**
• For your child to be able to make their own toast for breakfast, while you may be busy with your other children.
• For your child to sit at the table with the family at meal times.
• For your child to help you in the kitchen to prepare the family meal.
• For your child to be able to live independently in a group home.

There are many benefits in exposing our students to this type of activity. But the end product of our cooking sessions – a lovely meal - is not our focus. It is the process your child goes through experiencing many of the above opportunities and developing their skills.

_Sue Johnston_

_Assistant Principal – Teaching & Learning_
1. Have you attended any of the Family Support meetings in 2014?  
   YES / NO (please circle)

2. If you attended, please circle the sessions you found most valuable. (tick the box/boxes)
   - Early Years A/Early Years B Presentation
   - Young Ambassadors Program—Banksia Gardens
   - Psychology Presentation
   - Middle/Later Years Presentation
   - Speech Therapy Presentation
   - Melbourne City Mission
   - Music Therapy
   - Occupational Therapy Presentations

3. If you did not attend those listed, would you attend if there was a topic of interest?  
   YES / NO (please circle)

4. What topics would you like to have on the program for 2015?  
   (tick box/boxes)
   - Dietician
   - Post school options
   - The Association for people with a disability
   - Other ……………………………………………………………………………………………

Please complete and return to the school ASAP

FAMILY NAME: __________________________ (OPTIONAL)
# Every Minute Counts

**Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is....</th>
<th>over 13 years of schooling, that's....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly HALF A YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 AND A HALF YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 2 AND A HALF YEARS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?**

That's when every minute counts the most!
Social Networking

Social networking describes a variety of services like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, World of Warcraft, Moshi Monsters, Twitter, Skype, Snapchat, Minecraft and many others.

All of these services enable direct interaction between individuals. Users can post information about themselves, display photos, tell people what they've been up to, chat and play games. Social networking forms a part of the social identity of many teenagers.

GROOMING

Online grooming is the illegal act of adults making contact with a child online for the purpose of establishing a sexual relationship. Often this will be via a social networking site, but it may also be through other online services.

WHAT CAN I DO? As a parent, you can help your child have positive experiences on social networking sites.

+ Stay involved in your child's use of new technology. Set up your own account and learn about privacy settings so you can understand how you can best protect your child. It can be fun for you too!
+ Check the age restrictions for the social networking service or game. Some social networking sites (such as Club Penguin) are created especially for children under the age of 13, but most mainstream sites like Facebook, Instagram and others require the user to be 13 or older.
+ Advise children to set their accounts to private so that only people they want to see it can view their information.
+ Encourage children to think before they put anything online. Information posted online can be difficult or impossible to remove. An inappropriate image posted today can have a long term impact on their digital reputation.
+ Show them how to set up location services on their phone so they are not inadvertently broadcasting their location.
+ Remind children to be careful when making new friends online; people may not be who they say they are. Never arrange to meet an online friend unless a trusted adult is with them.
+ Report any abuse or inappropriate content to the social networking site and show children how to do this too.
+ Learn how to keep a copy of online conversations and how to block people prior to an issue occurring.

For more information on managing your children's access to particular social networking sites, visit cybersmart.gov.au/parents.aspx
CINEMANIA

FAMILY TWILIGHT NIGHT

Celebration of International Day of People with Disability

Where: Craigieburn Leisure Centre
When: 5 December 2014
Time: 7pm to 10pm
Cost: Free

(Registration & tickets at the Craigieburn Leisure Centre by the 1 December 2014 as there are only 500 tickets available)

For further information please call our friendly customer service team at the Craigieburn Leisure Centre on 9205 2650

State Government Victoria
Department of Human Services
NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE A phone solution for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment
HUME City Council

NO SMOKING NO ALCOHOL