FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

School Camp – Blackwood Super Ride

On Wednesday 6th November 3 staff and 6 students from the Lateral Years set off for a 2 day bike camp commencing at Blackwood and riding to Trentham for some lunch and then back to Blackwood for some rest and relaxation after the long ride. Students and staff rode 40 km along some of Victoria’s most picturesque landscape. Students from specialist schools around Victoria participate in the ride each year. Students from JSA managed some very challenging terrain but were well supported and encouraged along the way. Kym Tonkin and I met the group at Trentham at the half way point on Thursday where they looked a little tired but very motivated and enthusiastic about the ride. Thank you to Karen MacDonough for organising/supervising the camp as well as Tina Perini and Ben Crosby for attending the camp to support the program and the students. They all returned in very high spirits today and already plans are underway for next year’s super ride.

Curriculum Day – School Self Evaluation and New Strategic Plan

On Monday 4th November, staff worked off site at The Meadows Convention Centre commencing the first stages of the development of the new JSA Strategic Plan. Consultants, Joe Corbett and Chris Daicos, facilitated the activities on the day. Both Joe and Chris have worked with staff at JSA in the past and have a deep knowledge and understanding of the context and history of the school. Staff engaged in workshops that reflected back on the school vision statement, motto (Learning for Life) and community values as well as sessions that enabled staff to contribute to the evaluation of the current school strategic plan and targets. Areas that staff appraised for the school self evaluation report include:

Student Learning
Student Engagement and Wellbeing
Student Transitions

This school self evaluation precedes the 2014 School Review where a designated external reviewer will engage with members of the school community to evaluate school targets and achievements throughout the Strategic Plan period (2010-2013).

Currently we are gathering data and other evidence to support the findings. A report will be provided to school council early next year as well as the development of a new school strategic plan for the period 2014-2017.

Thank you to our families for your co-operation in keeping your child/ren home on special curriculum days. Professional development is a very important part of the culture of JSA where staff commit a great deal of their own time to be professionally engaged in their careers and becoming life long learners.

Celebrating Halloween

Students across the school celebrated Halloween with some very creative costumes this year. It was lovely to see students having fun and exploring different experiences.

2013 TERM DATES:
Term 1: 31 January—28 March
Term 2: 15 April—28 June
Term 3: 15 July—20 September
Term 4: 7 October—20 December
Dressing up and being different is a great way to teach acceptance and diversity, however these experiences may not always be fun or exciting for all of our ASD students. For some students these can be quite distressing, causing an increase in anxiety. I appreciate diversity amongst our community and thank staff and families for exercising their discretion on such events in order to support all students.

School Council - Thursday 31st October

School Council minutes can be found on the website for those who may be interested. We do have one vacancy for a parent member if you are interested, please contact Corinne Pupillo.

Policies that were ratified at the school council meeting included:

- Financial Policies
- Integration Policy
- Management & Support of Student Behaviour - Incorporating School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
- Staff Leave Policy
- Student Illness & Head Lice Policy
- VCAL Policy

If you would like a copy of any of the JSA Policies please contact the general office.

DEECD Parent Opinion Survey

Earlier this year a random selection of families were sent a confidential survey to complete about the overall school climate. Forty surveys were distributed randomly to our families with 68% of families completing the survey. The survey is very important as it provided the school with a snapshot of how parents/carers view the school policies, structures and processes. At the meeting, school councilors reviewed the results and noted some very positive feedback from families. Whilst there was no comparative data from previous years for JSA it was certainly a great start for our new school.

Positive feedback and responses included: (Maximum mean of 7)
- General Satisfaction - mean 6.11
- Behaviour Management - mean 6.26
- Teacher Moral - mean 6.27
- Stimulating Learning - mean 6.25
- School Improvement - mean 6.10
- Approachability - mean 6.25
- Therapy Services - mean 6.11
- Parent Input - mean 5.90

School council felt that the focus for our work in the new year could be developing processes and programs to improve the Transitions (5.83) and Social Skills (5.8) programs across the school. This will be the new work for the leadership team in the new strategic plan period.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the office.

Later Years – Dates to remember

Parents and Siblings presentation will be held on Tuesday 21st November 5.30pm - 6.00pm. Invitations will be sent home soon.

Launch of the VCAL Art Mural will be held on Tuesday 3rd December. Invitations will be sent home soon.

Graduation ceremony for students in their final year of schooling at JSA and students moving from the primary years of schooling to the secondary years of schooling will be held on Thursday 12th December at 2pm in the PLC. Invitations will be sent home to families very soon.

Later Years Disco will be held on Monday 16th December in the PLC.

New Secondary School Uniform - Reminder

Final Day for the new secondary school uniform will be Thursday November 28th. Please make sure you have ordered by this date to have your Secondary tops for 2014.

JSA Facebook Page: CURRENTLY WE HAVE 80 LIKES

JSA now has a Facebook page that is administered by the admin and leadership team. Please like us on Facebook to keep updated on all the news and events.

https://www.facebook.com/JacanaSchoolforAutism

Like Us On Facebook
2014 Term Dates & Events

| TERM 1 (10 weeks) | 30th January to 4th April |
| TERM 2 (11 weeks) | 22nd April to 27th June |
| TERM 3 (10 weeks) | 14th July to 19th September |
| TERM 4 (11 weeks) | 6th October to 19th December |

CURRICULUM DAYS

| TERM 1 | Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January |
| TERM 3 | Friday, 18th July (TBC) |
| TERM 4 | Monday, 3rd November |

**Fundraising Committee News**

**Total raised $10,931.00**

**Shopping Tour** – Congratulations to the fundraising committee for a great effort in raising funds for the school. Fifty six parents, carers and friends of the community participated in the shopping tour on Sunday 13th October and added $1,905.95 to the profits. Total raised to date is $10,931.00, which is a fabulous effort by the committee. We are now in a position to purchase the sound system for the Professional Learning Centre. Special thanks to Lisa Sette for co-ordinating a great day. Well done everyone.

**Silver Coin Frenzy:** Thank you to members of the school community for participating so passionately in the Silver Coin Frenzy. There has been some strong competition between the classes. With 2 weeks to go I wonder who will win the voucher for the special fish and chip lunch?? Keep the silver coins coming everyone!

**Pyjama Day – Friday 15th November:** A special day has been organised to help raise funds for the school. Students and staff can attend school in their PJ’s and donate a gold coin.

**BBQ Lunch order – Thursday 28th November:** More information will be sent home with your child very soon.

**Term 4 Fundraising Meeting dates – new members welcome**

Final 2014 Meeting - Thursday 21st November 10.30 – 11.30

**Family Support Meeting**

Association for Disability 21st November – 9.15am in the PLC.

**Baby News**

Congratulations to Rachel Ferris on the safe arrival of her son Leo Ferris, born on 1st November, weighing 7lb 8oz and 51cm long.

We look forward to a visit from Rachel and Leo in the near future.

**Corinne Pupillo**

Principal

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ROOM 8

ENJOYED DRESSING UP FOR HALLOWEEN
Room 2 visited the Melbourne Aquarium and really enjoyed seeing the Crocodiles and seeing the diver in the water!
ADVANCE Program

Blackwood Super Ride and Camp

Room 18. 40kms!!!
Silver Coin Frenzy

Date: Monday 28th October 2013-Friday 22nd November 2013

Weeks 4-7 of Term 4

This year Jacana School for Autism is undertaking a silver coin frenzy for 4 weeks of term 4. This involves sending any loose silver coins in to school with your child. At the end of the four weeks the class that has raised the most money will be rewarded with fish and chips and a can of soft drink or bottle of water. The school will send out a tally each week to let you know of each classes progress as well as the total tally. All the money raised will go towards a sound system for the PLC.
TIME OUT FOR SPORTS

SPRING INTO SPORT

Spring into Sport allows your child to play a range of dynamic and active programs over 8 weeks; these include Cricket, Teeball, Athletics and Soccer. This Program will not only provide an essential base for your child's motor skills but help build awareness, co-ordination and friendship all in an enjoyable environment.

- Specialised program for Children with Autism
- Small ratios
- Fun program

WHEN: Friday
COMMENCING: 25th October 2013
CONCLUDING: 13th December 2013
TIME: 3.45pm – 4.45pm

AGES: 5yrs – 12yrs

COST: $60
VENUE: Craigieburn Leisure Centre, Craigieburn Road, West Craigieburn 3064

ONLINE ENROLMENT

To enrol, please visit www.kellysports.com.au/zone/northwest or fill out the below enrolment form & send with a cheque or credit card details to: PO BOX 71, Moonee Vale VIC 3055. Do not leave enrolment forms at the school office.

ENROLMENT FORM

School: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________

Address: _________________________

Phone: ___________________________

Mobile/Work: _____________________

Email: ___________________________

Medical Conditions: ___________________________

Parent consent: I hereby authorise Kelly Sports to act on my behalf should my child require medical attention, and release Kelly Sports North West from any liability for injury incurred by my child at Kelly Sports programmes.

Parent/Caregiver name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Amount Paid: $ __________

Credit card payment: □ Visa □ Mastercard

Card Number: ___________

Expiry Date: ___________
Presents

DARE 2 DREAM FESTIVAL

2013 Free Community Event

10am - 4pm Saturday 7th December

Union Hall, La Trobe University
Kingsbury Drive (off Plenty Rd)
Bundoora

Food Stalls Activities Entertainment
Youth & Community Stage

Featuring Adeaze Deelicious Tama Tatau Much Much More!

For more information contact us:
(03) 8312 1562 info@bridgingworx.org.au
www.bridgingworx.org.au