Northern School for Autism

"Learning for Life"

Jacana Campus Ph: 9309 6258

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Entry Students
It has been a joy to see the entry students settling into school. School provides a steep learning curve for our youngest children. The entry classroom teams, therapists and leading teachers are all working hard to support the children adjust to the routines of school life. Thanks to the parents/carers of our entry students for entrusting us with the care of your child. Sending our children off to school is a big step and it can be an anxious time for parents/carers – if you have any concerns at any time please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, sub-school leader or a member of the principal class team. We are all here to support you and your child.

Leadership Teams 2012
Whole School
Anna Rigoni Principal
Felicia Mete Business Manager

Jacana Campus
Corinne Pupillo Jacana Campus Principal
Sue Johnston Jacana Campus Assistant Principal
Annette McKee Early Years A Sub-school Leader
Lauren Tippett Early Years B Sub-school Leader
Elizabeth Smith Middle Years Sub-school Leader
Angela Mancini Later Years Sub-school Leader
Jenny Bishop Therapy Team Leader
Denise Clarke OHS/eLearning Coordinator
Deb Munt Student Transition & Wellbeing Coordinator
Sonja Resuggan Assistant Business Manager

Preston and Lalor Campus
Pamela Mathieson Preston and Lalor Campus Assistant Principal
Maria Saric Early Years Sub-school Leader
Heather Kirkhope Middle Years Sub-school Leader
Katherine Davies Later Years Sub-school Leader & Lalor Campus Leader
Anastasia Hueston Therapy Team Leader
Laura Greaves Student Transition & Wellbeing Coordinator
Michelle McMaster Assistant Business Manager

SunSmart
NSA is a SunSmart School so that means everyone should wear a hat when outdoors during breaks – students and staff! The HATS ON rule applies between the beginning of September until the end of April. Help us protect your child’s skin by making sure they have a hat at school – broad rimmed are best. You can purchase a broad rimmed hat at Kmart or Target.
Parent/carer Pack
This week the Parent/carer packs were sent home – we appreciate your cooperation and support in completing the many forms required. It is very important that we have your current contact details as well as medical management plans if your child has asthma, epilepsy or anaphylaxis. Please return the forms to school as soon as you can.

Meet the Teacher Night and Family Picnic
Thank you to the entire community for attending Meet the Teacher Night. This annual event provides the community with the opportunity to meet one another and begin developing the home/school partnerships which are vital to support the students. It is also an opportunity for parents/carers to meet the other families in their child’s room. Thank you to the staff for working after hours and to all our families for coming along to support the school and your children! Unfortunately the weather prevented us from holding the picnic this year.

School Council Elections
Nominations for the current vacancies for the 2012 school council close on Feb 29th – please contact Anna Rigoni if you would like more information.

Parent/carer Payments and excursions
This year the school has made changes to the way we collect monies from parents. The Parent/carer payment policy was sent home in the Parent/carer Packs this week. Invoices will be sent home shortly. This year excursion monies are included in the essential education items. We very much appreciate parent/carers making a contribution as these funds support us deliver the school’s resource rich teaching and learning programs. This year the only cash you will be asked to provide is for the cooking program - $4 per week. Your teacher will let you know when the shopping/cooking program for your child’s class will commence (it will be no earlier than week 4). Start dates for excursion programs vary depending upon the needs of the students. Safety is a priority and the school needs to be sure students are able to be safely off school grounds in a group before leaving the premises.

Request for Volunteers
At Northern School for Autism we value our volunteers and welcome new parents to our school. If you are interested in assisting in the classroom or on the fundraising committee, please complete the attached volunteer registration form and return it to the office. We will be holding induction sessions for new volunteers in a few weeks.

Family Support Meetings
Thank you to family members who joined us on Wednesday to meet the leadership team and to view our school DVD. The DVD is on the school website if you didn’t get to the meeting.
Our family support group meet each fortnight and it’s a great opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding about the school and autism. Please put these dates in your diary and join us for some morning tea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</th>
<th>Early Years – Curriculum</th>
<th>Annette McKee &amp; Lauren Tippett</th>
<th>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Junior Middle Years – Curriculum</td>
<td>Elizabeth Smith</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Later Years – Curriculum</td>
<td>Angela Mancini</td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</td>
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Fundraising Committee
Our first meeting was held on Wednesday after the family support meeting. Our fundraising committee consist of Lisa Sette, Theresa Beasy, Leanne Diakodimitrio, Handan Cozkun, Val Alescio and Marissa Griffiths
The fundraising events for this team include:
Term 1  Easter raffle
Term 2  Special lunch order day (TBA) & Mother’s Day stall
Term 3  Special lunch order day (TBA), Father’s Day stall & Bus Shopping Tour (Sunday 28th October TBC)
Term 4  Special Lunch & Christmas Raffle
We are always happy for your support if you would like to attend.

Traffic Management
Thank you to everyone for your patience and co-operation during the first 2 weeks of school. The traffic flow is being managed well and we hope that any minor issues have all been resolved. The very clear drop off and pick up areas are working well for all the MEES buses and parent/carers.
Safety for the whole school community is a priority and we will monitor the traffic volume and flow throughout the year.

Anaphylaxis training
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. The most common allergens in school-aged children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, certain insect stings and medications. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge, awareness and planning.
We have four students known to have anaphylaxis which can be life-threatening if swift treatment is not administered. Each of the students has a medical management plan signed by their doctors so that staff in the student’s classroom are aware of triggers, symptoms and appropriate reaction if a student has an allergic reaction at school.
We are providing a three-hour Anaphylaxis training session for staff after school on Thursday 1st March. We will have a few spare spaces if there are any parents who wish to attend the training. Please call Denise Clarke or email here Clarke.denise.d@edumail.vic.gov.au to book a place.
We strongly advise that students do not share food brought from home unless at a teachers direction. Many foods contain traces of nut (which is the most common allergen) and can cause an allergic reaction to other students.

Anna Rigoni, Principal & Corinne Pupillo, Jacana Campus Principal
# VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home phone number:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile phone number:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Child’s Name:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Campus you would like to attend:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-school you would like to support?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please circle:</strong> Early Years, Middle Years, Later Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I want to volunteer in my child’s room?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please circle:</strong> YES / NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I want to assist with:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please circle:</strong> Fundraising, Excursions, Classroom help, Swimming program, Other:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days available:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please circle day and am or pm or both:</strong> MON am:pm / TUES am:pm / WED am:pm / THU am:pm / FRI am:pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I have a Working with Children Check card?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please circle:</strong> YES / NO</td>
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*Please return this form to Corinne Pupillo at your earliest convenience.*
Early Years A

First Weeks of School.

The students in Early Years A have settled in well to school in 2012. The students have been enjoying the new playground equipment in playground 4.
Middle Years students are really happy to be back at school. They are settling into the new school year and getting to know each other, our new rooms, our new routines and staff. Here you can see some of us at work and at play.
We look forward to sharing more news from each of our classrooms with you soon.

I am very pleased to be the Middle Years Sub School Leader here at NSA’s Jacana campus. If you have any concerns, questions, or just want to chat to someone about your child’s class or program please feel free to contact your teachers or myself here at school. I will be working across all of the Middle Years Rooms to support the staff, students and families of the Middle Years.

Elizabeth Smith
Room 22
Horticulture and Work Experience programs
What: Dads 'n' Lads weekend
When: (4-7 years olds) 11th-12th February and (8+ year olds) 18th-19th February
Where: Phillip Island Nature Parks, Phillip Island
Cost: *$165 all inclusive (dinner, breakfast, activities for one adult, one child). $65 per extra child.

Need an excuse for a boys only weekend? Join us for Dads 'n' lads at Phillip Island Nature Parks – the perfect bonding session for big and little. Ditch the TV, computer games, mobile phones and get back to basics with a weekend of action packed activities. Spend quality time with your son or nephew in the great outdoors of Phillip Island and enjoy the activities for both young and old.

Activities include:

* camping at Churchill Island Heritage Farm
* sleep under the stars, tell tales round the campfire and enjoy a BBQ dinner and big breakfast (*own tent required)
* join a ranger for a rock pool ramble and beach comb
* take part in the farming activities at Churchill Island Heritage Farm
* get competitive with the old time games
* visit the Koala Conservation Centre and see little penguins at the world-famous Penguin Parade.

For Bookings or more information please contact;
Jade Cranton Tel: 5951 2802
email: jcranton@penguins.org.au
Website: www.penguins.org.au click on News & Events and open Dads 'n' Lads – boys adventure weekend
Dads ‘n’ Daughters weekend – girl power in the great outdoors!
Girls – grab your dad, gumboots and a little bit of girl power for a weekend of action packed adventure in the great outdoors of Phillip Island – only 90 minutes from Melbourne.
Camp on Churchill Island and help out around the farm, challenge dad in a sack race and join a ranger for wildlife adventures on the beach and with the koalas. Who says boys have all the fun?!
**What:** Dads ‘n’ Daughters weekend – (girls ages 4+)
**When:** March 17-18 (ages 4-7), and March 24-25 (ages 8+).
**Where:** Phillip Island Nature Parks, Phillip Island
**Cost:** *$165* all inclusive (dinner, breakfast, activities for one adult, one child). $65 per extra child.

Activities include:
- Camping and entry to Churchill Island Heritage Farm (own tent required)
- Ranger guided beach comb at Penguin Parade
- Games
- Ranger guided walks
- Farming activities at Churchill Island Heritage Farm
- Entry to the Koala Conservation Centre
- Koala spotlighting tour
- BBQ Dinner and big breakfast

Phillip Island Nature Parks is a not-for-profit organisation. All proceeds are reinvested into research, conservation and education activities.

**Bookings and information:**
Jade Cranton Tel: 5951 2802 email: jcranton@penguins.org.au.
PERFORMING ARTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (PACSN)

Contact “Jaz” Mob: 0407 348960 Email: info@jazj.com.au

Commencing in Term 2, PACSN is an after School Program for Children with Special Needs, which will be held on a Monday at 4.30pm in Sunbury. Children will be participating in various Dance styles, Acting/Drama, Music and Singing. The 90 minute Class will be delivered by experienced teachers and assisting staff. Children attending maybe Verbal or Non Verbal and do not have to perform publicly, however if enough children are interested in Public Performance a group will be assembled. This program is designed to empower Children to use Music, Dance, Song, Drama and improvisation to communicate, to socialise, to educate and to have HEAPS OF FUN! Children are encouraged to be themselves and grow from there. There will be some structured framework e.g. Jazz, Hip Hop moves, breathing exercises, Instrumental, verbal and silent acting, plus much more. Self-expression, individual and group work will be encouraged with the outcome being FUN!

To secure your child’s placement in a class; please email or call “Jaz” and an enrolment form with further information/fee details will be forwarded to you.

“MUSIC, SONG & DANCE MAKE YOU SMILE FROM THE OUTSIDE IN AND THE INSIDE OUT” 🎵 Jaz
The Australian Education Union and parent groups are campaigning for better resourcing of public schools.

Now is our best chance to let the Government know what a difference more money would make to our school.

Go to www.forourfuture.org.au, type in your postcode and your message will be sent to the Prime Minister and your local MP.