Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

2014 Prep – Prospective Enrolments

Twenty very excited and nervous new prep students attended our orientation sessions last Thursday 14th November. Three sessions were held throughout the day with each session lasting about 1 hour. Our new preps will all be back again next Thursday 28th November. Key workers from the early intervention centres also attended to give advice and information about the children, as well as being a familiar face to the families. Parents were also warmly welcomed to the school and supplied with information about the school, programs and allied health professional service delivery.

These sessions are aimed at:
- introducing students and staff
- familiarising students to the classroom environment
- providing a social script to families explaining orientation
- seeking information and make observations which will inform class groups
- making transition from early intervention to school as smooth as possible.

Thank you to all our new families for making the time to participate in these sessions and to Deb Munt and Annette McKeen for organising the orientation program.

End of year reports

Your child’s end of year report and class list will be sent home on Friday 29th November.

Staff have been engaged in many hours of discussion through the class allocation process. Whilst it is one of the more difficult tasks that the leadership team undertake, it is done in consultation with key stakeholders. Specific transition programs will be put in place for individual students to ensure a seamless transition in to the new school year.

SSG Week—Reminder

Student Support Group meetings will be held on week 9 this term, between Monday 2nd December and Thursday 5th December. On your child’s designated SSG day, your child is not expected to attend school but is encouraged to attend the SSG meeting with you if appropriate. The SSG’s in December are a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the year and we are looking forward to sharing the successes with you.

ADVANCE Program – Information night on ASD

Congratulations and well done to the staff and students from the later years sub school for their informative presentation on ASD. Students expressed their perspective on what it is like living with autism and some of the challenges they face. I am very proud of the students that have undertaken the ADVANCE program. Students have set challenging goals for themselves and have achieved so much over the course of the year. I can see that they are also very engaged and proud to be part of the program and community activities.

The ADVANCE Program is funded by the Department of Human Services and allows students to set goals and targets whilst making links with local communities and organisations.

On behalf of the families, thank you to students and staff in the later years for your commitment to the programs.

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
2014 Transport Arrangements

In preparation for the 20 new prep students, we have commenced the planning phase for 2014. In consultation with MEES Bus Company we will endeavor to inform you as early as possible as to what the pick up / drop off times will be. This is quite a difficult task as we grow in enrolments and the buses fill to capacity. There will be little room for flexibility in the new year and Glynis Lawson (Transport Officer) will commence the process of liaising with families if there are any significant changes to the current pick up/drop off times. I ask that you are patient and understand that there will be very limited room for flexibility next year in managing the seating allocation and times.

School Council Vacancy

Congratulations to Danni Smith on her appointment to School Council. All our positions on council are now filled.

Building & Ground Works

Room 21 Refurbishment:

School council has endorsed building contractors, Festive Homes, to undertake the refurbishment of Room 21. The total project cost is $150,000 and this cost will include the removal of the asbestos as part of the scope of works. The project includes the redesign of the learning spaces, which will include both discrete and open/groups learning areas, toilets, kitchen and laundry. This is a significant investment in the buildings and students will really benefit from the new design and will have more opportunities for engagement in a variety of programs within this area.

Concrete Path:

I would like to sincerely thank parent, Jean Sartore for his work on the new concrete footpath leading from the main administration building to the therapy office/music room. Jean donated his time to lay the concrete last Wednesday. On behalf of the school community we would like to acknowledge your very kind contribution. Many thanks – the walk between these two buildings will be much easier now.

Removal of soil:

The soil on the oval will be removed on Saturday 23rd November which will then be followed by a hygienist test. This area will be out of bounds until the report is complete and we receive approval to access the area. Thank you for your understanding.

Later Years - Dates to remember

The Launch of the VCAL Art Mural will be held on Tuesday 3rd December. Invitations were sent home this week.

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.

Santa’s Visit

Once again we are anticipating that Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to visit the students at JSA.

More information will be available soon. He’s a very busy man to catch.
**Staffing**

Marnie Stilo, our Assistant Business Manager will be leaving JSA in a few weeks as she is expecting her first baby. We wish her well for the safe arrival of her new baby and thank her for her contributions to JSA in particular the administration team. The Assistant Business Manager vacancy is currently being advertised. Until we fill this position, Felicia Mete will remain here at JSA.

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**Fundraising Committee News**

*Silver Coin Frenzy:* Thank you to members of the school community for participating so passionately in the Silver Coin Frenzy. There was some strong competition between some of the classes and we were blown away by the fantastic support from the school community.

Congratulations to the room who raised the most money. They will be notified on Monday and they will receive a special fish and chip lunch day.

**Family Support Meeting**

Thank you to Deb Munt for organising the family support meeting for 2013 & for the families who participated in the presentations. This time is set aside for family members to learn more about the programs and staff here at JSA as well as other services and organisations that can provide support.

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**New Secondary School Uniform – Reminder**

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

**Pyjama Day – Friday 15th November:** A great effort by everyone as well as a bit of fun for staff & students. We raised a total of $135.00.

**BBQ Lunch order: Thursday 28th November:**

Orders have been processed and we are looking forward to our very last special lunch for the year.

A very BIG thank you to all the members of the fundraising committee for the enormous effort in raising funds for the Performing Arts program. We have now purchased a stage and sound system, including 4 microphones for the Professional Learning Centre. A great achievement for the school community! Well done everyone.

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**Corinne Pupillo**

**Principal**

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Phone 9309 6258
Fax 9309 6426
jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au

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**JSA Facebook Page:**
**CURRENTLY WE HAVE 95 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](image)

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www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au

*Learning for life*
Swimming is always popular with our students. Some of the students in room 9 are showing how much fun they are having in the water.
Early Years B – ROOM 4
visited the Melbourne Zoo and had a
great time exploring all of the
different animals and enclosures.
They had a fantastic day!
Mason has learnt how to tie his shoelaces!

Muhammed enjoys playing in the sand.

Zane and Malik are happy at school.

Logan is eating toasted sandwiches!

Jonathan is using the scooter board.
Room 14 has enjoyed doing lots of fun and exciting things this term. We have loved making different things to try in our cooking classes and had great fun out and about roller skating. We all tried our best and had lots of fun.
Brite Industries

Some students from Rooms 23 and 24 visited Brite Industries and were shown what to do by the students who have been working there this year.
ART

EARLY YEARS A & B

The students have been enjoying painting, and making collages. We are now starting on some festive season craft activities. Lots of fun!!
The senior school have been hard at work building up their fitness and enjoying the great outdoors! Well done to all the classes on their efforts.
Planning for the Future Forum Q&A

Do you have a friend or family member who is aged, has an illness, disability or mental illness?

Are you concerned for their future?

Then come along and learn about what legal steps you need to take to help secure their future.

Featuring information on:
Estate planning and making a Will
Powers of Attorney

Guest Speakers
Frank Horvat, qualified lawyer

Light refreshments provided,
RSVPs essential

Wednesday 4 December 2013 at 6:30pm-8:00pm
Banksia Gardens Community Services, 71-81 Pearcedale Pde Broadmeadows 3047

RSVP by Friday 29 November 2013
Rachel 9309 8531 or 0448 595 918   rachel.w@banksiagardens.org.au
English & Play 4 Us!
EP4U - Learning and Fun for CALD Families

Be part of the latest initiative to support CALD women and their children strengthen their language skills and connect to community. English & Play 4 Us is a 90 minute program that uses a number of approaches such as play, music, song, storytelling and more to create a fun filled, social and supportive learning environment especially designed for children aged under 5 and their caregivers.

The program fits within a yearly school term and is structured within a 9 week timeslot, perfect for community hubs, ELC’s and it’s even complementary to adult ESL programs and classes. There is a 70 page manual that guides the user through the sessions in a step by step approach and the package also comes with a USB with craft ideas and other helpful documents.

Ep4U Launch
Hume Early Years Evening
Monday 18th November 2013 - 4.30pm to 6pm

FREE EP4U Training Session
Thursday 28th November 2013 - 12pm to 2pm
Free training place & manual to every Hub worker in Hume (1 person per hub)
Only $50 cost for purchase of manual for all other participants

For more information contact
Sue Farrugia - sue.f@banksiagardens.org.au
Ph: (03) 9309 8531

Broadmeadows Valley
www.bisps.vic.edu.au
Where can I find EP4U.....

English & Play 4 Us runs every Thursday during school term at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School, in the Dimboola Road Early Learning Centre, supported by Banksia Gardens Community Services trained EP4U Support Worker.

Thursday Mornings
9am to 10.30am
30 – 54 Johnstone Street
Broadmeadows VIC 3047

For more information contact:

Sue Farrugia
Early Years Manager
Email: sue.f@banksiagardens.org.au
Ph: (03) 9309 8531

EP4U - Learning and Fun for CALD Families
What is EP4U?

English & Play 4 Us! is a place based project specifically created for CALD children aged under 5 and their caregivers, that began in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, within the City of Hume.

EP4U aims to support CALD children and their caregivers increase their connection to their new community by engaging in play, meeting new families and also by increasing their confidence in English as a second language (ESL). Families participate in a set program of term themes, story books, music and song.

EP4U is an inclusive and easy access model for families and can be adapted to compliment almost any service and support programs.

The EP4U Approach

The program uses the Playgroup model as a platform to provide early years activities, music, craft, stories and song to build language skills and connection.

Each session is based on 90 minutes and sits within a 9 week/school term framework, it has a selection of repeated songs and stories which allows and supports families with very little ESL to join in, share and celebrate together.

- EP4U is a first step program in leaning and being exposed to the English Language
- It focuses on learning through repetition
- It uses shared song, music and reading opportunities
- It aims to provide a space for social cohesion and increase confidence in ESL

Who is it for ......

- CALD children aged under 5 years and their caregivers
- CALD caregivers wishing to increase their confidence or ability in ESL and who can not access childcare or wish to connect, learn and engage with their child at the same time

Who can run EP4U?

- The manual and training session aims to support and provide anyone working or living within CALD communities to run the program
- It would be recommended that positions like Early Childhood Educators, Social Workers, ESL teachers, Community Hub workers, Integration Assistants and Music/Play Therapists would best suit running EP4U
Positive Behaviour Support Workshop

In response to demand for a weekend workshop, Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based autism specific Positive Behaviour Support workshop in the Melbourne CBD.

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support workshops. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

Eligibility to participate in this 2 day workshop:

- Parents or carers of children and young adults aged between 6 and 25 years, diagnosed with ASD
- The individual with ASD must be living at home
- Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

**Professionals registering to attend this workshop must specify the name of the Parent/Carer they are attending the workshop with in the comments section**

Families participating in this 2 day workshop will:

- Develop an understanding of autism and how ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour
- Learn how to be proactive by creating a autism friendly environment at home
- Learn how to write a autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours

Date
30 November 2013 to 1 December 2013

Time
9:00AM - 3:00PM

Location
Rydges on Swanston
701 Swanston Street
Carlton VIC 3000

03 9324 7811

Click here to view map

Click here to register

Please RSVP by 28 November 2013

Website

Print
• Learn how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
• Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life

For course enquiries please contact Amber Day at aday@autismspectrum.org.au or call (03) 9377 6600
Would $500 assist with your child’s school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for education costs including uniforms, textbooks, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition.

You may be eligible if you:
- have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- are 18 or over and
- have some paid income from work (you or your partner).

Contact Christian Unger, your local Saver Plus Worker:
03 9483 2416 / 0407 817 758 or
cunger@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Craigieburn and surrounding districts by the Brotherhood of St Laurence.  
Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.