FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Interim School Council for Jacana School for Autism

Minister Dixon has approved the NSA School Council application to establish an interim school council for Jacana School for Autism. The first meeting of next year will be the last for the current NSA council and be followed by a meeting of the JSA school council. Following this meeting elections will take place and the first meeting of the new NSA council and first elected JSA council will occur. Please consider standing for council as there will be parent/carer vacancies available. The school council oversee the good governance of the school and we very much appreciate that parents/carers volunteer their own time to support the community by becoming a councillor. Elections occur in March of each year.

NSA - School Council

Thanks to Teresa Plone (President), Shane Garoni (Treasurer), Helen Garkinis, Ed Stolinski, Adam Smith, Steve Shennan, Anne Kavanagh and community co-opted member Virginia Smedley for your contribution to the NSA school council in 2012. It has been a truly extraordinary year – there are few school councils that would be required to manage both a de-merger and the construction of a new school in one year! On behalf of the community many thanks – we appreciate the time you have committed and the support you have provided to all of us.

SSGs and Student Reports

Thanks to all our parents/carers for your understanding related to changes for SSG week and end of year reports due to industrial action. Letters have been sent home – teachers will organise mutually agreeable times for the end of year SSGs. Student Reports will go home 29th November.

Last Day of 2012

Reminder that the last day for students attending Lalor and Preston Campuses will be Thursday 20th of December – the finishing time is 3pm. The final day of the year will be a packing up day for the staff working at Preston and Lalor. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. The last day of school for Jacana Students is Friday 21st of December – the finishing time is 1pm.

First Day of 2013

School resumes for all students on Thursday 31st of January 2013.

Hume City Council Fundraiser

Thanks to Steve Shennan who has organised that all proceeds from a Hume City Council fundraising event will be donated to NSA. Tickets will be available to purchase from the Jacana Campus.

End of Year Function

The very last NSA function as a Jacana/Preston/Lalor multi-campus school will be on Thursday 13th of December. The school has invited 230 people – school staff, councillors, volunteers, regional staff and friends of NSA to celebrate the achievements of 2012 and to say goodbye Jacana Campus – good luck Jacana School for Autism! It will be both a happy and sad event – a time to celebrate 7 successful years as a complex multi-campus school as well as farewell one another.

Anna Rigoni
Principal
Acting Campus Principal
A special thank you to Sue Johnston for filling my shoes whilst I took 3 weeks long service leave to support my son through his VCE exams! I really appreciate that whilst Sue undertook my job she also managed to juggle her own role in the teaching and learning area.

Principal Class Observation
The Principal Class Team have completed over fifty classroom observation over the last two terms. We were very impressed with the level of commitment to our Teaching and Learning Protocols. It was great that teams were able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the protocols. Sue and I intend to continue these observations next year and to support all our teaching teams to achieve a high level engagement with these protocols.

2013 School Council for Jacana School for Autism
We have been distributing a number of the booklets entitled Making the Partnership Work to interested parents for the new Jacana School for Autism School Council. We will be calling for nominations for the new school council early next year and we would like our families to consider nominating for school council. It is a great opportunity to gain insight into the operation of the school. School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. The school council develops a vision for the school in collaboration with all members of the school community and is actively involved in the development of and endorses the school’s strategic plan.

Parents or staff who would like to know more about School Council and its role should contact the school on 9309 6258 or email Corinne Pupillo (pupillo.corinne.c@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Alternatively you could check the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/governance/schoolcouncils

Class Groups 2013
The leadership team are finalising recruitment for 2013. We will have 24 classrooms, 2 more than this year. Once all the vacancies have been filled the classroom teams will be finalised and class groups allocated. This information will be given to staff today, 23rd 2012 and to the parents/careers Friday 30th November 2012.

Special Lunch Order Day
The Fundraising Committee are organising a special BBQ lunch order day for Thursday 13th December. Orders forms will go home next week.

Choir
Over the coming weeks the Jacana Campus choir will have opportunities to perform for different audiences within the local Hume area. These opportunities are fabulous and it’s a great pleasure to see our students “shine” within the local community. Thank you to Catherine Schmidt for organising these important events.

JSA Working Party
A small group of administration and leadership staff have been working tirelessly to complete all the tasks associated with the de merger. We now have an ABN number, Bank Accounts, Victorian Registration and Quality Authority (VRQA) approval and the new school name (Jacana School for Autism) submission has been emailed to the NMR, Acting Regional Director, Joe Corbett.

Early next week the new Jacana School for Autism signage will be installed and we are currently in the final editing stages of the new JSA website. I would like to sincerely thank the working party for their attention to detail and hard work to ensure we are in a very good position to commence the new school year as JACANA SCHOOL FOR AUTISM.

Graduation – Friday 7th December
Graduation for students in their final years of primary & secondary schooling will be presented with a graduation certificate and a small gift. It is a very special achievement and each year we acknowledge this event with a special ceremony and afternoon tea. Families will be provided with more information next week.

AEU Stop work meeting Friday 30th November 2012
As mentioned previously the AEU are requesting members to take part in rolling ½ day stop work meetings across the state. Staff from the Jacana Campus will stop work on Friday 30th November 2012. I am currently finalising staffing on this day and will send out letters on Monday 26th November, informing families of the effects of this action. Please note: There will be no MEES bus transport service on this day.

Family Support Meeting
Our next family support meeting will be held on 12th December which is our last one for the year. A Christmas celebration will take place.

EMA Application forms
Just a reminder when you’re sending in your EMA application forms that a copy of a healthcare/concession card needs to be attached in the person’s name who has filled out the form.
Orientation for new students
Our transition programs for new students will commence on Thursday 29th November and 6th December. We value these opportunities so that transition to the new environment can be made as smoothly as possible. We take into account the individual needs of each child. Thank you to Deb Munt for facilitating these visits.

I-Pad App-Write for School
A parent of a child with ASD has developed an application for the I-pad. This application is appropriate for a child with a higher literacy skill level and has a voice output that matches letter, names and numbers as well as a tracing feature. You can find the app on the iTunes store.
https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/writeforschool/id571423628

Corinne Pupillo
Acting Principal

PHOTOS

Room 1 and 8 on excursion to the zoo and museum

Later Years Students at MSAC Basketball Tournament
School Council Involvement - Frequently Asked Questions

In 2013 Jacana School for Autism will establish its own School Council. We need seven (7) parent members on the council.

**Meetings:** Councils must meet a minimum of eight (8) times per year – approximately two per term. The day and time will be negotiated by the new council.

**Term of Office:** Council terms are usually two (2) years. However in this first school council half the members will have a two (2) year term and half will have a one (1) year term, From then on only half of the councils will retire each year (and are eligible for re-election). This provides continuity on the council.

**School Council Training and Information Night** Early in 2013 we will have a School Council Information and training evening for all parents and potential school councilors. We would like anyone who is interested to attend.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?** No! What you need is an interest in the school and the ability to work cooperatively with others to help shape its future.

**Why is parent membership so important?** Parents on councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**What do I need to do to stand for election?** The principal arranges and conducts the elections. Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations in the second half of February or early in March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home. Details of the election process are available from the school.

**Do I have to have children at school if I want to be on school council?** Most positions on school council are for parents with children at the school. However, there are two other categories, DEECD employee members and community members, for which you do not have to have a child at the school.

**Who can be a school council president?** Almost anyone. The only people who cannot be a school council president are DEECD employees in either the DEECD employee or parent category of membership.

**What is coopting?** Coopting allows school councils to bring a person onto the school who may have additional skills and perspectives that the council needs. For example, the council may decide that it wants to use the coopted positions to coopt a member from the local community, such as an accountant, a builder or someone with particular skills they feel they might need.

**Are parent club (Parents and Friends) positions coopted?** There is no mandated parent club position on school council. School council may choose to invite a parent club to nominate one of its members to fill one of the community positions on school council.
On the 15th of November, three classes from Early Years B visited the Melbourne Zoo.

Students from rooms 1, 3 and 5 visited the zoo as they have been learning about different animals and habitats at school.

All of the students and staff had a wonderful day out.
In room 15 we have been doing indoor OT programs with our OT staff Tara and Victoria. We do things like walking on stilts, scooter board, bouncing on hoppy balls and dancing with maracas. Our favourite song to dance to in our OT sessions is ‘Highway Number One’.
In Room 19 we have lots of fun going on excursions. Our most recent trip was to Hanging Rock. We all had a great time and enjoyed the long climb to the top.

Many of the students in our class enjoy doing puzzles. Another favourite activity is science experiments. We enjoy feeling different textures and watching some amazing reactions.
Later Years Basketball Tournament at MSAC
OUR ART ON DISPLAY
DISPLAY OF MIDDLE & LATER YEARS PAINTINGS IN THE FRONT OFFICE AND EARLY YEARS B BUILDING
Play is the work of children. Through play children learn about themselves and the world around them. When all that they see, hear and feel makes sense to them a process of sensory integration occurs. Sensory Integration provides a crucial foundation for developing good physical, academic and social skills.

When we close our eyes while riding on a carnival ride, how do we know that we are moving and perhaps upside down? We know because we are getting sensory information from a sensory system called the vestibular system. We need to correctly process vestibular information to use our vision, prepare our posture, maintain balance, plan our action, calm ourselves down and regulate our behaviour.

Our Occupational therapy room, Bloomfield Hall and playgrounds have lots and lots of vestibular (movement) activities for our students to utilize and experience different movements. Students enjoy swinging on different swings, jumping on trampolines, bouncing on the therapy balls, hopping on hippity hop balls, rocking on the big air mattress, crashing on the crash mats, spinning in the egg chair, riding on scooter boards and hanging off the monkey bars. There are many tricycles and bikes for the students to ride during their play times and structured teaching sessions.

How do we know the position of our fingers when our hands are in our pockets? We know because of the proprioceptive system (muscles and joint perception). Children must know how far to bend and straighten their arms and legs in order to climb a ladder or to write with a pencil. The ability to respond appropriately to proprioceptive input is crucial for motor development. We all tend to instinctively use this input to regulate our nervous system.

Activities that our students enjoy that provide them with proprioceptive input are crawling through tunnels, crawling over gym mats, animal walks, body stretches wearing a body sock, roughhousing, pulling and pushing on scooter boards, hitting a punching bag, hanging from hands on monkey bars and trapeze, climbing on foam shapes and playground equipment, biting, chewing, crunching resistive food or chewy tubing.

We learn about texture, shape and size of objects through our sense of touch. The touch system allows us to determine the location of touch, determine whether the touch is painful and determine the amount of pressure. The inability to respond appropriately to touch sensations can interfere with the ability to develop many skills such as holding a pencil or buttoning a shirt.

A few activities that help develop the touch system that some of our students enjoy at school are play dough, shaving cream, slime, goop, painting, sand pit play, water play, cooking sessions, vibrating toys and pillows, swimming, rice play, and dress ups.
Ideas:

- Take frequent trips to the parks. Give your child lots of opportunities to go on swings and the jungle gym.
- Take them bike riding.
- Build a play fort out of cushions from the couch and chairs. Put pillows inside. Children will enjoy the touch input they get when the cushions crash on them.
- Make a basket of toys and books for hand and finger play.
- Climbing and crawling on hands and knees over and under large pillows, bean bag chairs and through obstacle courses made of furniture are great.
- Jumping on bouncy surfaces, such as a mini or big trampoline, mattress (adult supervision) is great for providing sensory stimulation to muscles and joints.
- Summer is a perfect time to get a sand box. This is creative and tactile stimulating as well as good for improving strength in hands and arms.

Summer time is the best time to do most of these activities and make your child happy.
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
Special Disability Trusts

Guest Speakers
Special Disability Trusts - Mirko Oklobdzija, Centrelink
Wills & Estate Planning - Frank Horvat, qualified lawyer

Light refreshments provided,
RSVPs essential

Thursday 6 December 2012 at 9:45am-12:30pm
Banksia Gardens Community Services, 71-81 Pearcedale Pde Broadmeadows 3047

RSVP by Tuesday 4 December 2012
Rachel 9309 8531 or 0448 595 918  rachel.w@banksiagardens.org.au
Birthday Party

50th

You are invited to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

With a Party!

On Sunday, the 2nd of December from 10 am to 2 pm

H E Kane Kindergarten

Karen Casey

Thank you in advance.

I'm sure we have heard past students that have attended all those years ago.

Could you please circulate our 50th Invitationdy to the families at your school?

To mark this special milestone we are holding a celebration on 2nd Dec.

How exciting..... our Kindergarten is celebrating its 50th Anniversary!!!

Hello fellow educators,

Kane Kindergarten