FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL VALUES ~ EMPATHY ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

School councilors met last night for the final meeting of the year. At this meeting councilors endorsed the budget planning arrangements for 2015, including some large projects to be undertaken throughout the year including the current bike/walking track.

Projects include:

♦ Information Communication Technology - $82,000
♦ Curriculum Programs - $103,000 (Including Mathletics & Sunshine Classic online, excursions, Homecraft/Food tech program)
♦ School Improvement & Professional Learning - $52,000
♦ Administration Upgrade – Budget: $330,000
♦ Bike/Walking Track & landscaping: Budget: $250,000 (including large bus/bike storage shed)
♦ Cyclical Painting – Budget $15,000 (including external north facing windows of the main building, Bloomfield Hall, and the undercover walkway between Early Years A & B)
♦ 5 new heating cooling units for classrooms – $20,000
♦ Application of the Safety Film on windows – $6,600.

School Council endorsed the 2015 Emergency Management Plan and Personal Care Policy, Arrangements for SSG’s, curriculum days and fundraising events for 2015 were also endorsed. The new 2015 Home Communication Diary will be sent home soon with the key dates and information for you. This important diary will be one way to effectively communicate with the school. We encourage you to use this diary to keep updated about school related activities and/or concerns.

Members of the school council have worked diligently in our second year of operation and I thank each and everyone one of them for their continued support throughout the year.

Disposal of school owned bus

After the close of offers for the school bus last week, bus WOL 247 sold for $2,100. These funds will be allocated to the excursion program in 2015. In the event that the larger classes will require a bus for excursions we will be contracting MEES Bus Lines to provide a larger bus and driver. The school will continue to use the 2 other Toyota 12 seater buses for classes of 8 students.

Hume City Council /Parking – Emu Parade

After a long process of collaboration and investigation by the Hume City Council, 2 hour parking restrictions will be in place along Emu Parade. We now believe that the traffic congestion in this area around student drop-off and pick-up times will be minimised. We will however, continue to monitor the traffic and safety issues regularly to ensure traffic is moving effectively around the site. Thank you to Steve Shennan who liaised with the Hume City Council on our behalf.

School Strategic Planning: After a lengthy School Self Evaluation and Peer Review process, school councilors endorsed the new School Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018. This plan details the key improvement areas for the next 4 years as well as the key target areas for ensuring the improvements are met. The new Strategic Plan can be viewed from the school website www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au.

Last day of Term 4, 2014 / Commencement date 2015

Reminder: The last day of term is Friday 19th December. Students will finish at 1pm.

Students return to school on Friday 30th January 2015, including foundations students.
ONE (AMAZE) Certification – Educational Standards

The Quality Action Group have been meeting each Friday afternoon since the beginning of term 2 and will be finalising all the evidence collection as well as celebrating the work of the entire team today.

I would like to sincerely thank the following staff for their commitment to the ONE (previously Amaze) Certification process:

Martina Beggs, Billena Hales, Julie Dojcak, Merryn Horsfall, Lesleigh McCloy, Anne Cameron, Jacinta Patten, Lyn Salter, Deb Munt, Sue Johnston & Denise Clarke.

The school-based audit will take place on 15th, 16th, 17th April 2015. After a successful audit, the school will have endorsement from DEECD and AMAZE as a certified ASD Educational provider.

Student Support Group Meetings

It was great to see so many families attending the SSG’s this week. With a significant focus on celebrating achievements, it was lovely to hear the positive feedback from staff and families. Thank you for taking the time to meet with staff to discuss your child/s progress.

2015 School Bus Runs

We are not anticipating a significant change to student transport routes in 2015. Glynis Lawson has commenced the process of consulting with MEES Bus Lines about the anticipated changes to the runs. When they are finalized, Glynis will be in contact with families.

2015 Staffing – Appointments / Class List

Recruitment panels have been hard at work over the past term recruiting staff for the commencement of the new school year. Thank you to members of the leadership team who chaired panels and to staff members who acted as panel members. Congratulations to those who applied and were successful in gaining positions here at JSA for 2015. All new staff will be formally introduced in the first newsletter of 2015.

Class lists for 2015 will be distributed to families on Friday 12th December, 2014. Thank you to staff and families for your patience and understanding with this process – it can take some time to establish staff and student combinations.

2015 Parent/Carer Payment Policy

Please find attached the School Fee structure for 2015. If you have any questions relating to this information please contact the administration team. Families will be invoiced for Essential Education Items and the Voluntary Contributions (playground audit/maintenance) early 2015. As previously communicated, Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is now incorporated into schools global funding and is based on the Student Family Occupation (SFO) index. At this point in time it appears JSA will receive around $3,000 less under this new framework. The School Council is committed to ensuring all students have access to a quality education and for this reason essential education items are valued and all students will have access to these programs.

Visit from Santa

Santa has confirmed a visit to JSA on Wednesday 10th December from 10.30am in the PLC. Thank you to Adrian Backx from the South Moreton Fire Brigade for organizing this for us.

Building and grounds

Bike/Walking Track - The Mark Gabell and Associates team is in full swing now. The area will be transformed into a wonderful less structured recreational space where students can ride, walk, play ball sports or just hang out doors in the learning area.

Foundation students - Orientation / Transition Program

It was lovely to see all the new foundations students return for the second session of the transition to school program. Thank you to Deb Munt, Julie La Bouchardiere and the therapy team for facilitating these sessions. We highly value the partnership with Early Intervention Centres, Pre Schools and families so that we can best support each individual child. We look forward to seeing all our new students, including students who are transferring in from other settings in the new year.

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 in 2015

Thank you to those families who have returned the brief feedback survey. A hard copy will be sent home if you would like to provide feedback and suggestions for future meetings.

Fundraising

Fundraising events coming up

Special BBQ Lunch order day: Thursday 11th December
Christmas Raffle: Drawn Monday 15th December

2014/15 School Councillors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corinne Pupillo</td>
<td>Executive Officer (Principal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Sette</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Shennan</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Lauria</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna McGrice</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Smith</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Stolinski</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Thomson</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Smedley</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Clarke</td>
<td>DEECD Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristie Giannakis</td>
<td>DEECD Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Johnston</td>
<td>DEECD Representative</td>
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</tbody>
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Corinne Pupillo
Principal
19 - 39 Landy Road, Jacana VIC 3047
Phone 9309 6258
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jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au

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.


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

www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au
Melbourne's City Loop Tram

Room 10’s latest community access adventure was on the City Loop Tram.

After taking the school bus to Docklands, students waited patiently at a tram stop for their ride. For most of the students this was their first time on a tram and they loved looking out at the passing buildings and scenery. Half way around ‘the loop’ students stopped at the beautiful Carlton gardens for lunch and a quick play before jumping back on the tram to complete the loop.
Room 5 has had an excellent term. We have learned how to use public transport by going to the city and to Port Melbourne. We have enjoyed making fruit smoothies and French toast. Keep up the good work Room 5!!
ROOM 6
We have had a blast the last few weeks! We have been making volcanoes in science, playing new social games and have really enjoyed our walk to the Skate Park! The flying fox was a big hit with all the students.
Room 15

We had fun on the swings, slides, flying fox and climbing pyramid at the Golden Sun Moth Playground in Craigieburn. We love trying out new playgrounds.
In Room 24 we do lots of work in the classroom. We like writing about excursions we have been on as well as doing lots of maths work, puzzles, reading and comprehension. It has been a very busy and enjoyable year and we look forward to more fun at school in 2015.
PREP ORIENTATION 2014

We had about 9 excited and nervous prospective new entry students attend 2 orientation sessions. We held 2 sessions throughout the day with each session lasting about 1 hour. During these sessions the students meet new friends and staff from JSA. All of the families had been provided with a Social script about orientation day. JSA staff also learn lots of things about the children. Some of the key workers from the Early Intervention centres also attend to give advice and information about the children as well as being a familiar face to the families. The parents leave their children with our capable staff for about half an hour. In this time the parents are supplied with information about the school. These sessions are aimed at making transition into school a little easier for all.
The Chronic Disease Management Plan
The Better Access to Mental Health Plan
The Helping Children with Autism Access to Diagnosis and Treatment

Medicare is a national body that subsidises primary health care in Australia. Generally, Medicare provides a rebate on the cost of seeing a doctor, but doctors can write special plans that mean you can claim a Medicare rebate for seeing other kinds of health professionals, like therapists. Some of the most relevant plans to people with ASD are listed on this information sheet.

For the most part, Medicare will only refund a limited portion of the overall cost of service and this will usually leave you with a gap that you need to pay yourself. If you end up paying a lot for medical services in one year, you may reach the Medicare Safety Net. Reaching the Medicare Safety Net means you get a higher rebate for Medicare-subsidised services.

Individuals will be notified by Medicare when they approach the safety net, but families will need to register with Medicare so that Medicare knows to tally their medical expenses together. For more information, call Medicare on 13 20 11 or read about it at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

### Chronic Disease Management Plan
*Also known as Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) plan*
The Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Plan provides:

- 5 sessions with an allied health professional per calendar year (see the list of professionals who are considered allied health professionals).

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are eligible for the CDM Plan because ASD is a chronic condition.

The CDM Plan can be written by your GP and people with ASDs are eligible for 5 sessions every calendar year. Once the initial plan has been made, the GP will not need to write a new plan each year, but may review the plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Health Professionals</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Health Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Educators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dietitians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Physiologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Nurses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podiatrists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Pathologists</td>
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</tbody>
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### Better Access to Mental Health Plan
*Also known as Mental Health Care Plan*
This plan provides:

- 6 sessions of individual therapy with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.
An additional 4 sessions are available following a review with the GP (a maximum of 10 sessions per calendar year).

- 10 group sessions of therapy with a psychologist, occupational therapist, or social worker.

The Better Access to Mental Health Care plan is an option available for anybody (individuals with an ASD, parents, siblings, carers etc.) who feels that their overall wellbeing and mental health is at risk.

Mental illness is common; around 1 in 5 Australians will experience a mental illness at some stage in their lives. Your mental health can be affected by a number of things; physical problems such as chemical imbalances in the brain, as well as non-physical problems such as exposure to trauma, family environments, cumulative stress and difficult life events.

We know that having a child with an ASD can be difficult. Any members of the family who are feeling sad, confused, depressed or anxious about the person in the family who has Autism Spectrum Disorder should see their GP to discuss other professionals who may be able to support them, such as social workers or counsellors.

People who have ASDs can also have mental health difficulties. They may be anxious about the environments around them; they may be depressed because they are having difficulty forming relationships with other people. There are many reasons why they would be eligible to access the Better Access to Mental Health Care Plan, and they should be encouraged to seek support from the appropriate professionals.

Group sessions can be used for social skills groups, play therapy groups, anxiety groups, or any group that is run by the above listed professionals and is working towards building the confidence, self esteem and ability of the person with ASD.

People are eligible for up to 10 sessions under the Better Access to Mental Health plan every calendar year. You can get a referral from your GP. Make sure you book a long consultation with your doctor to allow you and your doctor enough time to prepare a GP Mental Health Care Plan and discuss your treatment options. A psychiatrist or paediatrician can also write this referral.

Sometimes called “Medicare Item 135”

This provides the following:

- 4 appointments for private diagnosis referred by a paediatrician or psychiatrist to a psychologist, speech pathologists, occupational therapist, audiologist, optometrist, orthoptist or physiotherapist. This is called the ‘Helping Children with Autism Increased Access To Diagnosis’

- 20 sessions with a psychologist, speech pathologists, occupational therapist, audiologist, optometrist, orthoptist or physiotherapist. This is called the ‘Helping Children With Autism Treatment Plan’

Families have the option of using the Medicare rebate system to help pay for private assessments. The family’s paediatrician or psychiatrist can diagnose the child with autism, in collaboration with the allied health professionals listed above. The rebate allows a total of four sessions with these professionals (together not each).

With a diagnosis of ASD, the child will be eligible for 20 sessions of therapy with one of the above listed allied health professionals. Your paediatrician or psychiatrist will develop a treatment plan for your child with you. These rebates can only be used once in the child’s lifetime, they must be written by their 13th birthday, and used by their 15th birthday.

Not every professional will have experience with and understanding of ASD. You can call Amaze for contact details of professionals who have registered to be on our Directory of Services.

Q. Can I use all these plans at the same time?
A. Yes!

Q. Can I use the 20 Sessions plan/Item 135 more than once?
A. No, your child will receive this plan only once in their lifetime.

Q. Who can write the referrals?
A. The Helping Children with Autism/Item 135 referrals need to be written by a paediatrician or psychiatrist. The Better Access to Mental Health referral can also
be written by a paediatrician or psychiatrist, but are more commonly written by a GP. The Chronic Disease Management referrals can only be written by your GP.

Q. Are these Medicare sessions free of cost?

A. No – you will receive a rebate from Medicare. This rebate does not cover the total cost of the service. Please check with Medicare the amount you will receive.

Q. Can an allied health professional who is seeing my child for some or all of the 20 HCWA Medicare sessions also work with my child through the $12,000 HCWA initiative for early intervention?

A. If the therapist is on the HCWA approved panel, yes, you may use this therapist. If the therapist is not on the approved panel, you will need to find a service provider that is approved for $12,000 funding if you want to use this funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many sessions?</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10 Ind. + 10 Group</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| How often?          | Each calendar year | Each calendar year | One-off Item

Speech Pathologists
Psychologist
Occ. Therapist
Social Worker
Audiologist
Optometrist
Orthoptist
Physiotherapist
Group Sessions
GPs write referral
Paediatricians write referral
Psychiatrists write referral
Adults eligible

1. Chronic Disease Management Plan
2. Better Access to Mental Health Plan
3. Helping Children with Autism Access Treatment Plan
4. Paediatrician must write referral by child’s 13th birthday; sessions must be used by 15th birthday

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