From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the third newsletter for 2012.

New Reporting System
This year student Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and reports will look very different. A new data base report system - Accelerus – will be in use at NSA. Thank you to Pamela Mathieson and Sue Johnson for your work on the learning pathways which are imbedded within the new reporting data base. Thanks Toan, Pamela and Sue for organising Accelerus. The school will continue to refine the learning pathways in 2012. The new system will make the reports easier for teachers to produce and provide more information for parents/carers.

Electronic Roll Marking
From week 2 of this term teachers will be using electronic rather than paper rolls. This means attendance data is generated and forwarded to the Department on a daily basis.

Home School Partnerships
Thanks to families who attended Family Support meetings, the fundraising meeting and volunteer induction. We greatly appreciate your support and assistance. The staff and leadership at NSA look forward to working with you in 2012 to improve educational provision for our students. It will be wonderful to have so many willing helpers on excursions and to assist with the swimming program.

Reservoir School Building Update
The interior colours for the new school have been provided by Hede Architects and will be on display in the Preston Campus general office for the next two weeks. Please feel free to have a look. The school requested that the colours be tonal and timeless with a splash of colour in specialist areas – I think the community will agree that the architects achieved this brief.

Briefing regarding Lalor Campus
The briefing for Lalor to be officially recognised as an NSA campus is currently in Minister Dixon’s office awaiting his approval. At the moment the site is officially an annex. If campus status is granted the school will be able to access additional funds for utilities, cleaning and a computer server. We will then also be able to begin negotiations to have direct transport to the campus for students. The shuttle bus is running very well and the students and staff are settling in beautifully. The refurbished facilities are fabulous. Thank you to Pamela, Katherine, Toan, Felicia, Jan, Graeme and the Later Years Team for your hard work and commitment to making the campus a safe, engaging and secure educational environment.
Newsletter and notices to be sent home via email
All families have been asked to provide an email address so that in the near future newsletters and notices can be sent home via email. This is to prevent items going missing between home and school as well as reduce the costs of distributing printed copies of newsletters and notices. Please make sure you provide your email details to the office ASAP. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Meet the Teacher Night and Family Picnic
The MTTN was well attended despite the rain - which meant the picnic was cancelled. Well done to the lateral thinkers who set up picnics in the classrooms! This year the meetings were held before the social event to ensure that parents/carers knew which staff members and families to make contact with. The BYO picnic reduced the workload for staff at a busy time of year as well as enabled families to cater for their specific dietary requirements. Thanks to all the staff who worked late and to the families who came along to participate in this important event.

Contacting sub-school leaders via email
Parents/carers may use the school email to email sub-school leaders. The principal class personnel provide their email addresses on school newsletters and on the website so you can email us directly. Where possible please direct all enquiries to your child's class-group teacher. All email details are provided on the newsletter.

Early Years A: Annette McKee - mckee.annette.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Early Years B: Lauren Tipptett - tipptett.lauren.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Junior/Middle: Elizabeth Smith - smith.elizabeth.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Middle/Later: Angela Mancini - mancini.angela.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Student Support Group Days – Student Attendance
On SSG days NSA School Council asks for parent/carer cooperation to keep your child at home on their classroom's designated day. These are not school closure days so there is provision for students to attend school on this day (in a different classroom). When the time comes a notice will be sent home so you can let the school know if you need to send your child to school. SSG meetings generally run for 20 to 30 minutes for each student. Thanks for your cooperation and support in this matter – it is absolutely wonderful for each teacher to have a full day to meet with all their student's parents/carers for SSG meetings rather than rushing through the meetings before and after school.

Policies
Please find enclosed copies of the school policies ratified by the NSA School Council at the first meeting for 2012 including:
• Illness and Headlice – new
• Smoke Free and Alcohol Free School - new
• Excursions - amended
• Parent/carer Payments – amended
• Management and Support of Student Behaviour - amended

An infectious diseases exclusion table has been provided to all parents/carers – please do not send your child to school if they are unwell to protect others in the community from becoming sick. It is also an occupational health and safety issue for staff in terms of the school minimising staff exposure to infectious diseases. If children are identified as being unwell parents/carers will be contacted to collect their child from school.

PARENT/CARER SURVEYS
*Please return both slips to school by Friday 9th March.
Evening Events
Each time we have had a parent evening event attendance has been very poor. Anecdotal feedback from parents/carers indicate that there are issues with babysitting, interrupting routines and also distance/time (as families live across the whole Northern Region). There has been a request to run Parent Support Meetings and other similar events in the evenings. If enough parents/carers indicate they are able to attend, the school is willing to organise this. Please use the slip below to indicate your interest.

Parent/carer Name:

Campus:

Please Tick:

☐ I am able to and would like to attend evening information sessions

☐ I am unable to attend evening information sessions because

Out of School Hours Care – before and after school care for students at school
There have been several parent/carer requests for out of school hours care to be provided by NSA. All schools offering OSHC programs must ensure that the programs can be funded via a user pays system. Schools are only able to offer OSHC if there are enough families who will use the service to make it financially viable. School Council would like to identify how many families in the community are currently in need of OSHC.

Parent/carer Name:

Campus:

Please Tick

☐ I would use out of school hours care programs if they were available

☐ I do not require out of school hours care programs for my child

Anna Rigoni
Principal
Jacana News

Redevelopment of the front entrance of the school
On Thursday 23rd February, School Council endorsed the redevelopment of the new pick up/drop off/visitors parking at the front of the general office. We are engaging Shanley Management to oversee the project. The proposed design is attached to the newsletter and it’s anticipated that this new design will be a more effective way to manage the traffic entering the school and it will provide a very clear entry point to the school. At times there can be confusion when trying to locate the office.

Donation
On Tuesday 28th February, Denise Doolan and Margaret from the Catholic Women’s League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc came to the school to present a cheque of $2,000. This money will be used in the physical education department to purchase new equipment for the students to use. Catholic Women’s League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc held a luncheon at Parliament House last September for the Awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder. There were two guest speakers with one including an inspiring professional mother of two boys with Autism. We would just like to publicly thank Denise, Margaret and everyone at the Catholic Women’s League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc for the kind donation that will help the physical education department here at the Jacana Campus.

Lost DS
Last year there was a Nintendo DS left in the office. If you have lost a DS please contact Carlee in the office on 9309 6258.

Corinne Pupillo
Campus Principal
Dear Parents,

There have been many changes over the years to how therapy services are provided in the school. We are fortunate to have experienced and dedicated teams of therapists providing support across the campuses. The service delivery model must ensure that we are able to deliver supports in a way which is fair, equitable and flexible. A referral model for therapy services provides a way for the school to deliver support across the school where it is most needed. This can vary depending on the experience and knowledge of the classroom teacher and the needs of the individual students.

Northern School for Autism provides therapy support in the form of consultancy services to classrooms. The aim of the consultancy service is to provide the opportunity for teaching staff to collaborate with therapists when needed to accurately assess student needs, plan effective individual learning programs and implement successful teaching strategies.

Speech pathologists are able to provide consultancy support to teachers in relation to the communication aspects of a classroom program. This includes considering how we present information to students so they understand what is said and what is happening, as well as putting strategies and systems in place to support students with their expressive communication. Classroom teachers may request assistance from Speech Pathologists in areas such as:

- using a group schedule effectively
- planning opportunities for students to initiate requests in activities
- reducing levels of verbal prompting in a program
- teaching students to follow visual directions independently
- supporting a student to increase their range of picture exchange requests
- using a voice output device with a student in a classroom

Occupational therapists are able to provide consultancy support to teachers in relation to the classroom program in areas of fine motor skills, gross motor skills and sensory needs. Importantly, Occupational therapists can assist teachers to look at these areas in relation to developing independence in everyday living activities. Classroom teachers may request assistance from Occupational Therapists in areas such as:

- assessing the sensory needs of a student
- planning a program to develop independent dressing skills for a student
- implementing a sensory diet program with a student
- accessing adaptive equipment to assist a student with mealtimes
- incorporating a sensory diet program for students across the day
- teaching motor planning skills to students learning to use playground equipment

Referrals will vary in the number of consultancy sessions needed and a maximum of eight sessions may be allocated for each request. A review time may be made with the classroom teacher if required. A referral to both the Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy team is made by the School Welfare Coordinator for each entry or transfer student upon their arrival. Classroom teachers may at times request a Speech Pathologist or Occupational Therapist to attend an SSG if there is a complex issue or team decision required for the student. All students turning 12 years of age are formally assessed by a Speech Pathologist for their Programs for Students with Disabilities funding review.

Northern School for Autism has worked to ensure that consultancy therapy support is available across the school. This model of service ensures that teachers and therapists can work together, sharing skills and knowledge to build capacity for successful, effective and exciting classroom teaching and learning programs. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school,

Jenny Bishop,
Senior Speech Pathologist,
Jacana Therapy Team Leader.
In Loving Memory

Over the summer holidays Ekrem lost his loving mother Demet.

On Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February in memory of the endless love and support she has shown Ekrem, we planted a plant in her honour.

The small service was attended by a few staff and Ekrem's friend Ido. A few small words were said to recognise the symbolism of planting the plant in Demets memory. Ekrem continues to water the plant and care for it daily.
The Art program has started well this year. The Middle Years students have been working on collage, which will develop into big projects based around 'Angry Birds' and Pokemon. The Later Years students are working on shading techniques, which will be used later to create a mural on the outside of the art room. It looks like another exciting year in the Art Room! Jade Thompson (Art Teacher)
Students have enjoyed a range of activities in PE. These include warm up exercises, bike riding, walking, running, animal walks, ball skills and more recently relay races. Alice Rice (PE Teacher)
In Junior Art this term, we are taking some of the songs the students sing in the music program as our theme. Students have made "Willbee the Bumblebee" and "The Wonkey Donkey" which have been a lot of fun! Pam Norton (Art Teacher)
In music we sing, dance, act out stories, play instruments and have a lot of fun. Sometimes we change the words in the songs, and sometimes we write our own songs. We make a lot of noise!
FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

GONSKI REVIEW OFFERS VISION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

The Australian Special Education Principals Association (ASEPA) welcomes the Review of School Funding Report launched today by the Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and the chair of the Review David Gonski.

The report offers vision for disadvantaged students across Australia of which students with disability are a subset. There is a clear emphasis in the report on students with disabilities in Australian schools that demonstrates the review panel has clearly listened to the numerous submissions they received which is commendable.

The report demonstrates the importance of valuing the additional needs of this unique group of students that are in every classroom in Australia.

The ‘devil will be in the detail’ and ASEPA welcomes the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with the Australian government, state and territory governments and other stakeholders to further refine the tools needed to ensure that funding is getting to schools, to enable them to continue to support students with disabilities as learners.

ASEPA represents approximately 1000 schools leaders who lead in the area of special education in Australian Schools. Association President Fiona Forbes is available for comment or question today.

Fiona Forbes
National President
(m) 0409 409 901

Feb 20th 2012
Melbourne Citymission’s T.I.M.E Out Sibling Program runs sibling groups in Reservoir, Broadmeadows, Brunswick and a new one in Mill Park.

The groups provide a fun, safe environment in which to meet other siblings and say:

“T.I.M.E. OUT - THIS IS ME EVERYBODY!”

There are 4 regular groups running in 2012:
- At Brunswick and at Broadmeadows fortnightly 8 – 13 year old groups, on Tuesday afternoons,
- *NEW! In Whittlesea - a group in terms 2, 3 and 4
- At Reservoir, a monthly teens group for siblings and young carers called “Give Me 5”, on the last Thursday of every month.

We also have school holiday excursions, young carer activities, readings and resources for parents & lots of great supportive stuff for siblings & their families...

Please call Meg Moorhouse, coordinator on 9385 3211 or email siblingprogram@mcm.org.au to find out more.
HUME CITY COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HUME INTERFAITH NETWORK

INVITE YOU TO A CONFERENCE ON "One Community, Many Cultures"

LEARN about diverse cultures in Hume City
RESPECT each other's traditions and beliefs
EXCHANGE ideas to work towards common action
COLLABORATE to help create a harmonious society


Keynote Speaker: "Celebrating our Diversity, Accepting our Differences" Dr Bulent (Hass) Dellal OAM, Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation.

The Conference will include presentations and profiles about the following cultures: Assyrian Chaldean, Bhutanese, Indian, Iraqi, Kurdish, Lebanese, Somali, Sri Lankan, Turkish and Vietnamese. Cultural musical entertainment, Greek morning tea, Italian afternoon tea and Middle Eastern lunch will be provided.

Date: Thursday 22 March 2012
Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Venue: Hume Global Learning Centre (Rooms 4 & 5)
1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows
Cost: Free
RSVP: by 15 March 2012 to
Dalal Samaan on 9205 2377 or dalals@hume.vic.gov.au
by completing the registration form

Note: Please let us know if you need an interpreter
HUME CITY COUNCIL AND HUME INTERFAITH NETWORK CONFERENCE

“One Community, Many Cultures”

Date: Thursday 22 March 2012
Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Venue: Hume Global Learning Centre (Rooms 4 & 5)
        1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

REGISTRATION FORM

First Name: __________________________ Surname: __________________________

Organisation Name: ______________________________________________________

Job Title: __________________________

Postal address: ___________________________________________________________

Suburb: __________________________ Postcode: _______ Email: __________________

Phone (W): ________________________ Phone (H): _____________________________
        Mobile: __________________________

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements:

________________________________________________________________________

Do you need an interpreter? □ Yes □ No If yes, which language? _________________

Complete this registration form by 15 March 2012 and send to:

Attention: Dalal Samaan
Community Development Officer
Hume City Council
PO Box 119
DALLAS VIC 3047

or by fax: 9309 0109
or email: dalals@hume.vic.gov.au
Disability & Grief
(Building Resilient Families of Children with Additional Needs)

This Workshop Has Been Prepared For:
- Child Care Services Staff
- Kindergarten & Preschool Teachers
- School Teachers – Primary & Secondary & Special Needs
  - Parents & Carers
  - Family Day Care Providers
  - OSHC Staff, Nursing Staff & Carers
  - All Early Childhood Professionals
- Anyone involved with Children & Adolescents who have additional needs

Topics Covered In This Workshop Include:

(see page 2 for more details)
- Acknowledging the Issues associated with having a child with additional needs
- Understanding the Process of Grief associated with loss and disability
- Recognising Sibling Grief
- Looking at how Men, Women & Children react differently (relationships)
- Obtaining Practical Strategies to help Unlock Potential in Families of Children with Additional Needs
- Letting Go of Fear & Becoming more Assertive
- Rebuilding after a Crisis Situation

Having a child with a disability can be a challenging, yet rewarding experience. Understanding the complexities associated with the rearing of children with additional needs is an essential part of our positions as service providers, teachers, carers and parents.

This workshop will provide individuals with the necessary practical skills and strategies which are needed when working with families of children with additional needs. It will help to identify the many losses that are experienced with disability, the process of grief associated with it and the appreciation of a successful grief recovery and healthy self esteem.
AIMS:
- To provide service providers with a greater understanding of the many issues that parents, siblings, grandparents, caregivers etc of children with additional needs are faced with.
- To provide participants with strategies to help build self esteem in their children, the children they work with and themselves and to demonstrate the value of having a healthy self esteem.

CONTENT:
- Acknowledging the Issues associated with having a child with special needs
  Many families are faced with major challenges and grief issues. It is important to identify the loss and grief issues associated with having a child with a disability.

- Understanding the Process of grief associated with loss and disability
  Faced with disability, many family members experience a roller-coaster ride of emotions such as: anxiety, fear, sadness, anger, guilt, depression etc along with physical symptoms that may complicate the grief process.

- Recognising Sibling Grief
  Family life is often rearranged to suit the needs of the child with the disability which in turn affects the brothers and sisters who are facing their own individual challenges.

- Looking at how Men, Women & Children react differently (relationships)
  The effects on individual family members are often misunderstood. Male and female reactions may be quite different and relationships can be strained. Having an understanding of the grief principles can enable people to grieve in their own unique way.

- Obtaining Strategies to help Unlock Potential in Families of Children with Special Needs
  Practical strategies of building self esteem can help family members feel comfortable with themselves as individuals, appreciate their own identity and uniqueness and develop a more positive attitude to life.

- Letting Go of Fear & Becoming more Assertive
  Fear can be disabling and detrimental to self esteem. Having an understanding of how to control fear can free the individual from added stress and anxiety.

- Rebuilding after a Crisis Situation
  Unfortunately many people ‘get stuck’ in their grief and are unable to progress to a healthy grief grief recovery. Being equipped with strategies to help them ‘move on’ can be beneficial to the family as a whole.

TESTIMONIALS:
From a Parent:
When my wife told me about an information night regarding grief management and loss was being held and would I like to attend, my first reaction as a ‘typical Aussie mate was, “Why would I need this? This is going to be like going to a funeral.” Guess what? I was wrong. The night was actually very surprising. I had a great time and this is why – I learnt that the feelings that I have been experiencing were normal and how to rebuild. Listening to Cherene with her insight was excellent. Cherene made us feel very much at ease in a group situation. It was also great to meet and talk to other parents who are experiencing what we are experiencing and knowing that we are not alone. We have three children, two who have been diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome which comes under the Autism Spectrum. Our three children are my life and my love. Like any parent, I am very proud. Before this night, my understanding of grief and loss was only associated with the passing of a friend or loved one or divorce/separation. I can’t recommend Cherene highly enough. Thank you for a great information night. Jason, A Dad from Wagga Wagga

From a Service Provider
Thank you Cherene once again for another invaluable course. I have now attended four of your seminars and I have thoroughly enjoyed and learnt something new from them all. As I have been working in Social Welfare for many years I have attended numerous courses of different value but I can honestly say that each time I have attended your seminars I have taken something away with me of great value to myself and my work. Through courses that I facilitate and for counselling sessions I utilise many of your handouts and pieces of information that have stuck in my memory. Thank you again Cherene for helping me grow and learn. I look forward to the opportunity to attend any courses you offer. Cheers
Kylie, Family Support Worker Kurrajong Early Intervention Service, Wagga Wagga

The Facilitator: Cherene Wessels – CMACA, CEGW CBS, Member ACA & NALAG
Cherene is the director of her own company and has been involved in Life Skills education for more than twenty years, being recognised as a nationally and internationally accredited Adult Educator and Counsellor for Schools, Private and Corporate Organisations as well as for Government and Community Services – specialising in Child & Adolescent Grief and Disability & Grief.
REGISTRATION FORM

DISABILITY & GRIEF
Building Resilient Families of Children with Additional Needs
(A half day workshop for people working with and caring for children & adolescents with special needs)

MELBOURNE

DATE: Wednesday 21st March 2012
TIME: 9.30am – 12.30pm
VENUE: QUALITY HOTEL MELBOURNE AIRPORT
265 Mickleham Road Tullamarine **(free parking)**

BOOKINGS REQUIRED

ORGANISATION:..................................................................................................................................................................

CONTACT PERSON:..............................................................................................................................................................

ADDRESS:...........................................................................................................................................................................

PHONE:................................................................................................................MOBILE:......................................................................FAX:.............................................................................................................

E-MAIL:................................................................................................................................................................................

PARTICIPANTS:.....................................................................................................................................................................

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TAX INVOICE

To register please either – Telephone Cherene on: (08) 8296 6917 Mobile: 0414 250 573,
Fill out registration details and Fax to: (08) 8296 4128,
Email details to: cherene@cherene.com.au or post this form to:
Grief Management Services Pty Ltd – PO Box 938 Brighton SA 5048

Payment being made by –
Cheque / Money Order / EFT (BSB 805-001 A/c 00205011 Grief Management Services)
for $110.00 (GST inc) per person – includes light refreshments

** Certificate of Attendance provided **

Please make Cheques & Money Orders payable to…..Grief Management Services Pty Ltd

PO Box 938
BRIGHTON SA 5048
Mobile: 0414 250 573

ABN: 17 971 386 154

Email: cherene@cherene.com.au
Phone: (08) 8296 6917
Fax: (08) 8296 4128

www.griefmanagement.com.au