FROM THE PRINCIPAL -

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

School Council - Annual General Meeting

The School Council Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 20th March in the Professional Learning Centre.

The Office Bearers for the School Council are:
Executive Officer/Principal: Corinne Pupillo
School Council President: Lisa Sette
Vice President: Not filled
Treasurer: Dianna Lauria

I am anticipating the Vice President’s vacancy will be filled as there were a few absent school councillors on this evening.

A comprehensive report to the school community was provided as a celebration of achievement of 2013 year. In our first year of operation, it was a very productive and successful year for the school. The 2013 JSA Annual Report to the School Community is attached for you to read. If you would like a more extensive report please contact me for a copy of the Annual Implementation Plan with achievements.

School Council also endorsed the following policies:

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Gifts, Benefit’s and Hospitality Policy

Please contact the general office for copies of any of our policies.
Building and Grounds Work

School Council approved the funds for the refurbishment of Playground 1 & 2. This work will be completed by Australian Synthetic Surfaces in the next school holiday period. Total funds allocated to this project is $60,000. This includes the removal of the soft fall mulch and installation of concrete paths and synthetic surfacing in this area. The sand pits and playground equipment will remain. This will certainly make this area safer and more engaging.

Please check out the JSA Facebook Page to monitor the progress of the works.

Contacting Sub School Leaders

Parents are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher to discuss issues relating to their child. The sub school leaders are also available to discuss any concerns you might have in relation to your child’s progress. The best way to contact them is via email:

Early Years A: Lauren Tippett –
tippet.lauren.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Early Years B – Annette McKee –
mckee.annette.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Early/Middle Years – Kristie Giannakis –
giannakis.kristie.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Middle/Later Years – Kym Tonkin –
tonkin.kym.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Student Support Group (SSG)

Thank you to all the parents/carers for keeping your children at home so we could co-ordinate the SSG meeting last week. Thank you for making time to discuss the progress of your child’s Individual Learning Plan. We look forward to working with your child to support them through the 2014 school year.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP’s)

Teachers are currently completing ILP’s for all students. The ILP summaries will be sent home on Thursday 24th April.

Staffing

A very warm welcome to Martina Beggs to JSA. Martina commenced work as the Therapy Team Leader from Monday 24th March. Thank you to Victoria Rajaratnam for her contributions to the leadership team whilst we went through the recruitment phase.
**Jacana Fun Run/Walk**. On Thursday 3rd April the Fundraising Committee will be hosting the 2nd Annual Jacana Fun Run/Walk. This is a community event, where JSA families celebrate Autism by raising awareness of the condition.

Early Years (Rooms 1 – 12 and families) will participate in the Fun Run walk between 9.30 – 10.30. Middle Years & Later Years (Rooms 13 – 25 and families) will participate in the Fun Run between 10.45 – 11.45.

**Mother’s Day Stall**:
The Mother’s Day Stall will be open on Wednesday 30th April, Thursday 1st May & Friday 2nd May. Your child’s classroom teacher will provide more information closer to the day. Gifts range from 50 cents - $5.00

**Special lunch order day**:
Thursday 12th June.

**School Photos**
Just a reminder that school photos will be taken on Thursday 22nd May. There will be more information to come next term for families.

**End of term celebrations**
Staff celebrated the end of the term with a special afternoon tea held today. The staff work extremely hard to deliver effective teaching and learning programs for all the students and we acknowledge the work they do by celebrating all the achievements of the term. Thank you to Liz Torcasio and Elise Gordon (Staff Wellbeing Co-ordinators) for organising this event.

Staff would like also like to wish our families a very happy and safe holiday break. I would like to wish the whole school community a very happy Easter and a relaxing break with family and friends. I look forward to everyone returning on Tuesday 22nd April, rested and recharged for another busy term.

**Reminder**: Friday, 25th April is ANZAC day and is a public holiday. The school will be closed on this day.

**Early Finish**
Just a reminder that school will finish early on Friday 4th April 2014. Students will be dismissed at 2pm.

A reminder SMS will also be sent to families prior to the end of term. If you do not currently receive JSA notifications by SMS and would like to, please contact Carlee at the general office.

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 http://www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au/

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

**Corinne Pupillo**
Principal
19 - 39 Landy Road, Jacana VIC 3047
Phone 9309 6258
Fax 9309 6426
jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au

www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au Learning for life
Fun in Room 9!

We have settled in well to our first year of school. We have made lots of new friends, and enjoy playing together!
News from Room J3

Well it has been a very fast and frantic start to 2014, with lots to learn and find out about but we are off and running. I would like to thank all the staff here at Jacana school for making me feel very welcome. And thank you to all the parents for their support and understanding, it is a privilege to work with your beautiful children and they all seem very happy to be at school. I would also like to thank my support staff as this job would be very difficult, nope impossible without you.

We have settled into our routine and now have a regular morning session, using our mini-schedules, to do work that might be exercise our senses or fine motor skills. We might cut and paste or trace something, we might do playdough or shaving foam. This is the time when we practice our independence, following a list of pictures, matching those pictures with folders in our tubs, getting our tools ready to work. Some days we need a little bit more help than others but most children are progressing.

Then we get a turn on either an ipad or computer or listening post. This gives time to do 1 on 1 teaching of things like letter sounds, sight words, listening to reading or some initiating communication.

After Morning tea and play we get to our learning schedules, where the focus is more on learning letters, numbers, money etc. We also follow a movement schedule outside or maybe go to the trampoline, something to keep our bodies moving so we can learn better.
And we get to do some group activities. In the morning we check out our day, we get to request bubbles or a massager. In the afternoons we can practice playing nicely with our friends, or we do cooking or art or music. Our days are very busy and we never seem to have trouble sleeping at night, Phew!

And we had a chance to celebrate my birthday, and yes everyone gets a chance to wear the silly hat!

Next will be even better with swimming and maybe an outing or two, if I’m brave!

Many thanks from Lesleigh and Elishia
Room 13

We have had a fantastic start to the year!
Room 23

Travel training

We have begun our travel training sessions with visits to Melbourne CBD where we looked at graffiti and visited acmi.
THERAPY SERVICE DELIVERY

Jacana School for Autism is fortunate to have experienced and dedicated teams of therapists providing support across the school. The service delivery model must ensure that we are able to deliver support 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.

Jacana 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:

- implementing individual communication systems
- encouraging opportunities for students to communicate across the day
- how to incorporate visuals into the classroom for effective learning
- supporting students through positive behaviour strategies
- supporting teachers in developing social skill programs
- supporting teachers in developing play programs
- supporting teachers in literacy programs

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
- incorporating a sensory diet program for students across the day
- planning a program to develop independent skills for a student e.g. dressing, toileting
- accessing adaptive equipment to assist students e.g. mealtimes, travel
- providing various sensorimotor activities to support students to participate in day to day activities.

Referrals will vary in the number of consultancy sessions needed and a maximum of eight weeks of consultancy 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.

Jacana 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.
Educational Support Services

To support the educational programs the school provides a range of specialist services including speech pathology, occupational therapy and school psychology. Through a referral process, therapy provision is provided within the school setting, with a focus on working closely with teaching teams. Teachers and therapists work as a multi-disciplinary team to ensure that students have access to consistent and effective programs.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

The occupational therapists support teachers to implement ‘sensory programs’ for students which may involve movement activities within the classroom, sensory motor activities in the OT room or other specific therapeutic techniques depending on the individual sensory needs of the students. The occupational therapists may provide support to identify the specific sensory and personal care needs of students and may recommend tools and environmental modifications such as weighted blankets, mini-trampolines, headphones, specific seating, etc, to help students regulate themselves and engage in teaching and learning activities.

Speech Pathology

The Speech pathologists provide a consultancy service to teaching teams with a focus on supporting teachers to plan and implement effective and successful communication programs for students. The speech pathology consultancy service provides assistance and recommendations to teachers in assessing the communication skills of students, developing individual goals and implementing effective communication teaching strategies. Speech pathologists will also lead a process to prescribe or re-evaluate the Augmentative and Alternative Communication systems used by students, for example the Picture Exchange Communication System or speech generating devices.

School Psychology

School psychologists support students to achieve academic success, psychological health and social and emotional wellbeing. School psychologists work in a supportive manner with school staff, departmental staff, parents/guardians and external stakeholders, with the primary purpose of achieving the best outcome for students. The activities that a school psychologist engages in include assessment, consultation and advice, implementation of prevention and intervention programs, support for classroom program delivery, behaviour management support, counselling and professional development.
SENSORY FRIENDLY
LUNA PARK
MELBOURNE

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Sunday 6th April 2014

HELP RAISE AWARENESS...

and show your support for families and individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

9am-11am Luna Park, tickets $10 each includes entry & unlimited rides

- Sensory friendly: sound & lighting reduced, quiet area available, understanding staff, rides stopped if necessary
- Heaps of fun activities, rides & entertainment!
- T-shirts and awareness merchandise for sale on the day
- Food, expo, music, magician, entertainers and much more
- Don't forget to wear blue to help raise awareness!
- 11.00am Dove Release in O'Donnell Gardens

TICKETS AT
WWW.AMAZE.ORG.AU/WAAD
Experience the magic of Sovereign Hill with a special Autism-Awareness program which will allow all the family to enjoy Sovereign Hill together!

Please note that pre-bookings are essential for early Sovereign Hill entry (with 10% discount on family entry) and the Gold Mine Tour (optional activity).

**PROGRAM**

**Arrival**
- **09.30 am** – Avoid the 10.00 am crowds in the entrance building by arriving early. You will then be shown to the Orientation Centre where you can meet some of our goldfields characters and find out about their costumes before you meet them on the street later in the day.
- **10.00 am - 11.00 am** – Separate entry will still be available between 10.00 and 11.00 am if you can’t manage an early arrival. Simply send an adult into the entrance to collect your tickets and you will then be admitted via a side gate.

**Gold Mine Tour**
- **11.30 am** – This customised and fully-guided 30-minute mine tour will avoid dark spaces and loud noises. You will be taken into the mine through a hidden door and walk into the mine, avoiding the usual tram ride through darkness. If you are feeling brave, you might like to ride the tram back to the surface after the tour. If not, you can simply leave via the hidden door. Please note that Gold Mine Tours incur an additional cost. A family ticket for 2 adults and 4 children costs $20.

**Education Centre**
If you feel like a quiet break, visit the Education Centre (No. 20 on your visitor map). Here, you can find out about goldrush schools – how the students wrote, the games they played and the clothes they wore.

**Photography**
The Red Hill Photographic Rooms can take your group photograph (No. 12 on your visitor map). Book a sitting early in the day at the Photographic Rooms and mention the Autism-Awareness Day to receive a 20% discount. Dressing in costume for a photo is optional.

**Before Visiting**
Families can access Sovereign Hill’s Social Stories. They have been developed to assist people on the Autism Spectrum with becoming familiar and comfortable with Sovereign Hill before they visit. For example, it might be helpful to read The Social Story – The Inclined Fail before you take a Gold Mine Tour. Visit the Sovereign Hill Education webpage and click on the link http://education.sovereignhill.com.au/excursion-planning/social-stories/

**Avoiding Loud Noises**
Guardians/Caregivers should note that the following daily activities involve loud noises:
- **Musket Firing:**
  - 11.35 - 11.45 am & 3.05 - 3.15 pm (Visitor Map No. 19)
- **Redcoat Soldiers:**
  - 1.30 - 1.50 pm (Visitor Map No. 34)
- **Steam Operations Whistle:**
  - 9.45 am, 9.55 am, 10.15 am, 12 noon, 1.00 pm, 3.00 pm, 3.15 pm (Visitor Map No. 34)
- **Steam-Powered Machinery:**
  - All day (Visitor Map No. 34)

You may wish to visit the Education Centre if these noises are likely to be disturbing.

**Pre-booking is essential for this special program.**
Telephone 5337 1199

* Pre-booked tickets for Autism Awareness Day only  www.sovereignhill.com.au
ONLY 2 OR 3 HOURS TO SPEND WITH US?

*MUST DO* activities if you have limited time.

- Box our wide variety of Traders, Crafts and Stores.
- Pan for gold at the Diggings.
- Watch a $100,000 gold ingot poured at the Gold Smelting Works.
- Take a coach ride around the Township.
- Don’t miss the Redcoat Soldiers at 1.30 pm.
- Journey deep underground on the Gold Mine Tour.
- Visit our goldfields cottages and meet the residents.

VISITOR SERVICES

- Information
- First Aid Kit
- Post Office
- Food & Drink
- ATM
- Toilets
- Disability Toilet
- Parenting Room
- Stroller Hires
- Wheelchairs
- Visitor Information Centre
- Emergency/Evacuation Point
WHERE TO START

1 Entrance Building
A warm welcome awaits you! Visitor information, accommodation and sound-and-light show bookings, souvenirs and gifts.

2 Orientation Centre - Voyage to Discovery
Currently under redevelopment. No access.

TRADES, CRAFTS & STORES

5 Chinese Camp
Goldfields life as it was for Chinese miners.

6 Goldfields Store
'Kit out' for the Diggings at the Waterloo Store.

7 Blacksmith
Our "smithy" shows homes and forges unique ironware.

12 Photographic Rooms
Dress in period costume for a fun souvenir photo.

13 Printer
Have your own poster printed at the Ballarat Times!

14 Sweet Shop
Famous for boiled sweets and home-made lollipops.

15 Grocer
Goldfields groceries, local jams, honey and condiments.

16 Post Office
Mail your postcards here with a Sovereign Hill postmark.

17 Jeweller
Specialises in Victorian-style cloves and jewelry.

21 Apothecaries' Hall
Pit rolling, herbal remedies and goldfields medicine.

22 Saddlery
Hats, belts and traditional horse harnesses.

24 Theatre
Live performances and fun family entertainment.

27 Confectionery Factory
See the confectioner making traditional boiled sweets.

28 Gold Smelting Works
Watch a $100,000 pure gold ingot being poured.

31 Drapery Store
For the finest clothing and drapery on Main Street.

32 Horse Bazaar - Coach Rides
Take a coach ride around the Outdoor Museum.

33 Tinsmith
Hand-made pie plates, sauce curlers and lanterns.

34 Foundries
Goldspine and brassware spun on steam-powered lathes.

37 Candy Works
Hey kids! Dip your own candy to take home.

44 Wheelwright and Coachbuilder
Meet the craftsmen who build and maintain Sovereign Hill's horse-drawn vehicles.

44 Gift Shop
Gifts, fine jewelry, souvenirs and Australiana.

WHERE TO EAT

10 Hope Bakery
Try our famous pies, pasties, cakes and other baked delights fresh from the wood-fired oven.

11 Café
Hot and cold meals, baguettes, sandwiches, drinks. Fully licensed. Dine indoors or on the deck overlooking the lake.

19 New York Bakery - Relaxed Traditional Setting
Café-style menu blending contemporary and traditional flavours from breakfast to afternoon tea. Fun children's food. Table service. Licensed.

22 Universal Transit Office
Tea and coffee, cold drinks and ice-cream. Open holidays and long weekends only.

24 Charlie Napier Hotel
'Break on the Southern Cross' evening meal.

26 United States Hotel - Dine in Victorian Splendour
Treat the family to beautifully prepared café-style dishes and a great children's menu. Daily board specials. Licensed.

28 United States Hotel Bar
Serving light refreshments for your convenience. 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm weekdays and 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm weekends.

WHERE TO STAY

4 Steinfelt's Accommodation
Please enquire at the Bookings Desk in the Entrance Building.

43 Comfort Inn Sovereign Hill
Please enquire at the Bookings Desk in the Entrance Building.

EDUCATION

4 One Eye Gully

15 Caver & Dalton Auction Rooms

18 Education Centre

23 St Alpious’ Digging School

37 Ragged School

42 Red Hill National School

45 St Peter's Denominational School
What can a case manager do for you?
A case manager meets regularly with families to help you work out what supports you need and to help you get access to those supports. A case manager can work with you to make sure all services are working towards the best possible outcomes, advocate (speak) on your behalf when needed and assist you to develop the skills to become a confidant self-advocate.

Who do we offer it to?
People who are eligible under the Disability Act 2006. The Service works in different local government areas for different age groups:

- 0–5 years: Hume, Moreland, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik, Whittlesea & Yarra
- 6 years and over: Moreland and Hume.

Who to contact:
For more information contact our intake worker:

Disability Planning and Case Management Services
Phone: 03 9487 9200 Email: dpcsintake@mcm.org.au
Web: www.melbournecitymission.org.au

Intake is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am–4pm.
Special Needs Access Program for Families

siblings in Sync is a unique and innovative school holiday program for children with disabilities and their siblings.

It aims to:

- Foster relationships between siblings
- Provide positive shared experiences
- Give children the opportunity to express themselves
- Communicate with their sibling through creative music-making

The session is run by two Registered Music Therapists and will be tailored to suit the individual needs of participants within a small group.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Create music together
- Use music technology (including the Special Access Kit)

A music therapist will be in contact with you prior to your session commencing to obtain relevant information in order to plan for individual needs.

All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the sessions.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne, Digital Learning Hub
Times: 11am
Dates: Tuesday 8 April or Thursday 10 April
Duration: 60 mins
Cost: $25 per family

Bookings:
For more information or to book, phone (03) 9281 8194, or email snap@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Thank you to the generous donors who support our programs:
Anonymous
Miss Betty Arnaden OAM
Mrs Barbara Haynes
The Pratt Foundation

Music Therapy is the planned and creative use of music to attain and maintain health and wellbeing. It may address physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals within a therapeutic relationship. Music Therapy is a registered allied health profession.
Making it Possible!
A Workshop for Parents of Children 0-18 Years Old

Learn how you can think, plan and achieve goals for your child and family

- Meet other parents and carers
- Recognise your strengths and skills
- Build positive relationships with professionals
- Learn about “Emotional Intelligence” – the ability to perceive, control and evaluate emotions in ourselves and others
- Learn how to develop a personal goal or plan
- Develop advocacy skills

The “Making it Possible Workshop” is presented over two sessions. Both sessions are connected and it is beneficial to attend both Wednesdays.

Dates: Wednesday 7th May - “Planning for your child with a disability”
Wednesday 14th May “Advocating for a child with a disability”

Times: 9.30am – 12.00pm

Venue: Sunbury Community Health Centre
12-28 Macedon Street
Sunbury Vic 3429

To Book: Phone Sunbury Early Childhood Intervention Program 9744 9543
or email calies@sunburychc.org.au

Cost: Gold coin donation
Morning tea will be provided

Build on the strengths and skills you already have as a parent to create fulfilling life choices, purpose, friendship and happiness!

The “Association for Children with a Disability” presenters are parents so they understand the issues families face.
FORUM: PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

Presenters:
Ann Cupples – Senior Disability Officer
Maryanne Panucci DEECD
Psychologist/Network Co-ordinator

Forum will cover:
- What is Program for Students Disability Program?
- Who is eligible for the Program?
- What are the categories?
- What information is required to support an application for PSD funding?
- What are the common misconceptions
- How can services support and assist

May 16, 2014 9:45am-12pm Event Location: Bethal Primary School, Eldorado Crescent, Meadow Heights

RSVP: Maryanne Panucci on 93023847 or panucci.maryanne.m@edumail.vic.gov.au