From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Fundraising Group News

Easter Raffle
Thank you to everyone for your generous donations of Easter items for the end of term raffles. The fundraising groups at each campus worked very hard to wrap the hampers and there were many winners from across the school. We appreciate the support the parent/carer community provided to the school to run this event. There we a number of lucky winners this year. A notice informing you was sent to families earlier this week.

Mother's Day Raffle
The fundraising committee will operate the Mother's Day stall from the 24th April – 27th April in the PLC. Your child's teacher will notify you of when your child will get an opportunity to purchase a gift from the stall. Gifts vary from 50 cents to $5.00.

Reservoir School Building Update
Hede Architects have finalised interior colours which are on permanent display in the front office at the Preston Campus, alongside the floor plan of the new building. The school will obtain three quotes for the playground works which will also include the relocation of some equipment from Preston and the purchase of new equipment. A working party will be established in term 2 to assist in the operational and capital works components of the move. It is likely the move will take place at the end of term 1, 2013.

Future Directions Update
NMR are finalising the briefing for the Future Directions process. There has been an exchange of information via telephone and email between NSA and the regional office. The regional office will submit the briefing once reviewed by the relevant personnel in the regional office. Hopefully this is not far away now.

Easter Holidays
We would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday break. School finishes at 2pm on Friday 30th March. Thank you to the staff for your hard work this term. Thank you to the Staff Association and to the Admin’ Team for providing a special morning tea of hot cross buns for the staff. I wish you a very happy Easter break and hope you are able to spend time with family and friends and our students have the opportunity to rest and recharge for a busy term 2.

VAGO
The Victorian Auditor General audited the school as part of an investigation into special education in Victoria - there are many schools being asked to participate in the process. The audit went extremely well. The auditor was very impressed by the school and the work of the community supporting the students.
SSG
SSG week will be held in week 2 of term 2. Please let us know if you are unable to care for your child on their classroom’s designated day so the school can make arrangements for your child. We very much appreciate your support in keeping your child home so all the families can have a comprehensive SSG meeting with their child’s teacher.

Family Support Meetings
Our family support group meet again next term. It’s a great opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding about autism. The next sessions have been planned, please put these dates in your diary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd May</td>
<td>Meet Speech Therapy at NSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Bishop (Senior Speech Pathologist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th May</td>
<td>Educational Psychology Provision at NSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lydia Wilson (Educational Psychologist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th May</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy at NSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria Rajaratnam (Senior Occupational Therapist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th June</td>
<td>Meet the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Co-coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deb Munt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Learning Centre 9-10.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jacana Parents Technology Support Group - Friday 20th April at 9.15 a.m.
Thank you to those parents who responded to the notice in the newsletter especially those who said they could assist others.
We will have the first meeting of the Parents Technology Support Group on Friday 20th at 9.15 a.m. All parents who are interested are welcome to attend.
The agenda will be Agenda:
Welcome
Audit of skills parents have
List of skills and information parents have or need.
Communication protocols between parents
Exploration of iPad apps & laptop programs
Future meetings
You can bring along your questions and your iPad and/or laptop so we can share ideas
We have some parents who can support in the evening so if we have a communication protocol we may be able to offer support by email or on-line.
Any queries contact Denise Clarke
Teaching & Learning Protocols – Principal Class Observations

Being in the Principal Class position sometimes means that the administration tasks take up a large portion of the day. I am very conscious that being in this role also requires a deep understanding of teaching practice within the classrooms. In term 2 and 3, Anna, Sue and myself will be undertaking Principal Class Observations in each classroom. We often make time to greet and farewell buses, pop into classrooms to say hello and to engage in some informal conversations with staff and students. We are anticipating that the sessions will last for 45 minutes and we will be making observations and providing feedback on the Teaching and Learning Protocols – below. The protocols have been designed to assist staff to develop and ASD friendly classroom and supportive ASD practices. We are looking forward to spending time in each of the classrooms and providing feedback to the teams on these areas and as well as seeing first hand the great work that is being done in the classrooms.

Teaching and Learning Protocols

NSA strives to be a centre of excellence. Students are supported towards developing their personal and educational potential so as to be valued contributors to family and community life. In line with our pedagogy philosophy, the leadership team have developed teaching and learning protocols to promote a consistent educational approach across NSA.

As a child at Northern School for Autism I have an expectation that you my teacher will:

**Develop** a positive relationship with me:
- Talk to me in a respectful and calm manner
- Know my learning style and how I learn best
- Know what toys or activities that motivate me
- Set clear boundaries so that I know how to work and play with other children in a friendly way
- Do not speak about me to others in front of me
- Tell me what I need to do, not what not to do

**Provide** me with a classroom that is structured and organised:
- With clear expectations for me to follow
- That has a defined start and finish to activities
- So that my toys and activities and materials are presented in a way that I am able to organise and manage them
- With clearly defined working areas
- With limited distractions including, visual, auditory and movement
- Without messy clutter around the room

**Provide** me with an educational program that:
- Ensures my communication system is always accessible to me and that I use it regularly throughout the day and you extend my ability
- Allows time for me to process your verbal and visual instructions
- Meets my individual needs (cognitive, sensory and communicative) and increases my skills
- Make sure my learning activities are at my developmental level
- Builds in the recommendations of my Sub School Leader, O.T, and Speech Therapist
- Builds my independence to allow me to manage myself as an individual in relation to others.
Student Banking
We have had a couple of requests for the school to facilitate student banking. Please complete the survey and return to school. School Council will assess the requests once we have collated the replies.

Please fill in and return the slip below to the school

I would be interested in accessing student banking

□ I am not interested in accessing student banking

Parents name: ..........................................................

Students name: ..................................................

Date: ..................................................

Corinne Pupillo
Campus Principal
The children in Early Years A have had a wonderful Term 1. They have settled in well to school and are participating in a variety of activities throughout the school day.
EYB Room 5 Excursion
Rollerskating
Middle Years Room 14

Ryan loves building new structures
Hun has a feeling for sensory activities
Adam enjoys colouring

Middle Year from Room 14 have enjoyed Term 1 and have settled in well. Students have worked hard and enjoyed a range of different activities.

Tobi working out a Math problems
Declan has a good time when cooking
John playing a posting game with Kim

Zahraaloves mixing colours
Khaled has a great time drawing
Tobi, Khaled and Ryan having fun together

Nelly, Kim and Lyn would like to wish everyone a safe Easter holidays. We look forward to seeing you all back in Term 2.
On Wednesdays, students travel to Victoria University at Footscray to participate in a program run by 3rd year PE students, where they practise different ball skills and play ball games.
Therapy Team at Jacana

Jenny Bishop – Therapy team leader/ Speech Pathologist
Jenny commenced work at Jacana in 2009 as a Speech Pathologist. At the end of 2011, Jenny accepted her new position as Therapy Team Leader. Prior to working at NSA Jenny worked in education and health services in England and South Australia.

Lydia Wilson – Psychologist
Lydia commenced work at NSA in 2010. This year we are very lucky to have Lydia based at the Jacana Campus two days a week. Lydia works closely with teachers and students to assist with behaviour management, understanding behaviour and other psychology related issues such as grief and loss.

Victoria Rajaratnam – Senior Occupational Therapist
Victoria commenced work at NSA in June 2010. Prior to this Victoria worked in a multi-speciality hospital and as a consultant for special schools in Sri Lanka. Victoria is a passionate OT and enjoys the hands on experience of working as a consultant in the classroom with children.

Tara Panariello – Occupational Therapist
Tara joined the Jacana Campus in 2011. She completed her university degree at La Trobe Uni, Bundoora. Tara enjoys working with the children at NSA and enjoys developing students skills in the areas of; gross and fine motor, and Activities of Daily Living.

Trish Mizzi – Speech Pathologist
Trish commenced work at the Jacana Campus in 2009. Trish has a strong interest in Autism Spectrum Disorders and expanding the communication abilities of children with limited language. Trish will be concluding her work at NSA in April this year, to pursue private work.

Good luck Trish!

Yvette Madden – Speech Pathologist
Yvette joined the Jacana therapy team in 2012, as a new graduate. She completed her university degree at La Trobe Uni, Bundoora. Yvette has taken on the role of Speech Pathologist at NSA like a duck to water. She is a natural with the children and is quickly building rapport with the staff at NSA.

Welcome Yvette!
World Autism Awareness Day
Walk & Balloon Release
Sun 1 April, 1.00pm

- 1.2km walk beside the Yarra in Melbourne - suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.
- Declan Sykes (pictured), X Factor Contestant, will count down to the balloon release at Birrarung Marr at 3.15pm and is going to be singing a few numbers for us.
- Fed Square, AAMI Stadium and Crown Casino are all “lighting up blue”.
- Please wear something blue! Autism Awareness Day T-shirts and merchandise available at the start and finish.
- Social story available on our website - www.amaze.org.au/waad
- Free event - bring all your friends!

Note: we strongly advise you to use public transport to attend this event.

For details of the route and program, please see over ->

More information:
W: www.amaze.org.au/waad
T: 1300 308 699

Come along and lend your support!
World Autism Awareness Day Celebrations
Melbourne, Sun 1 April

There will be information and merchandise for sale in Fed Square

This is where we finish: Birrarung Marr

This is where we start

The light blue route is about 1.2 km long.
The dark blue route is about 0.6 km long.

1.00pm Gather beside the Boathouses adjacent to the river
1.30pm Receive a helium balloon* from the balloon handlers
1.55pm Short address from one of our VIPs
2.00pm Follow the marshalls' directions walking under the St Kilda Road bridge and along the riverside path in Southbank. Cross the footbridge and follow the path back under the St Kilda Road bridge and along into Birrarung Marr.
3.00pm Gather in Birrarung Marr for a short address from our VIPs.
3.15pm Declan Sykes, X Factor contestant, will count down for the balloon release
3.20pm Enjoy entertainment from Declan Sykes and Enjoy some entertainment in Birrarung Marr and Fed Square

Please note:
1. A Social Story for this event is available on our website
2. Our start point has moved a little - from Queen Vic gardens to the boathouses - we will ensure that there are marshalls in case anyone is at the original start.
3. Please try to wear something blue!

More information:
W www.amaze.org.au/waad
T 1300 308 699
* Please be assured that balloons, strings and ties are all biodegradable.
'ONE STOP SHOP TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS'

A motivational session relevant to parents, school councillors & school mgm/staff - 'to sustain and engage school communities'

DATE: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
TIME: 10.00am - 12.00 noon
PLACE: Hume Central Secondary College (Town Park Campus)
LOCATION: 60-78 Tanderrum Way, Broadmeadows

Gail McHardy (Parents Victoria, Executive Officer) will present and discuss the following information and will be available to answer your questions.

- The PV CD Toolkit for Parent Clubs
  (Tip Sheets & Pro Forms designed specifically to assist PCs)
- Families as partners in learning
- Strategies to build Parent Participation
- Inclusive school communities
- Communicate more effectively
- Other relevant & current educational issues of interest

Plus

Cheryl Anderson has extensive knowledge of CASES 21 Finance reporting functions and although recently retired from the Dept of Education, continues to provide professional development to business managers covering report interpretation and analysis. Cheryl will discuss such issues as:

- Fundraising
- CASES21 Finance
- Useful Reports
- Communication
- Financial Arrangements (Option 'A' & 'B')
- Requesting Financial Information
- Proforma Examples

Cheryl will also be available to take questions from the floor. Feel free to bring your own examples to show, share and ask about!

Register your attendance by April 23 -
Phone: Parents Victoria office - 9380 2158 or
Email: office@parentsvictoria.asn.au
(please advise your name, school, contact phone number, email and session date)
Sensory Friendly Screening of the New Kids Movie The Pirates 2D

Looking for April school holiday entertainment that the whole family can enjoy?!

When: Sunday 15th April, 2012
9.45am for a 10am start
Where: Village Cinemas, Century City Walk,
285 Springvale Road Glen Waverley
Ticket Prices $12 per ticket

Please place your ticket order and return via fax or email back to Irabina Childhood Autism Services ASAP.
Name/Company: _______________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________
Enclosed please find my payment of $____ for ____ Children & ____ Adult tickets
Please find my cheque attached or I authorise a single deduction from my credit card
Please debit this card: MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] Bankcard [ ] Diners [ ]
Card number: ______________________________
Expiry Date: _____/_______
Name on Card: ______________________________
Signature: ______________________________

Please direct ticket orders or enquiries to Phone: 9720 1118, Fax: 9720 6641 or Email autism@irabina.com
Tickets are Limited

Enhancing the lives of children and families challenged by an Autism Spectrum Disorder