Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

Welcome back to term 2. The autumn leaves have fallen and the chilly nights are upon us. This generally means there are more bugs around and harder to fight off infections. If your child is sick please remember to keep him/her at home to recuperate and this will help to prevent/minimise the cross infection of these nasty bugs.

We really appreciate your co-operation.

Autism Connect Program

During the holidays the North West Victorian Region announced a further commitment to supporting all students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a centre of excellence Jacana School for Autism has agreed to provide services to other schools in the region. The program has a $25,000 funding budget provided from DEECD. This is an opportunity for JSA to build the capacity of staff throughout the northern region as well as improve the outcomes for all students on the autism spectrum disorder.

The program aims to:

- Build connections between schools and teachers to support the inclusion of students with autism spectrum disorder
- Use evidence based practice to ensure optimum outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorder
- Improve academic, social and wellbeing outcomes for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder
- Develop and retain expert knowledge in the area of autism spectrum disorder within schools, networks and the region.

School Review

At the conclusion of the School Strategic Plan phase, schools must engage in a Self Evaluation and Review process. At the end of 2013 the school community spent time reflecting on targets and goals set in the 2010 Strategic Plan. The Leadership Team in consultation with the school community is preparing a Self Evaluation in preparation for the external review process. Yesterday parents and carers received a letter providing additional opportunities for feedback which will inform the school self evaluation. Please complete and return to the school by Friday 9th May.

Late in term 1, the Regional Director, Jeanette Nagorcka advised me that JSA would be engaging in a Peer Review in term 2.

A peer review is designed to demonstrate professional trust in the expertise of the principal class and a commitment to profession-led school improvement. Peer review involves leaders from across Victorian schools working together to assess school performance and making recommendations for improvement by asking the questions: What are students learning? How are students learning and how is the school supporting learning? How does the school know students are learning? How does the school provide feedback to its students and their families on learning progress.

Peer review will help build and sustain professional relationships between the leaders of Victoria’s schools, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise and building greater levels of system knowledge in the pursuit of high quality educational outcomes for all students. Peer learning will be at the heart of peer review, providing an opportunity for principals to build their professional knowledge and capacity, foster collegial support, and share experiences of successful school practices to improve students’ achievement, engagement and wellbeing.
I am excited about the opportunities that the peer review will bring as well as the opportunity to continue to improve and develop JSA into the future.

**Building and Grounds Work**

**Playground 1 & 2 resurfacing** - Work commenced at the start of the term 2 school holidays, however with the constant Melbourne drenching the work ceased late in the first week. Contractors from Australian Synthetic Surfaces worked hard to get the work completed however it was unavoidable that there would be disruption to the play areas during the first week of term 2. The project included the removal of the soft fall mulch and installation of concrete paths and synthetic surfacing in this area.

**Tree Lopping** - Tree Tactics were engaged by JSA during the holiday period to ensure the stability of all trees on the site. Contractors removed 2 trees that had partially died and also trimmed branches and limbs on several other trees.

**Individual Learning Plans (ILP's)**

Individual Learning Plan summaries were sent home on Thursday 24th April. It is important to read these and agree to them as they form the important teaching focus for the next term. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about the ILP goals.

**Staffing**

A very warm welcome to Song Chia and Merryn Horsfall to JSA. Song has already been working in the role of the PE specialist and Merryn commenced in the speech therapist role on Tuesday 22nd April.

Kym Tonkin, Later Years Sub School Leader has resigned from his Leading Teacher role here at JSA and will take leave from this Friday 2nd May. Kym will return in 2015 as a classroom teacher. Thank you to Kym for his contributions to the Later Years and the leadership role.

Congratulations to Kristie Giannakis who has accepted the 3 year position as sub school leader. We are currently in the process of appointing a casual replacement sub school leader for Elizabeth Smith, who is on maternity leave at the moment.
We will also be looking for another sub school leader for term 3 as Lauren Tippett will take maternity leave to have her first baby. Congratulations to Lauren and her partner on the lovely news.

As soon as we finalise the sub school leaders I will advise the community.

**Staff - Professional Development**

At times we request that staff attend professional development in their own time. Recently JSA held a 2 day Picture Exchange Communication System workshop and tomorrow a group of 25 staff will be undertaking their First Aid Certificate. Whilst this arrangement is not ideal, I would like to acknowledge the contributions and commitment to JSA in order to further develop skills and knowledge so that all our students can be well supported in all areas of their school life.

**Family Support Meetings**

Our term 2 Family Support Meeting will be held in the Professional Learning Centre. An invitation is extended to all family members to attend on Thursday 8th May and 19th June. Please mark these dates in your diary.

**Thursday 8th May** - Lydia Wilson will be presenting on this day, the topic will be ‘Anxiety and Autism Spectrum Disorder’. Time: 9:15am—10:15am

**Thursday 19th June** - Middle and Later Years Sub School Leaders will be discussing programs that students participate in this area of the school. Time: 9:15am—10:15am

**School Photos**

Just a reminder that school photos will be taken on Thursday 22nd May. The photo envelopes will be sent home on the 12th May. If families would like sibling photo’s, please get a separate envelope from the office.

**Fundraising**

Our next Fundraising meeting will be held on Thursday 8th May at 10.30am in the Assessment & Meeting Room. We always welcome new members to the committee. Please feel free to join us.

**Jacana Fun Run/Walk:** Thank you to all families that supported the 2nd Annual Fun Run. The event is a significant way to celebrate and raise the awareness of autism. Photos of the day have been uploaded to the JSA Facebook page.

**Easter Raffle:** Total profit raised was $773.50

**Mothers Day Stall:** Thank you to Lisa Stewart, Michelle Owen, Mary Thomas, Lisa Sette, Rosa Figliola, Katie Powell, Teresa Beasy, Dianna Lauria and Marissa Griffiths.

Happy Mothers Day to all our mums and nana’s for Sunday 11th May. I hope your child spoils you on your special day.

**Special lunch order day:**

Thursday 12th June: More information will be sent home soon.

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

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MASSIMO

DANIEL

VALENTINO

JACK

SOLOMON

THOMAS

HARRIS

LUCAS

ROOM 7 2014
Room 4 have had an exciting start to the year. We have done lots of great activities that the students seem to be enjoying including Art and Cooking. We have already celebrated 2 birthdays and begun learning lots of fantastic things. Our theme for the term is “Under the Sea” and we will be visiting the Melbourne Aquarium next week.
Room 18 Fun!

Room 18 Students enjoy playing together at recess. We recently cooked Singapore noodles with the spring onions we grew from the vegie patch.
This year's Mothers Day has been a great success once again. The children have enjoyed choosing lovely gifts for their mothers. A big thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers.
Autism Day Celebrations
2014

Thank you to all the families who took the time to celebrate Autism Day with us. The enjoyment on students' faces and the eager participation was great to see. Thank you to all the parent helper.
EDUCATION WEEK
18TH—23RD MAY

JOIN US IN THE CLASSROOM
TUESDAY 20TH
2:00—3:00PM

RSVP: Please return slip below by Thursday 15th May

Student’s Name(s) ________________________________________________________

I / We will be visiting my child’s classroom on Tuesday 20th May at 2:00pm.
I/ We will be bringing _____ additional people (siblings, grandparents etc.)

Parent(s) name ________________________________________________________
Secondary Student Uniform Order Form

Product Code: PS08

Cost: $20.00

Sizes:
XS
S
M
L
XL
XXL
XXXL
XXXXL

Orders Due: Friday 23rd May 2014

Delivery: Approximately 10th June 2014

Name: ___________________________ Room Number: __________

Size: _______________ Quantity: _____ Amount: $______

Method of Payment: _______________

Please call the school if you have any questions 9309 6258
Eco-Friendly Drink bottles only $10.00 and a great way to show your support for Jacana School for Autism

Name: __________________________
Room: __________________________
Number of Bottles: ______________
Contact Number: __________________
Method of Payment: ______________
Total: $ _____________
Family Support Meeting

School Psychologist Lydia Wilson will be speaking on Anxiety and Autism Spectrum Disorder. This will include exploring what is anxiety and what anxiety looks like in children with ASD. We will explore what may help to reduce and manage anxiety in children with ASD including some brief calming and relaxation strategies to trial with children and adolescents.

Topic: Anxiety and Autism Spectrum Disorder
Time: 9.15am-10.30am
Date: Thursday 8th May 2014
Place: JSA PLC