FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL VALUES

EMPATHY ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY

2016 School Theme – Building a Learning Community

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school community,

Welcome back to the 2016 school year. I trust that you and your families have enjoyed some quality time together and that you are all rested and revived for the upcoming school year.

In particular a very warm welcome to our new students and their families. I hope your time at JSA is positive and rewarding. Our staff are looking forward to building a strong partnership with you during this time.

We are anticipating an enrolment of 206 students (199.6 Effective Full Time). To accommodate the enrolment we have structured the school in the following way:

Primary – 12 classes including 1 x 2 teacher classroom
Secondary – 13 classes including 1 x 2 teacher classroom (VCAL)

For our new families, 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 if you provide an email address, or alternatively it is on the school website: http://www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au/

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

Our core business is teaching students on the Autism Spectrum (AS) and our school motto is “Learning for Life”. Autism specific pedagogies (strategies) are embedded strongly at JSA and students will be supported to reach their full potential.

Our School Strategic Plan has a significant focus on developing curriculum across the school. JSA implements the Australian Curriculum incorporating Levels A to 10. If you would like a copy of the School Strategic Plan (2014-17) please contact reception and we will send you a copy. Alternatively you can access the plan from the school website.

BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

JSA has an enduring philosophy which is expressed through the mission statement, the set of values and the school motto. It is timely now to consider a shorter term focus or theme within the existing goals. Reflecting where JSA’s developmental pathway has led, a timely theme for 2016 is "Building a Learning Community". Throughout the year the theme will be explored in different ways within the operation of the school.

The theme for 2016, Building a Learning Community is closely aligned with the Powerful Learning Project introduced for all our teachers last year. In 2016 we embrace “all learners at all levels” this includes not only the students and staff but will extend to parents/carers. Our intention is to develop life long learners who possess a growth mindset and passion for learning. In preparing for our theme for 2016 we are asking for your input. We would like to rename the Professional Learning Centre (PLC) to be more inclusive of the entire community. One example is to rename the PLC Community Learning Hub. Please submit your ideas to me by Friday 12th February by completing the attached reply slip.

2016 TERM DATES:

Term 1: 27 January—24 March
Term 2: 11 April—24 June
Term 3: 11 July—16 September
Term 4: 3 October—20 December

CURRICULUM DAYS: Wednesday 27th January, Monday 22nd February, Monday 29th February, Friday 22nd April, Monday, 31st October.
The leadership team is also in the process of reviewing the Family Support Group meetings to deliver a learning schedule that will reflect the theme, Building a Learning Community. I will have more details for you in our next newsletter.

Curriculum Days - Wednesday 27th January, Monday 22nd February and Monday 29th February

In preparation for the 2016 school year staff will have the privilege of engaging in some very valuable and important professional learning opportunities. We are highly supportive of staff's professional growth and value the opportunities to engage in teams and whole school activities to broaden our knowledge and expertise in education.

Wednesday 27th January – Setting the Scene: all staff were involved in presentations from the principal class team regarding important updates on the Powerful Learning and Teaching Project introduced in 2015 as well as compliance updates and reminders. Half a day was also set aside for staff to prepare and set up their classrooms in readiness for the students' arrival on Thursday.

Monday 22nd February – SMART Goal Training: teachers and therapists will be involved in a whole day curriculum development day which will be focused on developing and writing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Timely) goals for student's Individual Learning Plans (ILPs). Members of the therapy staff and leadership will be there supporting staff through this process via collaboration and workshop activities.

Monday 29th February – Powerful Learning Workshop: All staff will be attending an off site workshop with other neighbourhood schools. The key focus of the day will be to provide staff with information on the Powerful Learning Project. Up until this point, members of the school improvement team have been meeting with Wayne Craig to ensure the school based structures and initial audits can be undertaken. Now this has been complete, it is now timely to include the entire staff so that everyone can be briefed on the project as well as use the time to workshop some of the activities to move the project forward into 2016.

School Attendance Guidelines – EVERY DAY COUNTS!

The importance of full time attendance at school. Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 – 17 years unless an exemption from attendance has been granted. Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don’t fall behind both socially and developmentally. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age. School participation is important as it maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values, which set them up for further learning and participation in their community. I would also like to emphasize the importance of the first 15 minutes and last 15 minutes of the school day in terms of "natural social skills" opportunities in greeting and farewelling other students and teachers. I ask families to be mindful of the importance of this time and request that you minimise the times students arrive late or are picked up early.

If you would like a copy of the Jacana School for Autism’s Attendance Policy, please contact Carlee or Julie at reception and they will organise a copy to be sent to you. Alternatively, please speak to Deb Munt, Student Transition and Wellbeing Co-ordinator if you have any questions in relation to the guidelines and responsibilities or check out the DET web link.


January Holiday Grounds Upgrade

Staff and Parent Car Park Redevelopment

The Building and Grounds committee worked extremely hard to ensure the next major works project was ready for the commencement of the 2016 school year. Project Manager, Shanesy Management Services have been overseeing the redevelopment of the staff and parent car park throughout the December and January holiday period.
In late November, school council approved two separate civil works contractors to undertake the project.

Parkinson Group P/L was the successful contractor for the staff car park on Landy Road & Eifer Civil Pty Ltd was the successful contractor for the work on the parent car park on Bambough Street. Total school funds committed to the two projects are $350,000.

School council is highly supportive of the need to improve building and grounds so that the community has access to beautiful facilities and access is safe and secure for all the community.

The redevelopment has enabled us to relocate the waste bins and shipping container, previously located in the parent car park which has opened this entrance up to make it more accessible and safe when picking up and dropping of your child/ren. There is also a new crossover entrance to the parent car park and a separate exit making the area less congested.

The staff car park upgrade will also provide visitors and staff with access to an improved surface, which will have more effective drainage and even surfaces which will be low maintenance compared to the previous gravel base. It has also enabled us to run a conduit underground in the staff car park to install external lighting at a later date for better visibility in the dark for staff and visitors.

External & Internal Painting

Whittlesea Painting and Maintenance Services also completed the cyclical repainting as well as some routine touch ups. $12,000 was invested in this project, which included:

- repairing and repainting the external façade of the Art Room / Rooms 22, 23, 24 & 25/therapy office & balustrade
- repairing and repainting the external south facing windows of the main admin building
- repairing and repainting the external north facing windows of the Roberts Wing
- repairing and repainting internal touch ups in Rooms 1, 2, 5, 7, 19 & 21

Check out our Facebook Page for progress pictures of the Christmas and January works.

Staffing Update

A very warm welcome to the following staff to JSA and wish them well in their respective teams.

- Leanne Sinnadurai – Leading Teacher /Positive Behaviour Coach
- Jane McCurry - Physical Education Teacher
- Cathy Marson - Food Technology Teacher
- Simone Ziemer – Occupational Therapist (Replacing Lucy Dowd who is on Maternity Leave)
- Karen Corbett – Room 11
- Gurminder Kaur - Room 14
- Kerryn Dimario - Room 25
- Emel Ince - Room 24
- Paola Tarsitano - Room 23

Congratulations to Jim Wenholz who will be acting secondary sub school leader for 2016 and Song Chia who will be working as a generalist classroom teacher this year.

JSA also welcomes back Melinda Fitzgerald, from leave. It’s great to see her back in her teacher aide role. Melinda spent the last 12 months broadening her experience at another specialist school.

We also welcome our new Autism Connect Coach Marisa Rizio to the team. The Autism Connect Hub Consultant is funded by the North Western Victoria Regional Office and is based at JSA 2 days per week. Marisa will be managing the school referrals and supporting the broader autism community.
Student Support Group Meeting / Meet the Teacher

Student Support Group meetings will be conducted after school again this year to ensure students are maximizing opportunities to educational programs. Parents/carers will be given the opportunity to meet from 3.30 - 4.30 in weeks 3 and 4 (Monday 8th Feb – Thursday 18th Feb)

It will be great to see families during this time as it allows time to not only meet the teacher but to discuss learning goals and priorities for the year. Staff are looking forward to developing relationships with families in order to best meet the needs of your child/ren.

Family Support Meetings

As I mentioned, the leadership team are reviewing the format of the Family Support Meetings. Previously the meetings were held twice termly (Thursday’s at 9.15am) with the invitation extended to all family members. Until the review is complete the first planned Family Support Meeting for 2016 will be held in the Professional Learning Centre on Thursday 4th February where we will learn about the Primary Sub School. This presentation will be delivered by Sub School Leader, Julie La Bouchardiere.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th March and we will have more information in the next newsletter regarding the revised structure and program.

Please contact Deb Munt for more information about the Family Support Meetings

Fundraising Committee

Our first Fundraising committee will meet on Thursday 4th February at 10.30 am in the Professional Learning Centre. We welcome any new members to the committee.

Our first Fundraising events for term 1, 2016 include:

- Entertainment Books
- Hot Cross Buns Drive
- Easter Raffle
- Bunnings BBQ
- Jacanarama Fun Run/Walk.

Lisa Sette is our Fundraising Co-ordinator and can be contacted via the school office or sette.lisa.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Bush Fire & Grass Fire Emergencies

DET works closely with CFA to manage emergencies related to fire incidents that impact on schools, early childhood centres and school bus routes. With the beginning of the school year schools are asked to remind families to review their fire plans to ensure the plans take into account that students are now attending school or early childhood facilities.

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) has produced a flyer for schools to educate their students about its system of emergency alerts to mobile phones. Students will receive these alerts on their personal mobile phones. A copy is attached to this newsletter.

Parents of students who access the school buses should be aware if there are fires in the vicinity of the bus route, the bus run may be diverted or cancelled by DET if there is any danger. If a bus run is cancelled, the whole run is cancelled. Parents/Carers can choose to drive their children to and from school on those days or make other arrangements. If an afternoon bus run is cancelled parents will be requested to pick up their children from school at 3pm.

Reminder: Cars and young children in the summer months

Melbourne and greater Victoria will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period. Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.
## 2014/15 School Councillors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corinne Pupillo</td>
<td>Executive Officer (Principal) <a href="mailto:pupillo.corinne.c@edumail.vic.gov.au">pupillo.corinne.c@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Sette</td>
<td>President <a href="mailto:sette.lisa.l@edumail.vic.gov.au">sette.lisa.l@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>David Edgar</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dianna Lauria</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Nikki Davis</td>
<td>Parent Representative/ DET Employee</td>
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<td>Bridget Kille</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<td>Edward Stolinski</td>
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<td>Steve Shennan</td>
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<td>Virginia Smedley</td>
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<td>Denise Clarke</td>
<td>DET Representative</td>
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<td>Position Vacant</td>
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<td>Sue Johnston</td>
<td>DET Representative</td>
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**Corinne Pupillo**

**Principal**

19 - 39 Landy Road, Jacana VIC 3047

Phone: 9309 6258

Fax: 9309 6426

jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.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.


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**Like Us On**

facebook

[Logo]

www.jacaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au

Learning for life
Welcome back parents, students and school community.
Secondary School

It was fantastic to see the students return to school this week. You can notice the growth that has occurred in the students over the summer break.

In 2016, we have welcomed three new teachers to JSA Secondary Department. Song Chia in Room 19, Gurminder Kaur in Room 14 and Kerryn Dimario in Room 25. While all are new as teachers in the secondary department, they are all familiar faces, having served the school in a variety of capacities in recent years.

The secondary school will continue the VCAL and Advance Programs this year. One of our VCAL students, Aaron Stolinski, has been successful in obtaining a School Based Apprenticeship Training position with Hume Council. This will be the first time a JSA student has participated in the program and we wish Aaron all the best.

We look forward to a successful 2016 in the Secondary Sub-School at JSA.

Jim Wenholz
Secondary Sub School Leader (Acting)
BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Renaming of the Professional Learning Centre

Dear, Students, staff, parents and carers,

The theme for 2016, Building a Learning Community is closely aligned with the Powerful Learning Project introduced for all our teachers last year. In 2016 we embrace 'all learners at all levels’ this includes not only the students and staff but will extend to parents/carers. Our intention is to develop life long learners who possess a growth mindset and passion for learning. In preparing for our theme for 2016 we are asking for your input.

We would like to rename the Professional Learning Centre (PLC) to be more inclusive of the entire community. One example is to rename the PLC, the Community Learning Hub.

Please submit your ideas to me by Friday 12th February, by completing the attached reply slip.

Thank you in advance for your suggestions / ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Corinne Pupillo
Principal

BUILDING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Renaming of the Professional Learning Centre

Please submit your suggestions / ideas by Friday 12th February, 2016.

My suggestion for renaming the PLC is:

________________________________________________________________________

19 - 39 Landy Road, Jacana VIC 3047
Phone 9309 6258 Fax 9309 6426
jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
Safe traffic management around the school require vigilance by all members of the school community. We have plans in place to minimise the risk of accidents during movement of traffic around the school. During the school holidays the Parent Carpark in Bamburgh Street will be reconfigured and re-surfaced with a new entrance so there will be one-way traffic in and out of the carpark.

**ONE WAY REQUEST for BAMBURGH STREET TRAFFIC**

**Bamburgh St** – where the buses enter and leave the school - has become a traffic management hazard for the parents, bus drivers and other drivers during drop-off and pick-up times. We are also requesting that parents treat Bamburgh Street as ONE WAY travelling south only.

Parents can enter from Lichfield Ave end and leave travelling towards Emu Parade. Parents who park in Bamburgh Street are requested to leave by travelling south to Emu Parade. Cars doing **U turns** in the street **add to the traffic hazard.**

We request that parents take the long way round – it is only 300 metres longer and about 40 seconds more.

**Street Parking** - The west side of Bamburgh Street has resident permit parking only, so parents are not permitted to park there. The new buses which are much bigger have significant difficulty moving in Bamburgh Street when there are cars parked on both sides of the roads.

We request parents **NOT TO PARK OPPOSITE a parked car.**

**Designated pick up and drop off areas for students:**

- **Rooms 1 – 8**; arrivals after 9:10 and pick-ups before 3 PM Administration & Visitors’ Carpark
- **Rooms 9 - 14** (Bamburgh St parents carpark) Enter from **new driveway at northern end of carpark** and **exit from southern driveway.**
- **Rooms 15 and upwards** - Bamburgh St – designated pedestrian gates
- **Room 22-25** Staff car park: drop off zone in disabled parking bays

Parents bring their children into waiting areas within the school and wait with children until a staff member picks up the student. Vice Versa in the afternoon.
**VSSS16 is Coming!**

**Victorian State Schools Spectacular 2016**

Jacana School for Autism has been accepted to take a group of students to participate in the massed choir at **Victorian State Schools Spectacular 2016**!

**What is Victorian State Schools Spectacular?**

**Victorian State Schools Spectacular** is one of the largest live performing arts events in Australia. Every year thousands of students from Victorian government schools perform two concerts at Hisense Arena and the production is broadcast by Channel 7.

Participation in **VSSS16** requires commitment:

- Weekly compulsory choir rehearsals at school throughout Term 1, Term 2 and Term 3
- Mass Choir Rehearsal Number One: Wednesday July 20 10am-3pm @ Melbourne Town Hall
- Mass Choir Rehearsal Number Two: Wednesday August 17 10am-3pm @ Melbourne Town Hall
- Production Rehearsal at Hisense Arena: Thursday 8 September 9am to 5pm
- Production Rehearsal at Hisense Arena: Friday 9 September 9am to 5pm
- Performance day at Hisense Arena: Saturday 10 September Call time 10:30am
- Performance Times: Matinee Show - 1pm; Evening Show - 6:30pm

Participating students are required to buy a T-shirt as part of their costume for the production. Cost of T Shirt (if ordered before March 20, 2016) is $15. Students will need charged MYKI cards to attend massed rehearsals.

Participation in **VSSS16** will engage students and build perseverance, confidence, self-esteem and cooperation as they collaborate with students from around Victoria to create an impressive performance outcome. **VSSS16** also provides a fabulous opportunity to work with internationally renowned industry professionals.

If your child is over 9 years old and would love to be part of **VSSS16**, please watch this 3 minute video from the **VSSS16** dress rehearsal:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixwXk6Te4&list=PLzvA4wSB9IgOH2SbIyVnFRuCqXv1dYJ&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixwXk6Te4&list=PLzvA4wSB9IgOH2SbIyVnFRuCqXv1dYJ&index=5)

Please write a note in your child's communication book if you require further information or if you would like to talk to Catherine Schmidt, the music specialist, about your child participating in **VSSS16**. Catherine can then contact you directly.