FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL VALUES

EMPATHY ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school community,

It’s been another busy fortnight with lots of activities on the school program! It’s a real pleasure to see students and families coming together to celebrate engagement across the curriculum as well as the opportunity to conduct special activities for our families.

School Performance

Our 3rd annual school performances celebrated the talents and skills of our students and highlighted the importance of how music and dance can provide opportunities to connect and interact with others. Our students were amazing! Staff and families should be extremely proud of the achievements this year. Thank you to Stephanie Bergin and Simone Ryan for co-ordinating the rehearsals and performances this year. Also a special thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their support with the community BBQ. It was lovely to see so many proud staff and family members again this year.

AAC Expo

A special thanks to Martina Beggs, Therapy Team leader for co-ordinating the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Expo. This was a very popular expo with a variety of communication devices available to trial. Please contact Martina or Anastasia if you would like more information regarding the AAC Expo.

On Tuesday the 8th September I was shadowed by Julie McKay, Founder and Managing Director, Enable Social Enterprises.

Julie McKay will step out of the business world and into Jacana School for Autism for the fourteenth annual Principal For A Day.

Principal For A Day gives a wide range of community and business leaders from all walks of life a first-hand experience of a normal day in a Victorian government school. Many business and community leaders are repeat participants, including high-profile people such as James Merlino MP, Minister for Education; Fiona Menzies, CEO, Creative Partnerships Australia; and Emma King, CEO, Victorian Council of Social Service, with prominent first-time participants this year including Tim Wilson, Australian Human Rights Commissioner; Jurgen Schneider, Head of Market Development-Pacific, Siemens; and Michelle Plane, CEO of Netball Victoria.

Julie was extremely keen to participate in a variety of activities such as joining in on classes, sharing ideas with the staff & students, meeting the school councillors and exchanging insights with the school leadership team.

Principal For A Day provides us with an excellent opportunity to enable someone from the business community to gain a unique insight into the learning environment at our school.

2015 TERM DATES:
• Term 1: 30 January—27 March • Term 2: 13 April—26 June • Term 3: 13 July—18 September • Term 4: 5 October—18 December
“I have been looking forward to the experience and I expect to gain a new perspective on the work being done in schools. It’s a great way for schools and the broader community to work together in preparing our children for the future” Julie said.

After the main event day, principals for a day and their host principals will have the opportunity to come together to discuss the common ground they share around leadership and ways of creating ongoing and productive relationships.

Principal For A Day is delivered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (through the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership).

About Julie McKay

A strategically oriented, solutions focused and pragmatic Chief Executive with almost 30 years experience in Executive/Management roles in manufacturing, consulting service, wholesale/retail, not for profit (Disability Employment Services, Australian Disability Enterprise and Social Enterprise) as well as Federal and State government sectors. Key strengths include social enterprise (leading expertise), strategic and business planning, marketing and business development, innovation, finance, governance, operations, human resources, project/change management, quality and risk management. Well-regarded, passionate, energetic, outcome driven leader backed up by recently completed Master of Marketing (July 2014) with Deans List commendation from Monash University.

“At the heart of my career passion is my commitment to social justice and finding new and innovative ways to solve old and deep seeded social problems facing highly disadvantaged jobseekers. My goal is to make a genuine difference, particularly for those whom are experiencing severe social and economic disadvantage. I am currently a member of the Hume Council Global Learning Advisory Board and Founder of Enable Social Enterprises (trading as In the Click Social Enterprises).”

I see Julie’s specific expertise, skills and knowledge in this arena being a great opportunity for us here at JSA to build links with local community, particularly in post school opportunities for our students exiting JSA.

Announcement of new curriculum to strengthen healthy and respectful relationships and foster cultural awareness

The Victorian Government announced changes to two areas of the school curriculum in 2016. These include a focus on building healthy and respectful relationships and learning about global cultures, ethics and traditions.

Content included in the curriculum will help students to cultivate the social skills necessary for healthy and respectful relationships, and to positively contribute to the community. The curriculum content will focus on exploring stereotypes, and challenging attitudes and behaviour such as prejudice, violence, discrimination and harassment.

The Victorian Government recognises the important place of religion and ethics in our society, so from next year students will be taught about global cultures, ethics and traditions to build greater understanding of world views, tolerance and respect.

These changes will also provide principals with more capacity to determine the approaches that work best for their school communities.

Off site / Out of school hours activity

School council also approved the offsite / out of school hours Melbourne Marathon activity. Students, parents and staff from JSA will compete in this event on 18th October 2015. Students are already in training for this event and we are also anticipating other staff will register and join the fun.

School Holiday Works

On Tuesday, contractors from DECA Constructions commenced preliminary work on the Administration upgrade. The school will invest $400,000 for the project, which will deliver:

- Secure reception and waiting areas
- Additional staff meeting spaces
- Expanded Professional Learning Centre area
- Functional office spaces for school technicians, administration and principal class team
- New telephone system

Shanley Management PTY LTD will continue to manage the project and support us with traffic management and project timelines. We are anticipating the project to be completed by Monday 5th October apart from some minor finishing touches.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.
School Improvement

Parent / Carer Feedback Questionnaire

The School Improvement Team distributed 2 questionnaires last Monday and would like to remind anyone who has not yet returned them to send them back to the school as soon as possible. The questionnaires were sent to all families from the School Improvement Team. We value your feedback regarding the school narrative and would love to have your view on the following areas:

- High Expectations
- Authentic Relationships

All staff and families have been provided with the questionnaires and once they are collated, the School Improvement Team will share the results with you.

Last Date of Term 3 – Reminder

The last day of Term 3 is Friday 18th September. Students will finish at 2.00pm, 1 hour earlier than normal.

Staffing

I am pleased to announce that the following teachers have been appointed to JSA and will commence in various classroom teacher roles in the coming weeks:

- Manish Soni
- Megan Bewglass
- Mark Taylor

We are still in the process of recruiting staff for 2016 and selection panels will be running early Term 4 so that we can finalise our staffing for next year.

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to Song Chia for co-ordinating the purchases for the bike education program. Over $6,000 of funds raised by the Fundraising Committee in 2014 plus $3,000 from the Glenroy Lions Club has enabled us to purchase tricycles, bike racks, helmets and mountain bikes for students across the school. We are very fortunate to have the community support so that we can purchase those extra special items so that all students have access to a variety of bikes to suit their needs. A special mention to Mr & Mrs Powell for their tireless volunteering of fixing up our broken bikes throughout these 2 years! A big thank you also to Ben McMahon for the handy work on the new bike racks. We are very blessed to have such supportive parents like them!

An additional section of the stage has also been purchased from funds raised by the Fundraising Committee and this was used for the recent school performance.

New bikes & racks

New tricycles

The fundraising committee have been super busy over the past few weeks and are pleased to announce the profits from the Term 3 scheduled events:

- Father’s Day Stall: $306.00
- Bunnings BBQ: $897.04
- Community BBQ: $1058.65

There is still one last event for Term 3, the special footy day lunch order day to be held on Thursday 17th September.

- Lunch orders due back today 11th September.

Fundraising events for Term 4, 2015 include:
Shopping Tour – Great way to buy your Christmas presents or just some retail therapy with a great group of people.

Christmas Stall – Date to be confirmed
Special Lunch order day - Date to be confirmed

Lisa Sette is our Fundraising Co-ordinator and can be contacted via the school office or sette.lisa.l@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. http://www.jacanaschoolforautism.vic.edu.au/

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

School Council News

School Policies
At the School Council meeting last night the following policies were endorsed

- Safe Use of Technology (Revised)
- Smoke Free/Alcohol Free Policy (Revised)
- Visitors to the School Policy (Revised)
- Volunteers Policy (Revised)
- Emergency Management Plan (Revised)
- Staff Part Time Work and Time Fraction Changes Policy (Revised)

Please contact reception for a copy of any of our school policies.

2014/15 School Councillors

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<th>MEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corinne Pupillo</td>
<td>Executive Officer (Principal)</td>
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<td>Lisa Sette</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>David Edgar</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<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>
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<td>Edward Stolinski</td>
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<td>Steve Shennan</td>
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<td>Virginia Smedley</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
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<td>Denise Clarke</td>
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<td>Kristie Giannakis</td>
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<td>Sue Johnston</td>
<td>DET Representative</td>
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The next School Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 29th October, 2015 at 5.30pm

Corinne Pupillo
Principal
19 - 39 Landy Road, Jacana VIC 3047
Phone: 9309 6258
Fax: 9309 6426
jacana.school@edumail.vic.gov.au
Room 10

We have been busy with our inquiry-based unit focusing on animals. We enjoyed an excursion to Collingwood Children’s Farm and we had lots of fun.

We are also learning to play together with our peers in class and within our social visits to Rm 9.

We are learning to use our visual mini schedules for work sessions and continuing to use communication tools to support our communication skills.

In Room 10, Learning is fun!
Over the past term and a half, students with the support of their teaching staff have been working hard on their item for this year’s school performance. Performing, music, dancing and singing are all part of the AusVELS Arts Curriculum. For example one of the standards for Level 1 & 2 is

*Students create and present performing and visual arts works that show emerging arts knowledge and an ability to plan arts works that communicate ideas, concepts, observations, feelings and/or experiences*

Throughout the 2 days of the school performance we witnessed an array of acts from singing and dancing, to comedy, miming, circus tricks and media performances all backed up with props and costumes supported through the visual arts program. So for those who were lucky enough to be part of the audience you were able to witness first hand the results.

Steph Bergin and Simone Ryan have worked tirelessly over the past months to support students and staff to put on a fantastic performance for you. Congratulations on your efforts.

Also, to all our students and staff; a big *THANK YOU* for the time and effort you have put into your act.

Sue Johnston

Teaching & Learning
The specialists have been busy with JSA students working together, playing together, learning together and having fun. Through music, P.E., health, food technology and art we have explored the theme of community and have worked on cooperating and taking turns with classmates.
In 2014, the fundraising committee raised a whopping $6650 for the Bike Ed Program.

We are proud to announce our new bike shed, adjacent to the bike track, is now fully equipped with brand new bikes for the secondary school students as well as new helmets for primary school students.

We would also like to thank our kind sponsors, Lions Club (Glenroy), as well as Mr. Abdul (father of Aftaab-Room 2) for donating bikes.

We would like to acknowledge parent volunteers, Dave & Katie Powell for tirelessly helping JSA maintain and repair our fleet of bikes. Throughout the year, they have been helping JSA to fix and restore our bikes ensuring they are in good condition for riding.

We would like to share a reflection article by Andre-Room 14. Andre reflects on his experience assisting his dad with the bike racks. Thank you Ben and Dre for your hard work and contribution!

We are really heartened to see the wonderful work of staff, students and parents, to ensure students have access to high quality resources and equipment.

We will continue to add value to the bike education program and look forward to the continual support from the fundraising committee in 2015.
Personal reflection from a JSA student

Can you draw a picture of dad & you making the bike stand?

Can you draw the tools used to make the bike stands?

Share with us how dad & you build the bike stands! 😊

I passed the nails. I screwed the nails. We bent the poles.
We put my bike in the bike stand to test it.
We did a lovely job.

Thank you Dre for sharing! 😊
We did it!

We did it!

We Want YOU!

What: 3km Walk
When: 18 Oct 2015, 11am
Where: Start Batman Ave

This is a special invitation to all students and parents.

JSA is organising a walking team to participate in the Melbourne Marathon 3km Walk.

If you would like to join us, please find out from your child’s classroom teacher or contact Song/Tonia (The PE Teachers) by 16 Sep 2015. Alternatively, you can register online at (http: melbournemarathon.com.au/Events/3km/Start-Time-Entry-Fee)
Thank you to Julie McKay for your expertise and knowledge regarding post school options.
JSA Augmentative and Alternative Communication Expo

The Jacana AAC Expo was held on 26th August and was a great success. The expo was an opportunity for parents, teachers and students to come and explore different low tech AAC systems and speech generating devices.

Games, toys and fun activities were displayed and many ideas and suggestions for creating communication opportunities were shared.

Speech Pathologists were on hand to answer questions and promote discussions about different AAC systems. Thank you to Merryn Horsfall from Liberator, Pty. Ltd. and Marisa Grasso from Yooralla ComTEC who presented a wide range of speech generating devices and provided information for high tech AAC options.

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle prizes and thanks to everyone who prepared for, attended and shared in the event. We hope that this Expo assisted people to understand more about supports and systems available for individuals with complex communication needs.
Theory of Mind – known as the fundamental human ability to “Mind Read”.

Impairment in theory of mind is a lack in this ability, and sometimes also referred to as ‘mind blindness’.

This is a key feature of Autism.

An ability to understand that other people have thoughts, beliefs, intentions and desires of their own, and that these differences lead to differences in behaviours... essentially, that they have their own minds, and we are not all connected with one shared mind.

It relates to the concepts around self and others.

JSA Fast Facts are presented by Elizabeth Smith (ASD Coach) If you have any questions, please pop by for a chat.
Sensory-friendly screenings of Inside Out (rated PG) - $5 per person!

**When:** Sat 12th & Sun 13th September 2015  
**Time:** 11:00am  
**Where:** Airport West, Karingal, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Knox, Southland and Werribee  
**Note:** Inside Out is rated PG

Please click here to see if the trailer is suitable for your family

How are sensory-friendly screenings different?

Sensory-friendly movies adjusted to suit individuals with sensory sensitivities, including those with ASD:

- House lights are dimmed but not completely down
- Sound is reduced
- Individuals may leave their seat if necessary
- Times are set to avoid busy times
- Staff are aware of the needs of individuals on the autism spectrum
- Signage is provided explaining the session
- And they are just $5 per person!

Book tickets online [click here](#).

- On the Village webpage, select cinema, select date and click on the “show more” (next to the Gold Class & VMax icons) then select Sensory Friendly Film (SFF) from the list to display times to enable bookings.
- Or Contact Village to book - 1300 555 400.

Thank you to Village for continuing to support the ASD community with sensory-friendly sessions!
SPECTRUM

SPECTRUM SCREENINGS

Join HOYTS for a morning of fun! We’re delighted to invite families and people on the Autism spectrum to a very special movie screening. Kids are free to make noise in the cinema, lights remain on and the sound is lowered, so you and the whole family can enjoy the experience in a comfortable, sensory friendly environment.

WHAT’S ON?
BLINKY BILL
Sunday September 20th
10:30am*
*No pre-show

ALL TICKETS
$8

BOOK NOW
AT THE HOYTS GREENSBOROUGH BOX OFFICE OR CALL (03) 9026 9954 FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jacana School for Autism
Shopping Spree Bus Tour 2015!

Are you needing some ‘you time’ that you never seem to have? Some retail therapy? The Shopping Spree Bus Tour is just for you!

Please join the fundraising team on a fun-filled FRENZY spending day! We will be visiting great outlets where you can SAVE UP TO 70% OFF RETAIL PRICES! Our profit will be 11% of the commission on our total sales for the entire day which will go towards our fundraising goal of 2015 - more new bikes for the bike education program and additional sections for the stage.

TOUR INCLUDES: 10 outlets and a 2 course lunch at The Croxton Park Hotel with soft drink and tea/coffee. Alcohol will be at bar prices. Also throughout the day on the bus there will be raffles, prizes, giveaways, refreshments and nibblies too!!!

The outlets will be;
Siricco, Toy Worx, Bambis, Beaches, Raglan Fashion House, FILA, Candy Stripes, Natio, Home Direct, Ross’s Nuts.

DATE: Sunday 11th October 2015  PICK UP TIME: 7.30am for 7.45am departure
PICK-UP ADDRESS: Kmart Campbellfield, Hume hwy (across from Hungry Jacks)
DROP-OFF: approx. 6.00pm  PRICE: $55 per person (Due 18/9/15)

***PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST BY CONTACTING CARLEE OR JULIE ON 9309 6258 OR COME IN TO SEE US AT RECEPTION

The tour also includes the following: *Luxury coach transport
*A friendly and informative hostess
SO DON’T MISS OUT!