Hello, Hola, Selamat,你好

It is hard to believe we are half way through the term. It is a very busy term with lots of exciting things happening in and around the school.

FOPA – it is a week to FOPA! We are looking forward to seeing the Laverton children’s performance at FOPA this year. The staff and children have been putting the finishing touches on their performance which is to a surprise!

FOVA, the Festival of Visual Arts is on at the same time as FOPA. Some of the children’s artwork will be displayed at FOVA at the Point Cook Town Centre from Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd August.

Liz Richardson, Campus Principal at Niddrie will commence study leave from Monday 17th August and will return at the beginning of Term 4. In her absence Helen Manning will be Acting Campus Principal at the Niddrie Campus.

This week we have met with Brand Architects after school Council approved the proposal to develop a masterplan for the Niddrie Campus. Developing a masterplan provides an opportunity for the school community to re-imagine the school, what it looks and feels like, so that it can continue to meet the needs of learners with an ASD in the future. There are a range of stakeholders in this process: students, families, staff, school council, the region and the wider community.

Thank you to all the families who attended recent meetings related to planning for their child’s transition to another school. Some of our students are currently participating in testing with a visiting psychologist from Assessments Australia. For many families who are hoping to determine if their child is eligible for enrolment at another specialist school this can be an anxious time. Families who have a child involved in this process are encouraged to meet or speak directly with the psychologist on the day of their child’s assessment so that they have timely advice about their child’s eligibility for a range of school options.

Students who are transitioning from WAS to mainstream schools do not require reassessment as they retain their eligibility for funding under the ASD category until grade 6.

Most families who have identified that they would like their child to commence a transition to primary school in term 4 prior to full time enrolment have provided us with those details. If you have yet to do so please do as soon as possible so that planning can be put into place to support your child’s transition.

Dr Barry Coughlan, Assistant Director of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology Faculty of Education & Health Sciences, University of Limerick, will be visiting Wattle between the 17th and the 21st August 2015. Dr Coughlan is an expert on the mental health of young people and adults with intellectual disabilities and complex needs. Dr Coughlan will be meeting with the parents of Wattle students and conducting an evaluation of this program. He will also be consulting with the Regional Director, Mr Matt Dunkley, on ASD specific adolescent programs like Wattle.

Laverton Footy Colours Day

The School received a visit from the Western Bulldogs’ Tom Campbell (15), Bailey Dale (31) and Luke Dahlhaus (6) on Thursday. The players gave a brief talk to the students about being an AFL footballer, and also helped the students with their handballing, kicking and marking. The students were then treated to a huge kicking display by the players. All students had a ball and were encouraged to continue their interest in AFL football, and hopefully get on board with the Bulldogs!
Events and Services of possible interest for families

**Book Week**

![Book Week Image]

Book Week is from the 24th -28th of August 2015. The Wyndham Library service is offering activities for all ages! For further information and session times: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries)

**Essendon Symphony Orchestra – Animal Antics Concert**

Sunday 23rd August from 2.30-3.30pm

![Animal Antics Concert Image]

A visual story for the concert has been put on the Essendon Symphony Orchestra’s facebook page and website, so it can be downloaded and saved and/or printed from either of these locations. The visual story includes a program for the concert and can be used in whatever way is appropriate for your child. Perhaps you could save it to an iPad or print it out and talk about it before the concert, and then your child can also refer to it during the concert!

http://www.essendonsymphony.com/upcoming-concerts.html
For bookings call 92439191.

**Parent Activities and Events**

**Parent Group Sessions**

**Parental Anger**

A nice safe place to learn more about anger and frustration and explore this and how it affects our lives.

Opportunity to talk about strategies and learn some new approaches for managing these conditions.

Chance to meet up with other parents and share ideas and strategies and gain support from the group process.

When: Every second Tuesday for 2.5 hours per week

Where: Western Autistic School – Laverton Campus, 1 Burnley Street, Laverton

Dates for Term Three: August 25th; September 8th

Time: 10:30am till 1:00pm

Please note the group will be running fortnightly, every second Tuesday.

**Turning Stress into Peace**

An opportunity to talk about a range of issues and concerns impacting on families parenting a child with Autism; discuss the dangers of stress and learn some simple meditation techniques which can be used in everyday life.

Chance to meet up with other parents and share ideas and strategies and gain support from the group process.

When: Every second Monday for 2.5 hours per week

Where: Western Autistic School – Niddrie Campus, Cnr Teague & Garnet Streets, Niddrie 3042

Dates for Term Three August 17th and 31st; September 14th:

Time:10:30am till 1:00pm

Please note the group will be running fortnightly, every second Monday.

There is no cost to attend and childcare is available.

If you would like to attend or require more information on this session please contact Jacqueline or Margaret on itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au or 9097 2000.

**Signposts for Building Better Behaviour**

Commencing Wednesday 26th August at the Niddrie campus

Parenting a child with Autism is never straightforward and it is sometimes puzzling for a parent to know what their child wants or is trying to tell them.

Our parenting group looks at finding effective ways of communicating with your child and different strategies to manage the difficult times. Many of the strategies will be familiar to your child as they are used in the classrooms.

When: Wednesday 26th August 2015

Where: Niddrie Campus

Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

If you would like to attend contact us to register or just turn up. If you have any queries or require childcare, please contact Jacqueline or Margaret on itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au or 9097 2000.