Dear Parents and Guardians,

Inquiry on Autism Announced by the Victorian Government

The Victorian Parliament has announced an inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Please follow the link below to read the Terms of Reference for this new inquiry, which is to include education. There was wide consultation with the autism community to develop the Autism State Plan in 2009 and it is hoped that the Autism State Plan will inform the inquiry.


Parliamentarians to visit WAS

The Hon Bernie Finn MP (Western Metropolitan) and Secretary for Autism will visit Laverton on Wednesday morning of this week. The visit is part of a community consultation program his office is conducting in schools and service providers for people with ASD.

The Hon Martin Foley Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Mental Health, Equality, and Creative Industries and Ben Carroll, Member for Niddrie – are visiting the Niddrie campus on the 3 June 2015.

The school will provide feedback about these visits in future bulletins.

Parent Tours this week

Parents interested in their children attending Western in 2016 will visit the school this and following weeks, where they will be provided information on the educational rationale of Western and observe the classroom teaching program.

Group News

Sports, Exercise and the Benefits of Physical Exercise for children with ASD.

It is not surprising to discover that physical exercise activity has been shown to improve fitness levels and general motor function of individuals with autism. Research has demonstrated that increased aerobic exercise can significantly decrease the frequency of negative, self-stimulating behaviours that are common among individuals with autism, while not decreasing other positive behaviours. One theory behind these findings is that the highly structured routines, or repetitive behaviours involved in for example running and swimming may be similar to or distract from the those self-stimulatory repetitive behaviours associated with autism. Children who prefer individual sports rather than team sports may benefit from positive attributes of physical exercise while forming relationships with coaches or trainers.

Source: Autism Speaks.
Bike Riding

Bike riding is part of the school program at WAS. We have designed a fun program that helps teach our students how to ride a bike. The program aims to teach skills such as starting, pedalling, stopping and being aware of space and others. Bike riding is used to help develop coordination and can even help in strengthening.

For some children riding a bike at school helps them concentrate better in class. It can also be used to assist learning and reinforce skills such as taking turns and sharing. Bike riding is a play activity that many children can do in their playtime out of school.

Parent Activities and Events

Parent Group Sessions

Anger Workshops
To be held at Niddrie
on:
June: 1st & 15th

Mental Health and
Wellbeing
To be held at Laverton
on:
May: 26th
June: 9th & 23rd

There is no cost to attend and childcare is available.

Information Evening – Food and Autism

Parents are invited to attend an information evening presented by Sally Girvan, a paediatric dietician.

When: Wednesday 10th June, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Niddrie campus – Multi Purpose Room.

If you require any further information on these events please contact Margaret Itsines or Jacqueline Nixon on 9097 2000 or itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank You

Story books donated to the children’s library

School Photos

School Photos are being taken on the following dates:

Laverton Campus including the Wattle Program – Wednesday, 27th May, 2015

Niddrie Campus including the Essendon Keilor College Adolescent Baseroom – Thursday, 28th May, 2015.

If you have siblings at the school and would like a family portrait of your children, please contact your campus office who will in return send home a family envelope.

All information and envelopes have been sent home. Envelopes and permission slips must be returned before photo day. Please note, if you are paying by cash, please enclose correct amount as no change can be given.

The Duck Barks

Written by: Rosemary Angyasy
Illustrated by: Ashgal Ali

Many thanks to Rosemary Angyasy who has donated copies of a story book she is the author of titled “The Duck Barks”.

Rosemary is the grandmother of one of the children attending WAS.