July 24th 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. It has been great to see families attending the recent Q & A transition meeting and sessions with the Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists and hope that they proved of interest and value.

By now most families will have had their SSG meetings with classroom staff and were able to reflect on their child’s learning and identify current priorities. If families still have any questions about their child’s learning you are always welcome to make another time to further discuss your child’s learning with the teaching team or Campus Principals.

During Term 3 we will be continuing to tour families of prospective students in 2016 and look forward to developing these early relationships.

Please keep an eye out for the AMAZE strategic plan, identifying future goals and strategies for supporting the Autism Community in Victoria which will be launched on Tuesday 28th July and accessible through the website at http://www.amaze.org.au/

Group News

Niddrie Room 5A – Using Visual Supports in the Classroom.

Our classrooms provide a diverse range of visual supports to scaffold students in their communication and learning. The types of visual supports used by teachers and accessed by students will vary depending on the needs of each individual. Teachers & Speech Pathologists work in collaboration to ensure students are supported to develop their receptive and expressive communication through a range of immersive and functional opportunities throughout the school day.

Laverton Room 3.5 - Breakfast Café

The students in 3.5 enjoy having a Breakfast Café each Friday morning. The session provides a great opportunity for all of the students to practice using their communication and personal learning skills in a motivating environment. Some of the students have developed excellent skills in request the items they need using the iPad. Teachers encourage each child to build their independence in making their breakfast or asking for help.

Johnny requesting what he would like for breakfast

Daniel and Elvis cooking eggs for breakfast

Laverton Footy Colours Day

On August 13th the Laverton Campus will have a number of players from the Western Bulldogs visit. Classes will be having football activities and food for lunch. Children and staff are welcome to come dressed in their favourite footy team colours.

Parent Opinion Survey

Approximately 80 families across the Laverton and Niddrie Campuses have been randomly selected to complete the 2015 Parent Opinion Survey for the Department of Education and Training.

The information gathered is used to inform and direct our future school planning and improvement. If you have been selected you will receive a survey early next week. Please complete the survey and place it in the envelope provided with your child’s name on the back and return it to school by Friday 31st July. Thank you for taking the time to participate.
Events and services of possible interest for families

Relaxed Performances at the Arts Centre
Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo – Sunday 2 August, 11am
Audiences beware – the dinos are back! After a sell-out season in 2014, don’t miss these awesome prehistoric creatures in this fun, educational and unique performance, where little dinosaur lovers can connect with the wonders of paleontology.

With opportunities to touch and feed Erth’s family of dinosaurs, experience the thrill of this extraordinarily imaginative work.


Oddysea – Saturday 29 August 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm and Saturday 5 September 10am and 12:30pm
A multi-sensory adventure under the sea!

Oddysea is a highly specialised, hands-on, interactive theatre experience designed especially for children with complex disabilities.

Join Crab and Turtle for a fun-filled immersive journey into an undersea world, where there’s plenty for children to see, hear, smell, touch and taste as an enchanting story of fun and friendship unfolds around them.


New Environmental Labelling in Victorian Schools
As part of the Department of Education and Training’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling will be installed at our school.

The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register.

Asbestos – which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition.

The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe.

Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution.

Parent Activities and Events

Transitions Q & A at Laverton
28th July Parent Q and A on Transitions to Mainstream School 6 pm- 7 pm.
All families welcome, no rsvp required.
We will answer any question you may have about your child’s transition to Mainstream for this year or future years.

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: Time:
July 28th: 10:30am till 1:00pm
August 11th, 25th;
September 8th;

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: Time:
August 3rd, 17th and 31st;
September 14th:

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

To register either complete form below, call 90972000, email itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au or just turn up.

I / we will be attending the (please circle the session/s you wish to attend):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Anger</th>
<th>Turning Stress into Peace</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Carer name:</td>
<td>Language required:</td>
<td></td>
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Your child’s name and class:_____________________________________________________

Do you require an interpreter: YES / NO

Do you require childcare: YES / NO

If yes, how many children:_____________________________________________________