Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to another parent bulletin. How time is flying by. It has been a very busy start to the school year. We hope parents and families new to the school have had a positive experience with school so far.

**Multicultural-Aide**

Dear Parents

In this school year, Van Vu, Vietnamese Multicultural-Aide will be working for our school at the Laverton and Niddrie campuses. Van will be available at our school on Tuesday and Wednesday. The school is also very pleased to receive bookings from parents at any time by this phone number 90972000.

Thank you very much.

Kính gửi quý phụ huynh,

Trong năm học này, nhà trường xin giới thiệu Vân Vũ là nhân viên phụ trách đa văn hóa. Anh Vân sẽ có mặt tại trường vào hai ngày thứ Hai và Ba hàng tuần tại hai cơ sở Laverton và Niddrie. Ngoài ra quý vị có thể hẹn để liên lạc với anh Vân bất cứ khi nào qua số điện thoại 90972000.

Xin cảm ơn

**The School Website**

The school website, www.westernautisticschool.vic.edu.au is our main forum for communication with parents/guardians. If you do not have access to this website then please contact the Laverton office on 9097 2000 to ask for a printed version of the information you seek.

**News from Students and Groups**

**What do we teach in Music?**

The children can learn and practice many skills through Music and Dance. For example:

- Social skills – participation, sharing and waiting for a turn.
- Communication – making a choice, expressing needs and wants, turn taking. Listening and responding to individual and group instruction.
- Play – imitation, role play and dramatisation.
- Physical development - physical skills, body awareness and coordination.

These are just some of the objectives that can be taught in a Music lesson.

There are individual objectives for each child in the Music lesson. Teachers teach individual objectives within group objectives.

At ‘Classrooms in Action’ days families can observe the teaching programs. More information about these days will follow in later Bulletins.

*Students in 1A enjoying a music session*
School Council

A reminder that School Council nominations close on Monday the 2nd of March, 2015 at 4:00pm.

Parent Activities and Events

Parent Coffee Morning
“Overview of the school philosophy and program”
- Laverton 27th February from 9:30am to 11.00am
- Niddrie 6th March from 9:30am to 11:00am

We ask that parents return the RSVP if they are coming to the coffee mornings. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you then.

Resource Making Session
Information regarding the communication resource making session for parents and carers, presented by the Speech Pathology Team is attached to this bulletin.

Parent Meetings
Advanced notice of the following parent meetings with Margi Itsines, Social Worker and Jacqueline Nixon:

Mental Health & Wellbeing Group will be commencing at Laverton on the 17th March 2015. The group will meet from 10:30am till 1:00pm and run fortnightly for approximately 8 sessions.

Anger Management will be explored in our group being run at Niddrie which will be commencing on the 23rd March, 2015. Once again the group will meet from 10:30am till 1:00pm and there is no charge and childcare is available.

If you require any further information please don’t hesitate to contact Margaret Itsines or Jacqueline Nixon on 9097 2000 or itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Events and Services of possible interest for families

Learning about Autism
Swinburne University is launching an Autism MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in April 2015 that is designed for parents, families and carers living and working with individuals that have autism. The MOOC is a free online course which will run for six weeks, using a scenario-based learning approach to support, guide and share experiences and stories from parents and experts in the field. Please see link below for more information or to register.


The seminar features six researchers talking about their projects on medical research into the causes of autism. A flyer with details can be found on the school website.