Dear Parents and Carers,
Namaste, Hyålo, Kia Ora, Ciao

We extend a warm welcome to the prep children and families who are starting school at Niddrie and Laverton campuses this week. We hope to meet you at a school event soon.

What will the staff be doing on the upcoming Curriculum Days?

Wednesday the 4th May and Friday 10th June are Curriculum days when the children do not attend school. On those days the staff will be engaged in professional learning. On Wednesday the 4th May a guest speaker will talk to the staff about child development including the important subject of play development. Play has an important role in teaching our students communication, language and social skills. In the afternoon staff will work on how their personalized performance and development goals are aligned with the school and student outcomes goals. Each year Teachers and Education Support staff develop personalized goals to improve the children’s learning. The student outcome goals are to improve literacy and numeracy, to improve the ability of students to generalize their social communication and functional skills across school and home, and to improve the transition experience of exiting and entry students.

On Friday the 10th June, staff will engage in professional learning to build their knowledge of the Victorian Curriculum; English Speaking and Listening, Reading and Viewing and Writing standards and progression points to support planning for differentiated teaching of our students. Staff will also look at assessment tools for their students.

Advance notice: Mother’s Day High Tea

Mothers are invited to afternoon tea on Friday 6th May 2-3pm at the Niddrie campus. An invitation is coming your way.

Victorian Government’s Special Needs Plan.

The Autism Teaching Institute has been invited to take part in a study of special needs professional learning opportunities for the Victorian early childhood and schools teaching workforce. This study has been commissioned by DET as part of the government’s Special Needs Plan for Victoria (https://www.vic.gov.au/media-releases/labors-special-needs-plan-for-victorian-schools/) and will help to inform an early childhood and schools teaching workforce professional learning strategy.

Another initiative of the Special Needs Plan is the review of the guidelines for Victorian Government schools use of restraint and seclusion. WAS has led the Seclusion and Restraint working party as part of the Expert Reference group.

Mary Thomson

Curriculum Days – Term 2

Please note, the following curriculum days in Term 2. Students will not be required at school on these days:
- Wednesday 4th of May 2016
- Friday 10th June 2016

Transition to Mainstream Schools – Information Night

Parent Information Evening

Topic: Transition to Mainstream Schools
Date: Thursday 28th April 2016
Time: 5.45-6.45 pm
Where: Niddrie Campus, Garnet & Teague St – Multi Purpose room, enter via Teague Street.

Presenters: Niddrie Campus Assistant Principal – Liz Richardson
Parents from each campus can attend their own or an alternate campus evening and it will provide parents with information about the process of transition to a Mainstream School, including question time. All parents are invited to attend, not just parents involved in the process in 2016.
Footy Clinic at Niddrie
Our Niddrie students had the opportunity to participate in "Footy Clinic" last Monday 18th April. This was run by the Essendon Football Club. Our students received great coaching tips to improve their kicking and handballing skills, but most of all enjoyed meeting and playing with their footy idols. A BIG thank you to the Essendon Football Club for making this such a memorable day for everyone.

Spotlight on Leading & Section Deputy Teachers

ADELE JONES – Leading Teacher Laverton
I work with Simon in Red Pod. I support classroom staff in developing and implementing functional and engaging programs for all of the students. This year I’m also working with Sam to review our behavior support policies.

ERIKA LYNCH – Leading Teacher Laverton
I am the Blue Pod Leading Teacher, working alongside Laura and Mandy. I coach staff to develop their teaching and learning skills and I support the curriculum and reporting process.

GABRIELLA VASCOTTO – Leading Teacher Laverton
I work alongside Michelle in the yellow pod and assist with running the entry tours and coordinating the entry program at the Laverton Campus.

GLENIS WILLIAMS – Leading Teacher Niddrie
I work with other leaders to assist with coaching staff and working on student transitions and behavior policy.

HELEN MANNING – Leading Teacher Niddrie
I’m a teacher in an entry class and coordinate the transition program at the beginning and end of the year at Niddrie. I’m proud to tour new parents at the Niddrie Campus and have worked at 5 campuses over the last 17 years.

JULIE HALLS – Leading Teacher Niddrie
I work at the Niddrie Campus and coach teachers to implement curriculum programs and policy.

LAURA IBIC – Deputy Leader Laverton
I am a classroom teacher and Deputy Leader in the Blue Pod at Laverton and my area of interest is Curriculum.

MANDY CARLIN – Deputy Leader Laverton
I work as a Teacher in the Blue Pod at Laverton and am responsible for the Numeracy Department alongside two other staff members.

MICHAEL GAY – Leading Teacher Wattle Program
I work in the Wattle Program with adolescent students and enjoy guiding my staff to provide quality learning and pathways for our students.

MICHELLE MANN – Leading Teacher Laverton
I work with Gabriella in the entry program at Laverton and assist with school tours and also support families and students to transition into their first year of schooling.

RENEA THOMPSON – Deputy Leader Laverton
I work in the Yellow Pod in an entry classroom. I assist with coaching staff and with entry program transitions.

SIMON WILLIAMSON – Leading Teacher Laverton
I work alongside Adele in Red Pod. I help coordinate transitions for students leaving the Laverton Campus.

Have Your Say:
Survey about Hospital Experiences of Children on the Autism Spectrum
Amaze is conducting a survey about the experiences of children on the autism spectrum when they have had to stay in hospital. We are working with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch).
We would like to hear from you if you have a child (or were a child) on the autism spectrum who went to hospital. Help us to help nurses to better understand autism and how to make a child on the spectrum comfortable when they are in hospital.
You can find a link to the survey on our website here. https://www.esurveycreator.com/s/9a3f25d
The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
Thank you for your time.
Have a great weekend.