Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yow, Yawey, Hola, Halo

Welcome to another edition of the bulletin.

Mid-year reports

Reports will be heading home to families on the 19th June. The midyear reports provide a snapshot of your child’s learning in the first half of the year. While the report does not include all of your child’s ILP goals we look forward to Student Support Group meetings in late term 2 and early term 3 as an opportunity to hear from you about learning priorities for your child and to further share information about your child’s progress at school.

National Reconciliation Week

This week we acknowledge National Reconciliation Week.

The National Reconciliation Week website has plenty of ideas of how the community can get involved across the state.

Student news

Jarrod who attends the Wattle program starts work experience at a Cards Store next week. All the best Jarrod.

Public Holiday

A reminder that Monday the 8th of June is the Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday.

Group News

We began our weekly Show and Tell sessions for 2015 at the start of term 2. Show and Tell can be funny, scary, challenging and confusing, sometimes all of these things in the one session for the student. We run Show and Tell sessions because it challenges the students’ expressive language. This includes telling their peers what they have brought, who gave it to them, where they keep it and what it does or how it works. It requires them to form sentences whilst talking in front of and to their peers. It also challenges them to form a question to ask the presenter about their Show and Tell item.

Students in 3.3 enjoying show and tell

Each and every challenge involved can be daunting so we thought about how to structure this session in ways that can reduce stress and increase student’s confidence and fun.

We are trialing sitting in a circle, sitting on the floor and giving students turns filming their peer’s Show and Tell on the iPad. We use the turn taking and wait symbols so students can prepare themselves for their Show and Tell. We use ‘Show and Tell’ booklets that include visually represented sentences to support students to tell about their item. We reward students throughout for positive behaviours they show using our class reward chart. So far the students’ are enjoying this session and we are looking at ways of using the worksheets they produce about this session to create a larger portrait of each student.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data or School Students with Disability

‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.
All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Manning on 9097 2000 the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.

* For more information on Schedule 3—Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013 see: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01723/Html/Text_Toc404934419

Bernie Finn Visit

Bernie Finn is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Autism Spectrum Disorder and is a member of the Victorian Legislative Council representing the Western Metropolitan Region. On Wed the 20th of May Bernie visited the school and met with the Principal Mary Thomson and the Director of the Autism Teaching Institute Steve Ahern.

Bernie was seeking input for the recently announced Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Family and Community Development Committee will report back to the Parliament by 31 May 2016; following that date, the government has 6 months to respond to the report.

The terms of reference are:

a. the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in Victoria;

b. the availability and adequacy of services provided by the Commonwealth, State and local governments across health, education, disability, housing, sport and employment services;

c. the adequacy of services to be provided under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);

d. evidence of the social and economic cost of failing to provide adequate services; and

e. the projected demand for services in Victoria.

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:
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