Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Chao Chi, Yasou

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. This Friday we will be sending home your child’s Semester 2 Individual Learning Plan, which we hope reflect the learning priorities for your child this year and the goals you have identified with school staff during recent Student Support Group meetings. We look forward to working with students and families in the second half of the year to support each child’s learning.

For those families with children transitioning to local specialist schools in 2017, the change of assessment processes for all children have been completed. Our Specialist Transitions Coordinator, Helen Manning and classroom staff are available to offer information and guidance in relation to specialist school enrolment and transitions processes. For those families with children transitioning to mainstream schools we have been working with a number of schools to identify opportunities for them to visit their prospective students and participate in shared SSGs between both schools, prior to transition. Our Integration Coordinator, Glenis Williams and class staff are available to answer any queries that you might have during the process.

Unfortunately, the winter season has brought its fair share of coughs and colds to both students and staff. We appreciate that it can be difficult to convince your child to stay at home when they are unwell but appreciate the efforts of all families to ensure children rest at a home until they have recovered from fevers, coughs, colds and illnesses.

Students have been creating and exploring a range of art forms in preparation for the Art Show in September and look forward to sharing their talents with family and friends. We are looking forward to some special themed events this term starting with our Olympics focus next week and Book Week activities later in the term.

Warmest Regards
Liz Richardson, Campus Principal - Niddrie

2016 Olympic Games come to Niddrie Campus

To help celebrate the 2016 Olympic Games the Niddrie Campus will have a sports themed week. It will start on Monday, 8th of August. On Tuesday 9th the Niddrie Campus will have a sports dress up day to mark the ‘Opening Ceremony’. Students can dress up as anything ‘sporty’, (an athlete, gymnast, bike rider, swimmer or in the Aussie colours Green and Gold etc.) The students will also be showing off their Gymnastic skills on a Jumping Castle, Trampoline and Balance Beam. All classrooms will be participating in many different activities and will end with all students receiving a Gold Medal. ‘Let the Games Begin’.

Please remember to dress your child in ‘sports’ clothing on Tuesday 9th of August for the opening ceremony.

Transition to Special Schools

Parent Information Session

Topic: Transition to Special Schools Information, Question and Answer.
Date: Friday 5th August
Time: 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm
Where: Laverton Campus, Burnley Street Laverton
Presenters: Laverton Campus Assistant Principals - Michelle Sanders and Sam Hindes

Hear local Special Schools share information about their school. On the day we will also share the experience of a past Western Autistic School parent, who will tell her transition experience when her son began at their local special school in 2015.

All welcome to attend.
Niddrie Parent Committee Update
Father’s Day ‘Movie Night’ Thursday 1st September @ 5.30pm
A movie and games night for WAS students and their special people to come and celebrate Father’s Day. Group social games will start at 5.15pm with the movie commencing @ 5.30pm-7pm. Light snacks and refreshment will be provided. Cost is $5 per family and is payable on the night.

‘The World through our Eyes’ students Art Show
Thursday 15th September @ 5.30pm
A showcase of our student’s special talents and a celebration of their uniqueness. Parents, family and friends are invited to attend
Time: 5.30-7.00pm
Where: Multipurpose Room WAS Niddrie Campus Garnet St
Details: $5 entry per family (Light snacks, refreshments and entertainment provided)
Student’s artwork can be purchased at for a gold coin donation & a raffle will also be run.

Looking for Support and Donations of Raffle Prizes and Materials:
Anyone who is able to support on the night or in the form of raffle donations, materials (large cardboard boxes, rope or chains for artwork display) please contact Alisha 0430 166 488, Laura 0421986502 or Sandra at the office.

Cuni boys in The Age newspaper
Michael and Joseph Cuni were featured in a newspaper article about the autism friendly park in Brimbank.

Spotlight on Teaching Teams
Room 7A
Ulea, Donna and Sue
Our children in Room 7A are in their 3rd and last year at WAS. Across the day we use a combination of highly structured and semi-structured activities using visual supports, PECS, and Proloquo 2 Go to aid in the children’s communication and transition from one activity to another and to the home setting. We are focused on supporting our parents’ priorities, especially along the Personal, Interpersonal Domains and Independent Self-help Skills, for their children who will soon be transitioning to other school settings. Sensory-Exploratory Play and the Pet Therapy are unanimously popular with the children. Our 7A students enjoy engaging each other and the staff in daily incidental teaching and learning situations using positive behavioural supports as they socially navigate through a variety of emerging verbal and non-verbal interactions within the classroom.

Parent Activities and Events
Free two day workshop for parents and careers
Positive Partnerships are hosting two day workshops.
The workshops intend to: increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning, introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your young person, explore ways to work in partnership with your school, etc.
Werribee Workshop
Where: Werribee Racing Club, 2-10 Bulban Road
When: Tues 30 & Wed 31 Aug, 9:15 - 3:00pm

My Time parent peer support groups
There are My Time groups in Avondale Heights, Sunshine, Point Cook and Williamstown. Please find information about locations and days of the groups run by Tweddle in the west on the school website.

Sensory friendly screenings at Village Cinema
Village Cinemas are hosting two sensory friendly screenings across August and September.
The screenings will take place at the following cinema locations: Airport West, Eastlands, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Karingal, Knox, Southland, Sunshine and Werribee
Alice through the Looking Glass will be shown on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August at 11:00am
Finding Dory will be shown on Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September at 11:00am
Tickets are $5 and can be purchased online or at the ticket box.