Dear Parents and Guardians

Hello and welcome to this edition of the parent bulletin.

August is shaping up to be ARTS month at WAS. We have the Festival of Performing Arts coming up on Thursday the 20th August at Carranballac College. Some of our children are performing again at FOPA this year. It is an event not to be missed! Details of the FOPA is elsewhere in this bulletin.

Also we are taking part in the inaugural Festival of Visual Arts (FOVA) at Point Cook Town Centre. Artwork from the classrooms will be displayed at FOVA this year. More information on FOVA to follow.

Some of our Niddrie children are taking part in the Accessible Music Program for Special Schools at the Arts Centre Melbourne this term. Also following on from the mini concerts for Niddrie classes by the Essendon Symphony Orchestra last term, the ESO are performing the Animal Antics Kids’ Concert at the Clocktower in Moonee Ponds. This event is coming up on Sunday 23rd August from 2.30-3.30pm. For bookings call 92439191.

Laverton Footy Colours Day

Players from the AFL team Western Bulldogs are visiting Laverton campus on Thursday the 13th August. The players will kick the footy around with the children. The children are invited to come to school in their AFL footy team colours on that day.

Special thanks to George Kordos, Antonios’ dad for arranging this event with the Western Bulldogs.

Jennings Street School

Jennings Street School enrolment requests open next Monday August 10th - Friday August 14th for the Western Autistic School community.

For parents interested in enrolling your child in 2016 the following forms must be completed:

1. Submit to WAS – Release of Information
2. Submit to Jennings Street School – Enrolment Request Form

Please contact Jennings Street School on 9360 9322

Rotary Club Blue Moon Event

WAS staff were guest speakers at the Rotary Club Flemington at their Blue Moon meeting last week. The staff presented on their work with the Exceptional Children’s Foundation YKII Schools in Bogor, Indonesia. Hugh Stewart, President of the Flemington Rotary Club thanked the staff for their excellent presentation noting that it was a credit to their commitment and passion for assisting people with autism.

Amaze Victoria Launches New Strategic Plan

The launch of the Amaze Victoria (the state’s peak autism body) strategic plan was held at the Melbourne Museum last week. The Chair of Amaze, Jane Evans, and CEO, Fiona Sharkie launched the plan. The plan arose from the findings of survey of the autism community. The priorities of the plan are:

1. Raise public awareness of autism
2. Work with government to influence policy
3. Provide information and support.

Interestingly the strategic plan is to 2040. The rationale for a 25 year plan is that it will take generational change for community awareness and attitude and behaviour change in the community. WAS is committed to working closely with Amaze to support the plan.

WAS Teachers Gabriella and Adele speaking at the Rotary Club
The Festival of Performing Arts
The Festival of Performing Arts (FOPA) for the schools in the Hobson’s Bay and Wyndham area is coming up in just three weeks. The Drama Club have been working hard in rehearsals and look forward to presenting their item.

“Everything is Awesome”
All parents and friends are encouraged to attend free of charge.
Cost: Free
When: 10:30am on Thursday
20th August
Where: Carranballac P-9 College,
Jamieson Way School,
Point Cook

Parent Activities and Events
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: August 11th; 25th; September 8th
Time:
10:30am till 1:00pm
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 August 17th and 31st; September 14th;
Time:
10:30am till 1:00pm
Please note the group will be running fortnightly, every second Monday.
There is no cost to attend and childcare is available.
If you require any further information on either of these parent group sessions, please contact Margaret Itsines or Jacqueline Nixon on 9097 2000 or itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

The Drama Club rehearsing