Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. This edition features resources of possible interest to parents and families.

Did you know that Sesame Street has unveiled a new character with autism named Julia? The makers of Sesame Street say Elmo, Abby and Grover are getting a new friend with autism as part of an effort to reduce stigma and help those on the spectrum learn life skills. Sesame Workshop said that it is introducing a new character named Julia, a preschool girl with autism who “does things a little differently when playing with her friends.”

Julia is part of the nonprofit’s “See Amazing in All Children” initiative, which is designed to teach kids about autism and offer tools for those with the developmental disorder.

Sesame Workshop is introducing a character with autism named Julia, center, as part of its new “See Amazing in All Children” initiative.

A website http://autism.sesamestreet.org/ includes tips for parents and siblings, as well as guides to help kids on the spectrum learn everyday basics like brushing teeth and going to the grocery store. In addition, the initiative includes an iPad app and printed storybooks.

TRIPLE P PARENTING PROGRAM

The Stepping Stones Triple P project is a program of research being run across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland where parents of children with a disability or developmental delay aged between 2 - 12 years are being given free access to the evidence-based positive parenting program, Stepping Stones Triple P.

As part of this project, there is a free Stepping Stones parenting seminar in Broadmeadows on Thursday 19 November at 7pm. Information on the seminar can be found in this newsletter. This seminar will be delivered by Professor Bruce Tonge, a leading child psychiatrist who is also head of the Stepping Stones project in Victoria.

This seminar will offer parents an introduction to the principles of positive parenting for children with a disability. After the seminar, parents will be offered access to view the other seminars online in the convenience of their own home. Any interested parents should register to attend via the following link: http://www.triplep-steppingstones.net/au-en/get-help/find-a-stepping-stones-session/653/

After the seminar, parents will be able to access other levels of the Stepping Stones program such as one-on-one assistance, attending a parent group or participating in the self-directed program. As these programs are part of a research project, parents will be asked to complete a series of three online questionnaires. The research team can assist any parents who do not have access to a computer or the internet. To be eligible parents must have a child diagnosed with a disability, including intellectual disability, developmental disability, developmental delay, language delay or disorder, physical disability, sensory disability, motor disability, neurological disability, autism spectrum disorder (including Autistic Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder, and PDD-NOS).

RAISING CHILDREN NETWORK

Raising Children Network is an online resource, providing information that can help parents with the day-to-day decisions of raising children and looking after their own needs.

Raising Children Network (RCN) supports the belief that positive outcomes can be achieved when parents have access to information based on science in parenting and child health and development. Funded by the Australian Government, RCN is free of advertising and commercial interests.

In addition to being a source of information for parents, RCN aim to offer personal support by helping to connect people through forums on the website. Information is presented in a range of accessible ways, from videos to visual guides and interactive tools. http://raisingchildren.net.au/children_with_autism/children_with_autism_spectrum_disorder.html

Mary Thomson
Principal
Curriculum Day
On Monday 2nd November Western Autistic School held a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing to raise funds for new equipment.
The day was a great success. Thank you to all the staff who volunteered and families that came along, we raised just over $1,400.00.

Excursions
3.4 went on an excursion to the zoo which was a great success! All the students enjoyed seeing the animals they had learnt about in class and were very brave when we came close to tall giraffes eating and the big elephants having their bath. They especially enjoyed the Meerkats and the reptile enclosure where we had to look hard to see where some of the snakes and lizards were hiding.

Support for Families

FREE POSITIVE PARENTING SEMINAR

Are you the parent or caregiver of a child with a disability?

Get free parenting help

Monash University, in partnership with Hume City Council, is running a free Stepping Stones Triple P – Positive Parenting seminar for parents and caregivers of children with a developmental delay or disability, aged 2 to 12 years. In this seminar, parents will learn the core principles of positive parenting.

The seminar, presented by Emeritus Professor Bruce Tonge, will be held at Broadmeadows Community Hub, 180-182 Widford Street, Broadmeadows on Thursday 19 November 2015, from 7 – 9 pm.

Parents and caregivers of children with a developmental delay or a disability, aged 2 to 12 years, are eligible for this free parenting support as part of the Stepping Stones Triple P Project.

If you are interested in participating in this project and attending the free seminar, please contact the research team on:

E: med-steppingstones@monash.edu
T: (03) 9554 1365 or (03) 9554 1397

Or register via our webpage by finding the seminar in our calendar: www.triplep-steppingstones.net

Please register as soon as possible to secure your place.

Support for Families

... celebrating International Day of People with a Disability & Social Inclusion Week

Musical Madness

Come and share in an inclusive workshop exploring music, movement and characters from our favourite musicals, celebrating difference with flamboyance, eccentricity, passion and all things kitsch and colourful.

What: Musical Theatre Interactive & Performative Workshop with refreshments
When: 11am – 1pm, Monday 30th November 2015
Where: Laverton Hub, 95-105 Railway Avenue, Laverton
Note: The Laverton Hub is a fully accessible facility with full wheelchair access and hoist change tables.

For bookings and enquiries, contact Myf Powell: myfpm@hotmail.com / 0400 508 653

“Out of the Woods” is auspiced by Laverton Community Integration Services and supported by Hobsons Bay City Council, Hobsons Bay Men’s Shed and the Laverton Hub.