10 November 2016 Laverton

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians, Namaste, Hola, Sawasdee, Kon’nichiwa, Mahlab

I hope you and your children enjoyed the time off recently for Melbourne Cup and the Curriculum day. On Curriculum day we took the opportunity to dress for the races at work and enjoyed a Cup style shared picnic lunch. There are some photos below of our morning on curriculum day with staff presenting to each other their project work on implementing the new Victorian Curriculum into their class rooms and learning teams. It was a very successful morning. Our teachers utilized the afternoon to write their reports in teaching teams.

As mentioned in other bulletins we have had many students prepare and begin their transition to a different new school for 2017 and this week our children have been attending Jennings St School to become familiar with their new environment. I heard today they had fun cooking in their session.

We have also had Melton Specialist School and Warringa Park School attend WAS to meet the children who will attend their settings next year. Next we will have our students attending these schools visiting with their teacher on one or two occasions.

This week our teams have started planning for 2017 and are currently looking at student groupings in preparation for our transition to your new class room in December. More information will come home to families about this day and the students new class group in the near future.

Warm regards, Michelle Sanders

Dress Up Day
On Friday the 28th of October, we had a ‘FANCY DRESS FUN DAY’. The children came dressed in costumes to school and participated in lots of games and fun activities which were planned for the day. Some students and staff are pictured below.

Parent networking coffee morning at Laverton
On Wednesday the 16th November WAS will be hosting a parent networking coffee morning. This is an opportunity to get together with other parents/carers and share experiences of caring for children with autism. The morning will be hosted by WAS school staff, and Emma Murphy, a regional student support services psychologist and will run from 10:00 – 11:30 at the Laverton Campus. At this meeting we will be talking about the topic “What do you wish people understood about being a parent of a child with autism?” We will also be discussing potential future topics.

Classroom Readers and Library Books; Laverton
Please return readers or library books which have gone home with your children throughout the course of the year when convenient.
Fundraising on Curriculum Day
On Monday 31st October, Western Autistic School held a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing to raise funds for the school. The day was a great success. Thank you to Coles in Point Cook who generously donated a $150.00 gift card to WAS, we’d also like to thank all the staff who volunteered and families that came along, we raised just over $1,700.

Parent information activities and events
Chalk Art Festival
Niddrie shopping precinct presents an event for the whole family this Saturday from 11am to 2pm, the Wallis Mall on Keilor Rd, Niddrie, is going to be abuzz with chalk artists transforming Keilor Rd into a colourful canvas.

The Niddrie Shopping Precinct is behind showcasing Niddrie's vibrant culture at the chalk art festivities, and you can join in. Create your own chalk masterpiece along the sidewalk gallery or join some of Australia’s leading chalk artists in their creations. Live music, cash grab, face painting, giveaways and more.

Current Research Projects
At one time or another, many families at Western Autistic School have participated in Victorian research projects. A list of research projects which are current and looking for participants can be found on the Amaze website at http://www.amaze.org.au/get-involved/autismresearch/autismresearch-currentprojects.

Current projects include topics such as ‘The effect of pet ownership on the social skills and empathy of people with ASD’ and ‘Are girls less likely to be diagnosed than boys with Autism Spectrum Disorder?’ If you are interested in participating or learning more, please check out the website for opportunities to get involved.

Autism and Employment
Take control of your career
Who: This is for young autistic adults, careers teachers in schools, parents of teenagers with autism and employers.

What: Listen to 2 panels of speakers about their experience of autism and employment, including Max from the I CAN Network.
Where: Moonee Valley Racecourse, McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds 3039
When: 9.30am - 3.30pm Thursday 17th November 2016
Why: Understand careers and career opportunities
Learn practical ups for understanding skills and interests
Have exposure to different services for career support
Hear from autistic adults, career and employment professionals.

Please contact Claire to enquire (03) 9657 1621 or claire.holden@amaze.org.au

Notice to the school community
A Community Screening of LIFE, ANIMATED
23 NOVEMBER 7PM AT SUN THEATRE IN YARRAVILLE
Dear Families, friends and staff,
We are so thrilled to bring to Melbourne's West this beautiful, award-winning movie - Life, Animated showing at The Sun Theatre, Yarraville for ONE NIGHT ONLY on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm.

It follows the inspiring journey of a young boy with Autism until he reaches adulthood and his exceptional way of communicating with his family and the world around him through Disney film characters.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - This event can only go ahead if we reach the required number of seats reserved, so come along and INVITE those who would be interested to attend!
Raising awareness for those with Autism is vital and this is just one small way to offer insight, highlight acceptance and develop an understanding of our amazing children within our community.
A portion of the profits will be donated to Dogs for Kids with Disabilities.
To BOOK tickets and for more info go to the Facebook event below; https://www.facebook.com/events/525972300928012/?ti=icl
Or here for a direct web link to reserve tickets - https://tickets.demand.film/event/1211
Alternatively feel free to contact Stella (Jett's Mum 2.2) on 0423548993.
Booking can be made up until the screening.