Principal’s Message

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our families and staff to the new school year, 2014. We have seen a smooth transition for our new Foundation students. The staggered arrival and departure times offered an opportunity for staff to meet our new parents and discuss how the students are settling into the school environment. A number of older students are new to our school community at both the primary and secondary school. I would like to thank the families and staff for ensuring the students’ transition to Bulleen Heights School has progressed smoothly.

Student timetables for specialist curriculum areas and multi-disciplinary support are in place this week. We will hold the Student Support Group meetings in week 5 and 6 for staff and families to set educational goals for the coming year. Parent input provides a deeper understanding of your child’s needs and we value your attendance at these meetings.

During the holidays there were numerous projects of maintenance and improvement. The walkway from the disabled car-park at Pleasant Road Campus was paved to support easy access for students and parents on arrival and departure. The Manningham Road Campus now has a fence along the oval boundary and the main office area is separated from classrooms by a new glass doorway. Staff now have access to a new printer/copier via a new doorway into the Art building, this is particularly useful to staff and students in the portable classrooms when collecting class work. We will be continuing our maintenance and improvements on the Manningham Road Campus during the year, with painting both externally and internally the next large project for completion.

I look forward to seeing all of our families during the year at our events. If you would like to call in for a chat at any time or have any queries, please contact me.

Kind Regards Susan

School News

Education Maintenance Allowance

Education Maintenance Allowance helps families with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses up until their child reaches age 16.

To be eligible for (EMA) parents/carers must hold a Centrelink Pension or be a foster parent. Parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension.

Parents who received EMA in 2013 have been sent a new form. These must be sent back to the school by 28th February. If you are no longer eligible for EMA could you please return the form anyway stating this.

If you have not received a form and you are entitled to the Education Maintenance Allowance, please contact the office at either campus and we will send one home with your child.

Carer Recognition Program

A wide range of Carer Member benefits are now available including: dining offers, leisure activities, retail savings, travel and getaways. Call for your free Member Benefit Book and Membership Card on 1800 052 222.

Employment Focus

Employment Focus is a community based not for profit, tax-exempt charity offering a blend of recruitment, training and employment services to employers and job seekers. The Australian Apprenticeships Access Program (ACCESS) is a Government funded initiative offering accredited pre-vocational training to jobseekers wishing to obtain employment in a certain field.

We will be running a short free course (Prepare for work in Aged and Home Care) commencing on the 17th February 2014 in Heidelberg. The aim of this course is to assist parents wishing to return to the workforce, particularly those wishing to obtain employment in the community services sector.

Interested? Contact Louise! PHONE: (03) 9450 4300 EMAIL: louiseb@appsconnect.com.au

Selected units from CHC30312: Certificate III in Home and Community Care

- Supported training for 6 weeks 9.30am to 2.30pm (3-4 days p/w)
- Offering 4 accredited units
- First Aid Level 2
- Employer visits

AT NO COST TO THOSE ELIGIBLE

Do you have a car and licence? Pass a Police Check?

No qualifications above a Level II? Our collaborative employers are seeking reliable, compassionate people who have a genuine interest in working in this field. Work around the kids !!!!!!!!!!

Commencing: 17th February 2014 in Heidelberg
Course Code: N16190
Music & Movement Groups for Children with Additional Needs

Music & Movement Groups aim to:

- offer a quality Music and Movement Program to children of all abilities (aged 3-12 years) that is fun, flexible and educational
- provide a friendly, supportive and relaxed environment
- deliver activities that will support development in fine and gross motor skills
- provide opportunities for children and families to socialise and connect with other children and their carers
- cater for the individual needs and goals of each child in collaboration with families

DETAILS

Day: Saturdays (during school term 2014)
Times:
  10.00am - This group is for younger children and for those who need support to stay on task
  11.00am - This group is for children attending Primary School, who are able to follow instructions and require less support
Cost: $12 per session (Term Fees apply)
Venue: Noah’s Ark, 1 Altona St, Heidelberg Heights

Classes are limited to 10 children per class (siblings are welcome)
For bookings please contact Clare on 0419470226 or clare@musicfunforeveryone.com.au
www.musicfunforeveryone.com.au
Great news!
We've been nominated to participate in the Grill'd Local Matters donation program at Grill'd Northland this month. Every month, Grill'd donates $500 to local groups and asks their customers to decide who the money goes to. When customers buy a burger, they will receive a token to put into one of 3 jars representing different groups. Whoever has the most tokens at the end of the month receives $300. The other two groups receive $100 each. To do your bit to help our cause, spread the word and head on down to Grill'd Northland located at Restaurant Precinct Northland Shopping Centre Preston VIC 3072

Positively Autism
January 2014 Topic: Smooth and Easy Transitions

Announcements
Scentsy Fundraiser!
Through the end of January, Positively Autism is having a Scentsy fundraiser. If you're not familiar with Scentsy, they are a great alternative to candles. They have a wide variety of elegant, beautiful and/or fun scented wax melter lamps, along with some wonderful scents! My favorite is Amber Road (you'll find it under “Bring Back My Bar” on the Scentsy website. We are raising funds to offer a free online training class to one deserving teacher in our “Teacher of the Year” program (more info coming soon about this program). To make a purchase for the fundraiser, visit https://robinclouse.scentsy.us/ and select "Positively Autism Fundraiser" from the party link at the top. Thank you so much for your support!

A Step-by-Step Plan for Problem Behaviors
We're offering our "Reducing Problem Behaviors" online class again this year in April! This is the last time this class will take place in 2014, so make sure you take it! This class covers effective, research-based strategies for reducing problem behaviors. You'll be guided step-by-step in creating a plan to increase positive behavior while reducing negative behavior. Classes are flexible, allowing you to access class activities at any time from any computer with an internet connection. Here's the link to more info and registration: http://www.positivelyautism.com/training/CourseOutline_Behavior.pdf

Tips and Articles
First-Then Charts - http://positively-autism.blogspot.com/2014/01/first-then-charts.html

Books
Disability services - Spectrum Connections

What is the program?
Spectrum Connections is an Autism Spectrum Disorder family support group that provides an environment for families or carers of an individual with an Autism Spectrum Disorder to meet and support each other.
The program aims to:
- empower individuals to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives
- encourage individuals to develop knowledge, skills and support systems that contribute to and enhance community life
- sustain individuals to establish overall living, working, and learning goals consistent with their own cultural values
- value individuals as educators as well as learners
- monitor and evaluate outcomes and make recommendations that promote change and progress
- acknowledge and celebrate success, and build on success and innovation
- increase resilience and self-esteem in children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families and/or carers
- We also provide members with information about local activities and events via email.

How is the program delivered?
We are delivering a pilot program to ascertain the need for an Autism Spectrum support group in the Manningham Council area. Care Connect currently facilitates two Spectrum Connections groups across the municipalities of Knox, Maroondah & Yarra Ranges. Due to the success of these groups we would like to offer a similar group to the Manningham area.
The meetings include guest speakers and topics of discussion as nominated by the participants and their needs and areas of interest. The group aims to be honest and open and is facilitated by a qualified Care Connect staff member. Spectrum Connections in conjunction with Manningham City Council are holding the first of these pilots meetings.

When: Tuesday 25 February 2014 from 10am to 12pm.
Where: Manningham City Council, Function Room 2, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Am I eligible?
The program targets families and/or carers of individuals on the Autism spectrum. Anyone, however, who feels they would benefit by participating is welcome to join. People can attend any or all of the meetings irrespective of their location.

Other Spectrum Connections Groups
Spectrum Connections Knox - monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month during school terms at Coonara Community House, 20 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully. Meetings are held from 12.30-2.30pm.
Spectrum Connections Maroondah / Yarra Ranges - monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month during school terms at Chirnside Park Community Centre, Kimberley Drive, Chirnside Park. Meetings are held from 10am - 12pm.

What is the fee?
There is no cost to attend the regular meetings; however some guest speaker events may occasionally require a small contribution from attendees.

About Care Connect
Care Connect is a major community care provider that supports frail aged people, people with a disability and carers to live independently at home and in the community.
Care Connect has offices in three states and is a not-for-profit, non denominational, registered charitable organisation. Care Connect provides choice, guidance and information to support individuals to remain independent and engaged in their community.

Confidentiality
At Care Connect we are committed to the highest possible confidentiality and privacy standards. This ensures that any information shared with Care Connect is dealt with according to legislative and regulatory requirements.

How do I get more information?
To become a member or for more information please contact: Pam Williams at the Care Connect Doncaster office on (03) 9840 4444 or by email at spectrumconnections@careconnect.org.au
TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR DIAGNOSIS

This workshop will provide you with practical ideas about when and how to talk to your child about autism and what it means for them.

A Developmental and Conceptual framework to enable you to explain an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis to your child and the benefits of helping them identify their own strengths and potential difficulties.

This Workshop Presented by Psychologist Raelene Doolan (McBride)
ON: Monday 17th February 2014
From: 6.30PM – 8.30PM
At: Irabina Childhood Autism Services 193 Bayswater Road
Bayswater 3153
Cost: $40 for PARENTS & CARERS
To Register: Fill in workshop registration form, if you do not have a registration form please contact Irabina and we will forward one to you
Phone: (03) 9720 1118 / Fax: (03) 9720 6641
Light refreshments provided.
Cancellation notice of less than 48 hours prior to the workshop—no refund. Payment for workshop is required prior to attending.

‘Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2’ - Sat 15 and Sun 16 February, 11am

Going to the movies can be a sensory overload for many individuals with ASD, and for families it can be a bit of a bumpy ride!
However, thanks to Village Cinemas, sensory-friendly screenings of family movies are shown once a month, where:
• the lights are kept up
• the sound is reduced
• movie-goers are able to get up and move around if they need to
• the start times are set to avoid busy times
• staff are aware of the needs of people with ASD
• And they are just $6 per ticket!
Note: this movie is classified G, but to ensure it is suitable for your family please view the trailer online.

Where: Village Cinemas Airport West, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Knox, Southland, Eastland

BIG4 Bellarine Holiday Park

On the gorgeous Bellarine Peninsula, BIG4 Bellarine is an easy hour and a half drive from Melbourne town! It's unlikely that you'll want to go anywhere once you get here but, spoilt for choice, you are within a 10km radius of the surf beaches.

I just wanted to share with other parents of a autism friendly holiday park. We went recently to big 4 Bellarine. I was talking to the owner, Sophie and she said that she is more than happy to work with parents to help autistic kids have a great holiday. She can send photos of the huge park along with the cabin photos of where they are booked into. This will greatly help the child overcome any anxiety.
The only drawback is the park is not fenced off and is situated on the highway. So this make not be suitable for "runners".
I thought it might be helpful to share this information with other parents of the school in case they need to go for a holiday.
Thanks Aarthi Prakash
Ringwood Spiders

Join in the ACTION!

Senior Football Squad
Two teams, the Reds and the Blacks, offer young men and women aged 14 onwards with differing abilities the opportunity to play football within the FIDA competition.

Netball Squad
A success for girls and boys aged 12 onwards. Now bigger and better in 2014. Monday evening training sessions, games in the Whitehorse All-abilities competition and more.

Junior Development Squad
Sunday morning skills development sessions for boys and girls aged between 5 and 14. Fun games teaching skills and teamwork; plus a grid game prior to a Spiders home game.

Social & Recreation Activities
Off-field recreation and social activities designed to further develop friendships, teach new skills and provide valuable opportunities our members may not otherwise have.

Our Mission
‘To provide and promote active participation in community sport and social activities for people with a disability’, and
‘To provide people with a disability an opportunity to interact, participate and build social skills and leadership within the community’.

About Us
Since 1992, the Ringwood Spiders Football Club (formerly the Ringwood Blues) has provided Australian Rules football opportunities for people with a mild to medium intellectual disability within the City of Maroondah and surrounding areas.

We have a strong position and history within the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne and have forged a long term relationship with the Maroondah City Council and other key recreation and disability organisations.

Over the last five years we have implemented a range of off season social and recreation activities and in 2012, introduced our Netball program that is now a permanent activity.

Hence, we are more than just a football club, and in 2013 became the ‘Ringwood Spiders All-abilities Sports Club’ to better reflect our position as a provider of sport, recreation and social activities for girls, boys and young men and women with mild to medium intellectual disabilities.

Ringwood Spiders is run by volunteers with the support of Maroondah City Council, our sponsors and community partners, without whom we could not provide our programs.

Want to Know More?
Web: www.ringwoodspiders.com
email: info@ringwoodspiders.com
Phone: Clinton Pollgrabe: 0425 818 590, Gavin or Sue Ross: 9725 8264

www.ringwoodspiders.com