PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

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We received great news that our new bus would be ready this week. We now have a new Toyota HiAce Commuter 14 seat bus, with air-conditioning. It has arrived and as you can see from the photo inside the newsletter, we are all very excited. I would like to once again thank all of our school community, families and friends of the school for your generous donations during the past three years. In particular, the amazing efforts in 2013 which really assisted us reach our goal target. Our next target is to replace the aging Mazda bus. We will be replacing this with a Mitsubishi Rosa, which will provide additional seating as well as a superior seatbelt system for our students. Our goal target for this bus is $124,660. I will be on leave for the first three weeks of term 2, returning on 12th May. Barbara Smith will be acting in my role during this time.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.

Regards
Susan Merjan

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR DETAILS?

Have you changed your address, home telephone number, work telephone number, mobile telephone number, custody restrictions or medical details? If so, please keep the office informed of ANY changes to details relevant to your child/ren attending our school. It is vital that these records are kept up to date so we can reach you in case of an emergency.

UPDATE FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to all families who donated items for our Easter Raffle. This helped us achieve an outstanding result. Our next fundraising effort will be the Mother’s Day stall. This provides the students an opportunity to purchase a small gift for their mothers, grandmothers and/or carers. All gifts will cost between $2 and $5. Our stall will be held at each campus and further information will be provided when we return in term 2.

A letter regarding a request for volunteers/assistance from the Parents Association was sent home with the last newsletter. Thank you to the families that have returned this form. This is a great way of letting us know that you are available for a small period of time for certain activities or if you wish to be placed on our newsletter distribution list. Please return this form as soon as possible if you wish to be included on this list.

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NORTHERN SUPPORT SERVICES OPEN DAY

TUESDAY 13 MAY, 10AM - 2PM
Come and explore some of the options available to young people as they leave school and move into Adult Education & Training.

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

RSVP BY: FRIDAY 9 MAY
Marcela Salgado
phone: 9486 5077 marcela.salgado@nss.org.au
30 Union Street, Northcote
Information sessions on vocational training, Visual arts workshops, Exhibitions & performances

NATIVE PLANT SALE

SUNDAY 4 MAY
10am - 3pm
Propagation seeds, cuttings & grafting from 1pm Cnr Brougham Street & Main Road Eltham (Mel 21 J7)
Ph 03 94397228
For more info apsyrayarra@gmail.com
Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Inc.

Information Session: for adults 18+ with ASD.
Have you registered yet?

Mental health is important for everyone: individuals with ASD are more likely than the general population to have issues with anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

Learn about the warning signs for depression and anxiety, hear about strategies to help you manage your mental health, and get information on how to seek professional assistance if required.

This session is run by the Amaze Family Counsellor whose specialised ASD knowledge will be of great benefit to attendees.

The session runs at 10am and again at 6pm on Monday 14 April.

Both sessions are completely free for members of Amaze. However, you do need to register as places are limited.

Register for the 10am session
Register for the 6pm session

The sessions are held at 28 Drummond Street (2 up from the Amaze office).

More information: call the InfoLine – 1300 308 699

AWARENESS DAY WORLD AUTISM

TICKETS AT WWW.AMAZE.ORG.AU/ WAAD
SENSORY FRIENDLY LUNA PARK MELBOURNE
9am-11am Luna Park, tickets $10 each includes entry & unlimited rides

- Sensory friendly: sound & lighting reduced, quiet area available, understanding staff, rides stopped if necessary
- Heaps of fun activities, rides & entertainment!
- T-shirts and awareness merchandise for sale on the day
- Food, expos, music, magician, entertainers and much more
- Don’t forget to wear blue to help raise awareness!
- 11.00am Dove Release in O’Donnell Gardens

Help raise awareness… and show your support for families and individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Foundations for Building a Better Life Seminar

Learn how to support people with a disability in achieving their aspirations and goals, and the key dimensions necessary to assist meaningful and purposeful lifestyle development.

Tuesday 15 April, 9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Function Room 1, Manningham City Council, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Who the course is for: Planners, managers, professionals, human service workers, people with a disability, family members, allies, advocates and others interested in authentic and meaningful lifestyle development for people with a disability and other marginalised people.

The Seminar will discuss the importance of:
- Identification of personal strengths, gifts and abilities
- Exploring potential
- Connecting people to their motivations and life purpose
- The power of expectations
- Cultivating and enabling beneficial vision
- Deepening our understanding of what a person may need
- Shaping goals and actions
- Exploring and pursuing inclusive pathways.

Cost: Free. Lunch will be provided.

Presenters:

**Deb Rouget** has been involved with people with a disability and their families for more than 30 years. She is the current Chief Executive Officer of Belonging Matters (formerly Personalised Lifestyle Assistance - PLA). Deb was integral in the development of PLA in 2003 which sprung to life as a catalyst to prevent the exclusion of people with a disability from their communities and enable individuals to enjoy a fulfilling life that is well embedded in community, relationship and citizenship.

**Brenda Schurmann** describes her vision for her daughter with complex needs as an “outrageous” one. Brenda’s vision was for her daughter Kym to live in a world full of friends, possibilities and a home of her own. Brenda will describe how this hope has become a reality and continues to evolve beyond all expectations and how building informal networks has enriched her daughters life.

To register please contact Wendy Ross on 9840 9452 or email wendy.ross@manningham.vic.gov.au
School Captains and Graduate badge presentation Mrs McNamara, James, Holly and Mrs Baxter

Donated BBQ
The School would like to thank Jack’s father from Flex Fencing Pty Ltd for their generous donation of a four burner barbecue. Scan the code to like Flex fencing on Facebook.

Exciting times!
Our New School Bus with Quaid, Brodie, Alexander and John.