PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

During the past two weeks, many families have attended Student Support Group meetings. Your attendance at these meetings assists greatly with ensuring that your child’s Individual Learning Plan is meeting your child’s needs. Careful discussion and planning of goals is critical to our teachers implementing targeted learning opportunities, which engage the students in their learning in functional and meaningful ways.

Daily school attendance by children and young adults assists with the development of important skills, knowledge and values for learning and participation in their community. While we do have a late arrivals and early departure process at each campus, please be aware of the disruption late arrivals and early departures may cause to the class, when a staff member must leave the class to collect or deliver a student to the office on a regular basis. Thirty minutes missed each day is two and a half hours of important class time each week. For some families, collecting children from a number of schools can be difficult and this may be unavoidable. I urge you to consider this matter. All student absences must be recorded for DET by the school. If your child will be absent please phone the campus office.

The Parents and Friends Association have a number of fundraising activities organised this term. The Bush Dance on 8th August, Father’s Day stall on 4th September and Footy Colours lunch on 18th September. Please support these activities to raise funds for new play equipment at PRC and outdoor exercise equipment at MRC for the students.

Kind Regards

Susan Merjan

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please note the temporary email change for the next two Newsletters.

Please send Newsletter submissions to Marcel Peeters.marcel.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

BOOK CLUB

The Ashton Scholastic Book Club is back for Term 3! Catalogues have now been distributed. Please have orders into your campus office by Friday 7th August.

2015 SNOW PROGRAM

This year four groups from our secondary campus will participate in snow programs at both Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw. Our snow programs provide an opportunity for students to participate in cross country skiing, snow shoe walking and snow experience activities at both mountains. Special thanks this year to our friends at Lake Mountain Ski Patrol who have donated 10 sets of ex-ski hire skis to our school. This enables students to practice and develop their basic skills on the oval at school before heading into the snow fields. Our students from M20 spend a day with the staff from Rubicon Outdoor Centre and skied almost 4 kms along the trails at Lake Mountain. Next week the students on camp at Garfield will spend a day snow shoe walking at Mt Baw Baw.

MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL

If you are sending money into school for excursions or programs, please ensure that money is sent in a sealed envelope clearly labelled with your child’s name, class, payment description (ie. excursions, uniforms) and amount enclosed. It would be appreciated if the correct amount was enclosed. EFTPOS payments may be made at the school office.
Parents Association News

Grab your partner and your dancing shoes (and the kids, and family and friends, and neighbours too) and come along to our bush dance next Saturday night, August 8th from 6.30pm - fun for the whole family.

Some staff will be joining us on the night. They are coming for some fun, not to care for our children. There will be a sensory room with a movie playing and some toys for time out. You will need to stay with your child in there.

There are many items up for Silent auction items including:
AFL tickets for 6 people in the members stand for Collingwood vs Richmond and the same for North Melbourne vs Western Bulldogs;
Puffing Billy family pass; Luna Park family pass; Skaterz Birthday Party voucher; Pink Lily gift pack and voucher; Aquila Men Shoes voucher; Smiggle voucher; 7 Eleven fuel vouchers and more!
If you can’t make it on the night, feel free to let us know your maximum bid for an item and we can add it on the night, or ask a friend who is coming to place a bid for you.

The Raffle prizes will be drawn on the night, get your tickets in soon, more tickets are available at the office to offer to friends and family.

We would love some helpers to assist on the night with: decorating the hall at 4.30pm; ticket collector and greeter; raffle ticket seller; supervise sensory room for half an hour across the night; serving supper at 8pm; running a 15 minute game of hoopla or a coin toss during the break at 8pm; supervise the silent auction; packing away chairs and tables at the end of the night at 9.30pm. If your family can’t come and you’d like to help for a short period you can.

We look forward to some fun and laughs as we fumble through the dances together. Come and show off your moves in your favourite Aussie outfit, and meet your child’s friends and other parents.
Use your device to view.

Nikolas and Brian have each done a colouring in for you. If you download and install the Quiver Vision app, the image will come alive. Try it out!
M9 SNOW TRIP

Yes! An amazing experience for the students and staff – Our first visit to the snow at Lake Mountain.

All students were really excited as we had started the preparation for our day in the snow. Students had an experience to play with the snow we made in the classroom. We made a snow man and did a few literacy activities which included what we would wear to keep us warm in the snow. We also discussed for what we would eat or drink to stay warm?

On the day we all got our thermals on with a few layers on and we hopped on the bus. We drove through the beautiful scenic views of Black Spur. We stopped at Marysville to have our morning tea, before changing into the rest of our snow gear, putting on our snow pants, boots and beanies.

After getting back on the bus we started our drive up Lake Mountain looking for the first signs of snow. We played with snow balls and made a snow man. Sliding and rolling on the snow we all had a wonderful time, for many this was their first experience in the snow. On our way back we stopped again at Marysville where we ate hot dogs and drank Milo. We all were extremely tired after an amazing day out in the snow.
Join HOYTS for a morning of fun! We’re delighted to invite families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders to a very special movie screening. Kids are free to make noise in the cinema, lights remain on and sound is lowered, so you and the whole family can enjoy the experience in a comfortable, sensory friendly environment.

WHAT’S ON?

MINIONS
Sunday
August 2 2015
10.30 am*

*No pre-show

ALL TICKETS
$8

BOOK NOW

AT THE HOYTS GREENSBOROUGH BOX OFFICE OR CALL (03) 9026 9954 FOR MORE INFORMATION
Care Connect

Spectrum Connections

What is the program?

Spectrum Connections is a support group program that provides an environment for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and/or carers to meet and support each other.

The support group aims to:

- facilitate opportunities for people to share experiences, knowledge and skills in a supportive environment
- provide information and resources through specialist guest speakers
- increase resilience and self-esteem in people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families and/or carers
- acknowledge and celebrate successes within the group members.

How is the program delivered?

Spectrum Connections support groups are operated across the Eastern Metropolitan region, through monthly meetings. The meetings include guest speakers on topics nominated by each group according to their participants’ needs/areas of interest. Each group is facilitated by a Client Facilitator from Care Connect. Members are also provided with information and updates on local activities and events via a weekly email.

When and where are the support group meetings?

**Spectrum Connections Knox Support Group**
- **Meetings:** Second Friday of each month during school terms
- **Where:** Coonara Community House, 20 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully VIC
- **Time:** 12.30-2.30pm.

**Spectrum Connections Manningham Support Group**
- **Meetings:** First Friday of each month during school terms
- **Where:** Ajani, U/2 284 Thomspsons Road, Lower Templestowe, VIC
- **Time:** 9.15am-11.30am.

**Spectrum Connections Maroondah Support Group**
- **Meetings:** Third Thursday of each month during school terms
- **Where:** Japara House, 54-58 Durham Road, Kilsyth. VIC
- **Time:** 10.00-12.00pm.

Is there a fee?

There is no cost to attend the regular meetings however some guest speakers or events may require a small contribution from attendees.
Painting and Drawing for Beginners

Do you want to explore your creative side, but are not sure where to start?

Come and join our art class with one of our expert tutors, Lorraine Wigraft. Suitable for all abilities, in a fun and social environment.

Classes held on Fridays from 12.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Cost: $208 full, $188 concession

For more information or to book, call the Art Studios on 9840 9382 or visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/artstudios