Hi Everyone,

Last Friday I attended the Principal’s of Specialist Schools Meeting in the city and we were spoken to by Ric Hubbard from Able Australia. He spoke at length about his program and the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which is currently being trialled in the Barwon Region.

Apparently there is a requirement for people with a disability to be registered on the Disability Register prior to applying for support under NDIS. I need to direct you to the DHS website for more information.

We will be providing information about this in all languages and we will make staff available to support you in your applications to be on this register well in advance of the National roll out which is due in 2016.

Our first assembly for 2015 saw the Principal’s awards presented by our student leaders from 2014 for the very last time. They were Emerson and Jai from the junior school (Jai often fills in when Kaylan is absent), Paul and Emily from the Middle School and Mitchell and Vanessa from the senior school. I want to thank this group of exemplary students for a great job in 2014.

At our next assembly we will be introducing our new student leaders and school captains for 2015.

At our fortnightly assembly we also award students who have been following our school rules in the playground. These lucky students have a raffle ticket drawn from Mr. Potato Head and get to choose a prize from our treasure chest. Their names will be published in the newsletter under the heading “Little Treasures”.

Our School Rules are;

- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be respectful
- Be a learner

We are currently running a school council election, forms have been sent home, I am available to answer any questions or discuss your interest in being on School Council, please give me a call 9704 4800.

Cheers Sue.
Taneesha received her award for settling into her new school.

Abdul received his award for responsibly feeding himself.

Rhyder -Sean received his award for responsibly washing dishes.

Armani received her award for settling into school & being a good learner.

Ali received his award for settling into school & being a good learner.

Mitchell received his award for standing in his standing frame.

Elyas received his award for cleaning up after himself & others.

Mati received her award for listening & following instructions.

Daniel received his award for caring for our school grounds.

Ruth received her award for listening to staff & following instructions.
PARENTS ARE REMINDED OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL ON SCHOOL BUSES.

THESE CONDITIONS ARE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL TRAVELLERS AND STAFF.

Conditions of Travel

To ensure the safety of all passengers on school buses, the following conditions apply at all times.

Students must agree to the following:

- Obey instructions from the driver, supervisor, school staff or principal
- Be punctual at the pick-up or drop-off point (morning and afternoon)
- Wait at the stop in an orderly fashion and do not approach the vehicle until it has stopped
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner
- Do not move around the vehicle in transit but remain seated at all times
- Ensure they and any object in their possession remains in the vehicle and does not protrude out of windows or doors
- Do not behave aggressively or endanger other students, driver, supervisor, school staff or principal
- Do not engage in boisterous conduct, including the use of offensive language or any action that may cause distress to other students or distract the driver/supervisor
- Converse quietly and do not call out to passing traffic or fellow students
- Store bags in accordance with advice from the supervisor
- Only use their allocated vehicle; this will not be changed to meet sporting or social arrangements
- Treat others with courtesy and consideration
- Do not throw any object within or from a vehicle
- Do not consume food or drink on/in a SDTP transport service
- Follow and abide by the school's code of conduct while travelling on a bus

Non-compliance with any of the above conditions may result in the following:

- The driver will stop the bus
- The offender’s name and full details of the breach will be recorded
- The offender will be transported to school or to their normal drop off
- The breach will be reported to the principal
- The principal will take disciplinary measures in accordance with the SDTP policy
- In rare and exceptional circumstances, and only as a last resort, drivers are authorised to eject passengers from a bus

Following the report of a relevant incident, the principal may take the disciplinary action below:

- First offence – verbal warning to student.
- Second offence – written warning to parent/guardian.
- Third offence – one week suspension of student from school bus travel.
- Fourth offence – the student will not be allowed to travel on the school bus for the remainder of the year.

A serious offence that endangers other students, transport service staff or property will result in immediate suspension.

Responsibilities of parents/guardians

- Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children to and from authorised stops and their safety at the stop while waiting for a service
- It is most important that parents wait for students at stop should wait on the same side of the road as the transport service to prevent accidents
- Transport assistance is a privilege and not a right and consequences will follow a breach of these conditions
- It is understood that transport assistance is provided and accepted on these conditions

All those involved in providing school transport should understand the specialised educational needs of the student being transported. The following points will help parents/guardians/carers to understand their roles and responsibilities to ensure that the daily journey to and from school is as smooth and efficient as possible.

Issued January 2015
Objects of reference are particularly useful for students who may not be able to understand spoken words or symbols, or for people who have difficulty seeing or hearing.

**What are Objects of Reference?**

Objects of Reference are objects which have meaning assigned to them. They stand for something just like words do. They can represent activities (e.g. a piece of towel for ‘swimming’), places (e.g. a key for ‘home’) and people (e.g. a particular bracelet to represent ‘mum’).

**What can they be used for?**

- **To aid memory** (objects can help just in the way that diaries, lists, timetables do)
- **To aid understanding** (objects give more information than a word, so can be easier to understand)
- **Enable anticipation of events** (objects can be given to someone to let them know what is coming up next)
- **Aid expression** (a person can choose an object of reference such as a wooden spoon, indicating that they want to do some cooking).

Please contact the speech team if you think **Objects of Reference** might benefit your child and would like to know how to choose and use them.
The Bridge Awards are awarded to students who have completed stage 1 of the program involving the completion of certain tasks and responsibilities in new & demanding environments. WELL DONE!

**IMMUNISATIONS 2015**

In 2015 the City of Casey, Environmental Health Unit will be conducting free CHICKEN POX & GARDASIL immunisations (for students who are 12 years of age) and Tetanus immunisations (all students who are 12-15 years of age). The immunisations will be held at Dandenong Valley SDS. Please return all cards, even if you chose for your child not to have the immunisation.

First Immunisation date will be; **Thursday March 19th** Please see the newsletter for future session dates

This week’s winners were: Maddison, Ellise, Toul, Hong, Noah & William I.

Our Little Treasures are students that are learning to be safe, responsible, respectful and a learner while at school.
Dandenong Valley Garden Gurus
Dandenong Valley Parent Support Group provide support for mums, dads, grandparents and anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic medical condition.

Parents and Carers can:

- Meet informally with others in similar circumstances
- A chance to relax, have a chat and enjoy a cuppa
- Hear from others and share ideas and experiences
- Find out about resources and services available to families
- Get extra parenting information and skills development
- Have fun

VENUE:
Dandenong Valley SDS
19-21 Victoria Road
Narre Warren

TIME:
Mondays 9:30 am – 12 noon (2.5 hrs)
on a fortnightly basis

DATES:

Term One
2nd February
16th February
2nd March
16th March

For enquiries call Lynne Wood 0418 480 166