A Message from the Principal

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to term 2!!

I was very excited about returning to work this term as I couldn’t wait to see the reaction of students and staff when they entered through our new electronic doors into the new part of the admin building. I wasn’t disappointed, the reaction was great. Everyone loves the wide open corridors and the water wall was an unbelievable hit with everyone.

Our admin upgrade is a staged project. Judy, Michael and I have moved into our offices in the new building which also houses a teacher work space and sick bay. The next step is the refurbishment of our old offices which will become the new front office where Michael and Shirley work and offices for Pam and Tracey will open off that.

Eventually our current front office will become a small meeting room and home to our school psychologist Dr. Kylie Jackson. In related news I am delighted to announce that Kylie will be increasing her service to our students and families from one day a week to two days. She will now be with us on Wednesdays as well as Fridays. Kylie’s work is integral to the well-being of our school community.

If you are in the neighbourhood do drop in and have a look at our new building. The parents who have seen it so far have been very impressed.

Cheers Sue.

PLEASE NOTE:

Parents/carers picking up or dropping their children from school should avoid parking in the school car park while buses are present. Parents/carers vehicles in the car park at these times create a dangerous element that can be avoided by parking in the street at these times.

THANK YOU for your support
JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Maryam received her award for settling in so well in a new school.

Haddon received his award for settling well into his new school.

Rhyder received his award for improved play skills.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Emily received her award for being a beautiful friend.

Maggie received her award for good communication using Ipad & Proloquo 2 go.

Hannah received her award for signing more.

SENIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Brandon received his award for trying lots of new things.

Shane received his award for great handwriting.

Daniel received his award for great typing.
Requests for Changes to Student Transport Arrangements

Parents are reminded that any requests for changes to transport arrangements must be made in writing through the school. Following a change of address, families must reapply for transport assistance, and access to a bus from the new address cannot be guaranteed. Parents should also be aware that even if a seat is available, door to door pick-up and drop-off may not be possible except in extraordinary circumstances and students may be offered access to a bus at one of the existing stops. While we make every effort to accommodate changes we cannot guarantee access, particularly if a change necessitates a change of bus, as many of our buses are full. Any change may take up to 10 days to process as changes require approval from the service provider and DEECD Student Transport Branch. Further information on the provision of transport assistance to students attending specialist schools can be found on the DEECD website:


* Please note: Temporary changes to pick-up and drop-off points cannot be accommodated.
Dandenong Valley SDS Student Support Group Meetings

DEECD Guidelines on Student Support Group Meetings recommend that 4 timetabled SSGs be scheduled- one per term.

Dandenong Valley SDS staff and parents/carers have always been encouraged to request an SSG whenever they have an identified need.

However, SSG meetings are held specifically for the following purposes:

Term one:
- To identify the student’s goals and program needs.

Term three:
- To monitor and review the student’s progress and to amend goals as required.

In 2013 additional meetings will be offered:
- Term 2 - Wednesday May 15th
- Term 4 - date to be determined

Term 2 SSG Meetings

To ensure that these meetings remain purposeful and relevant parents and teachers will be asked to nominate what they wish to discuss and who they wish to attend from the students’ learning team.

If your child’s teacher has any specific concerns, they will contact you.

If you have specific concerns and wish to have an SSG Meeting, please request a form from your child’s teacher.
The BIG MOUTH CAMP is a residential camp for students from 6 to 15 years of age, who use speech generating devices. The camp is also for their families and carers. The primary aim of the camp is for the children using the device to improve their device use and become much more competent communicators in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

Intensive communication therapy will be provided each morning and the afternoon will involve activities and opportunities for everyone to practice the skills they have learnt in the morning. Separate sibling recreation sessions will be conducted in the mornings, and this time will also provide parents/carers to discuss and work on issues around augmentative and alternative communication.

The camp will also be offering mentoring from experienced adult communication device users, training from device manufacturers/support staff, sessions on related disability computer software and much more!

WHEN IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The camp will run from Friday September 20th to Tuesday September 24th 2013.

WHO CAN GO TO..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The Big Mouth camp is open to children who:

| Are aged 6 to 15 years |
| Using a speech generating device such as a Dynavox M3, SuperTalker, LightWriter, iPad with AAC App, Vanguard etc |
| Have a primary physical disability |
| Have at least one family member/carer who will be attending the camp with them |
| Want to improve their use of their device and their general communication competency |

WHERE IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The Camp will be held at Rawson Village, approximately two hours drive north east of Melbourne, near Mount Baw Baw. All campsites buildings and many of the activities are accessible to those in wheelchairs. The camp staff are extremely helpful and the location is beautiful.

HOW MUCH IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The camp fee is $300. Scholarships are available to assist with this fee. Please let us know if you would like further information about the scholarships. Arrangements can also be made for additional people, eg integration aides to attend. Please contact us to discuss this.

CONTACT...  BIG MOUTH CAMP
For application forms visit: www.bigmouthcamp.org.au. For questions regarding the camp please email: jane@janefarrall.com

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 10TH MAY 2013
The Big Mouth Camp is auspiced by the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre and is funded by the Melbourne Welsh Church. The camp is also supported by Jane Farrall Consulting.

PHOTO’s
Photo packs should arrive at school in the next 4-5 weeks. Parents can still order online from online at www.arphotos.com.au. Orders can be made by forwarding your payment directly to Arthur Reed Photos. An additional fee of $9 applies per order for this service.
READ MORE IN MAY

May is National Family Reading Month

SCHOLASTIC
Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.
All Abilities Dance Class
New members welcome!

Classes are held every Saturday through school terms at Monash Uni, McMahons Rd, Frankston.

For more information check out our webpage
www.bamdanceclass.com.au

or call Lisa on 0425 721 848

BAM! is a dance class for people with disabilities who love to dance!
Interactive Workshop for Parents

“Siblings of Children with Disability”

Presented by
Kate Strohm
Director, Siblings Australia Inc.
& Author of
Siblings: Brothers and Sisters of Children with Special Needs (Wakefield Press)

Date: Tuesday 7th May 2013
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Venue: Brentwood Park Community Centre
21A Bemersyde Drive,
Berwick 3806
Cost: $30pp

The workshop will assist parents to:

* Understand the concerns of siblings
* Identify behaviours that might indicate stress
* Explore factors affecting the adjustment of siblings
* Identify parent role in supporting siblings
* Identify other sources of support for siblings
* Meeting other parents with similar experiences

RSVP: Monday 29th April 2013

Phone 9720 1118

Booking is essential as places are limited

For further enquiries please contact Orla at orlam@irabina.com

Cancellation notice of less than 48 hours prior to the workshop—no refund. Payment for workshop is required prior to attending.
No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS Loans)

Please share this information with your school.

Do you need to buy a new item for your home, but are finding it difficult to save the money? Do you want to avoid expensive credit card bills, rental agreements or store loans?

Women who receive Centrelink benefits or are on a low income can apply for a No Interest Loan of up to $1000. Repayments start from $20 per fortnight through Centrepay.

The loan can be used to buy a fridge, washing machine, TV, furniture, computer or other approved items. The items must be new and come with a warranty. The loan can also be used to pay for other items such as car registration, medical or dental expenses (including dentures, asthma pumps, sleep apnoea machines) or course fees. It cannot be used to pay for household bills or debts.

Applicants need to get a written quote from any reputable store. They need to complete a budget with the NILS Worker to see if the loan will be approved. Applications take 2-4 weeks to complete. Women who live in the City of Greater Dandenong and City of Casey can apply.

We can refer men to other local organisations who also offer the NILS loans.

Please note that Wellsprings is closed during school holidays.

Further Information
Contact Bernadette (NILS Coordinator) on Ph 9701 3740.
**Communication Corner!**

CHILD'S PLAY (Level 2 any age/ but most often 18months +)

*Be open to suggestions:* a box can be a boat, a car or a house, a hairbrush can be a microphone, a pet hamster or anything you like!

*Follow your child’s lead:* join in at their level, if it is playing teaparties using cups and teapots as intended, join in ask for another cup of tea, and extra sugar please. If you are on a magic carpet (a towel perhaps) talk about what you can see, how fast you are going and what you are to do when you get home. (remember not to use too much language)

**GREAT IDEAS FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>SKILLS WORKED ON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tea Parties</td>
<td>Functional play, overlapping with symbolic play - eg stirring pretend sugar, pouring pretend milk, Language, turn taking, role play, imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs and Nurses</td>
<td>symbolic and role play, language, (specific) vocabulary, empathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Carpet</td>
<td>Symbolic play, imagination, pretend, language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollies</td>
<td>This kind of play tends to be more functional, but does involve language and imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going to the moon</td>
<td>Fun to make stuff, and then pretend to go on an adventure - imagination, creativity, planning, problem solving, vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td>Naming, requesting, counting (items or money real/pretend/or invisible!), turntaking, waiting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are just a few ideas, but the list is endless — above all REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN!
"My Time"
Dandenong Valley

**Venue**  Term 2, 2013
Oatlands Primary School
79-93 Kurrajong Road
Narre Warren, 3805

**Time**
Mondays Fortnightly
10.00am - 12.30pm (2.5hrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MY TIME DATES 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term One</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(^{th}) February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18(^{th}) February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(^{th}) March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18(^{th}) March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Three</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22(^{nd}) July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(^{th}) August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19(^{th}) August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(^{nd}) September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16(^{th}) September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For details please contact:
Lynne Wood 0459 517 558
Once again the Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia is pleased to present the amazing **RAZZA-MA-TAZZ**.

The **RAZZA-MA-TAZZ** is a family variety show to be held at Festival Hall on Saturday 18th May 2013.

**RAZZA-MA-TAZZ** is a live theatre show of international standard performers steeped in the traditional disciplines of clowning, juggling, balancing, puppetry, acrobatics and unique comedy routines; all performed to the highest degree of skill and entertainment value.

**WHERE & WHEN!**

**FESTIVAL HALL**

300 DUDLEY ST. WEST MELBOURNE

SATURDAY 18th MAY 2013  2.00PM

**ONE TICKET PER PERSON IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY**
e.g. 5 children & 1 adult = 6 TICKETS TOTAL

---

**NAME OF PERSON REQUIRING TICKETS:** _________________________________________________________

**NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED ADULTS & CHILDREN COMBINED:**___________

**FROM ALL OF US INVOLVED, PLEASE ENJOY THE SHOW**
Dear Parents,

Due to the outbreak of the Cryptosporidium infection (also referred to as 'crypto') in the southern and eastern metropolitan regions of Melbourne (including in some swimming pools), the Health Department has issued the following information.

- Do not swim if you have diarrhoea or for 14 days after the diarrhoea stops. Crypto can still be spread easily through water up to 14 days after diarrhoea stops

- All swimming pool patrons should shower and wash thoroughly with soap before entering the pool

- Please note the importance of preventing ill patrons from entering the pool. Even if the pool is properly chlorinated crypto is highly resistant to chlorine and can be spread easily through the water

For more information go to

Michael Weston
Assistant Principal
Dandenong Valley SDS
Victoria Road
Norre Warren Vic 3805
PH: (03) 9704 9411
FAX: (03) 9796 6298

---

For Sale

The Occupational Therapy (OT) have several 'Safe n Sound' booster seat covers (full sized to cover the Styrofoam booster seats). They are clean, in great condition and are $5 each (a steal)! It's a first come first serve sale, so if you want one pop $5 in an envelope and mark it for 'OT Booster seat cover', and drop it into the office, or in your child's diary and we will send one home.

Thankyou Rachael, Fiona and Sheeba.
You’re invited to Arts for Life for All Abilities - an accessible and inclusive FREE arts workshop program hosted by the City of Casey!

Choose from lots of different visual and performing arts workshops.

Discover accessible arts programs and organisations in Casey.

Enjoy lunchtime performances from local artists and groups.

Many workshops will be run by Casey artists who have recently completed a professional development training program.

Choose from:

**Day 1**
- **Date:** Friday 24 May 2013
- **Time:** 10.00 am - 2.30 pm
- **Where:** The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick VIC 3806

**Day 2**
- **Date:** Saturday 25 May 2013
- **Time:** 10.00 am - 2.30 pm
- **Where:** Balla Balla Community Centre, Casey Indoor Leisure Complex, 65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne East VIC 3977

Bookings and Further Information
Please note that bookings are essential to participate in the free arts workshops. To find out what workshops are available and to book your place, please visit [www.casey.vic.gov.au](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au) or call 9705 5200, TIS: 131 450 or NRS: 133 677. If you need accessible transport to get to the event, please tell the Customer Service Officer when booking.