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This office is located on the land of the Boonerwung people of the Kulin nation.

TERM 4 ISSUE 3

WEDNESDAY 9TH
NOVEMBER 2016

What's News

Principal's Report



A Progressive Year

It is already that time of year when teachers commence preparing student reports and classes start thinking of the end-of-year celebrations. Reports are due to be sent home on Wednesday the 7th December just prior to Head Start. As many of you would know, Head Start is our transition program to prepare students for their new classes for 2017. Although Head Start usually runs for two weeks, this year the program will run for just seven school days due to the last school day falling on Tuesday 20th December. It will be interesting to compare the benefits between this shorter program and our usual more extended version.

Curriculum Day 9 December

On the afternoon prior to the Curriculum Day, staff will relocate to their new classrooms for 2017. With the help of removalists and pizza it will be a busy afternoon though we try to minimise the number of staff relocating. Not having our new relocatable rooms on site will result in some classes being in temporary accommodation for Head Start which will make it more challenging for those students and staff. This will impact three secondary classes.

On the Curriculum Day teachers will be preparing for the introduction of the new Victorian Curriculum that replaces AusVELS. Teacher Assistants will do online learning in addition to preparing classrooms.

School Raffle

My thanks to everyone who has supported the raffle to ensure it has been a very successful School Council fund-raising event. We have raised approximately \$8000 and have been fortunate to have received considerable donations towards the prizes.

School Facilities and Structure

South Eastern Education Region has confirmed that the school is to have four additional classrooms on our existing site for the start of next year. At this stage, that should allow us to have one classroom in the school not in use however potential new enrolments are still coming in and will probably continue into early next year. Further consultation with Region is anticipated in the New Year to develop a long term plan for the school's facilities.

Classes may need to be adjusted in early Term 1 to balance student numbers if enrolments change significantly.

In preparation for the projected additional enrolments over the next four years, a fourth school leader will be appointed and this position is currently advertised. So our future structure of school areas will be Foundation including Early Education, Junior Primary, Upper Primary and Secondary each with a school leader to support teaching and learning.

Jeff Innes

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

Thursday 24th

School Council Finance

Meeting at 5.45pm

School Council Meeting at 7pm

Tuesday 29th

Junior School End of Year
Celebration

Wednesday 30th

Senior School End of Year
Celebration

DECEMBER

Thursday 1st

Middle School End of Year
Celebration

Tuesday 6th December

Graduation Dinner

Thursday 8th December

Last day for 2016 classes

Friday 9th

Curriculum Day-

Students do not attend

Monday 12th

Headstart commences

Tuesday 20th

Last day students attend for
2016

2017

Curriculum Days

Monday 30th January

Wednesday 10th May

Friday 23rd June

Friday 22nd December

Online Resources

Check our SAS website for further information and
booking details for programs and events at:

www.southernautistic.vic.edu.au

End of Year Celebrations: Dates

- Junior School: **Tuesday 29th November at 11am**
- Middle School: **Thursday 1st December at 6pm**
- Senior School: **Wednesday 30th November at 10am**

Further details regarding all celebrations will be sent home to all families in coming weeks.



Early Education and Junior School News

We are thrilled to announce that the EEP and Junior School end-of-year celebration will be held at Croc's Playcentre in Moorabbin on Tuesday 29th November. Following the positive experiences many of our school families have had attending our annual Kidspace event we thought it would be wonderful to provide our young school students with another opportunity to have a fulfilled play centre experience.

The event will celebrate the wonderful achievements all of our students have made this year. All Early Education and Junior School students families are invited to attend from 11.00am - 1pm.

The playcentre is a chance for us to experience a safe secure community based activity whilst practicing social and peer interactions, communication with others, challenge gross motor skills and of course have fun!

Thank you to everyone in our school community who have sold, publicised and/or purchased the school raffle tickets to enable us to provide this event for our students. We greatly appreciate your support.



Natalie Walsh
Junior School Leader



Middle School News

Middle School recently acquired some more resources to support students with their sensory needs, including exercise balls and hammocks.

Occupational Therapy, or "OT," is frequently incorporated into autism therapy regimens to help, among other things, stimulate a balance between the body and mind to support student focus. For example, a child may be easily distracted while sitting in a regular classroom chair. When the chair is replaced by a large exercise ball or a sit and move cushion, the student now needs to maintain his balance while sitting, therefore the student's mind becomes more attuned – focused in part on balancing, more aware of the environment around him/her, and able to concentrate and focus on other learning.

The benefits of the hammock can be two-fold. Students who find the smooth, swaying motion soothing can relax and unwind while using it to support self-regulation. Children who have vestibular difficulties will feel uneasy while in the hammock and might initially protest its use. For them, being in a hammock is more about regaining equilibrium and learning to tolerate vestibular stimuli.

The motion of swinging restores balance to the vestibular system, provides proprioceptive input (deep pressure) and generally helps children feel more "in balance". The soothing motion of swinging relaxes and increases concentration.



Denise Van Der Nest
Middle School Leader



Communication: The How and Why

We know that communication happens through a variety of mediums: speech, writing, gesture, vocalisation, body language, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems, and so on. This provides us with information about the how of communication.

It is equally important to consider the reasons why we communicate. When assessing an individual’s suitability to a communication system, speech pathologists will analyse many different factors including the different reasons why an individual communicates. Considering the why, or the communication reasons, can help ensure that the chosen system contains enough vocabulary options to support communicating for many different reasons not only now, but for many years to come.

Communication reasons

Listed below are reasons why we communicate. When supporting an individual to learn and use a communication system, we need to explicitly teach how to express these reasons. There is more to communication than making requests. This is not an exhaustive list but gives a starting point when considering other communication reasons to practice:

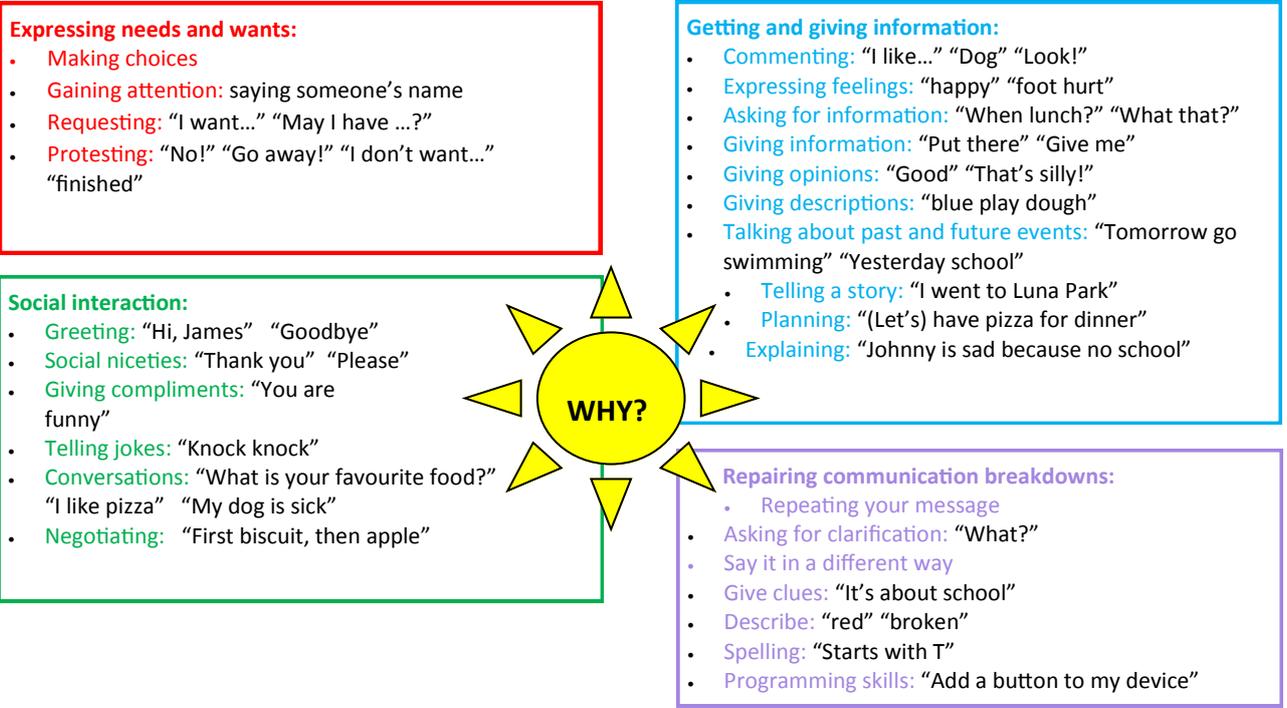


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Senior School News

Cindy Longley
Senior School Leader

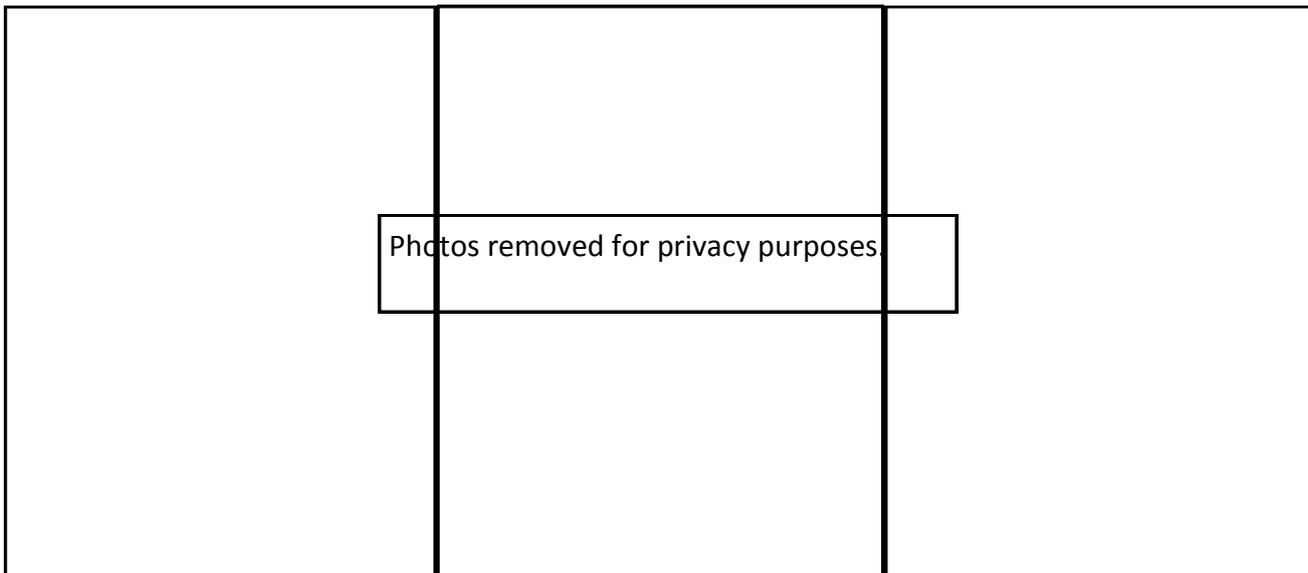
The end of the year is fast approaching and we have lots happening in the Senior School. Coming up we have:

- 30th November **Senior School Production— “The Wizard of OZ”**
Please let us know if you want us to save you a seat!
- 2nd December **Basketball Grand Final & Whole School Assembly**
- 6th December **Graduation dinner** - For year 12 students and their families
- 8th December **Last day for year 12 students**
- 9th December **Curriculum Day**
- 12th December **Headstart commences**
- 15th December **Senior School Water Play Day** - Weather permitting

We also have classes out sailing so this should be a very positive end-of-year for students.

Trampoline

Speaking of fun, our new trampoline in the senior yard has proved popular with students and staff alike!



Special Visitor

We recently had a surprise visit from a former student. Dale Hands-Otte popped in to say, “Hello”, and tell us about the exciting time he is having at Holmesglen TAFE.

Dale is currently studying his Certificate I in Transition Education and is loving it! “I’ve made heaps of new mates and am learning so much. I couldn’t have done it without the support from the teachers at Southern.”

