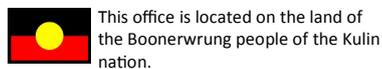




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 East Bentleigh 3165
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This office is located on the land of the Boonerwring people of the Kulin nation.

What's News

TERM 1 ISSUE 3 WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017



Principal's Report

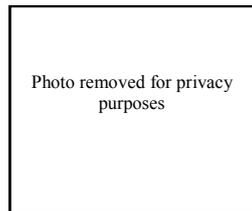
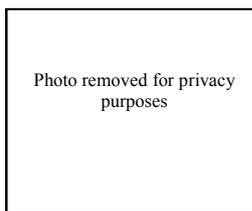
You should have received an SMS to advise that our annual family day at Moorabbin Airport Family Day has been cancelled for the first time in 26 years. Our incredible organiser Les Coleman has not been able to locate an affordable plane for the family flights. Despite the disappointment of many families, Les' voluntary work and passion over so many years is something to celebrate so an in-school party to thank Les and other long term supports will be arranged in the near future.

STAR Program Coming to SAS

It is exciting to confirm that our school is undertaking the STAR Program – Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research. With a target four classrooms, implementations will progress based on a train-the-trainer model to build expertise within our highly committed staff. Using best practice behaviour approaches, STAR provides the key teaching approaches to maximize student engagement and learning. Despite the initial two days training occurring during the Term 1 break, we already have many staff volunteering to participate in the STAR program. With the most effective teaching strategies linked to a relevant curriculum, teaching resources, assessments and online support, STAR offers a complete framework. School Council has endorsed STAR implementation and the funding of over \$48,000. I encourage interested parents to search for "STAR autism" on the internet to view the comprehensive package of information, videos and resources.

Our New Multi-Purpose Gym

While not strictly new, the gym now has two moveable, solid partitions that allow for three simultaneous uses. Noise from each space is minimal due to the acoustic panels and insulation of the new walls. Foundation and Upper Primary Schools have spaces dedicate to gross motor and self-regulation programs that take up half of the original gym. The other half of the gym is used for physical education programs, staff meetings and professional development along with assemblies.



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

Sunday 12th

CANCELLED—Moorabbin Airport Family Day

Monday 13th

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 21st

Harmony Day & Assembly

Wednesday 22nd

School Photos

Thursday 23rd

5.45pm: Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

7.00pm: School Council AGM

Friday 31st

Last Day Term 1

APRIL

Tuesday 18th

First Day Term 2

Monday 24th

ANZAC Ceremony

Tuesday 25th

ANZAC Day

MAY

Monday 1-5

SSG Week

Wednesday 10th

Curriculum Day 2

"Wrap and Chat!"

Please join our parents every Friday at 9.15am for a good dose of laughter and to help cover books in the Staff Room.

Please visit our website for latest newsletters, community notices and further information.
southernautistic.vic.edu.au

Therapy Team

Along with the school's enrolment growth, our Therapy Team now comprises seven therapists equating to six fulltime staff. The team is: Rebecca Kriek, Amanda Hanna, Annaleise Smith, Kate Russell, Stephanie Campbell, Haesel Siah and Jessica Bothe who returns next term.

Photo removed for privacy purposes

School Council Elections

We are pleased to announce the successful nominations for the vacant parent positions: Mikaela Koia, Julia Morgan, Hal Korpetutuncu, Anne Crawford and Arey Caliamanis. As nominations equal the number of vacancies, a ballot is not required.

Jeff Innes
 Principal



EEP and Foundation School News

It was great to see so many families in to speak with the staff during the SSG meeting week. The teachers have been working hard developing each student's Individualised Learning Plan (ILP). These new goals will drive the education program for your child. A copy of these will be sent home at the end of this week.

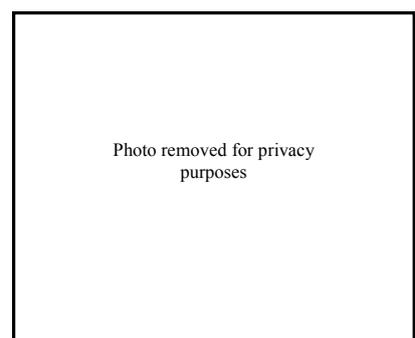
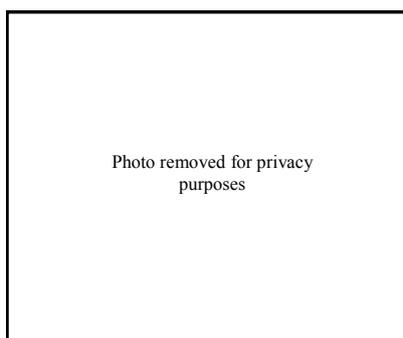
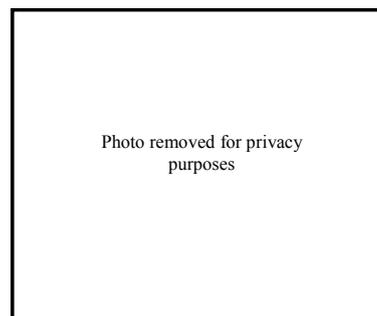
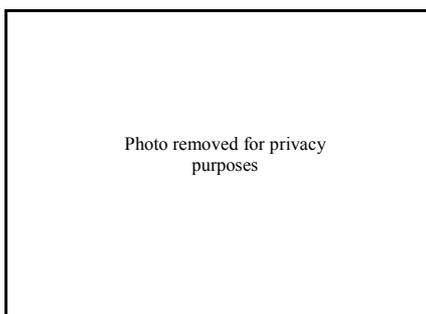
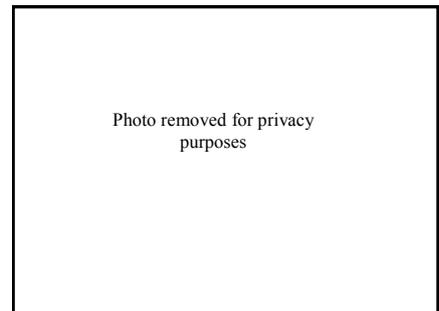
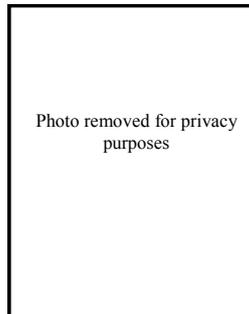
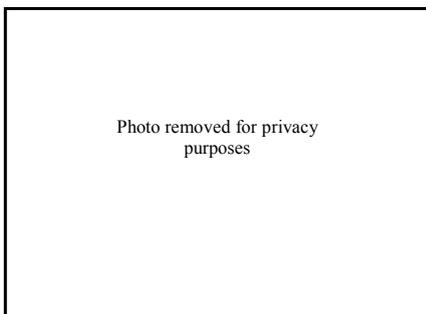
A key focus of our learning program is to provide support to increase the personal and social capabilities of our students. Each student has specific goals written to develop self and social awareness. These will be worked on throughout the term both in and out of the classroom environment.

To enable opportunities to practice social skill development we ensure the environment is set up to accommodate the student needs. Visual supports such as schedules, choice boards, wait cards are provided to support learning and sharing and turn taking skills are specifically taught. The use of communication systems such as PECS or Proloqu2go are embedded across the day. We also consider the environmental aspects such as clearly defined play and learning areas along with one-to-one or small group instruction.

With consistent use of the learning supports the students have settled into their school routines very well. During our recess in the playground we are already seeing positive results with increased interaction amongst the students.

We are very excited to be participating in the Star Curriculum Professional Development program. The STAR Program embeds specific evidenced based teaching strategies into the learning programs for students with autism and will increase learning outcomes for students across SAS. We are looking forward to participating in training and trialing the program.

Natalie Walsh
Foundation School Leader





The STAR Program

The STAR Program (Arick, Loos, Falco, Krug, 2004) teaches children with autism the critical skills identified by the National Research Council. The ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) instructional methods of discrete trial training, pivotal response training and teaching functional routines form the instructional base of this comprehensive program for children with autism.



Lower Primary School News

Lower Primary School is hosting this term's whole school assembly on Tuesday 21st March and the topic for this term is Harmony Day. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Did you know?

- Over the last 70 years seven million migrants have made Australia their home
- Almost half of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was
- People from more than 200 countries make up our Australian community and 300
- languages are spoken in our homes
- Apart from English the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin,
- Italian, Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Tagalog/
Filipino, Spanish and Hindi.

Each classroom will participate in activities related to this topic and Lower Primary School will compile a short video clip to showcase the different cultures within our school. **Students can wear ORANGE!**



Denise Van Der Nest

Lower Primary School Leader



Upper Primary School News

Upper Primary School are well settled now and everyone is engaged in some interesting learning. The UPS - as we are becoming fondly known - are spending time in the kitchen garden and students in room 4.06 have made yummy, healthy beetroot chips to share. Rooms 4.02 and 3.06 have been frantically watering the veggies over the last week to make sure the yield survives the warmer weather.

The students in Upper Primary will be participating in the SoSafe! Program this semester and will be focussing on public places v's private places, as well as learning parts of the body and different types of friendship groups. This program is integral to the personal and social capabilities components of our learning here at Southern Autistic, with the aim of ensuring our students independence.

Summer is over, but the sun is still high in the sky. Please send along a hat for your child to wear in the yard at recess.

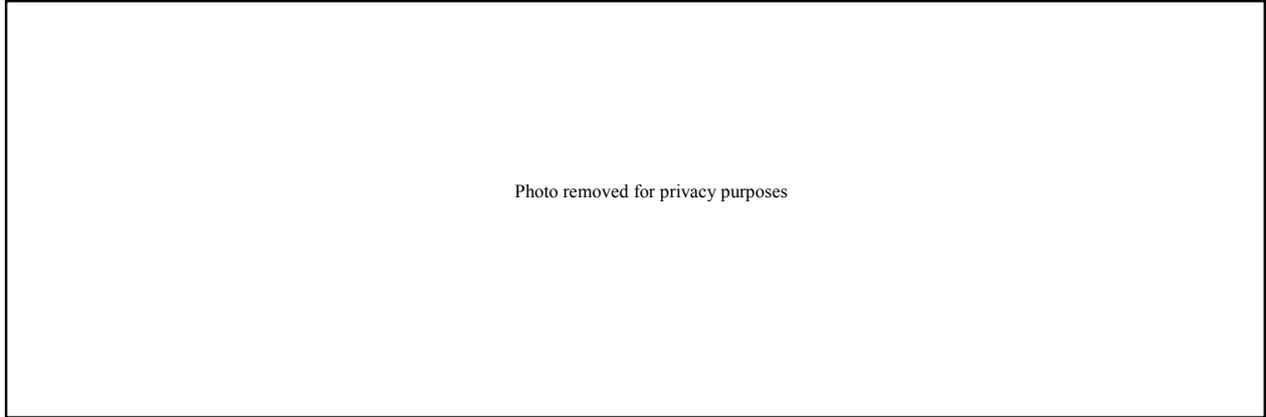
Nat Proctor

Upper Primary School Leader



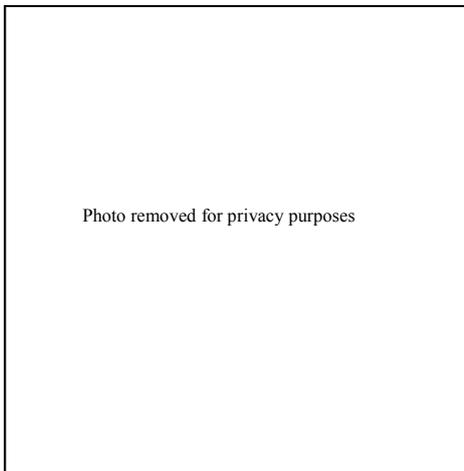
Secondary School News

Secondary School is as busy as ever with camps, sailing, work experience and volunteering all happening! Coming soon we are expecting some fun visitors for Harmony Day on the 21st March.



Blackwood Camp

Two classes have already had an opportunity to attend camp at Blackwood this year. While the weather was a little warm, students from both Room 4.13 and Room 4.12 enjoyed their excellent outdoor adventures. Thanks again to classroom staff, Amanda Thomas and Jade Swinney who volunteered their time to make this possible for our students.



Question - *"What did you do on camp?"*

James- "I played games."

Connor—"I did high ropes."

Daniel—"I shot arrows from the bow."

Braden—"I walked across the second level on the high ropes."

Ryan—" I did archery. I hit the target."

SoSAFE

While SoSAFE will be ongoing throughout the year, we have a concentrated focus on SoSAFE this term before moving onto SPEC in term 2. Permission forms will be coming home soon for students new to the program. Consistency between home and school is very important. Please let me know if you need copies of the **Public / Private** signs at home. Remember, you can designate which areas of the home are public or private.

Public and Private is not only used to differentiate places and/or parts of the body. They can also be used to describe conversation. Students will be taught that some conversations (about private things) should take place in private places with people who have been designated as 'Private Helpers.'

Cindy Longley
Secondary School Leader

