



12 Margaretta Street
East Bentleigh 3165
Tel: 03 9563 8139



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

What's News

TERM 2 ISSUE 1 WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2017

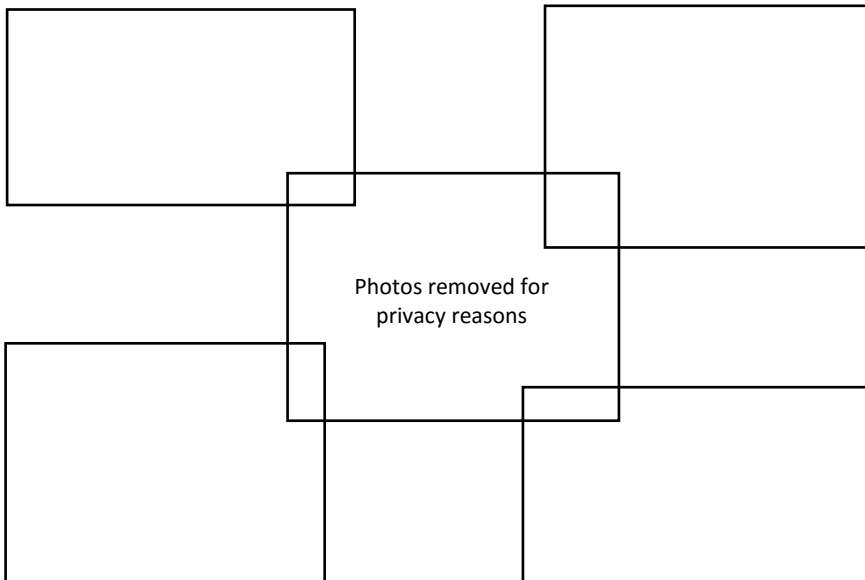


Acting Principal's Report

Welcome back to Term 2

Welcome back to all students and staff. I hope we have all been able to enjoy a restful break before another busy term. It was great seeing students come off the school buses, or walk in with parents, with a spring in their steps and great to think that students are happy to be back with us, feel comfortable at school and enjoy the programs we provide.

During the second week of the break 35 staff took place in 2 days of STAR training. STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research) provided staff with an understanding of the instructional methods of discrete trial training, pivotal response training, teaching functional routines and positive behaviour interventions. These methods are used in combination to form the basis of a comprehensive program. Participants received examples of STAR program lesson plans at each instructional level along with opportunities to practice their skills in implementing the program. Southern Autistic School participated in the training with staff from Monash SDS and East Gippsland SDS. Kara Magee provided the training and will follow up this week by visiting the schools and assisting teachers and ES staff with implementation. The STAR program was developed for primary aged students and will be rolled out over time to ensure the provision of a quality program. The secondary equivalent program is LINKS – a program we will also consider in the future.



Staff participation in the workshop over 2 days of the break shows a great commitment to improving teaching skills and to do the best we can for our students.

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL
Monday 24th
 ANZAC Ceremony
Tuesday 25th
 ANZAC Day Holiday

MAY
Monday 1st-5th
 SSG Week
Wednesday 10th
 Curriculum Day - Student Free Day
Thursday 11th
 Mother's Day Stall
 Post School Options Expo
Wednesday 17th
 NDIS Information Session
Thursday 18th
 7pm School Council Meeting
Saturday 20th
 Bogan Bingo

JUNE
Monday 12th
 Queens Birthday Holiday
Thursday 15th
 7pm School Council Meeting
Thursday 22nd
 Parent Conference
Friday 23rd
 Curriculum Day - Student Free Day
Friday 30th
 Last Day Term 2

JULY
Monday 17th
 First Day Term 3

Online Resources

Check our SAS website for further information for programs and events at:
www.southernautistic.vic.edu.au

Acting Principal's Report cont.

On Wednesday afternoons for the duration of this term a number of staff will also be completing Hanen training. This will enable the school to have 100% of staff trained in this important methodology, which has been led by the school's therapy team. Another high quality program based on evidence.

With the new term we again look to the important task of discussing and reviewing the educational programs we provide to students. We invite all parents to attend student support group (SSG) meetings during week 3. Invitations to attend will be sent next week so that parents can choose a time that suits. Once again the school will provide child minding where required. We know that a number of students find this change of routine very difficult and would be better serviced by a meeting during the day. It would also be a preference that students are not asked to stay back for extended periods, so it would be best for these students to have 3.15 or 3.45 meetings at the latest.

Please don't forget to put 20 May into your diaries. Our fundraising committee has planned a great opportunity to get together and have some fun participating in Bogan Bingo. Invitations and more details pending.

Earlier that same day Hayley and Brad Steer will be running the Shoot for Autism fundraiser at the Grantville Rifle Club. Their efforts have raised over \$13,000 to date and they are looking to make the event bigger and better. They are looking for assistance in providing morning tea and lunch to the paying participants and are seeking the following donations:

24 pack soft drink Coke	24 pack soft drink Pepsi Max	24 can soft drink solo
500ml Tomato sauce	500ml Mustard sauce	500ml BBQ sauce
24 pack soft drink lemonade	Bottled water	Baked/bought goods Cakes/slices/biscuits/chocolates
Serviettes	Bread	Bread rolls

If you are able to help out with this fundraiser please send in or drop off items to the school by Friday 12 May. If you can't get them to school please contact Hayley on 0419 911 400 and she will make arrangements. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please make sure you also have 10 May and 23 June (student free days) and 22 June (parent conference) in your diaries. The student free days will provide staff with an opportunity to participate in learning about autism specific programs, including video self-modelling as a teaching tool. Parents will have this opportunity when they attend the Parent Conference on the 22 June. Video self-modelling (VSM) is a proven and effective method for teaching new or more advanced skills and behaviours to people with autism. The technique uses homemade videos (created by parents, teachers, or therapists) to demonstrate a desired behaviour. The key feature of any self-modelling video is that the person modelling the behaviour in the video is the same person watching the video. VSM allows a person with autism to see himself performing the very skill he is trying to learn. This is accomplished through careful editing and manipulation of video footage, transforming it into a cohesive teaching tool. This is a very exciting opportunity with the knowledge that so many of our students are visual learners.

On Monday 24 April students will participate in a short commemorative ceremony for ANZAC Day. The ceremony will see students participating in a minutes silence and in laying of the wreaths.

I am looking forward to a term full of learning opportunities and achievement for students. Term two should be considered optimal learning time as relationships between staff and students are well developed and we are all in a good place to teach and learn. I'm also looking forward to having Jeff back from leave next Wednesday.

Justin Walsh
Acting Principal



NDIS INFORMATION SESSION

When: Wednesday 17th May 2017

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Where: Southern Autistic School

Presenter: Association for Children with a
Disability

Please RSVP by Wednesday 3rd May. Please return to the office
or in your child's communication book. Any questions please
contact Jessica Tang, SAS social worker on 9563 8139.

Name: _____

Child's name: _____

How many attending: _____

Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund

The Victorian government has funding for camps, sports and excursions to ensure all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category will also exist.

The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for their child. The annual amount per secondary school student is \$225 and primary student is \$125.

Eligible students in prep and year 7 may also be eligible to receive a school uniform.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on or before the first day of term two (19 April 2017).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 5th May 2017 so that applications can be submitted as soon as possible. However schools can accept parent applications up until 30th June 2017.

We encourage all parents and/or carers who hold a Centrelink concession card to apply for CSEF. Please note that the concession card must be in the name of the parent and/or carer and not in the student's name.

If you would like a copy of the form please contact the office on 9563 8139.