It is with pleasure I welcome 2 new staff to our school, namely Toby Dadson and Stephanie Moore. Toby is employed in the role of music teacher while Stephanie will be assisting in teaching swimming and water safety in the hydrotherapy pool. At the same time as we are welcoming staff, we are farewelling Ainslie Byass who is currently assisting in Senior 15. Ainslie is moving interstate to complete her teaching degree and we wish her well with her studies. In addition we are farewelling Sharon Perl who made the decision to retire. Sharon has been a teacher at Monash since 2001 and has worked in all areas of the school over this period. We thank Sharon very much for her support to students and families over the last 15 years and wish her all the very best in this next phase. I am sure she has some great plans to enjoy a number of overseas trips.

It has again become necessary to remind parents and carers dropping and picking up students at the school to please park only in the designated car parking bays. It is extremely busy at the beginning and end of the school day and it is most important that all take particular care to park appropriately, keeping in mind safety for all. Thank you very much for your understanding in this serious matter.

The Department of Education and Training has asked that Principals remind parents of their obligations in relation to Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to schools. Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. It is possible for parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers. DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

An election is to be conducted for members of the Monash Special Developmental School Council. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Friday February 26, 2016. Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and the number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Continued..P/2
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership: a mandated elected Parent category; a mandated elected DET employee category; an optional Community member category. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections. We do have the opportunity for council to co-opt 2 community members on to the Monash SDS council.

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. In view of this, you might seriously consider either standing for election as a member of the school council now or in the future or alternatively encouraging another person to stand for election [we are in a fortunate position, in that two of our retiring school council parent members have renominated themselves for council]

_Helen McCoy_
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In accordance with the National Immunisation Program, all Year 7 students will be offered the following vaccinations:

- A single dose of Chickenpox
- A single dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Boostrix)
- Three doses of Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV).

Consent cards will be sent home to Year 7 students (born 2003). These will need to be completed and returned to school by the date specified. The following are the confirmed dates for the Monash council to visit our school for the above immunisations.

1. Monday, 29 February 2016
2. Thursday, 12 May 2016
3. Friday, 9 September 2016
From the office....

Welcome back to all our families for 2016.

Invoices for the 2016 year have been forwarded to you in the post.

If paying your account via direct deposit please ensure that the highlighted Reference Code is included so the amount can be allocated to the correct account.

Should you require a payment plan please do not hesitate to contact Deb Crawley to discuss this matter.

Please remember to label your child’s clothing appropriately so they can be identified and returned when they are mislaid.

A gentle reminder to those parents whose children go to respite care: due to limited space on the buses, please make sure your child’s bags are no larger than a carry-on size.

Thank you

Unsure what Centrelink payments are available to you? Visit [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) and select the @ Payment Finder.

**On June 25th, we will have a representative from Centrelink visiting as a guest speaker for our Parent Coffee Morning. Further details to follow!**
February 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

At the beginning of each year we ask that parents contribute to the significant running costs of our school.

The Government covers some of the costs of providing for the education of your children - salaries, buildings, maintenance, utilities etc. Unfortunately, the government funding does not cover all of the costs of running an SDS and School Council relies on parents making a contribution. In regular schools this often goes towards book fees but our students require a more complex approach.

The Morsh SDS School Council has made a considerable effort to ensure that the contributions are kept to a minimum. They have been set at the same rate as previous years. We will continue to provide the special educational tools, specifically modified equipment, therapy aids and specialised programs for as long as we can afford to. Should you wish to make a donation at any time it would be warmly welcomed.

When giving a donation a tax receipt that can be used to claim on your tax return is provided.

The contribution covers essential educational items that the school provides to promote learning such as the leasing of IT equipment and specialised PE equipment.

Other educational activities are offered on a user-pays basis throughout the year. The school will notify parents/carers when payment is required for programs such as gym, community based activities and excursions.

The essential educational items cost for 2016 is $360 per annum – Early Education Program

How can you pay?
- Pay in full by Friday March 18, 2016.
- Pay each term when you receive your reminder notice
- Pay by cash or cheque
- Direct Deposit to School Bank Account
- We do not have Eftpos or Credit Card facilities.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact Deb Creaney in the School Office.

Yours sincerely,

Helen McCoy
Principal

Michelle Bow
School Council President

Further information:
The Department’s policy is available at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/policies/financial/PaymentInstructions.aspx. This policy is also available on request from the school.

Morsh Specialist Developmental School Parent Payment – Early Education Program

School councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the categories - essential education items, optional education items and voluntary financial contributions.

Morsh Specialist Developmental School has spent considerable time selecting the most appropriate packages to meet the needs of our children. No student will be isolated differently, denied access or refused instruction in the standard curriculum program for not making a payment.

Parent Payment Categories

Essential education items are those items or services that are essential to support the core of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents and guardians are responsible for providing. At Morsh Specialist Developmental School, we provide these special educational items on your behalf through bulk purchasing.

These items include but are not limited to:
- Materials that the student needs possession of including text books, communication books and portfolios;
- Materials for learning and teaching where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles (e.g. using scissors, scissors, computer work (Einthoven));
- Transport using school buses and the or buses which are expected to attend to support and geographical travel.

Annual Payment – $360.00

Optional education items are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. These optional items are provided on a user pays basis and parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.

Extra Curricular Programs
- School based performances and productions
- Commercially produced school photos
- Eleven/four excursions

Voluntary financial contributions are for those items and services that parents and guardians are invited to make a donation to the school, for example, for grounds maintenance, library resources, computer and other technology and additional curriculum resources.

Other support options

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting requests for payments and contributions. A range of support options are available to assist parents, including the School Grant Program, the Community Sports & Recreation Fund (CSR) and the Matrix Family Financial Assistance support.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

At the beginning of each year we ask that parents contribute to the significant running costs of our school.

The Monash School Council has made a conscientious effort to ensure that the contributions are kept to a minimum. They have been set at the same rate as previous years. We will continue to provide the specialist educational tools, specifically modified equipment, therapy aids and specialist programs for as long as we can afford to. Should you wish to make a donation at any time it would be warmly welcomed.

The contribution covers essential educational items that the school provides to promote learning such as the leasing of IT equipment and specialised PE equipment.

Other educational activities are offered on a user-pays basis throughout the year. The school will notify parents when payment is required for programs such as gym, community based activities and productions.

The essential educational items cost for 2018 is $400 per annum.

How can you pay?
- Pay in full by Friday March 18 2016.
- Pay term by term when you receive your reminder notice.
- Pay by cash or cheque.
- Direct Deposit to School Bank Account.
- We do not have $200 or Credit Card facilities.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact Deb Sleighth in the School Office.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Helen McCoy
Principal

[Signature]
Michelle Seel
School Council President

Further information:
The Department's policy is available at: http://www.monash.vic.edu.au/school/parents/families/essential-educational-items. This policy is also available on request from the school.

Monash Special Developmental School (Parent Payment - School Aged Students)

School councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the programs – essential education items, optional education items and voluntary financial contributions.

Monash Special Developmental School advises parents and guardians to select the most appropriate methods to meet the needs of our children. No student will be treated differently, detailed advice or refusal of contribution to the standard curriculum program for not making a payment.

Parent Payment Categories

Essential education items are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents and guardians are expected to provide. At Monash Special Developmental School we provide these essential items and services on your behalf through such purchases.

Optional education items are those items or services that are voluntary contributions for education items and services that parents and guardians are invited to make a donation to the school, for example, for grounds maintenance, library resources, computer and other technology and additional curriculum items.

Further support options

The school uses a variety of strategies to reduce the financial difficulties in meeting requests for donations and contributions. A range of support options are available to assist parents, including the School Bank Scheme, the Kenne, Sport and Education Fund (KSEF) and State Schools Relief Committee support.
You are invited to attend MyTime on Tuesday mornings at 9.15-11.30am
(in the library/cafe area – just stop by for a cuppa or stay for the session.)
MyTime is time for you with friends who understand – a place to unwind and
talk about your experiences. It’s a world away from appointments and therapy.
It’s support for you.

And while you attend your group, led by a trained facilitator, a play helper minds
your child.

What’s happening in Term 1?
Tuesday 23rd Feb: Art therapy and Finish a project day – bring along an
unfinished craft project, your adult colouring book or come and learn about
scrappbooking (bring some photos to scrapbook)
Tuesday 1st March: Carers Victoria Workshop – Relax and Unwind. Do you
sometimes feel like your brain is spinning? Are you feeling tired and stressed?
Come along for some great tips on how to reduce stress and improve wellbeing.
Tuesday 8th March: Wellbeing – activity to be confirmed
Tuesday 15th March: Local resources discussion and sharing ideas
Tuesday 22nd March: End of term/Easter activity to be confirmed by the group.

MyTime is free.
We hope to see you soon!

CARERS VICTORIA WORKSHOP
RELAX AND UNWIND
You are invited to attend our Term 1 MyTime workshop – Relax and Unwind.
Do you sometimes feel like your brain is spinning?
Are you feeling tired and stressed?
Caring can contribute to increased tension and fatigue. This workshop will explore
some simple techniques to help you relax, incorporating some of these strategies
into your daily or weekly routines can assist you to improve your sense of
wellbeing.

When: Tuesday 1st March, 9.15-11.30am
Where: Library/cafe area adjacent to the Early Ed Program
Our play helper will be in attendance to assist in caring for children under
school age
All welcome!

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
TOILET TRAINING

Learning to use the toilet is an exciting time for toddlers and parents. It’s a partnership, you and your
child working together to achieve an important milestone in both your lives. It’s a developmental
transition in a child’s life that can be challenging, frustrating, satisfying, wonderful...... As many
parents as we can find, that’s how many different experiences that parents can have – from child to
child from day to day. Some children seem to train themselves when they are ready and others need
more structured help from their parents and carers.

Timing is important so before you and your child begin or to have your questions answered...... come
along

DATE: 14 April 2016
TIME: 10:00 – 12:00PM OR 2:00-4:00PM
VENUE: The Courtyard Room
Behind Nunawading Library, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading 3131
COST: $40.00 per person or $75.00 per couple
TO BOOK: www.toilettrainingeducators.com.au
Or Trybooking: http://www.trybooking.com/13229

Why do kids behave the way they do?
What discipline strategies really work?
They have been through so much, what will help them feel secure and safe?

What about resilience? How can we help our children handle the tough stuff in life?

You are a relative, grandparent or friend sharing your home with children who can’t be with their
parents – for whatever reason, this is for you.

Toilet training in child that needs to be learned

The toilet training process is a co-operative process between two people – the
child and their relative.

www.toilettrainingeducators.com.au
If you would like any additional information, please contact us at info@toilettrainingeducators.com.au

Caring Connections is a program for All Kinship Carers. You are invited to:
• learn about ideas and approaches that make sense for these children 
• build on your strengths and family resilience
• share your skills & experience with others in similar situations

When: 16-22 June
Weekly, Wednesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm, 16th and 23rd June
Where: Darebin Community Services
Cost: There is no cost to attend these sessions

For more information and to register your interest in attending, email: kinshipprogram@darebinservices.org.au
or CALL 1800 807 722
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Camps provide valuable learning experiences that go beyond the classroom, allowing students to develop a better understanding of how the world works and the various cultures that make up Australian society. All aspects of Healthy Physical Activity (HPA) will be provided by the Victorian Government to ensure equal access to the physical benefits of sport, camps and exciting activities.

If you hold a valid disqualification certificate or are a temporary foster carer, you may be eligible for CSEF. A temporary foster carer is defined as a foster carer who is not registered under the Temporary Foster Carer Program. The offer is subject to the resources availability. You may be eligible for a scholarship or a grant through this program. The annual CSEF payment rate for students is:

- $650 for primary school students
- $925 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download it from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on the CSEF, contact the school office or visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

OUTSIDE THE SQUARE PSYCHOLOGY

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 16th March, 2016: Double Feature:
Keeping Safe in the Playground: Bullying & Children with Additional Needs, 10.00am - 11.30am
Success with Mainstream Schooling, 12.00 noon - 1.30pm

Wednesday 30th April, 2016: Double Feature:
Teaching Social Skills to Primary School Children with Additional Needs, 10.00am - 11.30am
Autism Spectrum Disorder and Eating Difficulties, 12.00 noon - 1.30pm

Wednesday 14th September, 2016: Double Feature:
Anxiety in Children with Additional Needs, 10.00am - 11.30am
Polidgy and Autism Spectrum Disorders, 12.00 noon - 1.30pm

Wednesday 23rd November, 2016: Double Feature:
Talking with the Child about their Autism Spectrum Diagnosis, 10.00am - 11.30am
Talking to Friends and Family about the ASD Diagnosis, 12.00 noon - 1.30pm

All sessions of Outside the Square Psychology, 20 Bankside Street, Burwood VIC
Cost: $50 per workshop, or $75 for both workshops on the same date
For more information, phone (03) 9033 3917
Or visit: www.outsidethesquaresquarepsychology.com.au

Like Outside the Square Psychology on Facebook for updates

PARENTS AS PATHWAY PLANNING ADVOCATES PROGRAM

About the Program:
The Parents as Pathway Planning Advocates pilot program will deliver knowledge and advocacy skills to parents and carers who live, work in, study in or visit Manningham with a focus on improving pathway planning outcomes for young people with autism (35 - 18 years of age). Delivered by community organisation IMVC with supporting partners Amaze and Manningham City Council, this FREE pilot program begins March 2016.

The Program aims to:
- Provide participating families with skills and knowledge of critical resources in order to ensure increased participation, inclusion and advocacy within their local community.
- Provide key information about planning effectively for life after school, including knowing about the range of post-school pathways young people can take and the support available.

When:
The program consists of six sessions over the following Wednesday days:
Time:
10.00am to 12.00pm
Where:
MC Square - 657 Doncaster Road, Doncaster
Cost:
Free
Bookings are essential as places are limited. To confirm your place please RSVP to: Esther Kaplansky via email: ekaplansky@immvc.org.au or phone: 9838 2355.

Visit www.imvc.com.au for more information on this and other local programs for youth with disability.

This project is supported by Manningham City Council's Community Development Grant Program.
The Business of Parenting after Separation
Parenting Orders Group

How to manage ongoing parenting conflict
- Understand emotional reactions after separation
- Respond to conflict triggers effectively
- Learn why “business-like” parenting relationships work well
- Find new ways to communicate about a Family Law Order
- Consider how new partners influence family dynamics
- Help children feel safe and secure
- Create a new parenting relationship

A confidential four week group - both female and male participants.
Ex-partners will not attend the same group.
The Parenting Orders Program offers this group in addition to parenting education, coaching and support, individual and family counseling, dispute resolution and referrals.
Certificates of Engagement are available when required.

Booking and a pre group interview is required:
Phone 03 9871 6300

2016 NAPLAN TESTS

Dear Parent

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2016 tests will be undertaken by all Australian Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students on 10, 11 and 12 May. Students will be tested in Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), Reading and Numeracy. The NAPLAN tests are implemented by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCARA) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. The information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and to improve student achievement.

Students with significant intellectual disabilities can be exempted from one or all of the NAPLAN 2016 tests. You are advised to discuss with your child’s teacher whether or not your child should undertake the NAPLAN 2016 tests. In certain circumstances, adjustments are available for students with disabilities to enable them to participate in the tests. Your child’s teacher will have details of these adjustments and of their appropriateness for your child.

For further information about the NAPLAN tests, please visit the NAPL website at www.nap.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Principal

For parents of children with a disability

31 JAN 2016

Free sessions in 15 locations for Vic parents!
If you live near Bairnsdale, Brunswick, Burnley, Belgrave, East Melbourne, Ferny Gully, Forest Hill, Frankston, Glen Iris, Mildura, Mt Evelyn, North Melbourne, Ringwood East, Surrey Hills or Yea free parenting support is available near you. You can also get Stepping Stones support online.

Parents can visit www.triplep-stepingstones.net for more details about the different types of parenting support available in your area.

More sessions in different areas will be regularly added by trained practitioners, so make sure you keep an eye on the website. Alternatively you can contact our team at med-steppingstones@monash.edu and they can help link you up with a Stepping Stones program.
Aspect Positive Behaviour Support

REVISITED WORKSHOP CALENDAR
January - June 2016

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based, three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshops across Victoria in 2015. Aspect PBS workshops are for parents and carers of children and young adults diagnosed with Autism, aged between 6-25 years and living at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fremantle</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd, 24th &amp; 26th February</td>
<td>29th Feb, 1st &amp; 2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citybase Community Hub</td>
<td>Bernall &amp; Molong</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Drake St, Frankston VIC 3195</td>
<td>Football &amp; Martial Clubs</td>
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<td>Aldicy Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bernall VIC 3872</td>
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<td>In 2014, Aspect Victoria will again deliver workshops to culturally diverse groups and in languages other than English. Please contact us if you would like to be notified of these workshops.</td>
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Due to current program demands and restrucure within Aspect, workshops previously scheduled to occur between April & June 2016 will now take place over July - November 2016. Our state-wide flyer for July - November workshops will be issued by the beginning of May.

What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:

- Really good information and evidence-based strategies. Thank you. - damon
- I have learnt very important self-collection, being able to dig back and really think about all the things I use. A really valuable focus on being positive and improving my life. - my own family’s lovely. - Great workshop - will highly recommend to others.

CARERS EXPO

When: Friday 19th February
9:30am to 12:30pm
Where: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Bunwood Highway, Wantirna South, VIC 3152
What: CARERS EXPO

A free event for parents/carers of people with a disability. All welcome. We will have approximately 50 disability service providers exhibiting.

Why: We know that many parents/carers are overwhelmed and tired. We also know that many of you are not accessing all of the supports and services for which you are eligible. You will be better informed about what options exist, and better able to get the support you need, including signing up for services if you are ready.

Anyone is welcome!

https://www.facebook.com/EasternDisabilityHousingNetwork?ref=ayw

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Peter Johnstone at peter.johnstone@ Knox.vic.gov.au or (03) 9288 8816

NDIS Community Forum

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Clare O’Neill MP, the Federal Member for Hotham, would like you to join her at this important community forum on the NDIS.

- Find out more about the NDIS rollout in our area, and what it will mean for local families.
- Share your concerns about the NDIS, to help Clare continue to advocate in Canberra for families affected by disability.

Tuesday 8 March, 2016
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Jan Lake Centre
Genoa St, Moorabbin
Light refreshments will be served
RSVP by 3 March, 2016
Email: clare.onnell.mp@aph.gov.au
Phone: 9545 6211

Clare O’Neill MP
Federal Labor Member for Hotham

NDIS Community Forum

Information sessions

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting Victorians with a disability, their families and carers to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We are pleased to invite people with a disability and their families to attend one of the following information sessions about what the scheme will mean for them.

These sessions are designed to give potential NDIS participants a sense of how to access support, what changes they can expect and how they can be assisted in developing a plan that suits their needs.

You will hear from the Minister for Disability, Housing and Ageing Martin Foley and the National Disability Insurance Agency and you will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Hume Moreland
Date: Wednesday 17 February
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Venue: Global Learning Centre, Craigieburn
75-95 Central Park Ave, Craigieburn

Banyule
Date: Wednesday 2 March
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Venue: The Centre, Ivanhoe
275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

Greater Dandenong
The Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers, Ms Gabrielle Williams MP, will be representing the Minister at this session.
Date: Wednesday 19 March
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Venue: Rivulet Apartments
18-20 Lonsdale St, Dandenong

To find out how to register to attend one of these sessions visit www.vic.gov.au/ndiscommunityforums
If you would like assistance to register or to access the venue please contact the Department of Health and Human Services on (03) 9094 2505.

NDIS Community Forum

Authorised by Clare O’Neill MP, 429 Clayton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168