Have your say on supporting children with special needs

Victorians are invited to have their say on how to better support students with disabilities and special needs.

The review of the Program for Students with Disabilities is seeking solution-focussed ideas from parents, carers, students, principals, teachers, support and specialist staff and advocates. Contributions will be open for four weeks and can be made via mail or email. Contributions should be received by Friday 11 September.

A structured online survey will also be made available in September. You can register your interest in taking part in the online survey in September via the website at: PSD Review - Education Victoria.

For more information, please see: Special Needs Plan - Education Victoria

In the last couple of weeks we have unfortunately lost 2 staff from our school. Janine Cheung [Speech Pathologist] has gone overseas for 12 months, while Lindsay Gillespie [Teacher Senior 17] has moved to another specialist school. Janine assures us that she will return and in the meantime we have interviewed and appointed a replacement therapist, who will commence in a few weeks. Lindsay has been with us for a number of years and she left with very mixed feelings - sad to go yet excited with the prospect of taking up her new position. We wish both colleagues the very best and thank them for their contributions to the school.

This year our school will be undertaking its School Review in Term 4. All schools undertake a review every 4 years. The review includes a self-assessment which looks at what we have achieved over the last 4 years plus any recommendations for the new review period. Our priorities for the period 2012 – 2015 came under the broad focus areas of Student Learning, Student Engagement and Wellbeing plus Student Pathways and Transitions.
The broad goals under Student Learning were:
- To improve student learning and achievement by more clearly articulating and documenting desired student learning outcomes.
- To continue to develop and consolidate a school culture of rich professional learning so as to build key understandings across all staff and enhance leadership capacity.

In the area of Student Engagement and Wellbeing our goals were:
- To continue to develop an inclusive curriculum/program that facilitates success and independence plus nurtures self-esteem.
- To continue to develop a highly effective positive student behaviour support strategy that promotes student wellbeing and maximises engagement.

While in the third area of Student Pathways and Transitions our goals were:
- To improve communication and maximise participation by all parties in key transitions across school life.
- To continue to improve transition programs that will enhance student readiness for their pathways in, through and beyond the school.

It will be of great value to the school to receive your thoughts with regards to how you feel the school has developed in all 3 focus areas as well as your ideas for the future directions for this school.

At the end of this newsletter, a tear off questionnaire is provided for those who receive this publication in hard copy. We would appreciate as many parents as possible completing and returning this feedback to the school as soon as possible.

We thought that this form of feedback forum would be more convenient for families, rather than calling a special meeting at the school, which would then preclude many from having the opportunity to express opinions. Those parents who receive the newsletter via our webpage can complete the questions and return your comments through the website via the Monash SDS Parent Feedback Form.

**Helen McCoy**  
Principal
From the office....

A big thank you to all those families who have either paid their fees in full or are paying via the instalment method. As we are approaching the half way mark for the year and in term 3, we would appreciate any outstanding amounts be settled at your earliest opportunity. If you wish to discuss a different payment arrangement please contact Deb Crawley on 9239-7431.

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
Winter Health – Beating the Bugs

In Australia, our influenza ‘flu’ season typically runs from May to October, usually peaking in August.

It is just not possible to stop all bugs from spreading at school, however, a lot of illnesses can be prevented and controlled simply by practicing good hygiene.

Handy hygiene tips for you and your family
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Throw used tissues in plastic-lined rubbish bins
- Wash your hands with soap and water, preferably warm water if available
- Reduce the spread of germs by avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Further information on influenza is available at the Better Health Channel, see: Better Health Channel Flu Influenza

What can you do to prevent the spread of infectious diseases?

The three main ways of preventing the spread of infection are:

1. Remind your child of effective hygiene methods.

2. Keep your child home when they are unwell. Your doctor will let you know if your child has an 'excludable' condition. You will need to advise the school as soon as possible and keep your child home for the length of time that your doctor advises.

3. Ensure your child’s immunisations are up to date.
We will be holding a Fathers Day Stall at school on Tuesday, 1st and Wednesday 2nd September

The cost of a gift will be $5.00. Please enclose $5 into a sealed envelope before the day and return it to your teacher. Your child will be taken to the stall and be able to choose a gift for Dad.

Thank-you from the social committee
Menu planning workshops
for long day care and out of school hours care
Food allergies and intolerances
Interactive training for long day care and out of school hours care coordinators, cooks and educators.
Learn how to provide a healthy menu that accommodates different food allergies and intolerances, in line with current menu planning guidelines.

Help your centre work towards:
- Healthy eating benchmark of the Healthy Together Achievement Program
- National Quality Standard 2.2

Each workshop is run by an Accredited Practising Dietitian or Registered Nutritionalist. All materials will be provided on the day and participants will receive a comprehensive resources pack and certificate of completion at the end.

Topics include
- the difference between allergies and intolerances
- identifying allergens in recipes and products
- food safety considerations
- overcoming challenges like time and budget
- where to get further information

Cost: $75 per person
Time: 10am – 12:30pm

Various dates and locations

Carlton North
Greene Villas
36 Henry Street
Carlton North VIC 3054
Tuesday 25 August
Week 2
Tuesday 8 September

Docklands
The Harbour Family and Children’s Centre
Unit 1, 1 Seabird Lane
Docklands VIC 3008
Wednesday 26 August

Camberwell
Camberwell Library
340 Camberwell Road
Camberwell VIC 3124
Tuesday 1 September


Our “Basketball for All Abilities” program provides opportunities for the youth across the City of Knox and Targa Ranges to develop their skills.

“Basketball for All Abilities” is a fun and exciting program that is packed with activities that are sure to keep everyone involved, motivated and having a great time. It also gives players with additional needs the opportunity to take to the basketball court.

Our dedicated coaching staff are on board to ensure all participants have a fulfilling and rich experience each and every week.

Knox Basketball | All Abilities — Term 2

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Complete the form below and return with payment to Knox Basketball Inc.
PO Box 95 Berwick, 3806

Knox Basketball Inc.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
Phone ____________________________
Mobile ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Credit card details
Card type: ________________
Card number: ________________
Expiry date: ________________

Signature __________________________
Total $ ________
Are you a parent of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

We would like to invite parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to participate in a project that investigates parenting stress, family functioning and sleep in children with ASD.

Parents will be asked to complete some questionnaires and record their children’s sleep patterns for 14 nights using a smartphone ‘app’ based sleep diary or a pen-and-paper sleep diary. At the end of the two weeks, there will be another short online questionnaire upon completion of which, participants will be put in the draw to win one of two $90 shopping vouchers!

Information provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence and participants will not be individually identifiable in the resulting report.

If you are interested in participating in this study or simply want more information please go to: www.deakin.edu.au/apps/psychology/sleepdiary

Thank you! ☺️

GAME ON 2015

Wheelchair Soccer Tournament

Join the highlight event of the 2015 RIDE Disability Expo. Reigning champions the “WATFORD WARRIORS” will be defending their title at the annual RIDE Wheelchair Soccer Tournament, hosted in partnership with Scope.

The winning team will receive certificates and a night at the movies.

The rules:
- 5 players per team
- During play, all players must use either their own wheekchair or one of the wheelchairs provided

What you will need:
- Team name
- Team logo
- Team colour (t-shirts, arm bands, caps etc)
- Cheer squad
Twilight Important Entry Information:

- 110 Entry per person is to be paid at the door on the night. Parent/Caregiver entrance is free of charge.
- For participants catching train home - parents/caregivers are required to pre-arrange book bus pick-up for participants no later than 10am. (Please ensure you provide the company with instructions/destination address).
- During Twilight, all Youth Services Staff Volunteers act in a supervisory & supportive capacity only. One on one care/escort/supervision is not provided.
- If a participant requires one on one support/escort, they must be attended with a parent/caregiver. Parent/caregivers are required to maintain responsibility and supervision of their child at all times during the course of the event.
- Parent/caregivers will be contacted and expected to collect any participant that displays behaviour considered inappropriate, dangerous or that requires YMCA staff to cease their allocated duties to provide full, ongoing attention.
- Please note that due to the nature of Twilight, the environment is loud. We appreciate this may not suit everyone; therefore a ‘Quiet Area’ is available for anyone wishing to use it.
- Water & Fruit provided free of charge courtesy of The Rotary Club of Doncaster. Tea & Coffee is also available for Parents & Caregivers.
- Please ensure money is provided to participants for snacks & refreshments.
- Photographs and video may be taken on the night. Images may be used for youth services promotions, website or promotion. Images remain the property of YMCA Vic are not to be used by any other party. If you do not wish to have images of yourself or your child/child’s details published, please inform YMCA staff.

Manningham YMCA Youth Services
Ph: 9840 5400  E: my@ymca.org.au  W: www.manninghamymcacountyservices.org.au
FB: www.facebook.com/ManninghamYMCAyouthservices

Seeking Mothers
Inviting all mothers of children with a disability to participate in a research study on mental health

The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program at the University of Melbourne is conducting a new study to understand what mothers need from services to better support their mental health. This research is based on a partnership we have with parents to inform new research. The study is titled "Investigating the Needs, Gaps and Barriers to Mental Health Care for Mothers of Children with a Disability".

All mothers who care for a child (0-25 years) with a disability are invited to participate in an online survey.

The study will be conducted between June and August 2015. Results will be written up anonymously and into summary sheets and a journal publication.

Online Survey
This survey will take 25 minutes and participation is anonymous.

To do the survey please click this link or copy and paste this into your web browser:
https://edc.cap.melb.edu.au/surveys/?s=YBBFRRDRA

Please contact Shae Johnson shae.johnson@unimelb.edu.au or call 9035 9613 if you need any assistance.

Communication & Inclusion Resource Centre
Active participation for people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities

People with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD) need a lot of support to actively engage in everyday activities.

Individualised support plans define the level and type of support each person requires to maximise their opportunities to actively engage and participate in everyday activities. A person’s sensory responsiveness is one of many areas considered when developing a support plan. Sensory processing disorders can have a major impact on daily activities and behaviour. Providing controlled sensory experiences can enhance a person’s ability to interact with communication partners and participate in activities.

This workshop will provide information about:
- the role of the senses and the impact of sensory processing disorders on performance and behaviour
- sensory assessments
- resources

It will also provide participants with strategies for:
- enhancing sensory performance
- building sensory strategies into a person’s daily activities including communication supports
- making an activity sensory-focused
- ways to ensure all support requirements are included when implementing support plan recommendations.

Notes
The theory and support practices presented in this workshop can be used when supporting anyone with difficulty engaging in everyday activities.

Audience
Disability Support Workers, teachers and interested others who support people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD)

Catering
Teas and coffees will be provided. Please bring your own lunch or purchase at one of the many cafes and eateries in the area.

Click here to view dates and venues for this workshop
Click here to download an application form for this workshop

www.scope.org.au | (03) 9643 2600 | centre@scope.org.au
Early Bird  
Classes 36/07/15 (AUD, Inc. GST)  
$450  

Full  
Classes 14/08/15 (AUD, Inc. GST)  
$490

Rates  
(Includes full program, lunch, morning and afternoon teas)  
over two full days:

- **Standard**: This rate is for professionals or people with a disability and families who are attending who are employed by or represent a service, support or advocacy organisation, or care provider or organisation. 
  $450  

- **Agency Sponsored**: This rate is for agencies who wish to sponsor people with a disability and families who use the services of their organisation. 
  $470  

- **Concession**: This rate is for people with a disability, families, and Health Care Card holders who are paying as an individual from their own resources. 
  $220  

- **Student (Full-Time)**: This rate is for students who are studying full-time. A copy of a current student card must be provided. 
  $220  

- **Student (Part-Time)**: This rate is for students who are studying part-time. A copy of a current student card must be provided. 
  $240  

- **Social Gathering**: (Thursday 31st July, 6:00pm - 8:00pm) Includes finger food and plenty of networking. Drinks on bar price. 
  $22  

- **Companion Card**: Must be presented if supporting a person with a disability to attend. 
  $0

**Social Gathering**

Dine and be entertained at our social gathering Enjoy entertainment by duo Brandan Fords and Colleen Bowen at the Criterion Hotel, 323 Bourke Road, Hawthorn on Thursday evening, 31 July from 6 pm – 8pm.

**FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND TO PAY ONLINE VISIT**

www.belongingmattersconference.org
www.belongingmatters.org

To guarantee a place, please register early by completing the registration form and payment details online. Please see full terms and conditions please view Belonging Matters' **Terms and Conditions Policy** and www gladlyshut

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BELONGING MATTERS**

Phone: 03 97393833  
Email: info@belongingmatters.org

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**Hurry, take advantage of this limited offer for your chance to win!**

**Entertainment™ Books FREE Postage!**

Hurry Ends 31 August

**Take advantage of free postage anywhere in Australia!**

For a limited time only Monash Special Development School is offering FREE POSTAGE to your door.


As if that wasn’t exciting enough, if you take advantage of this limited offer before August 31st and purchase online from us you will automatically be entered into the draw to win a $1,000 Woolworths WISH Gift Card!!

You’ll also be supporting us in more ways than one! Every Membership purchased throughout the order page gives us a chance to win a $1,000 WISH Gift Card too! IT’S A WIN WIN!!

If you have already purchased your **Entertainment™ Membership this year** - THANK YOU! Please feel free to forward this email to your friends and family. Every Membership sold helps our fundraising!

Woolworths WISH Gift Cards are accepted at these participating stores:

- Woolworths
- BWS
- Caltex
- PLU
- Dan Murphys
- Cellar Master
- The Local

**THAN YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Monash Special Development School

Joelle Kasma

[03] 9739 1402

[monash.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:monash.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au)
Places are still available for the Sony Star Camp. Star Camp is a **FREE**, fun filled three day, two night camp for children with a disability aged from 5-15 years old. The STAR holiday camp will be held at Scotch College from Saturday 12th December until Monday 14th December, 2015. We plan to accommodate 26 boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 15 who have intellectual and/or physical disabilities. These children will be in the care of recently graduated Year 12 students from Genazzano College, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Sacré Coeur, Scotch College, St Kevin’s College and Xavier College for the duration of the camp. The camp is **free** and has been generously sponsored by Sony Foundation Australia.

Medical facilities of the highest standard will be available at the College. We will have registered nurses on duty each shift and doctors on call 24 hours a day. A great deal of preparation will ensure the medical needs of each child in our care will be attended. We will pride ourselves on our choice of student who will care for your child. These students, called Companions, will be interviewed and selected with great care. We plan to have two Companions with each child for the duration of the holiday camp. These students, we anticipate, will see this experience as a privilege, where they will undoubtedly learn a great deal about children with disabilities and themselves; please view attached commentary from a past student companion. Along with the nurses, the companions will be supported in their role by a number of teaching staff from the six schools. All adults who work on the camp will be required to sign a form connected with the Child Protection legislation.

We hope the camp will be a time of great fun and enjoyment with a program of swimming, picnics, games, fair and parties. We also hope the camp will provide a much deserved break for the full time carers of your child. We are anticipating a large number of applicants who will want to participate in the camp. It may therefore be necessary for us to contact your child’s school to obtain information to support their application.

Please visit website- www.respiteeast.org.au and click on Events and Programs and Sony Star Camp- Places Available to find the expression of interest form and an advertising flyer. Please return your completed form to RIDE@vooralla.com.au.

*The closing date for applications is Friday, 28th August. Completing the expression of interest form does not automatically indicate your child has been accepted and a letter regarding the success of your application will be sent by mid-October.*


I highly recommend this unique and enriching experience for your child and invite you to apply.

Yours faithfully
Mark Oski
Registrar
Sony Foundation STAR Camp, Melbourne
Care Connect

Spectrum Connections

What is Spectrum Connections?

Spectrum Connections is a support group program that provides an environment for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and/or carers to meet and support each other.

The support group aims to:

- facilitate opportunities for people to share experiences, knowledge and skills in a supportive environment
- provide information and resources through specialist guest speakers
- increase resilience and self-esteem in people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families and/or carers
- acknowledge and celebrate successes within the group members.

How is Spectrum Connections delivered?

Spectrum Connections support groups are operated across the Eastern Metropolitan region of Melbourne, through monthly meetings. The meetings include guest speakers on topics nominated by each group according to their participants’ needs or areas of interest. Each group is facilitated by a Client Facilitator from Care Connect. Members are also provided with information and updates on local activities and events via a weekly email.

When and where are the support group meetings?

Spectrum Connections Knox Support Group
Meetings: Second Friday of each month during school terms
Where: Cooranba Community House, 20 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully VIC
Time: 12.30-2.30pm.

Spectrum Connections Manningham Support Group
Meetings: First Friday of each month during school terms
Where: 246 Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe, VIC
Time: 9.15am - 11.30am.

Spectrum Connections Maribyrnong Support Group
Meetings: Third Thursday of each month during school terms
Where: 207 Macleay Road, Kilsyth VIC
Time: 10.00 - 12.00pm.

Is there a fee?

There is no cost to attend the regular meetings however some guest speakers or events may require a small contribution from attendees.

About Care Connect

At Care Connect we help you learn, navigate, plan and finally connect you with the care you need to continue living independently at home.

We’re guided. We make things happen. We don’t provide care directly but as our name suggests, we’ll work with you to work out what your needs are, and then connect you with the care you require. We specialise in ageing, disability, mental health and carer support.

Your needs are connected, so we look at everything, from medical treatment, to help with the housework. To keep living independently it all needs to be taken care of.

We’ll guide you through a system that’s often hard to understand, to help you learn, navigate and plan. We will then connect you with the services that’ll help you continue living independently at home.

We’re a non-profit, not-for-profit organisation, and we deal with hundreds of highly qualified care providers. We are fully independent, and our commitment is always first and foremost to you.

You’ll save time searching and have peace of mind, since we’ve done the screening for you.

And, since we’re one of Australia’s largest purchasers of care services, you get value for money.

We offer choice, flexibility and control, so you can live the life you want, your way. Our relationship with you will be ongoing, and our commitment is to helping you adapt to changing circumstances so you can stay connected to your home, your family, your friends and your community.

Confidentiality

Care Connect is committed to the highest possible confidentiality and privacy standards. This ensures that any information shared with Care Connect is dealt with according to legislative and regulatory requirements.

How do I receive more information?

To join a Spectrum Connections support group or for more information, please call the Intake Team at the Care Connect Doncaster office:

T: 9849-4444
E: spectrumconnections@careconnect.org.au

Spectrum Connections

CareConnect

careconnect.org.au - 1800 116 166
Mindful Learning
Dr Richard Chambers

Mindfulness has been shown to improve mental health, resilience and academic/work performance. This 3-hour workshop will explore the science and practice of mindfulness and its applications in education, including:
- Stress reduction
- Resilience
- Attention and dealing with distractions
- Procrastination busting
- Communication and relationships
- Emotional intelligence and self-perspective development.

Dr Richard Chambers is a clinical psychologist and internationally-recognised expert in mindfulness. He consults to numerous educational institutions, businesses, professional sporting teams and community organisations interested in implementing mindfulness in the curriculum. He is spearheading a university-wide mindfulness initiative at Monash University, is creator of Mindful Learning, an online course in mindfulness education, and a developer of Mindful U.

FREE EVENT!

Date: Tuesday, 1st September, 2015
Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm (please arrive at 8.45am)
Location: Manningham Council Function Rooms
Level 1 Room 2
699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster

More info: jaci@mindeco.com.au
To Book: wendyros@manninham.vic.gov.au (9840 9452)
shaun.obrien@boroondara.vic.gov.au (8835 7826)
Dear Parents/Carers,

We invite you along to our Third Term Coffee Morning and information session with Carers Victoria. This meeting will include an introduction to services offered by Carers Victoria as well as an overview of what to expect and how to prepare for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

When: Thursday, 03 September 2015
Where: Monash SDS Staff room
Time: 9.00 – 11.00 AM

9-9.30 – A few students from Monash SDS Café program will be serving coffee. (Money raised will be donated to the program).
9.30-10.30 – Introduction to Carers Victoria and NDIS presentation.
10.30 – 11.00 – Question and Answer Session / Social time with Monash SDS families.

If you have any questions or need to arrange an interpreter, please contact Yvonne Tonner on 9239 7400. Look forward to seeing you there.

Kind Regards,
Yvonne Tonner, Social Worker

To adequately cater for food and resources, please confirm your attendance by Thursday, August 27. RSVP to tonner.yvonne.m@edumail.vic.gov.au with your name and child’s name or return this section to your child’s teacher.

Carers Victoria/NDIS INFORMATION SESSION

☐ Yes, I am able to attend.
☐ No, I am NOT able to attend.

My Child’s Name: ___________________________
My Name: ________________________________

Helen McCoy, Principal
Email: monash.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au        Website: www.monash.sds.vic.edu.au
Monash SDS Review 2015

School Self Evaluation Key Discussion Questions.

1. With regards to our 3 focus areas of Student Learning, Student Engagement and Wellbeing plus Student Pathways and Transitions please comment on how well our school has addressed these important areas over the past 4 years?

2. What directions/achievements would you like to see for our school population in the next 4 years?

Thank you for taking the time to express your opinion with regards to our school.