From the Principal…

It has been much longer than usual since I have written a newsletter.

I started the term with 2 weeks long service leave and was lucky enough to use this time to travel to India with one of my friends. I was only back at school 2 days before needing more than a week of sick leave because I managed to get a nasty dose of Bronchitis. I am pleased to say that I am now just about fully fit and back to working to my full capacity. I am very lucky that Jane led the school so well whilst I was away that apart from the missing letter from me in the last Newsletter very few families would have noticed my absence.

Because most of our students travel to school by bus we don’t regularly see their families but the start of term 4 has seen lots of opportunities for families to join us at school. The Family Fun Night was on the day of horrible weather but many of you braved the bad weather to join in what was really a night of fun. Many of you took the opportunity to join your child’s class when they explored science at our week long Science Expo. The Speech Team enjoyed working with families at the Communication Workshop and many of you have had appointments with the Consultants from Yooralla who hopefully have made the transition process for NDIS clearer for you. I often talk about the ‘School Community’ but it is when we have the opportunity to meet with families that we really do feel like a strong community Working Together To Achieve.

Since the start of term the results of both the DET Parent Opinion and the Staff Satisfaction Survey have been released and I am very pleased with the feedback that these surveys give me about the quality of the work at our school.

The Parent Survey shows that the opinions of the random sample group of parents who were asked to complete the survey rate our school above the level that is the mean for all schools in Victoria and above the level that is the mean for all specialist schools. The only exception to this is in the area of ‘extra curricula activities’ which refers to enrichment activities outside of school hours. With most of our students arriving and leaving by the school buses it is unlikely that our school can ever meet the mean for enrichment activities that in most school are sport or the arts based and generally occur after school hours. I am very pleased to note that our strongest feedback comes in response to the statement: ‘Overall, I am satisfied with the education that my child receives from their school’.
For the staff survey all staff were asked to rate the school performance in areas such as collective responsibility for learning, emphasis on learning, trust in students and parents, trust in colleagues, teacher collaboration, parent and community involvement, collective focus on student learning, the quality of the school curriculum and the quality of the professional development and support of staff. The results of our staff survey for the past three years have been exceptionally high and I am very proud to share that this year is no exception. Our school results are compared against all special schools in our Region and in Victoria. We gained an overall mean score of 88.62. The overall mean score of all special schools in our region was 76.12 and for the state 75.19.

It is my belief that our school must always aims to ensure that our students have the best possible learning and care. We pride ourselves on the high quality of our school and it is very affirming to see that parents and staff provide evidence that this is the case. It is the time of year when you are having phone meetings with your child’s teacher to review progress made this year and develop recommendations for goals for 2017. The teachers are certainly enjoying celebrating each child’s achievements during these calls. Shortly, the end of year reports will be prepared to provide you with a formal record of your child’s achievements.

If you have been in the Hub recently you will see that we already have 3 tables of Christmas raffle prizes. It is always exciting for the students to see how many prizes there are to be won. If you still have donations to send in we are happy to receive them for another few weeks. The more prizes there are the more chance we have of every family winning a prize.

Raelene
**Dates to Remember:**
- Monday Nov 21: School Council
- Friday Nov 25: Senior Graduation
- Wednesday Dec 14: Pupil Free Day
- Tuesday Dec 20: Term 4 ends at 2 pm
- Tuesday Jan 31, 2017: Term 1 begins for students
- Thursday Feb 2, 2017: New preps for 2017

**Stars of the Week**

**Junior School**
JS2 Omar for all his independent work in all class programs. Great job Omar!
Everyone in Junior 5 class for excellent switching in History class. Great work!

**Middle School**
Everyone in M3 for being focused and making all the experiments work during the Science Expo.
MS8 Jordyn for using his voice so often this term. Great work and keep it up.
MS6 Liam for finding things are the “same” during maths session. Great job Liam!
MS6 Jayden for consistently following our classroom rule of “joining in”. Great job Jayden.

**Senior School**
SS4 Elisha for her patience, especially when waiting for morning tea each day.
SS7 Duy for great participation in this week’s Swimming program.

**Music**—MS6 Sanaya for her lovely loud singing in class last week

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**Glenroy Specialist School**

Thank you for the wonderful donations for the Christmas Raffle we have some amazing prizes.
Tickets—50 cents each or $5 per book.
Extra Tickets are available.

*The raffle will be drawn at the end of term.*
Science Expo Week November 7—11
Senior 5 have been very active this year!
We love our sports sessions and getting out and about as much as possible. We have had heaps of visitors such as the Essendon Football Club and Lisa De Vanna. We have also been on lots of excursions including one where we practiced getting on and off public transport.
Middle School 8 News

This term Middle 8 have been having fun exploring different eras throughout time through our theme ‘In Fashion’. We have so far explored the 1920s, 1950, and the 1960s. We enjoy listening to music from these eras and dressing up, among other things. We will continue to work our way through the decades until we get to the future. Feel free to pop into our room at any time to look at our 1920s decorations or our dress-up posters.
Key Word Signs (Handout No. 16)

Key Word Sign (KWS) used to be called Makaton. It uses the same or similar signs to Auslan.

We use it a lot at school to help our students understand what we are saying. We also teach our students to use KWS when they want to tell us a message. **Try it at home!**

**How to use KWS:**

- Always use **speech** together with the sign
- Speak in **normal** sentences
- Only sign the **key words** in the sentence
- Use **natural gesture** such as pointing to people/objects/things
- Use **facial expression** and **body language**
- Use **directionality** – for example when you sign “go” wave your hand towards the direction you are going i.e. outside/inside

**TO WASH/BATH** - Mime washing the part of the body or object.
**TO SEE/LOOK** - Move dominant index finger forward from eye.
**TO GIVE** - Move open hands forward simultaneously, palms up, in shallow arc.
**FOOD** - Close dominant fingertips on to ball of thumb. Tap formation on chin, twice.

Talk about your pets, or animals that you like!

Pets: wash, pat (natural gesture), look, **give** them **food** to eat

Resources: You can look up videos of each sign at [http://www.auslan.org.au](http://www.auslan.org.au)

**From the Speech Pathology Team**
International Day of People with Disability
Celebrating diversity and inclusion in Moonee Valley

To mark International Day of People with Disability (3 December), Council is hosting several free community events:

**Painterly Visions Mural Launch**
Wednesday, 30 November
10am-12 noon
Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre
A public mural highlighting inclusion and diversity in Moonee Valley by participants of the Arts Access Victoria SRS program.

**Celebrating All Abilities in Sport**
Friday, 2 December, 11am-1pm
Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
Try your hand at a range of different games and sporting opportunities at this sports open day.

**Choose Your Own Film Festival**
December 2016 – January 2017 (Opening Monday, 5 December, 6pm-8pm)
Niddrie Library, Avondale Heights Library and Crown Street Stables Community Café
A mini film festival celebrating inclusion where people can choose their own film adventure.

Please let us know if you have any specific access requirements.
RSVPs are essential, call 9243 8748 or visit mvcc.vic.gov.au/idpwa to register!

These celebrations are an initiative of Council's Disability Action Plan 2014-23 which can be viewed at mvcc.vic.gov.au/dap