From the Principal…

Welcome to this, our first newsletter of 2016.

With nearly three weeks of the term gone it seems that we have been back for quite a while. It was lovely to start the year with our spectacular yellow roses all in full bloom welcoming everyone to the school.

It is always exciting for me to introduce new students to the school and this year we have 17 new students who have started in our school. We welcome Brodie, Rayan, Glory, Tahlia, Ava, Valentina, Narden, Thomas, David, Abigail, Adam, Dean, Mia, Macey Lee and Eric in Junior School and Ivan and Tian in Middle school. They all have shown us just how pleased they are to be part of Glenroy Specialist School and how well they will work to achieve their goals.

It is also lovely to welcome the parents and carers of our new students as they, too, become members of our school community. We have laughed together that the students have done a much better job of settling in than some of the parents have done.

The start of the year newsletter is often one where some changes are explained and some reminders need to be given so for ease of reading I will do this in a dot point format.

. **Bus travel**

It is important that all students are ready to be wheeled to the bus as soon as it arrives in the morning and collected from the bus as soon as it arrives in the afternoon. The bus drivers are not able to wait if you are running late.

Please make sure that your child has their harness, seat belt and headrest correctly in place as without these they are not able to be transported on the school bus.

Please make sure that if you have someone different to welcome the bus in the afternoon, you have told your bus supervisor exactly who will be there to meet the bus. The bus staff are not allowed to leave your child with a person that they don’t know.
Parents bringing students to school

Teachers begin their classroom program at 9 each morning and we know that our students can be easily distracted. To minimise this distraction we ask that if you are at school before 9.30 and choose to take your child to their classroom, you spend as little time as possible in the room. Whatever time you arrive, we are always happy to collect students at the reception area and take them down to the classrooms, as we do when students arrive at 9.30 or later. Similarly, if you are collecting your child at the end of the day, the office staff will arrange for your child to come to you.

It is not possible for teachers to spend time talking to parents first thing in the morning or at the end of the day. If at any time you need to speak with the teacher, please make a note in the communication book and they will either call you at the end of the day or when they have administration time, or they will arrange a time to meet with you.

Parents’ Room

We are very lucky to have a lounge and courtyard area available for parents to relax, socialise or work in. Tea and coffee are available and there is a microwave if you want to heat some food for yourself. There are 2 desk top computers that are for your use and these are connected to the internet.

Please feel free to spend time in this area if you are at school whilst your child is in class or when you are waiting for appointments or meetings.

Learning Programs

By now you will have received a copy of your child’s class timetable and on Friday you will have the term curriculum plan sent home. Shortly you will come to the school to meet with your class teacher and your child’s therapy coordinator at the first Student Support Group meeting for the year. During this meeting you will work together to plan the key goals that your child will work towards achieving this year.

School Council

This week you will have received the information announcing the next School Council elections. If you are considering nominating for Council membership and would like further information please feel free to phone or email me.

My email is: kenny-raelenew@edumail.vic.gov.au and the school phone number is: 9304 2263.

I look forward to seeing you when you are in the school for your child’s SSG meeting.

Raelene

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<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 2</td>
<td>Preps first Wednesday</td>
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<td>Monday March 14</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday March 21</td>
<td>School Council meets 7.30 pm</td>
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<td>Thursday March 24</td>
<td>Term 1 ends at 2 pm</td>
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<td>Monday April 11</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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<td>Tuesday April 12</td>
<td>Staff &amp; Students’ Flu vaccination</td>
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Time Tables, Term Plans, IEPs, Learning Maps & Communication Diaries

Over the course of the year you receive multiple pieces of information from the classroom teacher. This may help you to understand how these combine to give you a picture of how your child spends their time at school.

Timetable:
This is a schedule. It shows what curriculum areas will be taught at what times in the week in your child’s class.

Term Plans:
This is an overall plan of the curriculum that will be taught in this class for the term. It is a ‘whole class’ picture and is based on the Victorian Curriculum. The curriculum is delivered in different ways for the students in the class according to their needs, abilities and learning styles.

Individual Education Program:
This is an individualised set of priority goals for each student. These goals will be addressed over the year within the curriculum that has been planned for the class.

Learning Map:
This is an individualised visual display/summary of the priority goals, taken from the IEP, for the student in each of the areas so that anyone in the room can see ‘at a glance’ what they should be working on.

Communication Diary:
This provides two way communication between home and school. From school, it is a brief summary of the child’s day, including their health and well-being. The learning should be read in conjunction with the above documentation. It is also used for conveying messages e.g. to and from therapists and to alert parents to the need for supplies, upcoming events etc.

Glenroy Specialist School
Easter Raffle 2016

Donations of Easter eggs, bunnies and toys for our Easter Raffle would be appreciated please.

The tickets are 50 cents each or $5 per book.

Extra Tickets will be available.

The Raffle will be drawn at the end of term.
From Carer to Councillor

Not Just Imyjen’s Mother

Come and hear Christine’s story: her journey through her daughter’s disability, to be elected into Council and writing her story.

Mill Park Library

Saturday 20 February
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Cr Christine Stow - staunch advocate for Carers, as a Carer she “gets it”. She understands, listens and is passionate about our cause.

Hear what Christine has to say about NDIS coming to City of Whittlesea by July 2016.

Expressions of interest with be taken for our “Carers Voice” - our very own Group Book compilation have your story heard.