

Important Dates

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 11th March
Student Free Day

Easter Hat Parade RC & NB

Monday 25th March
Tuesday 26th March

Hot Cross Bun Afternoon Tea LC

Tuesday 26th March
Time – TBC

Last Day Term 1

Wednesday 27th March
3:00pm Finish

SSG Day

Thursday 28th March
No Buses Running
Student Free Day

Reservoir Campus

16-18 Gertz Avenue
RESERVOIR VIC
3073

Phone: (03) 9462 5990

Fax: (03) 9460 8058

Lalor Campus

2 - 4 Lyndon Street
LALOR VIC 3075

Phone: (03) 9464 3480

Fax: (03) 9464 4713

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy start to the year. Many of the classrooms across the school have started excursions. The entry students have started full time.

Lalor Building News

Demolition of the old Peter Lalor Secondary School buildings will be demolished in the next week or so. This will make way for the NSA buildings.

Mobile phone policy

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

- The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.
- The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.
- This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.
- By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.
- I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.
- Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.
- If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

SunSmart

For students from 14th August 2023 to 30 April 2024, all students must wear a sun-protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities.

Many of our students find it difficult to know when to dress appropriately. They need constant reminders and prompting to wear sun hats and take off coats/jumpers in hot weather. On extreme heat days (adverse weather) our students may spend recess and lunch inside rather than playing outside.



Free Little Angler Kits from the Victorian Government

The Victorian Government is investing \$1.5 million from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Fund to provide up to 95,000 'Little Angler Kits' for students in specialist schools across Victoria, free of charge. These kits aim to offer children and their families a school holiday activity while promoting environmental stewardship and fostering a love for nature among children.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has now delivered the kits to Northern School for Autism. Each Little Angler Kit includes a fishing rod, reel, line, tackle box, tackle and information on how to use the equipment to catch fish. It is important to note the tackle tray includes fishing hooks. The tackle tray will be wrapped in cardboard and placed inside a pocket inside the fishing kit bag, which will be sealed with a cable tie to discourage students from opening their kits unless they are with a parent or carer.

The program is voluntary. You can choose to opt out of receiving a Little Angler Kit for any reason. When we receive the packs, Parents/Carers will be asked to collect the Angler Kit from school to ensure the safety of all our students. Further information about this will follow soon. We recognise that these kits will not be suitable for all our students due to safety concerns and their sensory needs.

If you would like to receive a Little Angler Kit, please collect it from the office on the SSG DAY.

FAQ for Families: <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/go-fishing-victoria/little-angler-kit-project/faqs-for-parents>

Family Fishing Guide: https://vfa.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/864539/7176-VFA-Fishing-Guide-2022-7.0.pdf



Pamela Mathieson

Principal

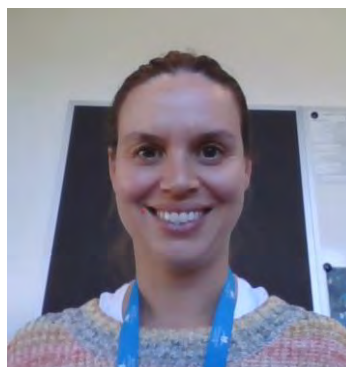
NDIS

We would like to welcome our NDIS Navigator, Alex Richards, to NSA.

The NDIS Navigator is a new role being rolled out in specialist schools across Victoria. The NDIS Navigator supports parents and carers to understand, navigate and access the supports available to them under the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme).

Alex will be based at the Reservoir Campus but is available to support parents/carers of students at either campus. Her workdays are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Alex will be spending Term 1 getting familiar with the school, staff and students as well as making connections with local services like the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL). She will be preparing a survey to gain a better understanding of the main challenges facing families when dealing with the NDIS. Alex is able to provide immediate support to those families who do not have access to NDIS funding for their child. Please email Alex.Richards@education.vic.gov.au



LATER YEARS A

LC 1-4

It has been a wonderful start to the year for the students in Later Years A! Students have been getting used to their new environment, wither it be in a new classroom, or at a whole new campus. Classroom Teachers, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and Specialist Staff have been working together to provide students with an individualised program, that includes opportunities to work towards more independence in different areas of their life, teach academics and develop students Interpersonal, Personal and Communication skills. It has brought me such joy to see how well teams have been working together to support their students to follow their program including providing engaging activities that motivate students to learn. To begin the year, students had been engaging in assessment to support teachers' planning for both Maths and English. Students have got stuck into their learning and for Maths, all students are working on the 'Counting' strand of the Victorian Curriculum, which looks different for each individual depending on their strengths. I look forward to what the year has to bring for all of our students!

Ashlea Nave, Leading Teacher



WHAT'S ON

Room 2, RESERVOIR CAMPUS

OUR WONDERFUL BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

Room Two had an amazing start of the school year! Our students had settled into school smoothly and confidently for their first year of school. They have been building a positive connection with their peers and the teaching staff every day. Our students had a lot of fun during sensory music sessions, exercise programs, messy play, art activities, science incursion and more! We are also happy to see our young learners making a remarkable progress in participating in every day's routine and understanding expectations of their learning environment. Big thanks to our students' parents for their trust and support, we look forward to witnessing the growth and achievements of all our Room Two students!

Room 19

A big welcome back to school, Room 19!

Room 19 has hit the ground running this term and have had a blast going on all our weekly excursions. The students have loved getting back to the pool for their weekly swim lessons as well as attending Action Sports and Bounce.

The students of Room 19 have been busy developing new friendships in the class and also keeping up with old friends in the playground. In the classroom, students have enjoyed our weekly cooking sessions and playing whole class games in Playground 8. The students in room 19 also had a great time learning about electricity at the science incursion.

Room 19 staff and students are looking forward to the rest of term 1, and are excited to see what 2024 brings.

Thanks,

Ash, Hayley, Erica and Julia

LC4

The students have successfully transitioned into LC4 and settled well in the new learning environment. The students have created connections with their classmates. They enjoy coming together for morning chats and other group work.

Our students have participated in multiple learning programs this term, such as PIT Gym, Don Bosco, Library and STEAM sessions.

They have enjoyed participating in the STEAM sessions and are learning to create tangrams.

LC4 has started engaging in local block walks to understand the geography of Lalor as part of their exercise program. Students will be heading to the local parks once they are more familiarised with the area.

In our weekly art sessions, the students are creating art works using different material.



Occupational Therapy Lalor

What a start to the year! The Occupational Therapy team (OT) has thoroughly enjoyed getting to see all the students settling in, especially all of the new students here at Lalor.

OT have begun doing group work and we have already seen great engagement and enjoyment within these sessions. Areas of focus that we will work with students on include regulation. Students will further explore strategies that support them throughout the day in addition to identify different feelings through programs including the interoception program. Sessions will also address areas of executive functioning (e.g. problem-solving, planning), practical work skills, fine motor, hygiene routines, safety in the community, food preparation and a lot more.

We look forward to seeing the progress of skills here at Lalor this year!

Occupational Therapy Team -
Rebecca & Abbey

Therapy Assistants- Shannon, Kayla
& Durity

Mad about Science Incursion

Our first incursion for 2024 sparked the interest of our students!

Students from the Reservoir and Norris Bank Campuses enjoyed observing and participating in exciting activities based on the topic of electricity.

They were stunned to learn about static electricity using balloons and how electricity flows through our bodies. They were keen to learn about the use of batteries as a power source through snap circuits and, finally, how a Van de Graaff generator repelled confetti into the air. The students loved how this made our presenters hair stand up!

Our students were buzzing with excitement.

Paula (Science Teacher)

