

Important Dates

Tuesday 2nd April
Easter Hat Parade, 2pm RC

Tuesday 2nd April
Hot Cross Bun Afternoon Tea,
2pm LC

Thursday 4th April
Last Day of Term 1, 3pm Finish

Friday 5th April
SSG Day

Tuesday 23rd April
Term 2 Begins School, 9:00am

2019 Term Dates

Term 1: 29th January to 5th April

Term 2: 23rd April to 28th June

Term 3: 15th July to 20th September

Term 4: 7th October to 19th
December

Reservoir Campus
16-18 Gertz Avenue
RESERVOIR VIC 3073
Phone: (03) 9462 5990
Fax: (03) 9460 8058

Lalor Campus
2 - 4 Lyndon Street
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter. The fete was a huge success on Saturday! I would like to thank Andrea and the fete committee for their ongoing dedication to organising such a huge event for our families. Thank you also to all the parents and staff who volunteered their time and supported this event. The leadership team were so proud to see so many families enjoying the day!

As it is the end of term, this edition focuses on teaching and learning portfolios and SSG meetings. I wish everyone a very enjoyable and safe holiday.

Teaching and Learning Portfolios

The students will soon bring home their teaching and learning portfolios. These portfolios are examples of your child's work, demonstrating how your child is progressing against their goals. Importantly, they also inform you about your child's capacity to; express their wants and needs, to manage their own behaviour and to develop their ability to communicate and work/play with other children. The teachers will send home two teaching and learning portfolios and write two reports for each student each year. A considerable amount of time and effort is put into each of the teaching and learning portfolios and reports. These reports are a valuable resource to help you see the progress your child is making at school. They also provide a basis for your discussion with the teachers when you meet them at the next SSG.

Student Support Group meetings

Notices have been sent home to book Student Support Group meetings. If parents cannot attend on the last day of term please either arrange a telephone meeting or make time one day after school to meet with your child's teacher.

School Council

The School Council vacancies have been filled by Emma Radford, Teresa Pilone and Lyndell Farha and the staff position was filled by Simon Williamson. I would like to thank Clint Lawler who stepped down from school council. Clint has been a school council member and on the sub finance committee and we have valued his contribution.

Thank you,

Pamela Mathieson
Principal

VCAL Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

We are celebrating our inaugural year of delivering VCAL directly at the Northern School for Autism (NSA). For a number of years, our senior students have participated in VCAL at Peter Lalor Vocational College (PLVC). Our partnership with PLVC remains strong. Our facilities and staff expertise adds value to the learning and personal development of our students in our VCAL programs. We continue to have a cohort of students attend Peter Lalor Vocational VCAL classes.

The staff at NSA have spent a year planning our VCAL program. We deliver the four core subjects of VCAL that including Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills. Students will also participate in either Vocational Education and Training (VET) course or a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). These programs are designed to support our students to further develop their personal and interpersonal skills and their knowledge, with an aim to participate in employment.

Our VCAL program has been designed around project tasks such as an Art Exhibition, running a School Canteen, Fundraising and Classroom Design. These engaging projects integrate each of the VCAL core subjects for example, in the canteen project outcomes that can be achieved include money handling, occupational health and safety, reading and understanding instructional texts. Through participating in our projects students develop workplace literacy, skills and knowledge that is transferable to VET, SBAT's and the workforce.

VET and SBAT's are an important aspect of the VCAL program. VET is National Recognised Training that leads to a qualification. There are currently twenty-six VET programs covering a range of traditional trades in Building and Construction, Information Technology, Animal Services, Health and Fitness and Administration. NSA are part of a VET Cluster that has access to a number of local Secondary Colleges and TAFE's that offer these highly valuable and specialised courses. This year we have students participating in VET Visual Arts, Engineering and Information Technology. SBAT's include at least one day of paid employment and a day of theory study. This year we have students participating in Warehousing and Horticulture SBAT's.

It has been inspiring to see the high levels of engagement and enjoyment our students have demonstrated in their VCAL, VET and SBAT courses. Thank you to Trudy Williams, Bob Edwards, Ed Rimes and Chloe Murray who do an outstanding job teaching and supporting our students and coordinating complex programs. We look forward to monitoring and celebrating student success in VCAL as the year progresses.

Barry Van Weeghel
Assistant Principal

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FROM THE LEADING TEACHERS

I am glad to notice that our newbies from Early Year B sub-school have blended and assimilated with us so soon. Big welcome to our new students and their family joined us recently at NSA.

All students in Early Year B sub-school including the two Norris Bank satellite classrooms will be supported to working towards to their individual learning goals, obtaining new skills and knowledge for their academic learning and extra curriculum activities, such as English, Mathematics, science, Art and swimming program through a range of functional, meaningful and motivating activities. This style of learning has evolved from many years of structure teaching practice at NSA to assist students learn and improve their learning within classroom and community.

All students have also continued to demonstrate their skills during the Sensory Art sessions by making play dough and slime to be sold at school fete. Let us get behind our students to raise money and join us with lot of fun at school fate in this coming Saturday on 23rd March.

Thank you for making me feel welcome and approaching me with any concerns, you may have. We are in it together as partners to achieve the best result for our wonderful children

Angeline Chen

Leading Teacher EYB

Well term 1 is nearly over and what a busy term it has been! Later Years B have been involved in some fantastic programs.

LC8 have started to work on their VCAL certificate. For most of the students in LC8, this has included spending some time at NCAT to complete a certificate in Visual Arts or Engineering. Other students are embarking on a SBAT (School based Apprenticeship and Traineeship) All students have been working hard and I am proud of how the students are representing NSA in these different settings.

Across the sub school we have had some exciting programs, woodwork classes, circus classes and tennis classes have all been provided by external providers. Students have participated well and enjoyed these programs. We are hoping to continue these programs next term so different students can be involved.

Friday 15th March was National Bully No Way! Day. Later Years B participated in this day by providing a sausage sizzle for the Lalor campus and by participating in games and activities as a team. During the activities, points were awarded for displaying friendly behaviour. The team with the most points were declared the friendliest! It was a fantastic afternoon and all students participated and were engaged.

Finally, 22nd March was Later Years B first Bunning BBQ of the year. For some students this was the first time that they had participated in a Bunnings BBQ. This program offers students the opportunities to showcase their skills in a work environment. Once again it was a success. Our next Bunnings BBQ, will be next term, June 14th. Hopefully we will see some of you there!

Trudy Williams

Leading Teacher LYB

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY 2019

We have a team of 7 dedicated Occupational Therapists at Northern School for Autism. Therapists work with teaching teams using a Collaborative Model to provide interventions for all students. We initially focus on individual profiles and preferences of students so that we can delivery therapy that is tailored to each students' likes, developmental levels and needs. In classrooms we work together with teachers and assistants so that our specialist knowledge is shared amongst all team members.

Occupational Therapy focuses on student participation in daily tasks in an education setting. This could be support with sensory processing difficulties, fine and gross motor tasks, posture and seating or activities of daily living. Sensory regulation is a major part of the work therapists do at NSA. Therapy is generally delivered with groups of students and tailored to the developmental level of the children.

Our Reservoir Campus of NSA has 5 OTs working in all rooms across the school. We are fortunate to have 3 gyms and various playgrounds to work on such skills as playing with peers, bike riding and ball skills. The Lalor campus has 2 OTs and their work continues on a similar path to other OTs at Reservoir. They also work on personal skills and life skills that are required when student graduate from school.

I am proud to lead the team of enthusiastic and dedicated OTs at NSA.

Michelle Forsberg

Senior Occupational Therapist

	 <p data-bbox="533 1476 643 1509">Michelle</p>	 <p data-bbox="842 1476 952 1509">Rebekah</p>	 <p data-bbox="1163 1476 1251 1509">Jessica</p>
 <p data-bbox="233 1910 288 1944">Pavi</p>	 <p data-bbox="549 1910 624 1944">Sarah</p>	 <p data-bbox="842 1910 952 1944">Rebecca</p>	 <p data-bbox="1166 1910 1251 1944">Caitlin</p>

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SPEECH PATHOLOGY AT NSA

The Speech Pathology team have had a wonderful start to 2019! We would like to thank our awesome teaching teams for working so hard on the student's communication this first term. We have continued to work closely with teaching teams to set appropriate goals, plan different activities and sessions and of course, to ensure that our students have opportunities to develop and practise their communication skills across the school day. This first term we have been focusing on students settling in with their new classroom peers and practising engaging with others. Communication groups, are continuing this year with a focus on student initiation, listening and being in the group. The speech team have also been busy creating and developing education sessions for staff and for parents that will run later in the year. The team are looking forward to continuing to work with classroom staff and families to improve the communication skills of all our students as the year continues!

