Northern School for Autism

Friday 30 October 2026

www.northernautism.vic.edu.au

Newsletter

Important Dates

Student Free Day
Monday 2nd November
No Buses Running
Student Free Day

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 3rd November
No Buses Running
Student Free Day

LC Talent Show
Thursday 12th November
12:30 pm
Ticket Booking Required

RC Colour Run
Wednesday 18th November

LC Colour Run
Thursday 19th November

Last Day for Students
Thursday 17th December
School finishes at 2 pm
(afternoon buses will arrive 1 hr earlier at pick up)

SSG Day
Friday 18th December
Student Free Day
No Buses Running

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

Lalor Campus
35 Duncan Road,
LALOR VIC 3075
Phone: (03) 9464 3480

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Parents and Carers

Term 4 is passing by quickly, and it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the progress, achievements and memorable experiences our students and staff have shared throughout the year, while also looking ahead to an exciting finish to 2026.

Term 4 is often filled with celebration, reflection and preparation for the future. Our students continue to work towards their individual learning goals, and our staff remain committed to supporting every young person to finish the year feeling successful, confident and proud of their achievements.

Parking and Road Safety

It is very important that parents follow the road rules when parking to drop off or pick up their child. I have received several complaints from our neighbours about cars being parked across their driveways. Please be mindful of our neighbours and ensure they can access their driveways at all times

Thank you all for your cooperation.

Student Behaviour – Working Together

As we settled into Term 4, I would also like to remind families of the importance of appropriate and respectful behaviour, both at school and on our school buses.

Our staff work extremely hard to establish clear expectations, consistent routines and positive behaviour support that enable students to learn in a safe and supportive environment.

We recognise that some of our students require significant support to develop their emotional regulation, communication and social skills, and we are committed to providing that support.

However, the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff must always remain our priority.

Our school buses are an extension of the school environment, and safe behaviour while travelling is essential. Students must follow staff instructions, remain seated appropriately and demonstrate behaviours that do not place themselves or others at risk.

We ask all families to continue reinforcing these expectations at home and working in partnership with us when concerns arise. Consistency between home and school is incredibly important, and your support makes a real difference.

World Teachers' Day

World Teachers' Day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the dedication, commitment and hard work of teachers who make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

At Northern School for Autism, we are fortunate to have a team of passionate and dedicated educators who work tirelessly to support our students' individual needs, celebrate their achievements and help them reach their full potential.

We thank our teachers for their patience, compassion, creativity and unwavering commitment to providing meaningful learning opportunities for every student. Their work extends beyond the classroom, helping our young people develop confidence, independence and the skills they need for the future.

Happy World Teachers' Day to all our wonderful teachers! Thank you for the important role you play in our school community.

☼ Staying Sun Smart This Term

With warmer weather arriving, Term 4 is an important time to focus on sun safety. We encourage all students to make Sun Smart choices whenever they are involved in outdoor activities.
A few simple ways students can stay protected include:

- **Wear a hat** to protect the face, ears, and neck.
- **Drink plenty of water** throughout the day to stay hydrated.
- **Seek shade** during outdoor play and learning sessions whenever possible.
- **Apply sunscreen** before heading outside and reapply when needed.

As we say goodbye to the cooler months, we look forward to enjoying the sunshine safely throughout another wonderful Term 4.

Pamela Mathieson

Principal

Room 17

What a fantastic year we've had in Room 17! Throughout the year, our students have embraced new experiences, explored their interests and continued to develop their confidence, independence and skills in so many wonderful ways.

Our learning has taken us on some exciting adventures as we explored a range of engaging themes, including *Space, Under the Sea* and *Around the World*. These themes sparked curiosity, encouraged creativity and gave students opportunities to discover new places, learn about the world around them and engage in meaningful, hands-on experiences. Our classroom has been filled with opportunities to learn through play, exploration and creativity. From experimenting and discovering during our Science and STEAM sessions to getting creative in art and cooking, the students have enjoyed developing new skills, sharing their ideas and celebrating their achievements.

Beyond the classroom, our excursions have provided valuable opportunities for students to connect with their peers, explore different environments and build their social skills. Students have enjoyed trips to the local movie theatre, Sea Life aquarium and have enjoyed their time on local walks to the park.

We have also shared plenty of special moments together, from celebrating birthdays and enjoying favourite activities to participating in whole-school events like the school concert. Each experience has helped make Room 17 a positive, welcoming and supportive place to learn.

As we reflect on the year, we are incredibly proud of the progress each student has made. Every achievement, big or small, deserves to be celebrated, and it has been a privilege to watch our students learn, grow and shine in their own unique ways. What a special year of discovery,

EYC

TERM 4

EYC are having a terrific Term 4! This term they are going on local walks around the school and community, learning to imitate and dance during Music, participating in money Maths sessions, completing fun and spooky Halloween Art, cooking and Science activities and enjoying the sunshine in the playgrounds! I am extremely proud of how far the students have come this year. I want to thank the EYC teachers, therapists and education support staff for their hard work as we look back on the year and enjoy our final term together.

Stevie, Leading Teacher of EYC

LALOR CAMPUS

LATER YEARS C

LC11, LC12, LC17, LC29, LC30

Graduation preparation is in full swing – students are spending time completing their final tasks and enjoying their planned outings. Students have worked hard to complete their 2026 ASDAN module and continued practising real world skills and independence.

Students have been involved in the planning and preparation of the upcoming talent show - an event we are all looking forward to!

LC29 and LC30 students are in the final weeks of their Certificate II in hospitality at short courses; completing their final modules. Both classes also participated in a recent excursion to the Melbourne Museum to participate in the 'Road to Zero' – road safety and education program.

This semester, VPC students in classrooms 29 and 30 joined forces to make the most of each day and every activity.They collaborated on projects, choosing topics ranging from world travel to weird foods, had cook-ups on the BBQ at local parks, ran mock interviews (often with awful candidates for the job!) and secretly baked birthday cakes for those celebrating a special 18 birthday! In the community, they boarded trains, buses and trams and became calm and collected in crowds, coping with change, such as trains being replaced by buses. Some of our students attended external TAFE courses, such as automotive and IT. Some went on SBAT placement in an operational warehouse where they worked alongside paid employees preparing food boxes for local food banks. VPC students variously worked in workshops manufacturing car parts, Salvation Army stores and, for some, in their first paid work (after school) in Hungry Jacks! In the city, they studied Certificate 2 in Hospitality, making frothy lattes and colourful mocktails, and in school canteen they were competent and enthusiastic. They cooked and delivered hot foods, became aware of the steps involved in small business, and learned first-hand the preparation and planning that goes on behind the scenes. And then there were games! Students played fast-paced quizzes, outdoor run-around games, and quieter card and board games, and voted on Exploding Kittens as their favourite! Soon, having studied VPC for 2 years, our Year 12 students will be graduating!! We can't wait to see them wave us a sad but very excited goodbye as the embark, as capable young people, on their next journey!

Aussie Farms Comes to Northern School for Autism

What a farm-tastic time we had when Aussie Farms came to the Reservoir Campus.

Over two very exciting days, we were lucky enough to welcome a special visit from Aussie Farms!

Leah and Helen brought along a whole barnyard of friendly animals for our students to meet, pat, and play with. Students explored different textures, sounds, movements and smells, while practicing gentle hands, following directions, making choices and engaging with others.

The farmyard was filled with happy sounds as everyone got to know Eddie the rooster, a real character who liked to strut around and show off his feathers. The adorable baby goats (kids) – Macca and Duke – were a huge hit with everyone. Their playful personalities made them instant favourites.

We also met Dolly the sheep and her friends Ken and Barbie, who were soft, gentle, and loved all the attention they received. There were also fluffy rabbits and guinea pigs for students to cuddle. The rabbits had the cutest names – Sully, Thumper and Oreo – and they enjoyed being patted and held. We were fortunate this year to be visited by Hey Hey – the Japanese Bantum rooster.

The visit was a wonderful sensory and learning experience for everyone. Students showed fantastic behaviour, kindness, and respect toward the animals. The smiles and laughter across the playground said it all – everyone had a fantastic time!

A huge thank you to Leah and Helen from Aussie Farm Animals for bringing such joy to our school and giving our students the opportunity to connect with these amazing creatures. We can't wait to have them back again in 2027.

Christmas Raffle

DONATION REQUEST!

NSA is having its annual Christmas Raffle
Every student will go into the draw to win!

Donation ideas – New items only please

Games | Books | Toys | Stationery
Puzzles | Chocolate | Playdough

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS BY 04/12/2026

COFFEE Morning

PARENTS & CARERS

Join us

COFFEE, TEA & SNACKS PROVIDED

Lalor

Friday

04/12/26

@ 9:30am

Northern School for Autism - Multipurpose Room

NDIS Navigator News
by NSA NDIS Navigator Alex

Family support and how to contact me

I'm here at NSA to support families with NDIS questions, funding reviews, community programs, and accessing services. If you need help with paperwork, evidence letters, or finding supports, please reach out. There is no cost.

Call or email me: alex.richards@education.vic.gov.au
Available: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during term time

Upcoming workshops and events

This Housing Options session is designed for high school students (aged 15 years and over) and families from Victoria.

Details: Monday 23rd November 5:30pm-6:30pm

The webinar will cover:
- Your housing options
- Who you need on your team
- What is Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)?
- Who is eligible for SDA?
- What is SIL and who is eligible?
- What is ILO and who is eligible?
- The Housing Hub and how it can support you

Registration via QR code:

Supports, grants and helpful resources

Did you know you may be considered a carer? If you support your child with daily routines, therapies, communication, behaviour, or medical needs, you are recognised as a carer — even though you are also their parent.

Being a carer simply means you are doing more than typical parenting, and this makes you eligible for supports like the Carer Card and help through Carer Gateway.

we care
VICTORIAN CARER CARD

Carer Gateway

Housing Hub presents.....

Housing Options for People with Disability

Online Webinar

Monday 23 November

5:30 - 6:30pm

Registration via QR code