



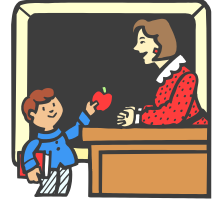
Aurora School

School Based Program Newsletter

22nd October 2009

Newsletter No.:19

Phone: 8878 9878 TTY: 8878 9899 Fax: 8878 9800



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 27th October
Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday 17th November
Thursday 17th December

CHAT Team Parent Information Session.
Strategic Plan (time to be confirmed)
Storytime with Auslan Storyteller (Glen Waverley Library)
Graduation for leavers and Children's last day.

Principal and Assistant Principal's Message

Staff are continuing to work on Aurora's Strategic Plan which will outline the direction for our school over the next 4 years. We will be seeking input from all families to assist in this process. As part of the parent participation process an invitation will be issued to all families to be involved in a discussion on November 10th. Aurora will have a Negotiated Review (for schools who are high performing or have unique circumstances) which involves the participation of a Critical Friend. Our friend is Catharine Hydon, who will be involved in the parent meeting. Catharine is visiting as many programs as possible to better understand the needs and of our children and families. Today she joined in with the Mother Goose program as saw many of the children and teachers at Blackburn.



Catharine (seated centre)

The CHAT team will be presenting a practical session, "Horton Hears a Who", about children's hearing devices on **Tuesday 27th October**. As well as some fun you will learn some easy and practical tips for use at home. It is also an opportunity for you to bring any equipment from Australian Hearing or the Cochlear Implant Clinic you would like some information about.

Berni Coleman & Dianne Ritchie

From the Student Wellbeing – Head of Program

Sports Day

Despite the wet and cool conditions last week the annual Primary Deaf Sports Day was a huge success and the rain didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits. The day sees primary aged Deaf and hearing impaired children from schools and facilities for the Deaf across Victoria and those who access the Visiting Teacher Service come together for athletics and tabloid sports.

There is always great excitement as our little ones run down the athletics track, some of them stopping to wave at their parents. This is followed by a range of tabloid sports games which is great fun.

Everyone returns to school happy, but exhausted and this year was no exception. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work on the day and especially to Maria Burgess for the extra work

she puts in as a member of the sports day organizing committee.



Coffee Morning

Yesterday we had a small, but enthusiastic group of parents and grandparents enjoying the coffee morning. The 'guest speaker' was Heather Mills, one of our Early Intervention Deaf Educator's, who shared ideas



about 'early communication'. Heather explained the importance of using facial expressions and body language and different ways of gaining a child's attention.

Healthy Eating



Children's food habits are not only influenced by family life, but also by other children and the messages we hear and read about on television and in newspapers and magazines. Children can learn to make healthy food and activity choices when modeled by family members.

Included in this newsletter are some ideas about healthy eating habits and play activities for young children. Healthy lifestyle choices learnt as young children usually carry into healthy and active adult lives.

Association for Children with a Disability

The Association for Children with a Disability provides information, support and advocacy to Victorian families who have a child or young adult with any type of disability or development delay. It is a non-profit organization run by parents who work in close cooperation with a network of Regional Parent Support Workers with various statewide and national disability support groups. They provide a free telephone support service, publications and resources for families and advocacy to government and the community. Support Workers are available to support parents with information and advice about any issue that relates to having a child with a disability. They can be contacted on 9818 2000 or for rural callers, 1800 654 013 or email mail@acd.org.au and their website is www.acd.org.au

Liz Grover

Newsletter Attachments:

- 'Go for your life' (Healthy eating & play for kindergarten children 3-5 years).
- Parent Child Mother Goose
- Auslan Only Weekend (Deaf Children Austr.)
- Orchard Grove Primary School Festival
- Roberts McCubbin PS Artists' Camp Fair

The Victorian Student Number

Information for parents

What is the Victorian Student Number (VSN)?

The VSN is a student identification number that will be assigned by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to identifying information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

Why is the VSN being introduced?

The introduction of the VSN will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria.

Why do students need to have a VSN?

In a large and diverse education system such as Victoria's, a standard, centrally assigned student number is the best way to identify individual students. Using a reference number to collect and store data helps avoid the errors and confusion when names are misspelled, changed, or mistaken for other similar names. Most Australian states either have already or are intending to introduce a student number, and the practice is common in many other countries, including New Zealand and Canada.

Where will the VSN appear?

The VSN will appear: on common student communications, such as enrolment confirmations and report cards, and on applications made by the student for enrolment in new schools or institutions.

Why does the Government need information on students?

The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, to identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will simply improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them. The improved quality of information will also result in more accurate reporting to the community on the state's education system.

Will the privacy of personal information be protected?

Yes, security is built in to the VSN system and the number itself. The student records maintained in the VSN system contain minimal information about each student – name, date of birth, and gender together with the date of admission and date of exit from each school attended. The VSN system is not a collection point for other student data such as academic achievements and outcomes, health or welfare information. Because the number is randomly assigned, personal information about the student cannot be inferred from it. Access to the data in the VSN system is strictly limited, and the database itself will be maintained in a fully secure environment. The information will be used only for educational purposes and the ways in which the VSN can be used are prescribed by legislation. The legislation also includes criminal offences for use of the data for other than the prescribed purposes. Commonwealth and State Privacy Principles have also been used to guide the design of the VSN system.

Are parents and students entitled to see the information stored on the VSN system about the student?

Yes. A student (and the student's parents, if the student is under the age of 18) may request a copy of the information held in the VSN system relating to that student.

What do schools think of the new system?

Schools, other education organisations and education experts have been regularly consulted during the development and design of the VSN. Care has been taken to minimise the administrative demands that the VSN places on schools. There has been broad support from the education sector in general, for the introduction of the VSN.

How can I find out more?

Visit www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/parents.htm or send an email question to: victorian.student.register@edumail.vic.gov.au

NEW CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT REGULATIONS

Starting 9 November 2009, children under seven years of age must wear a child restraint or booster seat when traveling in a car for improved safety. The new seat belt laws impose obligations on the drivers of vehicles to ensure all passengers comply with seat belt laws.

The type of restraint will depend on the age of the child as follows:

- Children aged under six months must wear an approved, properly fastened and adjusted, rear facing child restraint
- Children aged between six months and under four years must wear an approved, properly fastened and adjusted, rear facing child restraint OR a forward facing child restraint with an in-built harness
- Children aged between four years and under seven must wear an approved, properly fastened and adjusted, forward facing child restraint with an in-built harness OR an approved booster seat which is properly positioned and fastened.

There are also new laws for where children can sit in vehicles.

- If a car has two or more rows of seats, then children under four years must not travel in the front seat
- If all seats, other than the front seats, are being used by children under seven years, children aged between four and six years (inclusive) may travel in the front seat, provided they use an approved restraint or booster seat.

Taxis will continue to be exempt from the child restraint requirements. However, parents are encouraged to use their own restraints in taxis where possible. When there is no suitable child restraint available a seatbelt must be worn.

Furthermore the new laws:

- (a) do not apply to the drivers of **buses** that seat more than 12 adults (including the driver);
- (b) do apply to drivers of **buses** (including mini buses) that seat 12 adults or less (including the driver);

*Transport and Cleaning Unit
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development*