

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT NEWS

Program Support Group (PSG) meetings have been held with all students and most parents who are receiving assistance in classrooms or through Wellbeing. These meetings are always a wonderful way to ensure that goals set are appropriate and achievable and that the child's needs are clearly communicated. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the notes and Personal Learning Plans are available for collection and review at Reception.

NAPLAN will be occurring in May. If you believe your child will qualify for an adjustment, please contact me and I will investigate and if possible make the application to NAPLAN authorities. Possible adjustments include more time, having a scribe and use of a computer.

Speech Therapy Classes have commenced with Speech Therapist Sarah Palmer. The aim of this program is to enable students with a Severe Language Disorder to access intervention to improve their receptive and expressive language skills, spelling and phonetic awareness.

Funding using the Nationally Consistent Collect of Data (NCCD) for students with disabilities (SWD) has led to much more comprehensive documentation of the students with disabilities in our school. It has enabled identification of students at all year levels and ensures that teachers have the best information about how they learn in the classroom. This process of identification, recording and application for funding will occur again in term 2 and is a cyclical process.

The Learning Enhancement Room is buzzing Place with students having access to the room most recesses and lunches. This room is sensory in its design and has a number of calm down spaces and zones as well as academic assistive capability. Students from many year levels gather here to find social friendship support and academic support. Currently on Mondays we are running meditation, Tuesdays is Chess Club and Thursdays is Drama Club.

There is an assumption that once students reach VCE we can no longer provide assistance for them. This is true in some ways in regards to curriculum content, however we are able to adjust conditions. For example, a child with a severe language disorder will be able to apply for extra time, children with dysgraphia or dyslexia can apply to use a computer, generalised anxiety disorder and autism can apply for a separate room.

Applications for special provisions have closed (unless there is an emergency or unanticipated situation) for 2019, however Year 11 parents should consider what the requirements are now to ensure the documentation is correct and up to date. Most applications require an up to date cognitive assessment and/or speech and language assessment. Make an appointment with Mr Mel Ficarra or myself if you believe your child might be eligible.

Online Training International have realised a training module for Parents of children with Autism. The course covers - Social Relationships, understanding the needs and responses of others, what can a parent/carer do, social stories, communicating with children with autism, understanding abstract concepts, behaviour, managing behaviour, following instructions, obsessive behaviour, family, changes in routine, sleep, siblings, life skills, safety, personal hygiene, leisure activities, making choices, sexual awareness, sensory awareness, sensory issues, eating and dietary illness, outside support, integrating with the local community, dealing with public reaction, the uncertain future, parents' own life and parental humanity/maintaining parental identity. The website can be found at: <https://www.oltinternational.net/>. Please contact me for the log in details for the course if you are interested.