PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

School Council Elections 2014
Following the call for nominations, I am pleased to say that we have received two nominations for the two parent positions. Our new parent representatives on the committee are Michelle Goldsmith and Iain Hogg. Sue Page is once again the DEECD member on the Mornington SDS School Council.

School Council Membership

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<th>Parent Members</th>
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<td>Val Beckett</td>
<td>Stephanie Nash</td>
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<td>Linda Fuller</td>
<td>Susan Page</td>
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<td>Lesley-Ann Hutchinson</td>
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<td>Michelle Goldsmith</td>
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<td>Iain Hogg</td>
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PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE
I would like to remind parents and guardians of our students that the DEECD does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/Guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs. Reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance or accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. I am asked to remind our school community of this and discourage everyone from bringing unnecessary or valuable items to school.

PUPIL FREE DAYS
All schools have four pupil free days each year for organisation and professional development of staff. We had two of our days at the beginning of the year before the students began on Thursday 30th January 2014. Our other two pupil free days are on Tuesday 10th June 2014 and Monday 3rd November 2014.

Student Support Group meetings
These started this week if you haven’t already made an appointment with your child’s class teacher please do so as this is your opportunity to discuss your child’s educational program.

Robyn Simmonds
PRINCIPAL
**ROOM 1**

Room 1 has started the new school year with lots of fun activities.

Students in Room 1 are Skyla, Mackayla, Jemma, Sophie and Jacob.

Staff include Anna (Monday and Tuesday), Suzanne (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and Keryl.

Jemma has continued to use her PECS asking for drinks and her favourite toys. Jemma is easily able to select items she wants—sometimes adding two pictographs to the “I want” card and persisting until we fulfil her request—well done Jemma. Jemma loves cooking day, she also enjoys picking cherry tomatoes in the kitchen garden and having a taste and a squish!

Sophie quickly settled back at school enjoying the company of her new classmates. Sophie’s very favourite arrival activity is Play Doh, we have made a number of different play doh’s including peanut butter, peppermint and chocolate—Sophie prefers the commercial kind! Sophie loves the matching activity in which she finds pairs—the same colour or patterns and pegs them on the line.

It’s Jacob’s very first year in the school age program. Jacob is working hard to follow the timetable and beginning to use PECS. Jacob is technically minded and has immediately identified the pictograph to request the Ipad!

JACOB has also received a Student of the Week award!

Congratulations JACOB
Skyla was selected by her classmates to represent Room 1 as the ‘Student Voice Representative’. Skyla will be required to take our ideas to share with the groups and make decisions about student based activities. Congratulations Skyla. Skyla’s family kindly brought in two of their birds- Zazu and Blue, Blue. Skyla showed her family around the whole school so everyone could see the birds and have a pat or hold. Zazu has a very large orange beak!

Mackayla started school with her new school uniform looking very grown up. Mackayla usually brings a great item for show and tell—often one of her ‘baby’ dolls which love having a nurse and we love learning their names. Mackayla’s favourite activity is cooking. Each Friday we make our own lunch. Mackayla often suggests that we include cupcakes in our menu.

This term, for one of our Community Access trips, we will visit the pet shop, to buy some fish for our room so we can learn about keeping a pet. RDA has started and we all enjoyed the ‘Life Be in it Van’ and the fruit supplied by them on Wednesday!

Wait for more of our exciting program in our next newsletter item

Regards Suzanne, Anna and Keryl.
A Special Assembly was held on Monday 24th to present our School Leaders and Student Voice Representatives for 2014 with their badges.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Assembly and then enjoyed a lovely morning tea.
Congratulations

Congratulations to Dylan one of our senior students, who on the weekend competed in the Westernport Festival’s, Scooter competition. Dylan competed in the Open Age Section, and came Second.

Well Done Dylan!

Reminders:
ALL PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

IT IS A SCHOOL REQUIREMENT THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS AWAY FOR ANY REASON THAT AN ABSENCE NOTE BE SENT TO THEIR TEACHER. ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE GOING ON HOLIDAY OR HAVE BEEN ILL FOR SOME TIME.

Website News

Don’t forget to check out our website

For news photo’s and updates

MorningtonSDS.vic.gov.au
Rosebud Kinship Carers Support Group

When: 10am - 12pm
Where: Seawinds Community Hub
       11a Allambi Avenue, Rosebud West (Next to Eastbourne Primary School)

For Kinship carers on the Mornington Peninsula.

“Come and share the highs and lows of being a Kinship Carer”.

“To care for the carer is to care for the child”.

Support group Dates for 2014:

Wednesday February 19th
Wednesday March 19th
Wednesday April 23rd
Wednesday May 21st
Wednesday June 25th
Wednesday July 23rd
Wednesday August 20th
Wednesday September 17th
Wednesday October 22nd
Wednesday November 29th
Wednesday December 10th

For more information contact either:

Sue Weatherill
Parent Engagement, Transition and Support
Anglicare Victoria,
Ph: 0447 500 380

Sue Gale
Information & Advice
Ozchild
Ph: 9212 5600

Acknowledgement: Anglicare Victoria acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate. We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country.
Sandown Cobras all Abilities Footy Team
Affiliated to Football Integration Development Association (FIDA)
Seeking Players with Intellectual Disability

Players  Boys & Girls age 14-30 want to play AFL  ALL Abilities Footy
Note player eligible that he / she must meet two (2) of the following points:

A. Have attended a Specialist School
B. Have proof of a disability pension for an intellectual disability
C. Be registered with a disability service

Ground Edinburgh Reserve Springvale Vic. (Mel Ref 80 D5)

Train & Play once a week & play every second Sunday
Season Draw from  April 6\textsuperscript{th} 2014 – till 10\textsuperscript{th} August 2014
Great fun, and enjoy the thrill of playing for the Cobras
Played under Modified Rules.

Cost: Club Jumper provided, purchase Membership, Football shorts, and socks.

Contacts  Lew Short 0438534719 email lewatmel@netspace.net.au
Doug West 0407837667

Come Join the Team at  EDINBURGH RESERVE
Training dates Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 30\textsuperscript{th} March –
practice game.
Families as Planning Partners Course

is a six week course for families of children/adults with disability
to be held on
Thursday 13th, 20th & 27th March; 3rd, 24th of April & 1st May 2014
from 10am - 2pm
at the Neiman Hall, 14 Baxter Ave. Chelsea

Do you want to be informed & empowered about the supports & services you use?

This Course is aimed at assisting families to:

- understand their role
- get prepared for the NDIS and/or
- look at options for funding now
- explore real 'planning' & how it can change outcomes
- feel more 'in control' of the process
- meet others & share information

Presenter:
Christine Scott has many years working with the disability 'system', along with personal experience as a parent of a young adult with a disability who is part of the NDIS.

Christine works at VALID and has extensive experience in supporting families, advocacy and extensive training in person-centred planning.

Information & To Register
Registrations close on the 7th March
Christine or Brenda
VALID, 235 Napier St, Fitzroy
ph: 1800 655 570 (freecall)
email: christine@valid.org.au
Limited places are available
Families as Planning Partners Course - CHELSEA

The course will be conducted once a week from **10pm - 2pm** on
Thursday 13th, 20th & 27th March; 3rd, 24th of April & 1st May 2014

**Venue**: Neiman Hall, 14 Baxter Ave. Chelsea

*A light tea is provided, but please advise us of any special dietary needs*

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**The dates & main content of the six sessions are:**

**Thursday 13th March 2014**

Session 1.  *Exploring our role*
- What is my role as a parent/family member?
- What gets in the way of me effectively undertaking this role?

**Thursday 20th March 2014**

Session 2.  *Getting your point across effectively!*
- Becoming aware of how I communicate
- Effective communication... becoming assertive

**Thursday 27th March 2014**

Session 3.  *What is a Plan & Why have one?*
- Person-centred planning & when it is useful to you
- Types of plans & which might suit your situation

**Thursday 3rd April 2014**

Session 4.  *Moving from Planning to purchasing supports?*
- ISP's & NDIS - what is available & what is the process
- Choosing - planners, services & supports

**Thursday 24th April 2014**

Session 5.  *Promoting independence & empowerment!*
- Promoting the self-advocacy of your family member?
- Involving your family member in planning & meetings

**Thursday 1st May 2014**

Session 6.  *Consolidating your plan & strategies!*
- Useful planning tools & resources
- Putting you own 'plan' (including goals) together

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*Limited places are available. Registrations close on the 7th March*

Christine or Brenda  ph: 1800 655 570 (freecall)  email  christine@valid.org.au
# Expression of Interest Form

for

**Chelsea course 13th March - 1st May 2014**

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<th>Special dietary needs?</th>
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**Some info for our Statistics** *(Note: no identifying info is given to anyone else)*

- **Your age group?**
  - under 39yrs
  - 40 - 60yrs
  - over 60yrs

- **Son/daughter age group?**
  - 5 or under
  - At school
  - 15+

- **I currently have package**
  - Early Intervention / Autism
  - ISP
  - Supt
  - NDIS
  - none
  - unknown

**Confirmation of your place?**

If you miss out on this course do you consent to VALID keeping your details only for the purpose of sending you information on other courses in the future?  

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As there are only 12 places in the course, **VALID will ring or email** you if you are successful in securing a place.

**Please return your EOI by the 7th March 2014 to VALID**

Return EOI to or for More Information:

**VALID, 235 Napier Street, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065**

Phone: (03) 9416 4003  
Fax: (03) 9416 0850  
Freecall (rural clients/families) 1800 655 570

Email: office@valid.org.au  
Website: www.valid.org.au

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*Independence Through Learning*