Dear Parents and Friends,

*The heart of our work is one on one with people – it’s about building relationships, it is not about meetings- it’s about conversations.*

Robert Putnam - Better Together

How true this is, and how fortunate we are to have had Dr George Otero in our community for the past two days enriching our conversations around how to improve student aspirations and outcomes through parent and community engagement.

The first line of George Otero’s website is “We believe that our relationships hold the keys to our educational success.” It is therefore paramount that we continue to build relationships with students, parents, staff and community.

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* 1 Peter 4:8-11

May all your conversations be positive and community building, have a good week,

Veronica Williams

“Never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity. No one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in our world. We need an enduring peace in our communities, one that brings genuine social justice. Do not lose hope.”

*(Tablet, 3 August 2013).*
Dear Parents and Friends,

I am very happy to report that the radio therapy I am currently completing is going well, and the side effects for me have been very minimal. The last weeks have been very humbling for me, spending many hours in hospital waiting rooms and meeting new friends from literally all over the country who have the most amazing and optimistic stories to share. During this time I have been cared for by an amazing team of angels, including all of you who have sent little messages of support - thank you! I am aware that through mutual connections within the community you may have heard that I will also be undergoing surgery on my thyroid in the next couple of weeks. Although this has been an unexpected hiccup for me, I would like to reassure you that I am confident that I will be back at school at the beginning of term three as planned. I am missing being part of the action and I am very much looking forward to being back. Thank you again for your love and prayers for me and for David and the kids at this time.

Please keep in your prayers Veronica Daniel and her husband Paddy Mochan. Paddy’s brother passed away unexpectedly last night.

Prep/One Shepparton Excursion

On Tuesday 13th May the Prep/One Unit excitedly boarded the bus to Victoria Park Lake in Shepparton. Once there the students were divided into 3 groups for the morning. We moved through the activities and thoroughly enjoyed them all. The activities were:

1. Nature journal with Mrs. Conroy and Paula,
2. Nature Scavenger Hunt with Miss Cowcher and Tam
3. Oil Pastel drawing with Mrs. Baker and Mr. Newman.

After eating lunch, we again boarded the bus and headed to Star Bowl for a fun filled afternoon of bumper bowling. This for some was the highlight of the day, strikes, spares and misses were all seen during the games. The atmosphere was great as we had glow in the dark bowling too. We’d like to thank the parents that came along to bowling.

Here are some pictures and children’s thoughts from the day.

Nate – I loved the bowling because it was good.
Patrick – I liked knocking the pins down at bowling.
Payton – I liked bowling the most.
Ruby – I liked doing the art activity at the lake.
Charlotte – I’d never been bowling before and it was heaps of fun.
Bryce – I loved drawing the ducks on the branch.
Daniel– My favourite part was being outside.
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is **Responsibility**

*Please note that Tam Perry will be out tomorrow due to a Wellbeing Coordinators meeting.*

**SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP GROUP**
On Wednesday the Social Justice team went to the Daycare Centre and most of us loved the baby and some of us loved the three and four year olds. Billy, Josh and Jake played with some boys. Cassie, Sara, Abbey and I played with some babies and some little boys and girls. We all had a great time and we are planning to go back.

Jessica Legge

- Thank you to Liz Ryan for cleaning our Library creature covers. Much needed and very much appreciated.
- Thank you to the parents who joined us for the Parent Engagement evening and learning walks, your input is valued.
- Well done to all students who took part in NAPLAN last week, we are very proud of the effort and persistence you showed. Great effort.

**Congratulations to the Halden family on the birth of Ethan. A baby brother for Sophie, Katelyn, Harrison and Felicity.**

**Congratulations to the Dealy Family on the safe arrival of Chelsea, baby sister for Ryan, Ella and Chantelle.**

**FREE two day workshop and information sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of school age students on the autism spectrum**

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education,

through the Helping Children with Autism package.

**What will you learn?**
As a result of participating in the workshops and information sessions as parents/carers you will gain:
- a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- specific strategies on how to:
  * advocate for your child
  * support your child’s participation at school
  * develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
  * opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
  * opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD and their families

**Workshop details**
Venue: Parklake Hotel, 481 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
When: Two day workshop – Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 June 2014

**Registration forms are available at the front office.**

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**OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE ARE BUILT IN THE COUNTRY OF THE YORTA YORTA PEOPLE. WE PAY RESPECT TO THE TRIBAL ELDERS, AND CELEBRATE THE CONTINUING INDIGENOUS CULTURE IN AND AROUND THE NATHALIA AREA.**
Open Day - Wednesday May 28th 2014
Guided Tours (9.30am – 2.30pm)

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Nathalia
Ph: (03) 5866 2222
Email: principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au
Visit us online at www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

ROTARY CLUB OF NUMURKAH

The Rotary Club of Numurkah are holding a special Business Breakfast with inspirational speaker Carolyn Cresswell, founder of Carman’s Fine Foods.

When: Thursday 5th June, 2014
Where: Numurkah Showground Multipurpose Room, Tunnock Road Numurkah
When: 7:00am to 8.30am for a Business Presentation and a delicious continental breakfast.
Cost: $25.00 per adult ($15.00 per student)

All proceeds and donations will be directed to the Numurkah District Health Service Dental Fund, to equip the new clinic.

- Tickets MUST be pre-purchased.
- Tickets available at Numurkah Community Learning Centre, 43 Melville St. (Cash only).
  Phone 5862 1224 for details

Exclusive opportunity for children to participate in:
Secret Agent Society: A Social Skills Program for Children 8-12 years.

The Secret Agent Society- Social Skills Program is an evidence based, highly engaging, spy-themed program for children with high functioning Autism, Asperger’s or Social Communication Difficulties. You can read about this program by visiting the official website http://www.sst-institute.net/

Speech pathologist, Kate McCallum has undertaken training in the delivery of this intensive program and is excited to offer this program in the Goulburn Valley during term 3 of 2014. The program consists of a parent information session to introduce families to the program, nine weekly two hour group meetings (parents and students), and three month and six month follow up sessions.

Kate will be travelling to the area from Melbourne and running this program on Saturday’s to make it easier for families to access.

To learn more about the program, or register a place in the July program, please contact Kate McCallum directly on 0448 884 130 or by her email address kate.mccallum@hotmail.com. This is an exclusive opportunity and there are limited spots available.