

Newsletter

Important Dates

Preps Start Full Time

Monday 3rd March

Preps Parent Get Together

Thursday 6th March
Reservoir Campus
Multi-Purpose Room

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 10th March
No School

Last Day Term 1

Thursday 3rd of April
3:00pm Finish

SSG Day

Friday 4th of April
No Buses Running
Student Free Day

Reservoir Campus

16-18 Gertz Avenue
RESERVOIR, VIC 3073
Ph:(03) 9462 5990
Fax: (03) 9460 8058

Lalor Campus

2 - 4 Lyndon Street
LALOR, VIC 3075
Ph: (03) 9464 3480
Fax: (03) 9464 4713



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been pleasing to see students settled and engaged in their learning.

Network Professional Learning

On 7th March, we will be running Professional Learning Session for 115 colleagues from primary and special schools. This event will run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Recruitment

We are still working hard to fill some teaching and support staff positions. We are doing our best to minimise any impact on your child's learning and will keep you updated as things progress.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community 2025

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy

<https://www.northernautism.vic.edu.au/policies-protocols> describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Child Safe Standards

Child Safe Standards at NSA we have a zero tolerance of child abuse. To continue to embed a culture of child safety at school, it is important to ensure it is part of our everyday thinking and practice. Practices are continually reviewed and evaluated and will be communicated in the newsletter, during discussions, at staff meetings, and in our everyday interactions. Our Child Safe Policies are on our website and will be reviewed over the next few months. As valuable partners in promoting and maintaining child safety and wellbeing at Northern School for Autism we welcome and encourage your feedback. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions in relation to our child safe policies and practices, please contact Pamela Mathieson, Principal pamela.mathieson@education.vic.gov.au

Pamela Mathieson
Principal

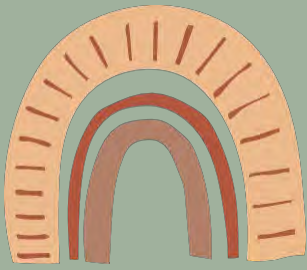
English at NSA

The school leaders at Northern School for Autism have been working together to evaluate the teaching of English across the school. After much deliberation two exciting new programs have been introduced at both Lalor and Reservoir campuses.

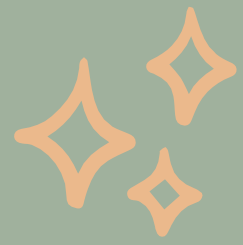
At the Lalor campus, MultiLit has begun its rollout. MultiLit provides instructional evidence-based literacy programs, providing students with essential core knowledge of literacy concepts and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. The school has planned and prepared additional resources and materials for our learners to support students' understanding and success through the program. The lessons are scripted, however teachers use their knowledge of their students to present the lesson content in a meaningful and engaging way. Shared reading is also an integral part of the InitialLit program.

At the Reservoir Campus, we have begun the process of rolling out the Little Learners Love Literacy program. Little Learners is a systematic, synthetic phonics program designed to support students to recognise phonemes and graphemes in a fun and engaging way through the use of props, puppets, games, stories and music. In the Little Learners program, there is a focus on segmenting and blending phonemes to read and write words. There are a lot of fun learning opportunities to be had and many new characters to meet, such as Milo the Monkey and Sally the Snake. The teachers are working alongside the leaders to ensure the activities chosen for their cohort are differentiated and align with the strengths of the individual students.

In keeping with a holistic approach to literacy and learning, NSA has continued to present students with a 'balanced diet' when engaging in literacy sessions. This includes utilising a variety of mediums and activities to entice student's interest with books. Emergent literacy learners explore books during shared reading sessions that include props or preferred sensory experiences. Experience books continue to be a favourite where students can build meaningful connections with stories that are about personal experiences.



Room 2

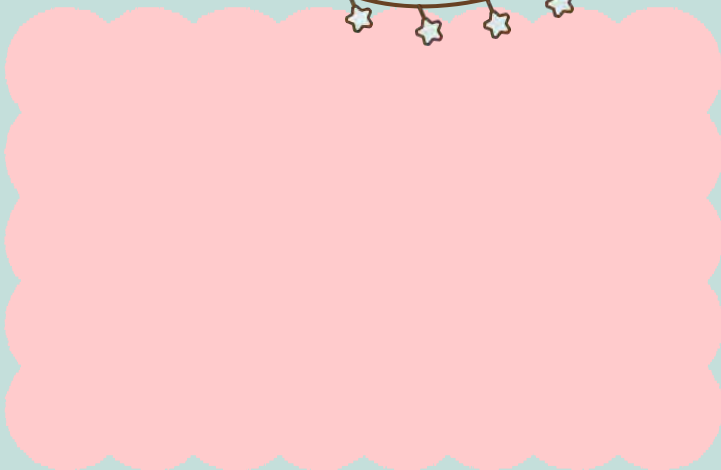
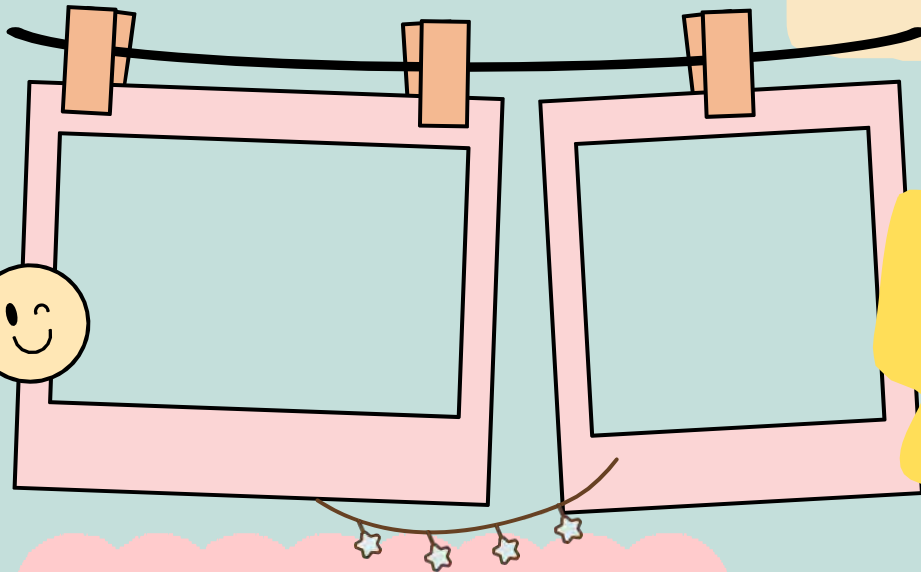
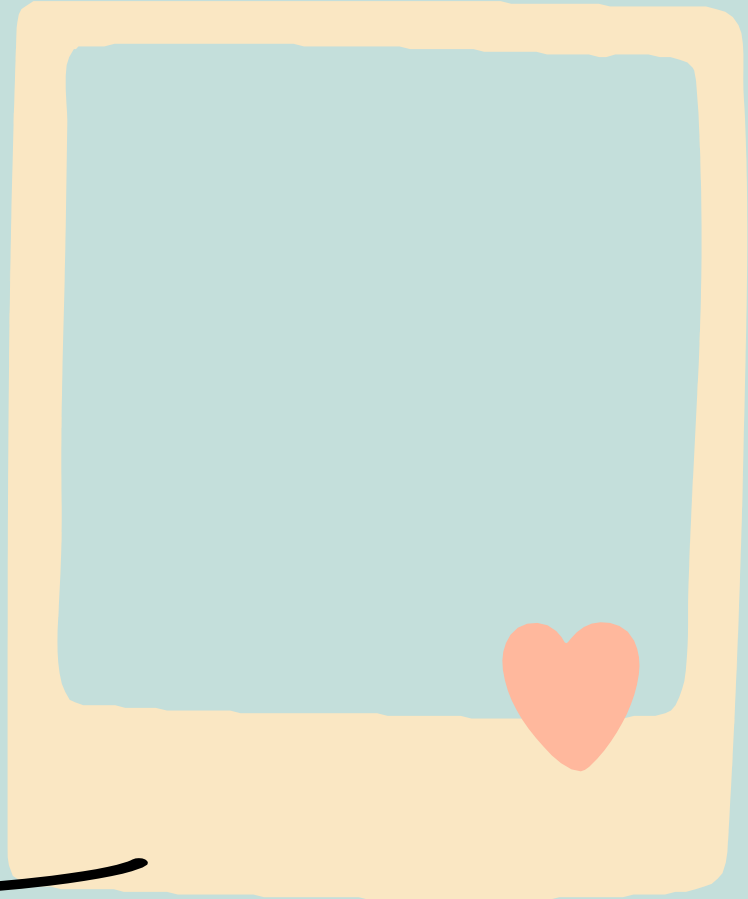


What a fantastic start to the year in Room 2! Our students have been settling into school life, learning new routines, and building relationships with their teachers and peers. As this is their first school experience, we have been focusing on creating a supportive and engaging environment where they feel safe, confident, and excited to learn.

Students have been exploring different areas of the school, including the STEAM building, playgrounds, and sensory spaces. They have also enjoyed a range of hands-on learning experiences, such as listening to English stories, participating in music sessions, and getting involved in cooking activities.

Through these experiences, students are developing their communication, fine motor, and social skills in fun and meaningful ways.

We are so proud of how well the students have settled **in and can't wait to continue supporting their growth and learning** throughout the year!



ROOM 20

A big welcome to Term 1 of 2025, to all in our NSA community from both the staff and students of Room 20! We hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic holiday break and is feeling rejuvenated and ready to embark on this new term.

We are thrilled to share that the students in Room 20 have transitioned exceptionally well into their new classroom environment and are eager to take on whatever 2025 has to offer. This positive start has shown the potential and enthusiasm of the students who are looking forward to the exciting learning opportunities that await us.

Both students and staff are keen to explore what lies ahead. We have a variety of activities scheduled for Term 1, including science incursions, swimming lessons, local walks, and park visits. These experiences are designed to provide a well-rounded educational program that supports our students' academic, personal, and social skills.

Room 20 students have already exhibited remarkable promise, and the staff look forward to supporting their learning journeys throughout the year!

NB1

It has been a fantastic start to the year in NB1! We have settled in to our classroom routines and are enjoying working hard on our learning. We have been participating in a range of structured sessions including English, Maths, Science, Cooking, Art, Health and PE.

Already this term we have had many exciting activities, such as our excursions to the STEAM Building and using the ICT such as Dash & Dot, Bee Bots, Osmo, VR Room and the Lego Corner. We have also been enjoying heading out on our weekly local walks to explore the parks in our area.

Swimming has also started up for the year and we are taking to the pool each week to build on our already fabulous skills in the water.

All of the fun we have had so far, is set to be built upon as we head into the second half of Term 1. We are looking forward to all the learning and excitement to come!

Lalor News

The Lalor campus has started the year with so much activity, with students participating in various exercise programs, excursions and incursions this term.

Tennis

LC7 and LC20 have taken part in coaching sessions with the coaches from Topseed Tennis. Over the six weeks, students will be learning to hold the racquet and hitting the ball. Each week, the students enthusiastically take part.

Gymnastics

LC12, LC15, LC19 and LC21 went to a 6-week gymnastics session at PITgymnastic on Wednesday. Students continue to develop their balancing skills and physical coordination during the training.

Interschool Sport- Cricket (Term 1)

NSA has joined the Northern Special School Sports Association (NSSSA) again this year. On Wednesday mornings, mix of students from LC8 and LC9 go off to play against students from other special schools in our region during the first half of Term 1.

OT NEWS BOARD

FINE & GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

01

This term, students are actively developing their fine and gross motor skills through engaging, hands-on activities.



02

From strengthening hand dexterity with craft projects and handwriting tasks to improving coordination and balance through movement-based games.



These activities not only enhance motor skills but also build confidence and independence in daily tasks.

Keep up the great work!

Lalor OT TEAM

Soshanna, Sherie, Eimile, Hannah & Bec

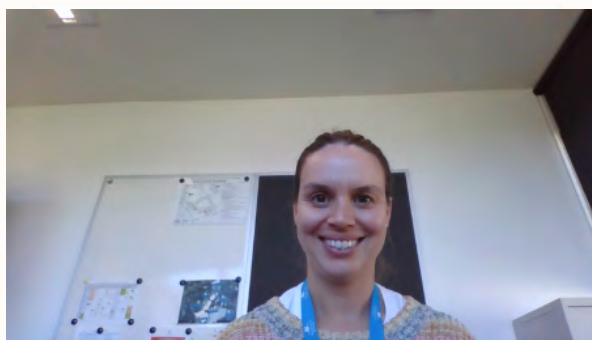
NDIS Navigator service at NSA

Our school is excited to be part of the NDIS Navigators initiative.

NDIS Navigators will be in all Victorian government specialist schools by 2025 to help students and their families navigate and understand the NDIS and get the most out of the supports available.

Our NDIS Navigator is Alex Richards. You can contact Alex by phone, email or arrange an in-person meeting.

Alex is at the Reservoir Campus on Monday, Thursday and Friday. She is at the Lalor Campus on a Tuesday. Contact Alex via email at alex.richards@education.vic.gov.au or by phone at the school.





Association for
Children with a
Disability



Support for your family

About ACD

ACD provides free information, advocacy and support to families of children with disability, from across Victoria.

Information and resources

Online fact sheets and information about the NDIS, school, early years, teenage years, services and support for children and families.

Workshops

Free online workshops that provide practical, up-to-date information to build families' confidence and knowledge to better support their children.

Speaking up



We are a voice for children with disability and their families. We speak up to government and key decision makers so children with disability and their families can thrive.

Support Line

This free service can help you to understand your child's rights and support you to advocate for your child and family.

**Call 03 9880 7000 or
1800 654 013 (regional)**



  Follow us @acdvic

www.acd.org.au



Where carers can reach out for support

Do you look after a family member or friend who is ill or has a disability?

Do your caring responsibilities affect your ability to work, study or socialise?

Are you looking for some support to improve your wellbeing?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then Carer Gateway can help you.

carergateway.gov.au

1800 422 737 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm



Australian Government



Connecting carers  to support services

What is Carer Gateway?

Carer Gateway is the Australian Government's national carer hub providing reliable services, supports and advice specifically for carers.

Who can use Carer Gateway?

We encourage you as a carer, and your friends and family, to access the Carer Gateway to find out what types of services and supports you may be eligible for. We recognise all caring situations are unique and that's why we offer a range of services, information and advice to suit individual needs.

How will Carer Gateway help me?

Carer Gateway is the best place to start to help you navigate the many services and supports available for carers through federal, state and local government and non-government providers.

You can now access new supports to help you manage daily challenges, improve your health and wellbeing and plan for the future

Carer Gateway now offers the following services:

- Free one-on-one phone counselling with a professional counsellor over the phone if you feel stressed or overwhelmed or simply to ask for practical support.
- Self-guided online carer coaching sessions to help you reflect on how you're going, how you'd like things to be and how you might take steps towards making things happen.
- New online skills courses to help you learn new skills in caring for someone as well as yourself

- A new online forum for carers where you can register and join other carers in a supportive community. You can share stories and advice and learn from each other in a safe space.

The new supports are free to access for anyone looking after a family member or friend with disability, a medical condition, mental health condition or someone who is frail due to age.

When should I use Carer Gateway?

Research tells us that helping carers manage their daily challenges can make a big difference to a carer's life and improve your overall health and wellbeing.

We strongly encourage you to reach out to Carer Gateway as early as possible to help you get the support and skills you need for your caring journey.

What's coming next?

From April 2020 the Australian Government is rolling out a range of new early-intervention regional services and supports for carers. New local Carer Gateway service providers will mean that the person you talk with knows your area and can give you direct help.

If you're using carer services already, your service provider will let you know if anything changes. These changes to carer services do not affect services delivered through My Aged Care or the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), or any state or territory carer services or carer payments you may be receiving.

How do I contact Carer Gateway?

Carer Gateway offers a national website at www.carergateway.gov.au or you can phone **1800 422 737** Monday to Friday between **8am and 5pm**



Connecting carers  to support services



Professional telephone counsellors are available to discuss issues including:

- Child behaviour and development
- Parent-child relationships
- Education
- Bullying
- Living with adolescents
- Family violence
- Family breakdown and parental stress

Parentline is available every day of the year from 8am to midnight.



Non-English speaking callers can access the Translating and Interpreting Service.

Hearing impaired callers can access Parentline through the National Relay Service.