

# Quarterly Newsletter

News and events from Autism Connect Learning Centre

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022

Autism Connect Learning Centre aims to function as a learning and resources centre within our community, providing a specialised early learning programme that is Autism specific. Our ethos encompasses neurodiversity and advocacy of inclusion, focusing on early learner intervention.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Nicolette Ripepi

We wish to pass our warm regards to all our Autism Connect family members. Our Autism Connect family continues to grow both in numbers and in reach. Like a butterfly we continue to spread our wings and reach out to those in need. As with any new season comes new beginnings, so we delighted to also announce of new staff members in this segment and our past and upcoming events.



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## STAFF NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

### Welcome

Candice Eaton joined us on 15 September 2022 as our new PA/Administrator.

We underwent a rigorous interview and selection process and we are delighted that she has joined us.

Candice is a mom of a young boy and resides in Pelican Park.

She brings strong skills and experience in administration and bookkeeping.



Michaela Dean joined us on 12 September 2022 as an assistant teacher. A young and dynamic woman who is a qualified ECD teacher and has even operated her own creche.

She has worked as an assistant teacher at two schools in Mitchell's Plain so has practical experience that will benefit Autism Connect. Michaela resides in Mitchell's Plain.



Sage Carolus joined us on 3 October 2022 as teacher. Sage hails from Retreat and is a young dynamic educationist. She graduated from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) with a teachers degree and has a special interest in inclusive education pedagogy. Sage will also assist in classroom design to enhance learning and education and will also apply her skills and knowledge to learner plans.



A huge congratulations to Adea Pillay who welcomed her beautiful daughter Blake Madison to the world on the 16th of August.



### Farewell

We wish to thank Jesse Marthinus and Kym Hagins for their contribution to the Autism Connect family. Life is indeed a journey, and we believe that they will make invaluable contributions wherever the road takes them.



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## Karaoke Fundraiser

29 JULY 2022

We had our 1st fundraiser held for the year in the form of a karaoke evening, the invite went out to parents, family, and friends of Autism Connect. It was such great fun and was indeed great to be out and about again, creating a space for people to connect again after being restrained due to the Covid-19 pandemic the past 2 years.

Thank you to the Minnaars, one of our own AC families, for sponsoring items for this fundraiser. They are always ready to offer support to Autism Connect!

With that said the Noah Riley - Minnaar foundation started a great initiative for the centre for stationery items for all learners at the school. If you are able to support this initiative please contact Lisa Minnaar directly on



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## Play Area

SEPTEMBER 2022

We wish to sincerely thank Andy Schwab and his team for the upgrading of the play park. His continued service on the board and his unwavering efforts is valued. His unselfish service to Autism Connect is appreciated.



## JETCO SA

A big thank you to JETCO SA Pty. LTD for sponsoring and installing the security fencing and gates at the Centre.



They also provided vibracrete to ensure the safety of our facility. This was done in inclement weather, but they finished the work in record time. A huge thank you to John and Craig Cloete the owners of JETCO.

## BUCO

Thank you to the BUCO group for sponsoring the centre with paint, which allowed us to paint certain areas of the Centre - a most generous and welcome donation. Colour always creates joy and fun and we are excited that we could spruce up our space.



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## Friendship Connection

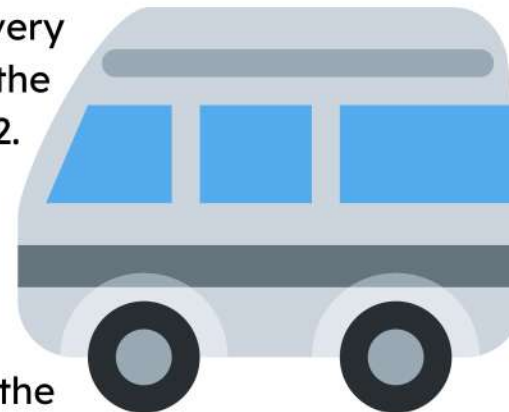
We are happy to announce that the Friendship Connection will officially open their premises in Plumstead in 2023. The facility will cater for our teenagers and young adults. This facility will besides skills development also have a kineticist on site.



## School Transport

SEPTEMBER 2022

We are happy to announce that we have been shortlisted by the Department of Social Development for our very own school bus. DSD visited the Centre on 14 September 2022. A site visit was conducted to assess, and due diligence was done to ascertain if we could become a recipient of this project spearheaded by the Department. We await the outcome of this process, and our prayer is that we will be one of the successful organisations.



## Crime and Grime

SEPTEMBER 2022

We wish to share with parents that crime and grime in the vicinity and directly at the Centre continuous to take place. We have had several attempts to break-in, and this was unsuccessful. Crime also affects cables and water supply at times to the facility. We have informed the city and we hope that this matter will be addressed by law enforcement. Thank you to Trevor Petersen for always be willing and able to assist in making sure our remote control gets fixed and our electrical work. We also wish to thank Rodney van Niekerk for always be willing and able to provide security at our events. Once again that you to the Autism Connect family. We appreciate and value the support from friends of Autism Connect and of course our partners.

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## LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

We are delighted to announce that we have secured Rocklands Civic as the venue for our celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, 28 January 2023. This will be an exciting event with lots of music and entertainment. Tickets cost R350.



AUTISM CONNECT LEARNING CENTRE  
**10TH ANNIVERSARY**  
AT ROCKLANDS CIVIC CENTRE, MITCHELL'S PLAIN

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY '23 17:00PM

TICKET R\_\_ 3 COURSE MEAL & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating **10<sup>th</sup>** YEARS ANNIVERSARY

TICKET NO. ---  
**R350.00**  
@AUTISMCONNECT.ORG.ZA





UNLOCKING  
GREATNESS

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# Thank You

**To our sponsors for this term:**



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GROUP OF COMPANIES