



Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales

# e-Bulletin

Tuesday, 24 February 2009 – Edition 32

## THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT – Di Giblin

### Welcome to a week of celebration – for P&C's across NSW

March 4<sup>th</sup> denotes the third annual P&C Day. There are plans across the state for school staff, parents and community members to celebrate the great work done by the many volunteers across our NSW Public Schools

P&C's have existed in NSW Public Schools for over a century and are enshrined in the Education Act 1990 as the legally constituted forum to which community participates in the life of the school.

Our P&C members work hard and are committed to making our great Public Schools even better. On any day P&C members can be found working on school grounds and gardens, participating in school committees, sitting on merit selection panels, attending school professional development, collaborating with school staff on decisions with maintenance and finance, running the school canteen and uniform shop, promoting their school to the media, lobbying local politicians and raising their share of the more than \$54 million.

Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Thank you for being positive and making a difference for the children and young people in our Public Schools in NSW

Celebrate your success on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 'Public Education – Building Australia's Future'

The annual conference for the P&C will be held from the 31<sup>st</sup> of July until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2009. This year the conference will be held at Panthers Penrith.

Conference materials will be sent out in the next all schools mail out in the next 2 weeks.

If you have any enquiries regarding the Annual Conference please contact the P&C Federation on 1300 885 982.

Take care  
Di Giblin 2009.

### SCHOOLS FIRST?

Schools First is a fantastic new initiative that is about improving outcomes for young people.

At its heart, Schools First is about bringing together students, teachers, parents and community members, to support each other and help improve student outcomes.

With a prize pool of \$5 million every year for three years, Schools First is a national awards program that provides:

- Financial recognition of success in establishing effective school-community partnerships; and
- Financial support to build stronger school-community partnerships.

In support of the awards and their objective, Schools First will also:

- Provide regional workshops to support schools and communities to form or strengthen partnerships and prepare submissions for an award;
- Showcase successful partnerships as a means of inspiring other school communities; and
- Assist in developing a "knowledge bank" of resources on which school communities can draw.

And it's open to all Australian primary and secondary schools, whether they're public or private, special needs, religious or independent.

There are over 60 regional awards, eight State/Territory awards, and one national winner.

Register for workshops across the country at <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/>

### SCHOOLS SET ASIAN LINGO CHALLENGE

The Federal Government has quietly launched a \$62 million Asian language plan with an ambitious goal to double within a decade the number of year 12 students fluent in Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian or Korean. "The Rudd Government considers learning languages other than English, in particular Asian languages, important to Australia's future security and prosperity in an increasingly globalised world."

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/schools-set-asian-lingo-challenge-20090214-87pv.html>

### BULLIED STUDENTS THREATEN TO SHOOT SCHOOLYARD THUGS

Students are being severely bullied at a rate of more than eight a week in New South Wales, pushing some victims to threaten to shoot their tormentors. Serious incident reports released by the Department of Education and Training show 346 bullying-related incidents were recorded during four school terms to September last year. Most victims are teenage students but the reports reveal parents, teachers and intruders are also involved in the most serious cases.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25059945-5006784,00.html>

### "WELL WHAT'S NORMAL ANYWAY?"

Headspace Central Sydney Presents a free information evening for parents, teenagers and anyone interested in Adolescent Mental Health

**When?** Wed March 11th 2009 6pm – 8.00pm

**Where?** Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd, Marrickville

**RSVP Essential:** Please reserve a place by March 6th 2009 Phone 9799 0933 or email [mlampis@csgpn.com.au](mailto:mlampis@csgpn.com.au)

### POVERTY FOCUS A FAILURE FOR EDUCATION

The Australian Council for Educational Research's Steve Dinham states that the federal Government's focus on social disadvantage to improve students' education is misguided and instead, funding should be directed at low-performing students and low performing schools.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25071146-2702,00.html>

### EDUCATION MUST BE TOP PRIORITY – DODSON

Australian of the Year Mick Dodson will spend 2009 working to ensure every child in Australia has access to quality education with the goal of having every child enrolled by the start of the next school year.

Professor Dodson declared he would use his increased profile as Australian of the Year to focus on education during an at times emotional speech to the National Press Club in Canberra.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25069276-12377,00.html>

### MISTAKE GIVES NSW TEACHERS, STUDENTS EXTRA HOLIDAY

New South Wales' public school teachers have been given an extra day off work this year to make up for Anzac Day falling on a weekend. Students will not return from the Easter school holidays until Tuesday April 28, meaning that working parents will have to find another day's care for their children on Monday April 27.

The state Government says the school calendar year was gazetted five years ago, and the Monday was given as a day off for teachers back then, even though it did not end up being listed officially as a public holiday

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/18/2494329.htm>

### STEWART HOUSE DAY – FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009



The banner features a blue background with a yellow border. On the left is a circular logo with a red border containing a white lifebuoy with a blue dolphin (Stewie) inside. The text 'SAVE OUR SOS STEWIE' is written around the lifebuoy. To the right of the logo, the text 'SOS Tattoos' is written in white. Below this, a paragraph reads: 'Stewie the dolphin is our mascot. Buy a temporary tattoo to assist Stewart House in it's time of need. Show your support by wearing it on Stewart House Day.' On the far right is a yellow circle with a white border containing the text '\$1' in red.

### ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2009 AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM EUREKA PRIZES

This year the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are celebrating two milestones, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program and a decade of rewarding science in the classroom. Students, teachers and schools can win over \$30,000 worth of cash and prizes. For further details:

[australianmuseum.net.au/eureka](http://australianmuseum.net.au/eureka)

### SURVEY SHOWS MORE STUDENTS LEAVING PRIVATE SCHOOLS

A survey by the Australian Secondary Principals Association has found 45 per cent of public high schools across the country reported a rise in enrolments.

In Western Australia 56 per cent of students who previously attended private schools came from low-fee independent schools, 32 per cent came from Catholic schools and 6 per cent came from high fee independent schools.

The President of the WA Secondary School Executives Association, Rob Nairn, says the survey shows people have confidence in government schools.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/19/2495652.htm>

## International News

### CALLS FOR AUSTRALIA TO LIFT INDONESIA TRAVEL WARNINGS

The Indonesian foreign minister has called on Australia to follow the lead of the US and Canada, and lift travel warnings. Dr Hassan Wirajuda wants warnings lifted as there haven't been any recent terrorist bombings and stating that they are affecting education exchanges. However, the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith won't make the commitment.

<http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200902/2496651.htm?desktop>

### STATE EDUCATION IN 'CRISIS,' CHIEF SAYS

With another dire budget report expected Thursday, the state's top education leaders say they're bracing for major cuts, and they likely will have to postpone any immediate funding increases for public education.

Randy Dorn, the state superintendent of public instruction, predicted Wednesday that 2,000 to 3,000 teachers and a similar number of education support workers could be laid off in the next two years because of projected funding shortfalls.

"We are in a crisis, and I don't use that word lightly," he said. "What you're going to hear for the next two years is, 'We don't have the money.'"

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/400659\\_schoolfunding19.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/400659_schoolfunding19.html)

### STUDENTS TAKE UP CAUSE OF HIGHER ED

More than 200 students at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities clutched the signs as they crisscrossed the State Capitol on Wednesday, speaking in the rotunda and lobbying their legislators. "We simply ask that higher education be a priority," said Jacob Littler, president of the Minnesota State College Student Association.

[http://www.startribune.com/politics/state/39820332.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7\\_V\\_nDaycUiD3aPc:\\_Yyc:aUU](http://www.startribune.com/politics/state/39820332.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nDaycUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU)

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