



Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales

e-Bulletin

Tuesday, 24 March 2009 – Edition 34

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT – Di Giblin

How the year flies by.

Building the Education Revolution

This term is drawing to a close and we are busier than ever. Building the Education Revolution has definitely seen community discussion about what will be a considerable size of money poured into Public Schools over the next two. Schools sites will be disrupted with the ongoing works but the outcomes will be great for our kids. More information can be found on the DET site https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/strat_direction/schools/ber/index.htm and on there is a link for you to email any questions or concerns you may have ber@det.nsw.edu.au.

National Partnerships

Recently the Premier signed three Council of Australian Government (COAG) National Education Agreement National Partnerships that will see up to \$720 million in Commonwealth funding go to NSW Public Schools. The partnerships focus on three areas: Literacy and Numeracy; Low SES Communities and Quality Teaching.

A brief summary and discussion questions have been prepared and they can be found on https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/strat_direction/schools/natpartnerships/index.htm. Comments on these discussion sheets are welcome and should be provided March 27 2009, either via email to national.partnerships@det.nsw.edu.au,

Annual Conference 2009

The Federation's Annual Conference will be held at Penrith Panthers, Mulgoa Road, Penrith on July 31, August 1 and 2. P&C Associations across the state are encouraged to send up to three delegates to this conference.

Details and Notice of Intention to attend have been mailed and emailed to all Public Schools in NSW. Details are also up on our website: <http://www.pandc.org.au/annual-conference.seo>.

Take care
Di Giblin 2009.

CONNECTED LEARNING – SECONDARY SCHOOLS LAPTOP PROGRAM

There has been a number of developments in the area of connected learning. The program Laptops for learning will be renamed to reinforce the focus on computers as tools for learning. By the end of 2009 all students in year 9 will be allocated a laptop. There is also a commitment to provide wireless connectivity coinciding with the rollout of the laptops. Best suited ICT equipment will be provided for schools for specific purposes where the laptop is deemed not to be appropriate. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact the program learning office on laptopsforlearning@det.nsw.edu.au or please call. (02) 9561 8636.

SCHOOL CANTEENS – HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The NSW Food Authority (a state government agency established in 2004) now works with local Councils to better define and support their continuing role. Under new food standards regulations, school canteens are now defined as retail food premises. It is now compulsory for all retail food premises to be inspected at least once per year. Some Councils have indicated that inspections could commence as early as June 2009 whilst others have yet to formulate a time-frame. Each Council sets its own fee structure which could be in the vicinity of \$250 or more.

To find out if your canteen is conforming with current regulations go to

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/thecode/foodsafetystandardsaustraliaonly>

Standard 3.2.3 – Food Premises and Equipment. This standard sets out the requirements for food premises, fixtures, fittings, equipment and food transport vehicles. These are the areas that will be subject to inspection.

NSW PARENTS CHOOSING STATE EDUCATION

Enrolments of Year 7 students have soared by up to 50 per cent at some government high schools. The latest enrolment figures show students are flocking to the most popular public primary and secondary schools across Sydney. Kindergarten enrolments are up by more than 1000 statewide over the last year, while primary student numbers have increased by as many as 1111 in some areas. But as competition for students, private schools are also reporting an overall rise in numbers of about 2000 - 1.4 per cent.

<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,27574,25197674-5006009,00.html>

STUDENTS SIT SELECTIVE SCHOOL EXAM

At least 13,000 students will sit the selective schools entrance exam today with just over a 30 per cent chance of success. The NSW Government last year added 630 places in selective high schools, bringing the state-wide enrolment to 4152 for the 2010 school year. "Developing our gifted and talented kids is a long-term commitment aimed at cementing NSW as a research powerhouse," Education Minister Verity Firth said. "Investing now in opportunities during the crucial high school stage in both academic and vocation education will give a whole generation the ability meet the high-skill demands of the 21st century workforce." The Government operates 17 selective high schools and 23 comprehensive schools that offer places for selective students. Up to 30 of the spots will go to students in rural and remote areas, who will participate in virtual classes while remaining at their local schools. Students will be sitting the test at about 150 government high schools across the state.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25209164-5006784,00.html>

INDIGENOUS SCHOOL RETENTION RATES BYPASS REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Things may be starting to look up in Aboriginal education.

Official figures show that the number of Indigenous students completing high school has more than doubled in the past decade.

Indigenous education leaders say the improvement is due to a sustained focus on the issue from state and federal governments.

But the better retention rates are coming almost exclusively from the cities and towns.

There were 4,800 Indigenous students enrolled in year 12 last year, compared to just 2,200 in 1999. Moreover, the retention rate has jumped from 35 to 46 per cent over the same period.

Eight years ago the Federal Government started programs to improve Indigenous school retention rates. Those programs were focused on schools and employment opportunities in regional areas. Ray Land, a senior policy adviser with the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute, says students are more engaged because of the greater variety of subjects on offer.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/18/2519188.htm?section=australia>

CAMPAIGN DANGLES STUDY LURES TO OVERSEAS STUDENTS

A \$3.5 million campaign will target the lucrative overseas higher education market over the next nine months in an attempt to entice more students to study in Australia.

Educators will spruik the benefits of Australian courses at international events in China, India, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand amid concerns that these markets are under threat from international competitors. The higher education sector will be promoted with more support offered to education agents to direct students to Australian institutions. The welfare of international students, and the support network available to them in Australia, will be reviewed as part of the strategy to maintain existing numbers.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/campaign-dangles-study-lures-to-overseas-students-20090316-8zyk.html>

SCHOOLS LOSE EXPEL POWER

State schools will find it harder to expel and suspend unruly students under changes to be introduced by the Brumby Government. And principals will be told to forge stronger links with welfare agencies in a bid to better manage dysfunctional pupils.

Also confirmed was a move to reduce the power of principals to expel students by giving the final say to education bureaucrats. More than 16,000 primary and secondary students were suspended in Victoria last year - but that's too many, according to Education Minister Bronwyn Pike. "School principals do need a suite of options to be able to manage student behaviour, but multiple suspensions and expulsions is a pretty blunt instrument," she told the Herald Sun. "It's too simplistic just to expel kids, especially if they're under 16."

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25168871-2862,00.html>

CURRICULUM VALUES

The value of grammar returning to the classroom from kindergarten to Year 12 under the national curriculum has been highlighted by an analysis of literacy test results for NSW students. The analysis shows that students taught grammar outperform their peers, but the advantage is lost once formal teaching of the subject has ceased. Year 3 students in NSW who learn grammar as part of their writing skills scored 13 points higher in the writing assessment than the national average. But by Year 9, when grammar is no longer explicitly taught, the advantage had evaporated.

This has wide repercussions. Students with a poor command of grammar struggle to express themselves in many senior and tertiary subjects, including science, economics and the humanities. They also encounter major problems at work, as frustrated employers attest.

Wisely, the National English Framing paper specifies that "spelling, punctuation, and grammar need to be taught throughout the school years". It advocates the process cover "structures and functions of word- and sentence-level grammar" and says teaching should extend to goals "such as clearer expression of thought, more convincing argumentation, more careful logic in reasoning, more coherence, precision and imagination in speaking and writing".

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25196550-25209,00.html>

STATE SCHOOLS NEED \$160 MILLION FOR REPAIRS

The West Australian Government says more than \$160 million is needed to bring the state's public schools up to scratch. The Education Minister, Liz Constable, says a building assessment of 770 state schools has identified the backlog in maintenance work. She says the backlog is a product of the former government's neglect. Doctor Constable says she is looking at ways to clear the backlog, but has not specified how this will be done.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/19/2520613.htm>

CANCER COUNCIL AND YOUR FAMILY, ALL AT NO COST!

Cancer Council NSW invites parents and carers of primary school children in the Hunter region to participate in a groundbreaking new trial aimed at increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables. Free 'Fruit 'n' Veg \$ense' sessions will run from April to July 2009, in local schools and community centres across the Hunter region addressing issues such as fussy eaters, stretching your food dollar further, menu modification and planning. Sessions are free to attend and you will receive handy resources and new recipe ideas to use at home. The trial requires you to complete two short questionnaires and attend one session. To enrol and participate, please contact the Cancer Council (Hunter) Research Hotline on: 4923 0710 and leave your name, postcode & best contact phone number. Alternatively send an email to:

eatittobeatit@nswcc.org.au .

YOUTH ROAD AND TRAUMA FORUM

Youth and Road Trauma Forum Westmead Hospital and NRMA Motoring & Services holds a Youth & Road Trauma Forum for students in Years 10 to 12, to reduce the risk of severe injury and death as a result of potentially preventable road crashes. The event will be held at Acer Arena in Homebush Olympic Park on 18th 19th and 20th August 2009. For bookings or more information on the forum can be found on our website

www.australiayouthandroadtraumaforum.org.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TEACHER SWAP IS LESSON IN SCHOOLS

A joint education program to build partnerships between Australia and Indonesia is to see 180 teachers swap schools for several weeks.

Thirty teachers from Indonesia have arrived in Australia for the launch of the program, Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE).

Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith, announced the project in August 2008, saying it was an initiative of the Australia-Indonesia Institute and would be funded by AusAID and the Myer Foundation.

http://www.psnews.com.au/Page_psn16013.html

RADII (RESEARCH AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION INSTITUTE)

RADII has provided services on a national basis over the past three years, for the development of advanced industrial strength online services for schools. Development work will continue, with a future focus on formative assessment and a fully integrated performance information system for schools. RADII is increasing its focus on providing local support to schools.

This year Raddi will hold two Australasian Boys Education (ABEN) Conferences:

☐Monday 25 May 2009 — Parramatta, Sydney

☐Tuesday 26 May 2009, Melbourne

Information about the Program, speakers and bookings can be found at:

<https://aben-2009.schoolevent.org>

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/>

MS READATHON CLICK, FLICK & COLLECT

The 2009 MS Readathon will be celebrating 30 years of encouraging children to have fun reading to change the lives of Australians living with multiple sclerosis (MS). Each year the MS Readathon inspires children to help people living with MS by collecting sponsorship from family and friends for the books they read in the month of June. It's free for children to register online at www.msreadathon.org.au. Schools, volunteers and participants are needed NOW! For more information, contact the NSW on (02) 9468 8302.

METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY P&C GRATUITIOUS LOTTERIES

The Metropolitan and Country P&C Associations Gratuitious Lotteries are offered in conjunction with an associated minifundraiser. Your P&C Association has the opportunity to raise funds AND win prizes. There are two lotteries: one for Metropolitan P&C Associations and another for Country P&C Associations, both running simultaneously. All Metropolitan P&C Associations are eligible to one prize pool of up to \$25,000 in prizes. All Country P&C Associations are eligible to one prize pool of up to \$25,000 in prizes. The prize pools are each based on the participation of 1,000 P&C Associations. The prize pool will be prorata based on the number of Associations participating.

What is the Associated Mini Fundraiser?

The fundraiser is a new option being offered to your P&C Association and has the support of the Federation of Parents & Citizens Association of NSW. It offers, for sale, packets of quality

gift cards which are suitable for all occasions. One carton contains 150 packs of six cards You may order more than one carton if you would like to use this option as a major fundraiser. Each additional carton entitles your P&C Association to an extra entry in the lottery but you must order them by 4th May 2009 and pay your invoice before 13th July 2009.

How does a P&C Association take part in the fundraiser and become eligible for prizes?
Every P&C Association becomes eligible for entry into one of the gratuitous lotteries by placing their order by 4th May, 2009 and selling the carton of cards. You will receive your cards by 1st June 2009. Invoices must be paid before 13th July 2009.

Please note that the last date for placing orders has been extended to the 12th of May 2009

For more information please contact: **Phil 0431 940 348**

FAQS: P&C ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Q) How much are the membership fees?

A) The annual membership fee for the following year is decided, by majority vote, at the AGM and is recorded in the by-laws. The fee cannot be less than fifty cents.

Q) Is anyone exempt from paying membership fees?

A) the Principal is an ex-officio member of the P&C Association. That is, he/she is a member of the P&C Association by right of his/her position as principle of the school and does not have to pay a membership fee.

Q) When do you need to pay your membership fee?

A) Payment of membership fee must be made by the close of one meeting so that the member is eligible to exercise membership rights (e.g. vote) at the next meeting. Due to the fact that membership is not updated until after each general meeting, new members are not eligible to vote at the meeting at which their membership has been paid. If a new member pays his/her fee to the Treasurer in between meetings, he/she is still not deemed financial until the close of the next meeting.

STEWART HOUSE DAY



Friday 8th May 2009



STEWART HOUSE

9938 3021

www.stewarthouse.org.au

P & C and school community groups get behind school fundraising for Stewart House

Your organisation's chance to win a \$4,000 Teachers Credit Union account. Tally up all monies collected by your school for Stewart House before Friday 29th May 2009 and submit your entry. The winner will be based on the most money collected per student (using 2008 school census enrolment figures and funds received by Stewart House as at 29th May 2009).

Raising money for Stewart House is easy! Your school can purchase Stewart House merchandise, participate in the donation drive or organise a Stewart House Day unique fundraiser. Visit www.stewarthouse.org.au for further information.

To enter the Stewart House Day Promotion for your organisation's chance to win a \$4,000 Teachers Credit Union account, please complete the following:

SCHOOL NAME:	_____
SUPPORTING BODY:	_____
	(name to appear on TCU account)

School enrolment (as at 2008 census):		Stewart House use
TOTAL amount raised for Stewart House : (from 27 January – 31 May 2009)	\$	Checked by: Date:

We confirm these figures are accurate and agree for the above organisation to participate in the Stewart House competition.

Principal's name: _____ signature: _____

President/Chairperson's name _____ signature _____

The principal of the winning school (based on the most money collected per student over the specified period) will be contacted by 19 June 2009.

Please return by fax to Stewart House: 02 9907 1638

Closing date: Friday 5 June 2009



The Federation of Parents and Citizens Association would like to thank the following sponsors for their ongoing support of Parents and citizens and public education in NSW.

