



Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales

e-Bulletin

Tuesday, 19th May 2009 – Edition 36

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT – Di Giblin

Last week students across the country took part in NAPLAN (National Assessment Plan Literacy and Numeracy) This Nationwide Assessment plan is intended to support teachers and parents in their ongoing efforts to address literacy and numeracy needs of students. What concerns us greatly is the constant referral of the Federal government to the development of “league tables” and the reference to parents wishing to have comparisons to “choose an appropriate” school.

We are appreciative of the desire to put in place a structure and process to allow for a longitudinal analysis of school and system performance, with that though we need assurances that the misuse of this data will not occur.

Describing “the ethical principles underpinning the publication of reports” the governments “Principles and Protocols for the Collection and National Reporting of MCEETYA Key Performance Measures for Schooling in Australia” July 2008, highlights, among other things, the importance of *“the avoidance of harm to members of the community: this could occur where the privacy of individuals would be compromised or where the reputation of an institution or group of people would be damaged through the publication of misleading information or stereotyping.”* It also notes that *“no information that permits the identification of individual schools or students should be reported publicly without explicit permission.”*

Last year, I attended the first biennial Education Ministers conference. At this conference the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians was made and it states quite categorically that “governments will not themselves devise simplistic league tables or rankings”. Legislation is now needed is now required to prohibit their creation and publication by third parties. The Public Education Alliance wrote to Minister Firth urging her to gather the support of her Education Minister colleagues in the others states to ensure that this happens.

On May 13 the Minister, Verity Firth, announce Tom Alegournarias as the new President of the Board of Studies. Tom comes to the Board from the position of the Chief Executive for the Institute of Teachers. He was instrumental in setting up the Institute of the Teachers and represents NSW on the National Curriculum Board

Sorry Day is held annually on the 26th May, members of the National Sorry Day Committee have been delighted by the interest and support of so many schools throughout Australia, who already recognise and commemorate this very important day.

In 2007 the NSDC launched the Australian Schools National Sorry Day program. The NSDC saw this as an opportunity to extend the existing partnership of support, by inviting every school throughout Australia to unite on the 26th May in commemorative and celebratory events, across the nation. To symbolise this united activity and to further celebrate the historical Apology, the NSDC invites every school to install the Stolen Generations Track Home in their school on the 26th May.

Each year, National Sorry Day has a theme, and the 2009 theme is: 'Sharing a Journey of Healing'. This theme has been inspired by the 10th Anniversary of the Journey of Healing, the launch of the NSDC Journey of Healing Tour and the healing initiated by the 2008 National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

To find out more about the Australian Schools National Sorry Day, the Stolen Generations Track home, resources, other suggested activities and merchandise, or further inquiries, visit the NSDC website at: www.nsd.org.au

EDUCATION WEEK

Next week marks Education Week – a time for school communities to celebrate the work they do. Make the time to visit your school. Don't forget Public Education Day on May 28 – a special day set aside to celebrate the achievements and uniqueness that is Public Education.

I am fortunate to be spending next Wednesday as *Principal for a Day* at Strathfield South Public School. This is one of the most enjoyable experiences I have had as President of this organisation. In the last three "Education Weeks" I have had the pleasure of being the Principal for a Day at Whalan, Rouse Hill and Marsden Road Public School and I look forward to my day with the community of that great Public School

JUNK FOOD ADS ON TV

Did you know that Australian children are bombarded with about 2200 junk food ads on TV per year? That's about 18 worth of ads promoting obesity-inducing food - the equivalent of three full school days!

Cancer Council, together with other public health groups, launched an on-line campaign to hit back. You can view the 35 second clip that compares junk food ads with door-to-door salesmen touting for kids' business, and then send a simple email to the Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon, and the Senators from your State.

Please check it out, and share it with your friends.

www.burgercorp.com.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.

The conference will be opened by the Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth. Presentations will include a look at the National Front by Steve Carter, President of the national parent organisation ACSSO (Australian Council of State School Organisations) as well as keynote address from great Public Education supporter, well known astronomer and ABC presenter Fred Watson.

There will be a number of workshops of interest for participants to choose from on the Saturday afternoon as well as the Conference Awards night and dinner. Please take a look on our website and consider nominating outstanding people in your community

<http://www.pandc.org.au/annual-conference.seo>.

LATEST FROM THE BER

[http://www.pandc.org.au/files/uploads/090520%20BER%20Bulletin%20no%202%20\(4\).pdf](http://www.pandc.org.au/files/uploads/090520%20BER%20Bulletin%20no%202%20(4).pdf)

[http://www.pandc.org.au/files/uploads/090520%20NSP%20P21%20Key%20Facts%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.pandc.org.au/files/uploads/090520%20NSP%20P21%20Key%20Facts%20(2).pdf)

Take care
Di Giblin 2009.

RURAL STUDENTS HIT BY YOUTH ALLOWANCE CRACKDOWN

Rural students could be unfairly penalised by a crackdown on affluent households getting the youth allowance, a social researcher warned yesterday. The Government is aiming to save \$1.8 billion over four years by tightening requirements on the amount of work a student must undertake to prove they are financially independent from their parents. The savings will be used to better target funding to boost support for students from poorer families. But Monash University rural social welfare expert Margaret Alston said rural students relied heavily on meeting the workforce criteria on independence before going to university. That is because, while their parents' income may be too high for youth allowance, they face substantially higher costs in sending their children away from home to study.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25476937-12332,00.html>

TEACHERS' CHIEF TO LEAD STUDIES BOARD

The new president of the NSW Board of Studies says he will guard the state's school syllabus standards in the development of a national curriculum.

After leaving the position vacant for more than a year, the State Government has appointed the chief executive of the Institute of Teachers, Tom Alegounarias, as president.

Mr Alegounarias has worked within the education bureaucracy for the past 17 years. He replaces Gordon Stanley, who left last year to take up a position as director of the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/teachers-chief-to-lead-studies-board-20090517-b7ev.html>

GO FOR 2&5 A DAY!

Eating 2 serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables every day is vital for good health. This amount varies for children, depending on their age, appetite and activity levels.

Here are some easy ways to make fruit and vegetables a part of your child's day:

- Top breakfast cereal with fruit
- Add chopped or pureed fruit to yoghurt as a snack
- Make a smoothie with fresh, frozen or canned fruit
- Chop up fruit or vegetable sticks for your child's lunchbox
- In summer, freeze fruit on a skewer as a snack
- Add vegies to stir-fries, casseroles or home-made pizzas

For more tips on incorporating fruit and vegetables to your day and information about [The Real cost of Healthy Food Competition](#). 18-29th May 2009 to be in the running to win 1 of 1000 fantastic Cookbooks visit www.gofor2and5.com.au

LEAGUE TABLES WILL NOT IMPROVE CHOICE, JUST CAUSE DAMAGE

Pitting schools against each other over performance is not progress, argues Angelo Gavrielatos. The NSW Government has admitted it may be forced to overturn legislation it introduced in 1997 preventing publication of school league tables. The regulation, the only one of its kind in Australia, prevents the public release of student results "in a way that ranks or otherwise compares the results of particular schools". The possibility of the change has arisen as a result of the meeting of education ministers Australia-wide on April 17. The ministers announced that "in a major step forward for the shared national transparency agenda ... from 2009 the new Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority will be responsible for publishing relevant, nationally comparable information on all schools".

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/league-tables-will-not-improve-choice-just-cause-damage-20090517-b7am.html>

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

The *Positive Partnerships* program is a series of free workshops which build partnerships between families living with autism and their school so these students' school years are as productive as possible. Teachers too – in all states - are invited to attend professional development programs as part of the Federal Government's *Helping children with autism* initiative. The program is being run nationally by a consortium - Australian Autism Education & Training Consortium (AAETC) – which competitively won the \$11.3 million contract last year. The workshops began in February and will continue until November. We have had some amazing feedback from the workshops so far. Many parents saying they now feel less isolated and more equipped to cope with the challenges autism presents. There was a lovely story in Melbourne where three parents met each other at the workshop and discovered that their children were at the same school! Since the workshop they have formed their own support group which has made a tremendous impact on their lives.

For information, dates, venues and to register a few weeks ahead of dates, see www.autismtraining.com.au Please call 1300 881 971 with other queries.

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 .

Y MONEY MATTERS

There's been a lot of talk about the global financial crisis and what it means for Australians... But we want to hear what it really means for Gen Y's. Do you care? Are you doing anything differently? What does it mean for your financial aspirations? Join us at an interactive forum to share your stories, hopes and fears and put Gen Y on the record.

When: Wednesday 27th May 2009, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: Sydney City location

Drinks and Canapes will be served. Lucky door prizes will be up for grabs on the night. Places are limited, so register today to confirm your place. We'll email you an invitation with full details once the registration form is complete.

Register by typing www.yourcematters.com.au/registration into your browser.

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.

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 Radian 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.

NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

A range of Literacy and numeracy materials, many translated into six languages, is available for parents, students, and teachers

- Parent support brochures and audiofiles
- Vidcasts such as what is Naplan? Teaching writing; Everyday Numeracy K-4
- Innovative School Literacy and Numeracy Projects
- A Kids' link featuring dozens of interesting, secure literacy and numeracy sites for children.

Please visit www.nlnw.nsw.edu.au

FAQS: Becoming Incorporated

Q: Does the Federation hold copies of individual P&Cs constitution if they are incorporated?

A: No, we do not keep copies of individual constitutions, mainly because there are only two – the Prescribed and the Standard – both appear in the current handbook for P&C Associations. If they can't locate the constitution (which may have been formulated and adopted around the time of their incorporation application, they can download the constitution from our website and insert the name. etc

Q: Where do we send Auditors Reports?

A: Audit Report must be sent to the Federation of P&C's Associations within one (1) month after you have your P&C Annual General Meeting (clause 7, in the section, 'Prescribed Constitution for Incorporated Associations') in the P&C Handbook.

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.

