



Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales

e-Bulletin

Tuesday, 27th April 2009 – Edition 35

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT – Di Giblin

What a busy term we had - hope the holidays have given families an opportunity to revive for what appears to be an even busier time

Laptops4 learning

This term will see the beginning of the rollout for laptops across NSW Secondary Schools. Starting with the teacher laptop roll out in June and July, students in year 9 look to see their laptops as early as July. Laptops will go to all Year 9 students in 2009 and be available to students in Years 10,11 and 12 on a 1:2 ratio.

Further information and questions and answers can be found on this link;
<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/laptops4learn/index.htm>

Building the Education Revolution

Science Labs and Language Centres

Principals will have received two emails from Alastair Hunter in regards to the BER Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century Secondary Schools. This part of the program is worth \$1 billion dollars.

The timing of this program is very tight and as indicated in the email Principals have been asked to complete a Zoomerang survey by Friday 1st May 2009 indicating their nomination for this part of the BER program. The Zoomerang survey can be found at:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB228XBZ5UUW2&store=1>

Unfortunately schools can only apply for either a Science Laboratory refurbishment or a Language Centre.

The survey has been designed to take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. It is so important that as a public education system we take every opportunity to improve the standard of facilities that we have can have for our schools.

It is a requirement of the application that the school's P&C Association be consulted.

Tim Jones is now a Principal Liaison Officer with the BER Science and Language Centres program, and he is bringing his school expertise to the benefit of all schools

Applications for funding will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated level of disadvantage
- Identified and demonstrated need for the specified building
- Capacity to build the facility within the specified timeframes

- Effective and efficient use of Commonwealth funding
- Extent to which the project incorporates sustainable building principles

Please remember that this is a Federal Government job creation program first and foremost, and needs to be done quickly, so we need to make sure that we work together with the BER people to make it happen effectively but with input from schools. Various principals have been brought into consultation roles to try to make it work in the best interests of schools. P&C Federation have been a part of the discussions and are part of the panel determining the prioritisation of the applications for forwarding to the Federal Government

Further information can be found:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/ber/index.htm>

IBM TO SUPPLY WIRELESS ACCESS TO NSW SCHOOLS

New South Wales will spend a further \$70 million over three years to ensure secondary school students in the state are the nation's most digitally savvy.

The Rees Labor Government has awarded a wireless network contract to IBM Australia that is set to create more than 100 new jobs.

IBM will fit out 463 secondary schools with wireless network access so 232,000 secondary school students and 25,000 teachers can benefit from the federal Government's \$2 billion so-called digital education revolution.

In total NSW has a \$386 million budget for the computers in schools program, with work opportunities hundreds of people in the offing.

Students will use the 300 megabits per second wireless network installed by IBM to access the internet on their Lenovo 'netbooks' or mini-laptops.

<http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25391313-15306,00.html>

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.

NAPLAN 2009

In 2008 The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy was introduced for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The purpose of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of these tests will provide useful information for teachers and parents. In particular, they will help inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students.

In NSW the NAPLAN tests replaced the Basic Skills Tests (BST), English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP). In 2009 the dates for the National Assessment Program will be Tuesday May 12 – Thursday May 14.

For more information:

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/7_12assessments/naplan/index.php

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS NATIONAL SORRY DAY – SHARING A JOURNEY OF HEALING MAY 26TH 2009

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.

Holding an Australian Schools National Sorry Day event on 26th May 2009 will be the ideal way to commence Reconciliation Week celebrations and to further the reconciliation process.

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

PARENTS VICTORIA ONLINE CONFERENCE 18- 24 MAY 2009

Parents of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Prizes for participation

An interactive whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria member school that has the greatest number of individual participants over the entire conference. To be eligible, participants must be correctly registered and leave at least one comment on the discussion boards.

In addition, one of three netbooks will be won by:

1. the member school with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the week long question
2. the school with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the question re parental engagement

3.the member school with the most correctly registered individual participants who leave comments on the daily questions on either Saturday 23rd May or Sunday 24th May.

**Member schools are defined as schools whose 2009 membership payment has been received by 15 May 2009. Membership information can be obtained by phone (03) 93802158 or email office@parentsvictoria.asn.au*

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on 18 May at:

http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/ but please register yourself online first at

<http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>

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

PRIMARY SCHOOLERS QUIZZED ON HEALTH

Primary schoolchildren across the country are to be quizzed about their health and wellbeing so the federal government can better target funding to communities in need.

The commonwealth will spend \$15.9 million on surveying children in their first year of school for the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).

"The AEDI will help us paint a better picture of the health and development of Australian children by the time they start school," education minister Julia Gillard said in a statement.

"The data collected... can be used to better target and develop support and services that can help children in their first five years of life."

Schools have been told the data would not identify individual children.

Teachers will be asked to fill out the questionnaire over the next two months.

It covers physical health, wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge.

Ms Gillard said the questionnaire wasn't compulsory but "all parents, schools and communities will be encouraged to participate".

Preliminary results are expected to be available from late 2009

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/primary-schoolers-quizzed-on-health-20090427-ajvr.html>

MANY CHILDREN 'UNPREPARED' FOR SCHOOL: SSTU

Education groups in West Australia have backed an international study which reveals many students do not have the social and verbal skills necessary to start school. The British research

says many students are not properly prepared for school, and some are unable to dress themselves or use the toilet. The State School Teacher's Union (SSTU) says it is a similar story in Western Australia, and it is not limited to children from low socio-economic areas. The President of the SSTU, Anne Gisborne, says working parents need to find time to prepare their children for school. "So that they can pay attention, and provide that time that's required for their children," she said. A spokesman for the West Australian Council of State School Organisations, Rob Fry, agrees. "There's no doubt that the very early years of a child's development are the most important and set the foundation for the life ahead," he said. The West Australian Minister for Education, Liz Constable, says the government is focussed on parenting and early education.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/06/2535967.htm>

BEST, BRIGHTEST 'TO TURN TO TEACHING'

Graduates originally headed for careers in law, engineering or accountancy will instead pick up pieces of chalk and march into Victorian classrooms next year, says federal Education Minister Julia Gillard.

Under the Teach for Australia plan unveiled on Tuesday, top university graduates will be coaxed in front of blackboards with the offer of fast-tracked teaching degrees, mentoring and a guaranteed corporate career after they leave the classroom.

"This is about high performing graduates doing an accelerated teacher education program, going out into schools and making a difference, supported in partnership with some of our big corporations and the Business Council of Australia (BCA)," Ms Gillard told ABC Radio.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/best-brightest-to-turn-to-teaching-20090421-adxb.html>

CHILDCARE CURRICULUM COULD INCLUDE CAREER COUNSELLING

The committee drawing up the nation's first childcare curriculum has been told that toddlers in daycare should be given early career counselling. Kate Castine, who runs the Principals Australia career education project on behalf of the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, is calling for "career development concepts" to be included in the new curriculum to be introduced nationally by July 1. Her concern is that little children rarely think beyond what their parents and relatives do for a living. "The argument that children should be exposed to career development concepts at an early age has been endorsed by current worldwide research," she wrote in comments posted on the department's official online forum, seeking feedback on the latest draft of the "early-learning framework". Research showed students as young as six could identify what they wanted to do when they grew up, Ms Castine told *The Weekend Australian*.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25287657-12377,00.html>

PUSH TO CONSIDER NATIONAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Australia should consider developing a national certificate to replace the VCE and other state-based secondary school qualifications, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says. The idea is one of several educational measures the OECD recommends that Australia take in a report released yesterday. The report says there are significant differences between states in the basic structure of schooling, which create difficulties for

people who move interstate. It praises the national curriculum — which is due to be introduced in 2011 — but says a national certificate is "likely to be more effective at standardising the content and the outcomes of Australian secondary schools than the national curriculum alone".

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/push-to-consider-national-school-certificate-20090420-acrm.html>

SENSORY PLAY 'KEY TO BEATING AUTISM'

A visiting US autism expert says that while the disorder has no cure, many children with it can be taught to be so "functional" they overcome its most incapacitating features. The key, says Dr Richard Solomon, is for parents of autistic children to intervene early with sensory-focused play which, he adds, may at first feel counter-intuitive.

One in every 160 Australian children aged between six and 12 will have an Autism Spectrum Disorder, a range of neurobiological disorders with an unknown cause which affects development of communication and social skills.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/sensory-play-key-to-beating-autism-20090406-9u49.html>

RUDD PROPOSES EDUCATION GUARANTEE

At A Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting later this month, the federal government will propose that every Australian under the age of 25 is guaranteed access to a school, training or higher education place. "I will not stand idly by and watch a generation of young people have their potential, their talents and enthusiasm wasted in an economic downturn," Mr Rudd said. Students who had not completed year 10 should remain in school and those under 17 years should be engaged in full-time education or work, he said. The government will also move a motion at COAG to bring forward the goal of 90 per cent year 12 or equivalent attainment from 2020 to 2015.

"That will mean starting now," Mr Rudd said.

The measures were central to the government's education revolution and would support young people to weather the storm that lay ahead in an employment market that would be more difficult to negotiate, he said.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25292324-5005961,00.html>

CASH BOOST URGED FOR POOR UNI STUDENTS

University vice-chancellors expect more money in the federal budget for poor students, saying excessive part-time work is interfering with their studies.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor James McWha said too many students had to work "excessive" hours to make ends meet.

Professor Alan Robson, chair of the Group of Eight board of elite universities (of which Adelaide is one) and board member of peak group Universities Australia, said both bodies had lobbied the Federal Government to lift support.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,27574,25300290-2682,00.html>

GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE TO REGULATE ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

The Federal Government is under growing pressure to regulate alcohol advertising in sport, after a key industry player pledged to introduce a year-long ban on TV ads before 9pm.

Family First's Steve Fielding, doctors and health groups are calling on the Government to legislate to ban alcohol advertising during daytime sports programs.

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA), which represents about 80 per cent of the industry, has announced its members will begin phasing out advertising.

By July 1 this year, DSICA members, including Bacardi Breezer maker Bacardi Lion and Jim

Beam Brands Australia, won't advertise on TV before 9pm.

But the self-imposed ban is only for 12 months, when its impact on binge drinking will be assessed.

Australian Medical Association president Rosanna Capolingua says the Government must convene an urgent summit on alcohol advertising.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25284075-12377,00.html>

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS BACK BETTER EDUCATION ABOUT FARMING

Australia's primary school principals are backing a plan by Australia's farmers to educate school students about agriculture.

The National Farmers Federation is setting up the Primary Industries Education Foundation to quash what it says are myths about farming and the rural sector.

The foundation is being set up with the backing of peak bodies, educators and the Federal Government.

President of the Australian Primary Principals Association, Leonie Trimper, admits there's a lack of understanding about farming.

"We know in particular that a lot our city children do think that you just go to the supermarket and just take the carton of milk off the shelf," he says.

"So I think this will be a a good resource."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200904/s2547413.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.australianyouthandroadtraumaforum.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.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Fundraising Metropolitan and Country Lotteries Competition.

Don't be disappointed and miss out on the chance to win up to *\$25,000 worth of prizes for your local P&C and STUDENTS.

The closing date for the Fundraising lottery has been extended until the 18th May 2009.

If you have not received your poster, order form and Lottery details via your local Parents and Citizens, please, email cards@prizeslottery.com.au and the details will be emailed immediately. For any queries call 0431 940348.

*based upon 1,000 schools participating

National Literacy and Numeracy Week

A range of Literacy and numeracy materials, many translated into six languages, is available for parents, students, 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: Becoming Incorporated - How do we apply?

On request an Incorporation Package can be sent to your Secretary with letter templates and instructions to enable your P&C to apply for incorporation under the *Parents and Citizens' Associations Incorporation Act, 1976*

Completed applications must be returned to Federation's office for processing. They are then forwarded to the Minister for Education and Training.



Your P&C Association will be advised by Federation's office when the Association's incorporation has been published in the NSW Government Gazette.

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

A: No, the Federation does not keep copies of individual constitutions. Both the Prescribed Constitution for Incorporated associations and the Standard Constitution for unincorporated constitutions appear in the current handbook for P&C Associations and on our website. If you cannot locate your association's constitution (which may have been formulated and adopted around the time of your incorporation application) a copy can be downloaded from our website. Note, you cannot change or amend the constitution.

For more information about incorporation and constitutions please refer to the Fact Sheets located on our website.

STEWART HOUSE DAY



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.

