

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 15, 20 May 2008

Having trouble reading this email? Read it on the web at <http://www.acsso.org.au/AED080520.pdf>
Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.org.au

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ACSSO NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2008

"Parents & Schools as Partners"

20th and 21st October 2008

Royal on the Park, Corner Alice and Albert Street, Brisbane, QLD

ACSSO's National Conference Website has now been set up to progressively bring you details of:

- Conference Program, Sessions and Workshops
- Speakers, Presenters and Panelists
- Accommodation arrangements in Brisbane
- Sponsors
 - Additional Sponsorship opportunities available
 - Display stand opportunities available
- Online registration facilities

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf.htm>

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY 2008

Can you spare ten minutes to help with the national Evaluation?

We ask all participating schools to give us hand in the national Evaluation.

Your responses will assist us to assist you by making the event more directly oriented to the needs of schools, families and their communities.

The simple online evaluation form will take about ten minutes.

The results will help hundreds of schools and thousands of students in all parts of the country. So we ask for your help on this before the end of May 2008

- Complete the form online: http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/WSTSD_Quest.asp
- Read press clippings about this year's Walk Safely to School Day at: <http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/page.asp?pageid=2572>

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HOT TOPIC: NATIONAL TESTING & LEAGUE TABLES

Backdown on national school 'league tables'

Justine Ferrari, The Australian, May 13, 2008

The Rudd Government is backing away from its election commitment to publish the results of individual schools in national literacy and numeracy tests, which would have allowed "league tables" comparing schools across the nation.

Education Minister Julia Gillard yesterday said the results of the first national literacy and numeracy tests, which start today, would be provided to parents and schools but not be available more widely.

When asked on ABC radio yesterday if schools' results would be available to parents outside that particular school, Ms Gillard said: "At this stage, what parents are going to get is their own report card. We're talking to state and territory governments about the best use of this information."

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23688972-5013871,00.html>

Brightest students muddy school test

Farrah Tomazin, The Age, May 15, 2008

SCHOOLS are allowing smart year 10 students to take a national literacy and numeracy test designed for year 9, prompting concerns about the validity of the government program.

More than a million students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will complete the three-day test today.

It is designed to show parents how their children fare in reading, writing and maths.

But some schools are allowing students from select-entry accelerated learning classes to take the test with their year 9 peers, sparking claims they are trying to boost their results.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/brightest-students-muddy-school-test/2008/05/14/1210764953651.html>

Student tests 'a waste of time'

Annalise Walliker, Herald Sun, May 12, 2008

A CHILD psychologist has hit out at this week's national literacy and numeracy tests, calling them crazy and a waste of time.

Melbourne psychologist Andrew Fuller said the national tests did not adequately measure a child's skills and should not be used to compare them with other children.

"Parents shouldn't be getting hot under the collar, these are very poor and rough measures of basic skills," he said.

"They are very bad at predicting individual achievements ... they're a complete waste of time."

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23681517-661,00.html>

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THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

National Curriculum Journey Begins

National Curriculum Board, Friday 2 May 2008

Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, welcomed Professor Barry McGaw AO, Chair of the National Curriculum Board, Mr. Tony Mackay, Deputy Chair, and other Board members to its historic inaugural meeting, held in Canberra on Wednesday, 23 April.

The Interim National Curriculum Board comprises representatives from each of the States and Territories, and three representatives from the Catholic and Independent schools sectors.

Professor McGaw spoke highly of his colleagues saying that the Board's membership provides a very good balance of teaching experience, curriculum expertise, links with the vocational education and training sector and educational research.

"The Board has moved immediately on its first priority which is to develop a national curriculum in English, mathematics, the sciences and history," he said. "This will be a collaborative process, with Australia working together to produce a world-class curriculum.

"Consultation will begin with a stakeholder forum in Melbourne on 27 June that will focus on the form of the curriculum to be delivered. Participants will consider, for example, the best relationships between content and outcomes, between common national content and regional variation and between curriculum specification and school and teacher discretion.

"In preparation for this consultation, the Board's staff will gather what the Australian state and territory education systems think are the best of their current curricula and samples of the curricula from other high-performing countries such as Finland, Canada, Hong Kong-China and Singapore."

In her discussion with the Board, the Deputy Prime Minister reinforced the importance of the collaborative process it is undertaking, and the essential role that Australian and international evidence will play in creating a national curriculum which underpins world class education outcomes.

"We have a rare opportunity here to create a curriculum which helps achieve educational excellence across the whole community and it should be shaped by the best material and experience there is," Ms Gillard said.

Widespread consultation will help the Board shape writing instructions to the experts it appoints to draft the national curriculum in English, mathematics, the sciences and history.

Professor McGaw emphasised that the Board has already determined that these writing instructions will include the use of plain English so that everyone, from academics to beginning teachers to community members, will understand what our nation's schools are teaching.

"Curriculum writers are often tempted to write for one another but ours will write in plain English and with a limit to the length of their documents to ensure that they are useful to practising teachers," he said.

For more information on the Interim National Curriculum Board, contact:

Rose Naughton, National Curriculum Board Secretariat rose.naughton@deewr.gov.au Tel: 61 2 6240 5622

New partnership to tackle WA skills shortages

Hon Julia Gillard MP 6 May 2008

Federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard and WA Minister for Education and Training, Mark McGowan today announced that Western Australia will be the first state to join the Productivity Places Program.

From July to December 2008, Western Australia will pilot an initiative to deliver 1000 new training places in identified skill shortage areas, with more places expected next year as part of the broader rollout of the program.

The Australian and WA Governments will invest \$2 million to provide workers in Western Australia with the chance to upgrade their skills and gain higher level qualifications.

This new partnership will better match training to industry needs and provide businesses with a solution to on-going skill shortages.

Read more at <http://www.productivityplaces.deewr.gov.au>.

Gillard launches MARVIN partnership with Northern Territory Institute

Hon Julia Gillard MP 7 May 2008

In Perth today, the Minister for Education and Employment has announced an exciting new partnership between the Australian Government and the MARVIN team at the Northern Territory Institute for Community Engagement and Development (NTICED).

The Australian Government is working with the MARVIN team to help create employment and business opportunities for indigenous Australians; the chance to share their stories, train others in animation and travel the globe.

MARVIN is a computer program that uses animated characters to share important messages about services, business and culture in indigenous languages.

Messages can be produced by this program within the community by the community and using local community dialect.

This exciting partnership means all indigenous organisations and individuals in regional and remote locations across Australia can access a free licence to use MARVIN.

Read more at <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/gillard/releases/gillardlaunchesmarvinpartnership.htm>

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Changes to Tertiary Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 16 May 2008

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard has announced that Australia's universities will now be rewarded for improvement as well as excellence in learning and teaching.

Under the previous Liberal government, only universities with the very best outcomes were eligible to receive funding with Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF).

As a result only a few, mainly prestigious universities received funding and little, if anything at all, went to regional and less well-resourced universities.

The Rudd Government believes rewarding improvement will provide more tangible and effective incentives for all universities to improve their performance from one year to the next. This, in turn, will have real benefits for university students.

The LTPF Advisory Group, made up of university representatives, will advise the Government on options for measuring improvement. Universities will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed process in the coming weeks.

In 2009, the Rudd Government will provide more than \$74 million to universities through the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF).

The Government will continue to use the fund to reward excellence, acknowledging those universities whose performance is exceptional but the restructure will mean regional universities will no longer miss out.

In addition, the Rudd Government will deliver \$500 million to our universities through the Better Universities - Renewal Fund by the end of June 2008 to help them rebuild their campus infrastructure after eleven years of neglect under the Howard Government.

The Rudd Government is committed to ensuring universities improve teaching and learning for undergraduate students which will enhance graduate employability skills and productivity.

Windfall for universities to be spent on equipment and buildings

Gerard Noonan, Sydney Morning Herald May 19, 2008

UNIVERSITIES around Australia received an unexpected windfall in last week's federal budget - sharing in a \$500 million down-payment on Labor's promise to inject some serious money into the higher education sector.

The surprise payment was on top of a larger than expected \$11 billion Education Investment Fund, which the Government plans for universities to gain access to the annual interest on the investment.

The \$500 million payment, called the Better Universities Renewal Fund (BURF), is to be distributed within the next six weeks.

The "sandstone" universities of Sydney and Melbourne received the lion's share of the one-off payment, with about \$35 million each. The University of NSW received \$26 million and the Australian National University \$24 million.

The Education Minister, Julia Gillard, sprung the surprise on university lobbyists and the representatives of universities in the budget lock-up on Tuesday.

Those present say Ms Gillard told the gathering the renewal fund was intended for a start on urgent capital works - buildings, laboratories and equipment.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/windfall-for-universities-to-be-spent-on-equipment-and-buildings/2008/05/18/1211049068515.html>

Reversing starvation diet folly

Gerard Noonan, Sydney Morning Herald, May 19, 2008

JULIA GILLARD'S budget surprises have made a start on reversing some of the sillier decisions of the Howard government's later years. But there's a lot of distance to be travelled before the higher education sector can breathe a sigh of relief.

Getting rid of the full-fee-paying rort was a no-brainer. When you need to lure Australian students or their parents to pay serious money to attend courses - in some cases up to \$150,000 - by letting them in with marks lower than others competing for places, you've got a problem.

Pumping up the Coalition's planned higher education investment fund of \$6 billion by \$5 billion might also sound generous, but all the universities get is a bun fight over the interest on that fund.

Read more <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/reversing-starvation-diet-folly/2008/05/18/1211049068521.html>

But Tertiary Students are Doing It Tough

Jane Cafarella, The Age, May 19, 2008

DESIREE Jones was looking forward to a new life in the city. But as she set off from Portland this year to take up a place as a student at La Trobe University, she couldn't have guessed the bleak turn this new life would take.

"When I first moved here it was a little hard to deal with," she recalls. "I was breaking out in rashes and my hair was falling out."

It wasn't until she received her first pay from her job as a hotel cleaner - about \$100 a week - that she realised the stress she had been under. "I'd run out of milk so I had to have water with my Weet-Bix in the morning."

She didn't tell her parents about her predicament at the time. "They didn't realise how expensive it would be and I felt too bad, too ashamed to tell them that I needed their help a little too much ...

"Coming from the middle class, it's a struggle because you're considered too rich by Centrelink to have any extra maintenance. So I can't claim Youth Allowance because we earn just over the threshold."

As a first-year student studying for a double degree in social work and human services, Desiree, 18, is in a bind. Her coursework prohibits her from working more than 10 hours a week. "So with that amount of money, that only affords me petrol, phone bills and food each week. I get paid Tuesday and run out by Thursday."

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/hard-lessons/2008/05/16/1210765186626.html>

HOT TOPIC: SEX EDUCATION

Parents back safe sex education

Kamahl Cogdon, Herald Sun May 19, 2008

PARENTS would rather their children be taught about safe sex and birth control than abstinence, research reveals.

A University of Sydney study found 97 per cent of parents supported sex education in schools.

Of those, all believed puberty, correct names for genitals and dealing with peer pressure to have sex should be part of the curriculum.

Safe sex and birth control were backed by 98 per cent, while 97 per cent thought communication about sex, sex as part of a loving relationship and sexual decision making should be included.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23720526-662,00.html>

Recent Related Stories in Australian Media:

Muslim Sex Education: just say no

Caroline Milburn, Sydney Morning Herald, May 29, 2006

ISLAMIC schools Australia have adopted a sex education policy aimed at overturning the influence of Western sexual values on their students.

Under the policy, non-Muslim teachers would be banned from teaching sexual health classes. Students would be taught that pre-marital sex and homosexuality were anti-Islamic and therefore prohibited.

Otherwise, Muslim teenagers were in danger of forming their attitudes to sex from un-Islamic sources such as newspapers, magazines, television and the internet, the policy said.

"Thus Muslim youth may end up getting the wrong notion of sex, as for example, safe sex is OK," the document, Sex Education Policy: an Islamic Perspective, says. "It is imperative that the Islamic attitude to sex should win the race over the Western attitude to sex in reaching the minds of Muslim youth."

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/muslim-sex-education-just-say-no/2006/05/28/1148754873032.html>

Sex Education in Schools Under Fire from Experts - and Students

Carolyn Milburn, the Age, 29 May 2006

The editors at Dolly listen intently as each new group of teens talks about likes, gripes and life in general.

The sessions, used to help keep the magazine in touch with its 557,000 readers, have produced lively discussions, especially on sex.

But when they talk about sex, little of what they discuss seems to have been covered in their formal sex education classes in school.

Indeed, according to Dolly editor Bronwyn McCahon, they laugh at sex education in schools. "It's birds and the bees stuff from textbooks. They say it's superficial and it doesn't deal with the physical and emotional ramifications of sex," she says.

As teens voice their unhappiness about the quality of school-based programs, their sexual culture is becoming more dangerous and complex.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/think-sex/2006/05/28/1148754861223.html>

Teach sex in context, government told

Anthea Lipsett, Education Guardian, UK, 26 February 2008

Advocacy groups today welcomed the government's review of sex education in schools, but warned that putting sex into the context of relationships was paramount in cutting the UK's soaring rates of teenage pregnancy.

Announcing the review of sex and relationship education (SRE) yesterday, the schools minister, Jim Knight, and children's minister, Beverley Hughes, said SRE had improved but delivery was still "patchy".

The UK has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Europe and ministers have repeatedly tried to tackle the problem.

The review will look at how to improve SRE teaching in primary and secondary schools and a steering group will be set up, co-chaired by Knight, Jackie Fisher, the principal of Newcastle College and Joshua McTaggart from the UK Youth Parliament.

It will look at how to ensure that young people are provided with good SRE, irrespective of what school they attend, and how schools can share ideas on SRE and provide practical support for teachers in the form of good lesson plans, for example.

The group will also consider how schools can use outside professionals to add to SRE lessons, how SRE in schools can reflect the views of or complement parents' role, and whether schools should refer young people to specialist advice and support.

It will also consider how to encourage head teachers, school senior management teams and governors to provide better leadership on SRE.

Read more at <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2260100,00.html>

The USA Views on Sex Education in Schools (2004 Survey)

Sex Education in America: An NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Poll

A poll by NPR, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government finds the vast majority of Americans agree that sex education should be taught in schools.

The debate over whether to have sex education in schools is over.

A new poll by NPR, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government finds that only 7 percent of Americans say sex education should not be taught in schools.

Moreover, in most places there is even little debate about what kind of sex education should be taught, although there are still pockets of controversy.

Parents are generally content with whatever sex education is offered by their children's school and public school principals in a parallel NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School survey, report little serious conflict over sex education in their communities nowadays.

Nearly three-quarters of the principals (74 percent) say there have been no recent discussions or debate in Parent-Teacher Associations, school board or other public meetings about what to teach in sex ed. Likewise, few principals report being contacted by elected officials, religious leaders or other people in their communities about sex education.

However, this does not mean that all Americans agree on what kind of sex education is best. There are major differences over the issue of abstinence.

Read more at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1622610>

Comprehensive sex ed may cut teen birth rate

Study: Birth control education helps reduce pregnancies in high school kids

MSNBC, March 24, 2008

NEW YORK - Comprehensive sex education that includes discussion of birth control may help reduce teen pregnancies, while abstinence-only programs seem to fall short, the results of a U.S. survey suggest.

Using data from a 2002 national survey, researchers found that among more than 1,700 unmarried, heterosexual teens between 15 and 19 years old, those who'd received comprehensive sex ed in school were 60 percent less likely to have been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant than teens who'd had no formal sex education.

Meanwhile, there was no clear benefit from abstinence-only education in preventing pregnancy or delaying sexual intercourse, the researchers report in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. The study found that teens who'd been through abstinence-only programs were less likely than those who'd received no sex ed to have been pregnant. However, the difference was not significant in statistical terms, which means the finding could have been due to chance.

In addition, there was no evidence that comprehensive sex education increased the likelihood of teen sex or boosted rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) — a concern of people who oppose teaching birth control in schools.

While comprehensive sex ed did not clearly reduce the STD risk, there was a modest, but statistically insignificant reduced risk of engaging in sex. The abstinence-only approach had no effect on either factor, the researchers found.

Read more at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23782717/>

COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION

Are PCs for stopping blackboredom?

Darryl Coulthard, The Age, May 19, 2008

DO COMPUTERS make learning better and easier? Should we be spending more and more of our resources on computers and software? For the past couple of years or so, I've been trialling software and pondering these and related questions.

I've always been puzzled by the claims made for computers, as I think of teaching and learning as being intrinsically social, interpersonal activities. If computers do help learning, I can't fathom how they bypass or supercharge the interpersonal.

Discounting those studies that seem to be more part of the cheer squad or have a clear interest in the outcome, I've come up with a virtual blank. I can't seem to find a study or an experience of a colleague that supports all the hype about computers and education.

Along the way I think I've learned a great deal but much of it leaves me less than sanguine.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/are-pcs-for-stopping-blackboredom/2008/05/16/1210765186669.html>

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CLASS SIZES

Size 'doesn't matter' in class numbers?

David Rood, The Age, May 15, 2008

CLASS sizes for students in years 3 to 6 in Victorian schools have been dumped from the state budget because the Brumby Government believes they don't measure the quality of education offered to children.

As recently as December, Education Minister Bronwyn Pike told Parliament that as a result of the Government's education policy, Victoria has the smallest class sizes on record.

But the budget papers show the average 3 to 6 class sizes, along with student to staff ratios at primary and secondary schools, will no longer be reported because: "This measure is no longer relevant because the indicator is not a measure of education performance."

The state budget reports the prep to year 2 average class sizes — expected to be 21 in 2008-09 — explaining this data is "designed to improve the quality of student learning".

The Coalition, teachers' union and primary principals slammed the Government for dropping the class size data, accusing it of having something to hide.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/size-doesnt-matter-in-class-numbers/2008/05/14/1210764953663.html>

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RESOURCES

Educational Experience

"Educational Experience began its operations in Newcastle NSW in 1977 and today is Australia's leading supplier of educational resources and equipment to child care centres, preschools, OOSHs and primary schools.

We remain dedicated to the supply of creative and practical ideas to help children learn and develop and are the Teacher's choice for variety, quality and customer service.

At present Educational Experience's product range consists of over 8,500 product lines showcased in our annual Teachers Catalogue. Our speedy delivery is recognised as being the most efficient and reliable service offered in the industry.

The products sold by Educational Experience are sourced from Australian suppliers where possible or imported from reputable international suppliers. To ensure all our products are of the highest quality and meet safety standards, our suppliers must show product compliance testing to Australian standards.

Read more at <http://www.edex.com.au>

Educational Experience initiated the Toys and More fundraiser to help Australian children's education. Early childhood centres and schools who participate in this fundraiser are rewarded with a credit voucher valued at 20% of the total value ordered by parents and friends and may qualify for additional resources.

Read more at <http://www.toysandmore.com.au>

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Parents Victoria Online Conference 2008

26 May-1 June

Parents of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the second online conference to be held by Parents Victoria.

The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 26 May to midnight Sunday 1 June. 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 Victorian government school with the greatest participation on Day 3 (Wednesday 28 May). Another whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria member school with the greatest participation throughout the entire conference.

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2008 website will open from 6am on 26 May at: <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv/> but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv08.htm>

The conference will feature seven 'live' daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria, expert staff from the Department for Education and Early Childhood Development or the Victorian Parents Council. Each 24-hour period will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents.

There will also be one continuous online discussion that will last all week on the topic: 'If you could improve one thing about your child's school, what would it be?'

Conference program

MONDAY 26 MAY: 'Does your school effectively engage your student? If yes, how? If not, why not?'
Hosted by Margaret Pledger, Parents Victoria 10am-11am, 2pm-3pm, 9pm-10pm.

TUESDAY 27 MAY: 'Out of School Hours Care - Does it meet your family's needs?'
Hosted by Gail McHardy, Parents Victoria from 10am-11.30am, 8.30pm-10pm

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY: 'The Ultranet - What do you know about it and how do you hope it will improve communication with your child's school?'
Hosted by Karenina Fromhold and Rachel Crellin, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 9.30am-11am, 1.30pm-3.00pm

THURSDAY 29 MAY: 'Should canteens sell only healthy food? How does your canteen rate?'
Hosted by Sharron Healy, Parents Victoria, 10am-11.30am, 8.30pm-10pm

FRIDAY 30 MAY: 'What do you think could be done to improve family/school partnerships? Do you have

examples of good practice?'

Hosted by Jo Silver, Victorian Parents Council, 9.30am-11.30am, 1.30pm-2.30pm

SATURDAY 31 MAY: 'Binge drinking and drugs - What can be done to keep our children safe?'

Hosted by Elaine Crowle, Parents Victoria, from 11am-12.30pm, 2.30-4pm

SUNDAY 1 JUNE: 'Bullying - What is the best advice you could give to the parent of a child who is being bullied?'

Hosted by Leanne McCurdy, Parents Victoria, 2pm-3.30pm, 7pm-8.30pm

I look forward to meeting all of you online soon, to discuss these important issues. The more of you join in, the more successful this e-vent will be.

Debra Brydon Online Conference Manager Email: brydon@cybertext.net.au

2008 Outdoor Education Association of Queensland (OEAQ) State Conference

10-12 July 2008 Rockhampton, Queensland

"The 3Rs: Risk, Relationships and Reconnection"

So where will you be from the 10-12 July, 2008? Hopefully at Ritamada, Rockhampton Grammar School's Outdoor Education Centre, Emu Park near Yeppoon.

That's where you will find Outdoor Educators engaged in the year's biggest professional development event. Conference registration is now open.

Book before May 26th to secure your place at the early bird rates

Further information: <http://www.oeq.org.au/events.asp>

ACEL International Conference 2008

"New Metaphors for Leadership in Schools"

30 September-2 October 2008, Sofitel, Melbourne, Victoria

Join us for three full days at one of the world's most dynamic crossroads of ideas and innovation. Globally respected authorities on leadership, teaching, learning, organizational reform and personal growth will expand your horizons, reignite your spirit, and invigorate your vision of an exciting, challenging future.

Network with students and colleagues from around Australia and throughout the world, learn about innovative approaches and best practices, explore exhibits from leading educational programs and companies, all with the vibrant, world class location of Melbourne, Victoria as your backdrop! Challenge current practices, create new metaphors, envision new possibilities.

This is your opportunity to hear from leading thinkers from around the world, not only from education but also business, government and non-profits.

Choose from an array of presentations and workshops addressing the conference strands:

- Initiating Courageous Innovation
- Inspiring Greatness
- Unleashing Potential

- Leading in complex and dynamic environments
- Full details and Registration at: <http://www.acei.org.au/index.php?id=225>

Back to School 2008

Everyone who has gone on to a fulfilling career knows that our public schools are well worth celebrating and supporting. A fantastic way to show your appreciation is to go back to your school, spend the time to tell your story and share your insights with staff, students and parents.

Back to School also encourages schools and teachers to keep in touch with their alumni, and let them know that their achievements are valued and celebrated by their school and its community.

Find out more how you can get involved in this great initiative: <http://www.backtoschool.org.au>

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REMINDERS

14-15 May - National Conference on Children & Young People with Disability and their Families - Melbourne - <http://www.nds.org.au/conferences/CYF2008/home.htm>

16 May - Marketing Seminar for Schools - Sydney - <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/schoolsseminar>

28-30 May - Council of Education Facility Planners International Conference - Melbourne - <http://australasia.cefpi.org/>

30-31 May - Early Childhood Education Conference - Melbourne - <http://www.togetherwegrow.com.au/index.shtml>

1-30 June - MS Readathon - <http://www.msreadathon.org.au>

2 June - entries close for Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - <http://www.dorothea.com.au/>

3-6 June - International Conference on Learning - Chicago, USA - <http://www.LearningConference.com>

11-12 June - National Conference on Climate Change - Canberra - <http://www.manningclark.org.au/events/conference2008/index.html>

26-28 June - World Education Forum SA International Conference - Adelaide - <http://www.infront.com.au/evt/wef/>

28 June - Early Childhood Teachers Association National Conference - Brisbane - http://www.ecta.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=17

6-9 July - National Conference for Teachers of English Literacy - Adelaide - <http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au>

6-9 July - Annual Conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association - <http://www.asta.edu.au>

9-12 July - Environmental Education Up The Track - Darwin - <http://www.cdu.edu.au/ehs/AEE/>

17-19 July - International Conference on Education, Economy & Society - Paris, France - <http://education-conferences.org/default.aspx>

25-27 July - NSW Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations State Conference - Albury - <http://www.pandc.org.au/>

31 July-1 August - Isolated Children's Parents Association Annual Conference - Hobart - <http://www.icpa.com.au/Conference.asp>

16-24 August - National Science Week - <http://www.asta.edu.au>

18-31 August - ANTSEL Video Online Conference - <http://www.cybertext.net.au/antssel2008.htm>

27-29 August - Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia Conference - Melbourne -
<http://www.spera.edu.au>

28-29 August - Professional Development Network 12th Annual School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast - <http://www.griffith.edu.au/education/centre-leadership-management-education/events/leadership-conference-2008>

9 September-2 October - Australian Computers in Education Conference - Canberra -
<http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

10-12 September - World Conference on Mental Health Promotion - Melbourne -
<http://www.margins2mainstream.com/>

19-20 September - AASE/AJCPTA National Conference - Fremantle - <http://www.gemspl.com.au/aase/>

30 September-3 October - National History Teachers' Conference - Brisbane -
<http://www.qhta.com.au/conferences.htm>

1-3 October - VETnetwork Australia National Conference - Sydney -
http://www.vetnetwork.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=47

7-10 October - Australian International Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.idp.com/aiec/>

20-21 October - ACSSO National Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.acsso.org.au>

22-25 October - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference - Saratoga Springs, USA -
<http://fie.engrng.pitt.edu/fie2008/>

25-28 October - International Research Conference on Service-learning and Community Engagement - New Orleans, USA - <http://www.researchslce.org/2008conference.html>

7-11 December - World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education - Melbourne -
<http://www.wipce2008.com/>

4-7 January 2009 - Hawaii International Conference on Education - Honolulu, USA -
<http://www.hiceducation.org/>

18-21 January 2009 - Summer School For Australian Teachers - Canberra -
<http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich/>
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RESOURCES

New Range of Free Student Diaries for 2009

A new range of free Student Diaries is being launched to assist secondary schools in their forward planning for 2009. The diaries are customised to your school, and will carry a personalised cover - designed by one of your students, who is then automatically entered into a nationwide cover artwork competition

These diary ranges are produced by Academy Publishing, who have been actively involved in the education sector in Australia for the past seven years, and have produced secondary and tertiary sector diaries in New Zealand for many more years.

For more information and contact details: <http://academypublishing.com.au/>

Fundraising Directory - www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au Also: www.fetesandfestivals.com.au

Drug Awareness Website - www.drugawareness.com.au/

Australian Schools Directory - www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au
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