

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 40, 3 November 2008

Having trouble reading this email? Read it on the web at <http://www.acsso.org.au/AED081104.pdf>
Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.org.au

- [Prizes & Awards:](#) (2 items)
- [Research:](#) (3 items)
- [The Education Revolution: Julia Gillard to Australian Primary Principals](#)
- [Opinion: Good parenting is a matter of responsibility, The Australian](#)
- [Resources: Why not the Best Schools?](#)
- [Early Childhood Education:](#) (2 items)
- [Around the States & Territories:](#) (10 items)
- [Tertiary Education: Government Delivers on Promise to Phase Out Full Fee Degrees](#)
- [Health & Well-being:](#) (2 items)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Resource Listings](#)
- [ACSSO Email Newsletters](#)

PRIZES & AWARDS

Australia's hard working school parents recognised in national awards

Dedicated school parents across the nation have been recognised by judges including Federal Minister for Education and Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Julia Gillard MP in this year's The Australian Women's Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards.

State winners will receive a crystal trophy, \$2000 prize money, a \$1000 voucher from Rebel Sport, a Tefal Quick Cup and airfares to attend a special awards ceremony hosted by Paradise Foods and The Australian Women's Weekly at the Sydney Harbour Marriot on Tuesday January 27, 2009.

A national winner, selected from the eight state and territory finalists, will be announced at the ceremony and will collect a further \$10,000 and \$2000 voucher from Rebel Sport.

"Active involvement from parents groups and the broader community ensures the best educational outcomes for students. The Australian Women's Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards are important because they honour parents' dedication and hard work," said Ms Gillard.

State and Territory Winners and Runners-up, The Australia Women's Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards 2008

VIC: Winner Woolsthorpe Primary School, Runner-up Merino Consolidated School
ACT: Winner Arawang Primary School, Runner-up Palmerston District Primary School
NSW: Winner St Brigid's School, Runner-up Mowbray Primary School
NT: Winner Clyde Fenton Primary School, Runner-up Malak School
QLD: Winner Greenlands State Primary School, Runner-up Meringandan State School
SA: Winner Mypolonga Primary School, Runner-up Edwardstown Primary School
TAS: Winner Spreyton Primary School, Runner-up St Leonards Primary School
WA: Winner Deanmore Primary School, Runner-up Mosman Park Schools

Read entire release at: <http://www.acsso.org.au/media/pdf/MRp&cawards08.pdf>

Schools First

Australian Council for Education Research (ACER), 29 October 2008

ACER is a partner in Schools First, a new initiative to help build school-community partnerships. Schools First is a national initiative that aims to build stronger partnerships between schools and their local communities. Schools First will provide regional, state and national awards to schools to the value of \$15 million over the next three years.

The Schools First Awards have been developed by National Australia Bank and three not-for-profit organisations: ACER, Australia Cares, and the Foundation for Young Australians. National Australia Bank has committed to funding the awards and all operating costs for the program over the initial three years.

The primary objective of Schools First is to improve student outcomes - by recognising and strengthening the social networks that already exist between schools and their communities, and by encouraging new relationships and initiatives.

The awards program involves three stages: up to 60 regional awards, eight state/territory awards, and one national award. There will be two types of awards. Impact Awards will recognise effective school-community partnerships that can demonstrate successful outcomes. There will also be a smaller number of Seed Funding Awards that will recognise fledgling partnerships with great potential. In these cases the awards will provide initial funding to progress the collaboration.

Read more at http://www.acer.edu.au/enews/0810_schoolsfirst.html

Visit the Schools First website at <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au>

[< top >](#)

RESEARCH

Science and maths to build Australia's future

Media Release, Hon Julia Gillard MP, 30 October 2008

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the release of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) report Participation in Science, Mathematics and Technology in Australian Education.

Released today, the report shows a decline in senior students studying science over the last 30 years and advanced maths since the mid 1990s.

According to the ACER research, science and mathematics education needs to be more relevant to students' experiences and more time needs to be allocated to science in schools.

The report presents comprehensive information about science and mathematics education in Australia including student participation, achievement and teacher qualifications.

Read more at <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/ScienceandmathstobuildAustraliasfuture.htm>

Read the ACER report at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/ACER>

[< top >](#)

School Careers advice well received by students

Media Release, Australian Council for Educational Research, 7 October 2008

A new study of young Australians' perceptions of the career advice received in secondary school has found that almost all students access career advice between Years 10 and 12 and believe the information provided met their individual needs.

The study, released today by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) concluded that a school's career advice program needs to encompass as many career advice activities as possible.

According to ACER's chief executive, Professor Geoff Masters, students have different needs from career advice and these needs can change over time, which indicates that breadth in programs is important.

"Young people appear to appreciate a wider variety of activities in their career advice program as it may provide them with more opportunities to find a career they wish to pursue," Professor Masters said

Read more at http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/MR_081007-LSAY53.pdf

Read the ACER report at http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/LSAY_lsay53.pdf

[< top >](#)

Assessment and reporting of employability skills

Australian Council for Educational Research, 29 October 2008

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard released a report by ACER that addresses the assessment and reporting of employability skills of senior secondary students on 17 October.

The Study into the Assessment and Reporting of Employability Skills of Senior Secondary Students was undertaken between July 2007 and January 2008. The main task in this project was to evaluate options for assessing and reporting each of eight employability skills against five criteria, and to recommend a preferred approach.

The report, by Gabrielle Matters and David Curtis, is available from:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/es/default.htm

[< top >](#)

THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Opening address to the Australian Primary Principals Association Conference

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 29 October 2008

As you know, there's a huge amount of activity and interest in schools policy at the moment. Our Education Revolution is now well underway, guided and shaped by the intensive discussions that have been taking place nationally, between governments and education bodies like yours.

Inevitably perhaps, this has produced controversy around certain issues, such as transparency and the need for consistency between all school systems. And we've had the tired old claims of hidden agendas and class envy trotted out once again.

In my view these are minor distractions from the real debate, which is about how to raise school quality. And about how we make every school, regardless of its system and its socio-economic status into a great school.

That task is going to take a lot of improvements:

- o To get all our children ready to learn by the time they start school;
- o To modernize buildings and learning infrastructure;
- o To improve curriculum;
- o To attract more high achievers to teaching;
- o To lift results in under performing areas; and
- o To get the long-term funding issues right.

This means the Commonwealth, the States and the non-government school systems have got a lot of issues to tackle.

But ultimately all of these policy and resourcing issues come down to one thing. That's to improve the quality of what goes on inside the classroom.

The combination of great classroom instructors, led by professional school leaders, using modern educational facilities, to teach the right curriculum, offers the best means to improve outcomes across the nation and overcome the effects of educational disadvantage.

But it's an approach that has to be applied relentlessly in every school with resources targeted to where help is needed most.

And primary schools have an absolutely crucial role to play here, because economic and childhood development research tells us that it's far more efficient to tackle educational problems earlier than later.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/OpeningaddressstotheAustralianPrimaryPrincipals.htm>

[< top >](#)

=====

OPINION

Good parenting is a matter of responsibility

The Australian - Editorial comment - 22 October 2008

PARENTS whose children are among the 7 per cent of Australian kids who have fewer than 11 books at home have every reason to be concerned. The lack of a good range of fiction, non-fiction and children's books deprives youngsters of the love of reading and reinforces educational disadvantage. Perhaps such families should count the number of electronic games on the shelves, or, if lack of money is really the problem, join the local library as soon as possible.

The fathers who spend just a minute a day with their children on weekdays could also have a look at how a slight reorganisation of their daily lives would help. So could the parents of the 30 per cent of children who do not sit down to dinner regularly with their families. Like saying "no" to too much junk food and too many soft drinks, too many late nights, unsuitable television and teenagers partying with alcopops, an important part of good parenting is responsibility.

The same applies to the high percentage of adults reportedly embarrassing or frightening children by abusing alcohol in front of them. Calls for bans on alcohol advertisements, however, like the push for bans on junk food advertisements in children's viewing time, are counterproductive. Instead of fostering personal responsibility, such bans suggest that individuals and families are incapable of making sound personal choices.

Phoney "solutions" from do-gooders and social engineers, extra taxes or an outbreak of hand-wringing about working hours will not help, either. Long experience has shown that a full-time job is better than any form of welfare or nannyng. In a modern economy, this often includes longer or different working hours from the traditional Monday-to-Friday, nine-to-five patterns of a generation ago. But the greater flexibility of the modern workforce can help family life. Working at the weekend, for instance, can leave parents free to be more involved with their children's schooling on days off during the week.

Rob Moodie, professor of global health at the University of Melbourne, is right when he says we need to value teachers, who are doing one of the most important jobs in the community. Many teachers, however, would settle for the chance to concentrate on teaching rather than shouldering responsibilities that rightfully belong to parents.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24533546-16382,00.html>

[< top >](#)

=====

RESOURCES

"Why not the Best Schools? What we have learned from outstanding schools around the world"

Brian Caldwell and Jessica Harris; ACER Press (Launched 30 October 2008)

Expectations have been raised in Australia and comparable countries for an 'education revolution' that will secure success for all students in all settings.

Such a revolution must ensure the alignment of educational outcomes, the skills required for a strong economy, and the needs of a harmonious society. *Why not the Best Schools?* offers a ten-point, ten-year plan for an education revolution that will result in the transformation of Australia's schools.

Why not the Best Schools? goes beyond system characteristics to provide an in-depth account of how transformation occurs in schools. Fifty indicators are provided to help shape strategies for policy makers and practitioners in schools and school systems. Guidelines for leadership and governance ensure a future-focus for those who are determined to ensure that all students will succeed in the twentieth-first century.

This book draws on a five-year study culminating in the International Project to Frame the Transformation of Schools conducted in Australia, China, England, Finland, the United States and Wales.

The findings are consistent with the McKinsey & Company report on the world's best performing school systems and those arising from OECD's PISA.

There are 6 Case Study books, sold separately

Further information and to order online: <http://shop.acer.edu.au/acer-shop/group/WNTB>

[< top >](#)

=====

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early learning and care places for St Kilda

Media Release, Hon Maxine McKew MP, 28 October 2008

Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, Maxine McKew, and Maxine Morand, Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, today announced funding for new Early Learning and Care places in St Kilda, Victoria.

The Commonwealth Government's capital contribution of \$1.6 million will create 50 - 70 new early learning and care places that will be integrated within the St Kilda Family and Children's Centre. These additional places will increase the Centre's total number of licensed places to around 100 - 120.

The St Kilda Family and Children's Centre is being developed by the City of Port Phillip as an integrated service that will offer long day care, kindergarten, early years learning and transition-to-school programs, as well as maternal and child health

"I'm delighted that all three levels of government are working together to put the interests of children and parents first." Ms McKew said.

In a jointly funded initiative between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments and the City of Port Phillip, the Rudd Government will contribute \$1.6 million, the Victorian Government will provide \$500,000 and the City of Port Phillip will invest approximately \$4.5 million to redevelop the existing service into an integrated model.

In the 2008-09 Budget the Rudd Government committed \$114.5 million over four years to establish 38 priority Early Learning and Care Centres, all of which will be operational by 2010.

Victoria has been allocated 11 of those centres, including one autism-specific centre.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/McKew/Releases/EarlylearningandcareplacesforStKilda.htm>

[< top >](#)

Symposium marks progress towards Early Years Learning Framework

Media Release, Hon Maxine McKew MP, 29 October 2008

Representatives from federal, state and territory governments, peak organisations and early childhood education experts are taking part in the National Early Years Learning Framework Symposium in Sydney 29-30 October 2008.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, Maxine McKew, said attendees will review a draft of the Early Years Learning Framework developed by a consortium of early childhood experts, led by Charles Sturt University.

"The symposium shows the progress the Australian Government is making with its commitment to develop a national curriculum for all early childhood education and care services," Ms McKew said.

"On 2 October, the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, and I announced \$700 000 in funding for the consortium to develop the Framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for children during their critical early years."

This symposium, which follows stakeholder discussions held in all jurisdictions, is part of the consultation process designed to ensure that Australia's first national early childhood curriculum is a world class, evidence-based document.

Following the symposium, further consultations will be held through targeted focus groups and public forums to discuss and refine key components of the Framework.

The next stage will involve the development of supporting documentation and trialling in early 2009.

Source:

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/McKew/Releases/SymposiummarksprogresstowardsEarlyYearsLearningFramework.htm>

[< top >](#)

AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

NSW: church-state deal 'hampering ethics education'

ABC News, Oct 27, 2008

An independent ethics organisation says the teaching of non-religious ethics in New South Wales primary schools is being prevented by a century old deal between churches and the state.

Colleen MacKinnon is working on an ethics-based course to complement scripture classes.

But she says the deal which allowed the state to take over education from the churches, led to legislation which prevents ethics being taught to the 20 per cent of children who do not attend religious classes.

"Those kids who opt out of scripture are denied an opportunity for any kind of instruction in ethics morals, values," she said.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/27/2402718.htm>

[< top >](#)

NT: Education Union says bi-lingual education boosts performance

ABC News Mon Oct 27, 2008

The Northern Territory Education Union says the NT Government is ignoring international evidence that bi-lingual education improves academic performance of students.

The Education Minister Marion Scrymgour has announced all schools would have to teach in english for the first four hours of the day starting next year.

She says it does not spell the end to bi-lingual education as students can still study culture and language in the afternoons.

But the union's Olga Wrzesinska says making english compulsory for the first four hours of school everyday will be disastrous for indigenous education outcomes.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/27/2401913.htm>

[< top >](#)

NT: Sacked CEO 'totally adored'

Emily Watkins, Northern Territory News, October 24th, 2008

OUSTED Education Department chief executive Margaret Banks broke down as she received a national education award last night.

She told an Australian Council for Education Leaders ceremony in Darwin that her journey as an educator had been "first-class".

"At the moment, I can't see around the bend but I'm still on the train," she said.

Ms Banks was forced to resign two weeks ago after being told that Education Minister Marion Scrymgour did not trust her to tackle the problem of falling indigenous classroom standards.

Australian Council for Education Leaders chief executive Jenny Lewis said that Ms Banks was "totally adored". "There are a lot of distraught people," she said in reference to the sacking.

Ms Lewis said the presidential citation was the highest award that an Australian educator could receive from the ACEL.

Read more at http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2008/10/24/11701_ntnews.html

[< top >](#)

QLD: More mentors for new teachers in 2009

Media Release, Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts The Honourable Rod Welford, October 30, 2008

A mentoring program for beginning teachers is to be expanded after a successful state-wide trial.

Announcing it on the eve of World Teachers' Day, Education and Training Minister Rod Welford said the Different People Working Together Pilot involving 70 mentoring pairs would be increased to 100 next year.

"The mentoring program has had many positive outcomes for the new teachers, their students and the experienced mentors," Mr Welford said.

Read more at <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=61109>

[< top >](#)

QLD: Target uniforms or behaviour programs for unruly students?

James O'Loan, Courier Mail, October 27, 2008

WITH debate raging over school behavioural programs, a senator says discipline should start with how a student wears their school uniform.

Joining the chorus of criticism over Education Queensland's use of controversial American behavioural programs, Nationals senator Barnaby Joyce suggested a back-to-basics approach to discipline.

He said cracking down on the improper manner of wearing school uniforms was a first step.

Senator Joyce suggested that a trend among today's youth to wear uniforms "as a display of rebellion" was indicative of an attitude problem.

"Discipline has to get right back to what kids wear," Senator Joyce said. "I'm a strong believer in wearing a uniform but having a uniform and how you wear it are two different things."

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,24562126-3102,00.html>

[< top >](#)

QLD: School suspensions skyrocket in Queensland

James O'Loan, Courier Mail, 26 October 2008

A BATTLE is brewing to contain a 26 per cent spike in students being suspended from Queensland schools over the past three years.

The alarming wave of aggressive and disrespectful behaviour from southeast and north Queensland students comes as the Government pours another \$28.6 million into "positive behaviour strategies" this financial year.

Education Queensland's prolonged trial of the Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support program now runs in one in six of Queensland's 1250 state schools.

But an arsenal of strategies including the costly SWPBS appears to have done little yet to curb problem behaviour.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,24555715-3102,00.html>

[< top >](#)

SA: Green Schools Helping the Environment

Media Release, Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, Minister for Education, 28 October 2008

Solar panels being installed in State schools are helping to teach a new generation about greener sources of energy.

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith today told State Parliament that schools are using the solar systems for much more than supplementing their energy needs.

"Each unit can save up to 3000kWh of power per year," Dr Lomax-Smith says. "Across 250 schools, that equates to about 750 mega-watt hours of electricity, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by about 720 tonnes every year.

"That is the equivalent of removing 240 large six-cylinder cars travelling 13,000km each year. "

Read more at <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=3842>

[< top >](#)

TAS: Government ignores autistic kids

Media Release, Sue Napier MP, Shadow Minister for Education, 28 October 2008

The State Opposition has today expressed alarm about the number of autistic children who the Department of Education are trying to manage through Distance Education, and the number of children who are supposedly enrolled in school but not receiving assistance.

Shadow Minister for Education, Sue Napier, today raised the matter in Parliament as a Matter of Public Importance.

"We are advised there may be some 33 new enrolments into Distance Education of children with autism in this State this year alone and possibly 50 or 60 children with autism inappropriately being educated by a Distance Education system that cannot assist them with their education," Mrs Napier said.

"We are being told by families of these children that they are left with no other option for education in this State because their children cannot cope in the mainstream schools system."

Mrs Napier said that the Premier's suggestion that children with autism can receive funding of \$16,000 was misleading, because it only applied to children suffering from very high levels of the condition and only a small percentage of children with autism would therefore be eligible for assistance.

Read more at http://www.tas.liberal.org.au/default.cfm?action=news_detail&ID=8806

[< top >](#)

VIC: Private school fees up

Emily Power, Herald Sun, October 25, 2008

Victorian private schools will slug parents up to 15 per cent more in fees next year.

Tuition at some of the state's elite colleges has climbed above \$20,000 for a year 12 student. Prep fees can cost parents more than \$14,000, a sample of top schools shows.

The hike is sure to increase pressure on families already battling to give children a private education. Fees rise annually to cover costs such as security and administration, but rising teacher salaries next year will take a bigger bite out of school budgets.

Parents of senior students at Lauriston Girls' School, one of the state's most expensive, will pay \$2700 more a year. Scotch College has bumped up junior school fees by about \$1100.

Under a public school pay deal brokered this year, teachers in the top bracket will earn 15 per cent more. Catholic school teachers also struck a wage deal to put them on par.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24548198-2862,00.html>

[< top >](#)

WA: Budget cuts will exclude front-line police and schools

30th October 2008,

Front-line police, health and education services would not be slashed under a Government demand for a 3 per cent cut in spending across the public service, Colin Barnett said yesterday.

The Premier made the pledge after Chief Justice Wayne Martin said there was a case for law and order to be exempt.

Mr. Barnett said the spending cuts would apply across all government agencies, including those servicing regions. Any money saved as a result of the cuts would be used for some of the Government's new initiatives.

"For example, if a program or project is not seen to be a good use of taxpayers' money, those people and that money will be redeployed into other areas," he said.

"We're going to make sure that front-line services do not diminish in police, education and health and we'll in fact make sure they improve. I would be irresponsible, as would the Treasurer, if we didn't look at ways for better using taxpayers' money."

Read more at <http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=105250>

[< top >](#)

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Government Delivers on Promise to Phase Out Full Fee Degrees

Media Release, Hon Julia Gillard MP, 29 October 2008

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has announced that the Australian Government has approved the allocation of 2 607 new Commonwealth supported places and \$9.76 million in transitional assistance for public universities in 2009 to phase out full fee undergraduate degrees for Australian students.

As promised at the last election, the Rudd Government is phasing out full fee paying places for domestic undergraduate students at public universities. The Government is committed to phasing out full fee degrees to ensure Australian students gain entry to university on merit, not ability to pay.

The 2008-09 Budget provided \$249 million in additional Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding for up to 11,000 Commonwealth supported places by 2011. This funding is being used flexibly to support the places requested by universities and to provide transitional assistance.

Funding of \$26.45 million has been allocated to 18 universities for 2 607 commencing undergraduate places in 2009. These places are expected to grow to 7 382 places by 2012 and funding is expected to amount to \$192 million.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/GovernmentDeliversonPromisetoPhaseOutFullFeeDegrees.htm>

[< top >](#)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Opportunity for 'mental health revolution' at schools

Courier Mail, October 25, 2008 (AAP)

AUSTRALIAN secondary schools are the perfect places to start a mental health revolution, national youth mental health foundation Headspace says.

The group has called for funding of \$100 a student to finance resources such as counsellors and psychologists to enable schools to provide professional services.

Headspace chief executive Chris Tanti said early intervention targeting young people aged 12 to 25 years should be a community and government priority.

"We know that young people are already susceptible to the worst mental health of the whole life-cycle with 75 per cent of all mental health problems starting before the age of 25," Mr. Tanti said. "Statistics tell us that in an average Australian secondary school class, six students will be struggling with a mental health problem.

Australian secondary school principals back the call. Australian Secondary Principals Association president Andrew Blair said the Federal Government should understand that mental health and wellbeing was as important as literacy and numeracy.

"If there isn't a mental health revolution, there won't be any meaningful education revolution," Mr. Blair said.

Read more at http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,24550722-5003402_00.html

[< top >](#)

Raise the bar on healthy school fundraising

The Parent Jury, 30 October 2008

Fundraising activities are a great opportunity to engage with children and the wider community to promote healthy lifestyles. Unfortunately schools and clubs often choose to fundraise with unhealthy snack foods because they are seen as easy and profitable, and in the process they send conflicting messages to children about proper health and nutrition.

Advocacy group The Parents Jury recently surveyed Australian schools about their fundraising activities, the barriers they face in implementing healthy fundraising policies and their own tried and tested examples of profitable healthy fundraising initiatives.

The results show that while over 90% of schools believe that they have a responsibility to teach children about healthy food and lifestyles, a considerable 70% still held a confectionery fundraiser in the last 12 months.

Also, of the 88% of schools that have implemented healthy school nutrition guidelines, only 14% of this group have committed to implementing a healthy fundraising policy. However when asked if anyone had ever complained about unhealthy fundraising methods at their school, 45% of schools said they have already acted on others' concerns, or are willing to consider them.

The most profitable fundraising activities identified by schools are casual dress or dress up days, raffles, mother's and father's day stalls, school fetes and auctioning or selling donated goods and services.

If you're concerned about unhealthy fundraising activities at your child's school or club, get involved with the fundraising committee and help to plan healthy changes from within. The Parents Jury's website has a list of healthy fundraising suggestions and links to healthy school fundraising resources for both parents and schools to get inspiration.

Read more at <http://www.parentsjury.org.au>.

[< top >](#)

REMINDEERS

10-11 November - Curriculum Corporation Conference 2008 - Melbourne -
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/conference/2008/>

17-19 November - In6ternational Conference of Education, Research and Innovation - Madrid, Spain -
<http://www.iated.org/iceri2008/>

24-26 November - International Conference on Distance Education - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -
<http://www.icde.org/oslo/icde.nsf/id/05C3211E27B0737DC12573E100405E7F?OpenDocument>

25-28 November - Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future - Geneva, Switzerland -
<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/ice.html>

30 November-4 December - Australian Association for Research in Education International Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2008/index.htm>

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

8-12 December - International Consortium for Experiential Learning - Sydney -
<http://www.education.uts.edu.au/icel/index.html>

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

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

15-18 April - International Outdoor Education Research Conference - Beechworth, Vic -
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/oent/research_conf_2009.htm

[< top >](#)

=====

RESOURCE LISTINGS

Passport to Australia: The Australian Travel Game

Find out more about our amazing country the fun way:

Strap yourself in for a learning adventure like no other with Passport to Australia, the new board game from Brisbane based company Barker Boys (Australia) Pty Ltd

This is a fresh and exciting way for players of all ages to learn about Australia – the ultimate board game that takes players on a funtastic journey to every state and territory

The game is a brilliant way to improve your general knowledge on places that are in our own backyard. Though you hardly notice you're learning because it's so easy to get carried away with the thrill of the chase.

New questions will be added to later editions of the game and supplementary question packs will be available online and through recommended retail outlets.

"Best of all, with every purchase of a Passport to Australia buyers will be contributing to the establishment of a school camp to provide learning and recreational experiences for young people," said Managing Director Bruce Barker.

"Our intention is to continue to create opportunities to share knowledge and learn in fun and interesting ways."

Passport to Australia is available through ABC shops, selected retail stores and online at www.passporttoaustralia.com.

For more information: <http://www.passporttoaustralia.com>

LOTE@HOME – Learning languages at home from the early years

"Children who have grown up learning two or more different languages are better problem solvers"

[LOTE@HOME](#) is an innovative way for parents to participate with their kids as they all learn a second language.

[LOTE@HOME](#) packs are not intended to replace formal LOTE lessons, however they are intended to build an "in country environment" in the home that will support the formal learning of a second language.

Devised by a parent who was unable to identify an approach to learning a language other than English that focused on a home, family-based setting, these family-friendly kits are now available in five community languages (including Japanese and Mandarin) with others to follow shortly.

By using the cards, and reinforcing words around the house, kids will learn a new language in exactly the same way they learned English - by immersion and absorption.

Find out more: <http://www.lote-at-home.com.au>

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.

To view our product range please visit www.edex.com.au

Educational Experience initiated our generous 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. For more information please visit www.toysandmore.com.au

Educational Experience remains committed to the educational needs of all Australian children.

Educational Experience, PO Box 860, Newcastle NSW 2300

Telephone 02 4923 8222 Fax 02 4942 1991 Toll free 1300 134 211 Email hotline@edex.com.au

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

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

[< top >](#)

=====
ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- **Australian Education Digest** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/aed.htm> (weekly)
- **International News Roundup** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup.htm> (monthly)
- **Values Education** : <http://www.valuesineducation.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Languages Education** : <http://www.languageseducation.com/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Ensemble - Music Education** : <http://www.ensemble.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Public Education Voice** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/pev.htm> (quarterly)
- **Family School Partners** : http://www.familyschool.org.au/?page_id=6 (quarterly)

[< top >](#)

=====
Details of products, services, events, resources or points of view are provided for information only; publication does not imply endorsement or recommendation. No warranty is provided nor liability accepted by ACSSO, its members or employees.

To unsubscribe from ACSSO mailings click here: <mailto:webmaster@acsso.org.au?subject=unsubscribe>