



AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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FUNDING

Battle lines drawn over school cash

Samantha Maiden, Sunday Herald Sun, November 27, 2011

PUBLIC and private schools face the biggest funding overhaul in decades as the Gillard Government prepares to scrap the current system.

Warning Australia risks a "two-tiered school system" that fails the nation's struggling students, Education Minister Peter Garrett has slammed the system as "all over the place".

And for the first time, he has confirmed the Government's intention to legislate any changes next year - before voters cast their ballot at the 2013 election.

In an interview with the Sunday Herald Sun, Mr Garrett confirmed it was his hope that "a new model" would emerge from the first major review of schools funding since 1973.

"We're at risk of a two-tiered school system in this country and I want to avoid that," Mr Garrett said.

"Too many hard-working families feel they have to scrimp and save to get their kids a good education, when a good education should be the birthright of every Australian.

"The school funding system is all over the place. I'm hoping (review chairman David) Gonski and his panel will deliver recommendations for a new model that will be a fundamental break from the systems of the past, and that supports the rights of every child to have a great education at a great school."

Read more: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/battle-lines-drawn-over-school-cash/story-fn7x8me2-1226207033797>

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IMPROVING TEACHERS & SCHOOLS

Top teachers to be rewarded

The Hon Peter Garrett MP, Minister for School Education, 25 November 2011

The best teachers in Australia will be recognised through a staged implementation of the reward payment scheme linked to the first National Professional Standards for Teachers, School Education Minister Peter Garrett said today.

Under improvements to the Reward Payments for Great Teachers initiative, teachers who are accredited to the highest level of the standards will be rewarded with \$7500 for Highly Accomplished teachers and \$10,000 for teachers who achieve the Lead Teacher level.

In line with the Government's election commitment, the first reward payments will be delivered in 2014 for teachers who have been assessed against the standards in 2013.

A new performance and development framework for teachers will also be introduced in schools across Australia from 2013 as part of the implementation of the reward payments scheme. Funding for the initiative will increase over time as more teachers are assessed, and as the standards and new performance framework are implemented in schools and school systems.

"The Teacher Standards are world's best practice and raise the bar on teacher quality," Mr Garrett said.

Read more: <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/top-teachers-be-rewarded>

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National trials for school improvement measurement

The Hon Peter Garrett MP, Minister for School Education, 29 November 2011

A new National School Improvement Framework (NSIF) will be developed over the next three years and introduced in 2015 under changes to the Rewards for School Improvement initiative, School Education Minister Peter Garrett said today.

The Gillard Government will work with school authorities to develop the framework next year, with trials to take place in 2013. The first payments to schools will be made in 2015, based on their 2014 performance.

"This will allow us time to develop and trial the NSIF and ensure that it is embedded in schools as part of their regular review practice," Mr Garrett said.

"For the first time all schools across Australia will be able to evaluate their practices and performance against national and local measures.

"This new framework will help all schools identify their strengths and weaknesses and plan for improvement. It will also allow those schools that show the greatest improvement to be recognised with a reward payment of up to \$100,000."

Read more: <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/national-trials-school-improvement-measurement>

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Science and maths study incentives axed

Dan Harrison, Sydney Morning Herald, November 30, 2011

PLANNED performance bonuses for teachers, schools and universities and fee discounts for students of maths and science will be delayed or cut as part of \$1 billion in savings from the education budget.

Students of maths, statistics and science units at university will pay about 40 per cent more for their studies from 2013 after the government abolishes a concession introduced to entice more students to take those subjects.

The Tertiary Education Minister, Chris Evans, said the discount had not been an effective incentive and axing it would save more than \$400 million over three years.

Advertisement: Story continues below

The government will save a further \$240 million by abandoning plans to pay bonuses to universities based on student satisfaction and learning outcomes. Universities, unions and opposition parties criticised the cuts. In one piece of good news, application charges for student visas will be reduced by 5 per cent to make Australia more internationally competitive.

Implementation of a promise to reward schools for improvements will be delayed by two years, saving \$154 million. The first payments will now be made in 2015.

The School Education Minister, Peter Garrett, announced last week the government was cutting \$200 million from its performance bonuses for teachers.

The opposition education spokesman, Christopher Pyne, said Labor had put its education agenda "on layby".

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/postgraduate-education/science-and-maths-study-incentives-axed-20111129-1o58e.html#>

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SCHOOL AUTONOMY

Power to the parents has pitfalls in LNP education plan

Terry Sweetman, The Courier-Mail, December 02, 2011

WHEN it comes to schooling, because of work commitments and personal disinclination, I was a largely absent father.

So shoot me. But for once in my life I was in the majority, which makes me wonder about the recent trend towards parental empowerment.

The Federal Government is splashing \$480 million around to "empower participating schools to take decisions at a local level to better respond to the needs of students and the school community".

Queensland has weighed in with a high-minded discussion on ways for principals and school communities to make local decisions focused on improving student outcomes.

And now the Liberal National Party is jumping on the feel-good wagon to relabel an old hobbyhorse as the Independent Public Schools policy.

But when the LNP talks about empowering principals and parents so selected schools can break away from Education Queensland, who is it talking about?

Who are these people who will share the power to hire staff based on community needs and course demands, manage budgets and enforce standards of behaviour?

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/lessons-for-us-all-in-school-critiques/story-e6frerdf-1226211774882>

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NAPLAN & MY SCHOOL

Private schools provide best academic results

Dan Harrison, Sydney Morning Herald, December 6, 2011

PRIVATE schools produce better results than government schools, even once differences in student background are taken into account, an analysis of data from the MySchool website shows.

But the research, published in the latest edition of The Australian Economic Review, does not consider the influence a school's resources has on results, because it is based on data from the first version of the website, which was published last year.

Information on the funding available to each school was first collected for the second iteration of the site, which was published in March.

Advertisement: Story continues below

Paul Miller and Derby Voon, of Curtin University in Western Australia, examined year 3 grammar scores from national literacy tests and found that independent schools produced average scores that were 33 points higher than those of government schools.

Average scores in Catholic schools were 25 points higher than those in government schools. Only about half of these differences could be attributed to differences in student background. The average test score is 500 points.

The finding is at odds with a analysis of results last year from international tests produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/private-schools-provide-best-academic-results-20111205-1ofju.html>

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SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Funding fears for school chaplains

The Age, December 2, 2011

CHAPLAINCY providers have urged Education Minister Peter Garrett to prepare a contingency plan to keep federal funds flowing to chaplains if the High Court rules the program in its current form is unconstitutional.

The chaplaincy scheme has been challenged on the grounds it violates a constitutional protection of religious freedom and exceeds the Commonwealth's funding powers. The case was heard in August.

The National School Chaplaincy Association met Mr Garrett last week to press its concerns. "We need to ensure we can pay our people in the event the High Court makes an adverse ruling," the association's convener, Tim Mander, wrote to Mr Garrett.

Mr Mander said the government should be ready to pay chaplains' salaries through state governments if necessary.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/funding-fears-for-school-chaplains-20111201-1o95x.html>

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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

New education advisory group to help close the gap

The Hon Peter Garrett MP, Minister for School Education, 6 December 2011

Emeritus Professor Paul Hughes will chair a group of Indigenous education experts who will advise the Gillard Government on the best ways to close the gap in educational outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and other students.

The First Peoples Education Advisory Group held its first meeting with School Education Minister Peter Garrett in Canberra this week.

The group includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives from academia, school education, early childhood education and community organisations, Mr Garrett said.

"Our meeting was an important step in the process of improving the education opportunities and results of our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Mr Garrett said.

Read more: <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/new-education-advisory-group-help-close-gap>

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Australia and Indonesia working together towards education for all

Invest in Australia, 30 November 2011

Australia and Indonesia today highlighted their shared commitment to education and helping millions of children to go to school.

World leaders and representatives from leading development agencies joined Australia's Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and Indonesia's Minister for National Development Planning Dr Armida Alisjahbana to discuss challenges in the education sector at the 'Effective Aid for Education' event at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea.

The event showcased the successful elements of development assistance in the education sector, and offered an opportunity to learn from experience.

"Education is a fundamental human right and one of the most important development investments – it is critical to efforts to reduce poverty and inequality," Mr Rudd said.

"Yet 67 million children in developing countries still miss out on an education and 27 million of them live in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Australia and Indonesia have a history of successful engagement in the education sector with our support extending from building schools and training principals, to providing university scholarships," Mr Rudd said.

Indonesia is working hard to ensure all Indonesian children receive a basic education, with almost 100 per cent enrolment of primary school-aged children.

Read more: <http://www.investinaustralia.com/news/australia-and-indonesia-working-together-towards-education-all-56v7>

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BEHAVIOURAL EDUCATION

A new take on kids behaving badly

Denise Ryan, Brisbane Times, November 27, 2011

THE classroom wall is covered in obscenities. The teacher knows the culprit, but decides to clean up the mess and not tell anyone.

This decision to stay quiet may sound unusual, but many teachers struggling with difficult students don't know what to do and fear censure rather than support from colleagues.

Those who battle on often lose their temper more frequently, which in turn means they lose control of their classes. Some become so stressed they leave teaching.

These are the observations of a Melbourne academic who has become an international expert on managing student behaviour.

Professor Ramon Lewis has surveyed hundreds of teachers and thousands of students about their experiences of classroom discipline over almost three decades.

As a former physics and mathematics teacher, the La Trobe University education researcher knows first-hand that most classes have two or three students who won't do what they are told, and if the teacher isn't careful these disruptive individuals can thwart the learning of an entire class.

His research indicates teachers are facing more challenging students as respect for their traditional authority wanes.

Read more: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/education/a-new-take-on-kids-behaving-badly-20111127-1o1cd.html#ixzz1fjqki3KJ>

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Back on track for students brave enough to try again

Andrew Stevenson, Sydney Morning Herald, December 2, 2011

SUCCESS in education is all in the perspective. Some principals look at NAPLAN test scores, the HSC honour roll or the approbation of parents at speech day. For Ross Roorda, head of a special behavioural school in Rooty Hill, achievement might be found in something much more prosaic.

At Plumpton House, it might mean a child deciding he wants to come to school. It might be teaching a teenage boy the right way to respond when stopped by a policeman in the street. It might be equipping someone with sufficient reading skills to not become lost at the edge of society.

Keeping boys off the streets is already doing themselves - and society - a big favour.

"There are kids here now who I've got who, if they're not at school, you can guarantee they'd be shoplifting or involved in some sort of crime," Mr Roorda said. "I've had boys who [police told me] if they weren't at school would be involved in 10 to 15 break-and-enters a day."

As does any principal, Mr Roorda wants his 42 charges to learn as much as they can but, particularly, he wants them to find something that inspires their passion. He also knows more than 40 per cent are likely to serve time in jail. "I want them to find out what they're good at, what they want to do and, if possible, become obsessed with it and follow it," he said.

But here behaviour, rather than being a piece of the puzzle, is the whole box and dice.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/back-on-track-for-students-brave-enough-to-try-again-20111201-1o95d.html#ixzz1fjLerFaa>

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

15,000 extra teachers needed for early childhood reforms

Samantha Donovan, PM ABC Radio, December 1, 2011

MARK COLVIN: A report released by the Productivity Commission this afternoon says 15,000 new teachers are needed to achieve hoped for reform of early childhood education.

And parents are likely to bear the brunt of the cost of the expansion.

Given that the sector's overhaul is to start on January 1st, the commission also says the timelines agreed by the federal and state governments are optimistic.

But the Federal Government is rejecting some of the report's findings.

Samantha Donovan reports.

SAMANTHA DONOVAN: This Productivity Commission report is looking at how the early childhood workforce needs to change so the federal and state governments' shake-up of the sector can be achieved.

By 2013 they're aiming to provide every child access to 15 hours of preschool a week in the year before they start school.

A new National Quality Standard will also set out staff to child ratios and qualification requirements for early childhood teachers.

But the Productivity Commission has found that's going to require thousands of extra staff in a sector it points out is known for its poor pay and conditions.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2011/s3381500.htm>

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Investing early is changing the lives of young Australians

The Hon Peter Garrett MP, Minister for School Education, Minister for Early Childhood and Youth; The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Child Care, 22 November 2011

Minister for Child Care Kate Ellis, today launched a new evaluation report on the Australian Government's \$32.5 million national rollout of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY).

The report shows that HIPPY is having a transformative impact on the lives of children and parents - helping bridge the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds with their peers, before they even start school.

"I'm thrilled to see that the Government's investment in the early years is paying off and helping some of our most vulnerable children to develop a solid foundation for future learning and creating a culture of valuing education at home," Ms Ellis said.

"This report estimates that this program is likely to deliver an ultimate return on investment of up to \$4 for every \$1 spent because the early years of a child's life really can shape their future."

Read more: <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/investing-early-changing-lives-young-australians>

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DIGITAL EDUCATION

Students want more from technology: survey

Peter Dinham, ITWire, 02 December 2011

Australian school children can be at the leading edge of learning if schools embrace new technologies to offer a more individual education experience, according to new research which also reveals that students don't think their needs are currently been met by the education system.

The Telstra sponsored research found that students in particular felt the current educational model was not meeting their needs, as they prepare to compete in the new global knowledge economy.

According to Susi Steigler-Peters, author of Personalised Learning and Telstra General Manager for Education, today's student is transforming how education is delivered and how new technologies can provide an enhanced learning experience.

"From interviews with leading academics and senior representatives in the education sector, we found that the majority of students felt that the current educational model was not meeting their needs, as they prepare to compete in the new global knowledge economy," Steigler-Peters said.

Read more: <http://www.itwire.com/it-industry-news/market/51520-students-want-more-from-technology-survey>

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AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT: Every ACT school commits to a sustainable future

Simon Corbell, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, 01/12/2011

The ACT Government has set a benchmark in sustainable education by becoming the first in Australia to have every school signed up to the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI), Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, announced today.

"From a pilot program involving 20 schools in 2006 to a Territory-wide initiative, this marks a significant milestone for the Government in building a sustainable and environmentally friendly future for the ACT," Mr Corbell said.

"Each of the 128 schools in the ACT have committed to a sustainable future through the AuSSI program to learn more about sustainability and engage participants in a school-wide approach."

The initiative encourages schools to learn about, and identify sustainability through real-life learning experiences and improvements in school resource management and facilities.

"The program assists schools to reduce water, waste and energy consumption and in turn saves valuable school funding. Since 2007, some of our registered schools have reduced water consumption by over 50%, energy use by over 45% and waste to landfill by up to 75%," Mr Corbell said.

Read more: <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=11171>

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ACT: Company gives big to public education

Michael Inman, The Canberra Times, 04 Dec, 2011

A CANBERRA company has donated \$1.4 million to schooling in the ACT - one of the largest private contributions to public education in the territory's history.

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment - a private educator for the 3D animation, game development and visual effects industries - will this Friday officially launch the philanthropic program at Hawker College.

The \$1.4 million, made up of a combination of cash grants and AIE scholarships, will be split across nine Canberra colleges over the coming decade.

The first round of recipients will be announced at Friday's launch.

Canberra entrepreneurs John De Margheriti and Steve Wang decided to establish the benefaction after attending the Hawker College class of 1980 30th reunion celebrations.

Since graduating from the ACT public school system, they have become innovators in the computer gaming and software development industries.

Read more: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/company-gives-big-to-public-education/2380174.aspx?src=rss>

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NSW: Kids are left to take the heat after Minister Adrian Piccoli breaks airconditioning promise

Geoff Chambers, *The Daily Telegraph*, December 06, 2011

EDUCATION Minister Adrian Piccoli has broken a government promise to fund airconditioning at a north coast school because he believes that "sea breezes" will keep the kids cool.

In March, Yamba Public School P&C president Shelly White was told by former MP Steve Cansdell that the school would receive government funding for airconditioning.

Nine months later, the three classrooms do not have airconditioning and kids are being forced to cope with temperatures of up to 38C. Teachers at the school have even set up thermometers inside classrooms and are filling out climate diaries to record the daily temperature.

While the Yamba kids are forced to learn in sweatboxes, the Education Department will next year receive a \$1 million airconditioning upgrade of its CBD headquarters.

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/kids-are-left-to-take-the-heat-after-minister-adrian-piccoli-breaks-airconditioning-promise/story-e6freuzi-1226214578101>

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QLD: Independent school push may trigger 'bitter' strikes

Daniel Hirst, Brisbane Times, 30 Nov, 2011

Queensland's key education union has warned teachers could launch industrial action if a Liberal National Party government pushes ahead with plans to create 120 "independent" state schools.

The Queensland Teachers' Union argued the policy, unveiled today, could lead to the "ruination" of the public system, pitting school against school.

LNP leader Campbell Newman said the opt-in "independent public schools" concept could give state schools more control over their own decisions, including how they spent their money and what disciplinary policies they would implement.

About 120 state schools would have the opportunity to covert to independent status over the next four years, with 30 becoming more autonomous each year, costing the government up to \$21 million in total.

Read more: <http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/independent-school-push-may-trigger-bitter-strikes/2375665.aspx?src=rss>

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QLD: Schools to ban violent parents who assault teachers

Renee Viellaris, The Sunday Mail, December 04, 2011

OUT-of-control parents are being expelled from schools for assaulting teachers. Legally enforced "time-outs" are being handed down as the Education Department moves to protect staff and students.

The department has issued almost 700 warnings and directions against parents and other adults in the past four years, with some being banned from school grounds for up to a year.

Last year, enraged father Dean Funch smashed the head of a Mackay North State High School deputy principal against a brick wall after his son was chastised for smoking.

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal granted an application to have Funch banned from school grounds for a year.

And in a case earlier this year, Sharon Kay slapped the face of a principal when her teenage son was refused entry at a Longreach State School disco.

Read more: http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/schools-to-ban-violent-parents/story-e6freon6-1226213192069?from=public_rss

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SA: Fewer school days to let teachers train

ABC News, December 06, 2011

State schools will have two more non-teaching days from next year in South Australia to let teachers be trained in a revised national curriculum.

There are subjects for subjects including mathematics, science and English.

SA Education Minister Grace Portolesi says staff must be able to teach the new programs.

"The \$10.5 million investment plus the two new pupil-free days will support teachers to teach the new Australian curriculum subjects," she said.

"We know that teachers are the single biggest factor in our schools that make a difference to the quality of education for every child, so this is a really important way of supporting our teachers."

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-12-05/teachers-student-free-days-curriculum/3712650?section=sa>

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TAS: MPs want state delay on school closures

Rosita Gallasch, The Examiner, 02 Dec, 2011

TASMANIAN federal Labor MPs have called on state Education Minister Nick McKim to hold off on closing schools until after the new education funding model is finalised in 2013.

An independent review of federal education funding by David Gonski is under way and is expected to be completed this month.

Tasmanian Labor Senator Carol Brown and Franklin Labor MHR Julie Collins made a joint 14-page submission to the School Viability Reference Group.

Submissions closed on Wednesday.

"We do not want to see Tasmanian students' long-term educational outcomes put at risk for short-term budgetary measures," Senator Brown said.

Read more: <http://www.examiner.com.au/news/local/news/general/mps-want-state-delay-on-school-closures/2378386.aspx?src=rss>

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VIC: Schools to have more autonomy under plan

Melissa Jenkins, 9 News, Nov 29 2011

Pupils studying the same subject may be marked using different methods under sweeping changes planned for Victoria's public school system.

Under the reforms, which would be introduced in 2013 at the earliest, students could elect to be assessed by sitting an exam, completing course work or writing a thesis, particularly in humanities subjects.

An alternative to the Victorian Certificate of Education will be developed, with a Victorian Baccalaureate offering a broader approach to the final years of schooling rather than the predominantly exam-based VCE.

State Education Minister Martin Dixon received a mixed reception for what he branded his vision for the public education system at the University of Melbourne on Tuesday.

He said principals, school councils and parents would be able to decide what subjects and assessments are offered at their schools, rather than being dictated to by the Education Department.

Read more: <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8381857/schools-to-have-more-autonomy-under-plan>

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VIC: Numbers add up at biggest education conference in southern hemisphere

Martin Dixon, Minister for Education, 1 December 2011

Education Minister Martin Dixon today reaffirmed the Victorian Coalition Government's commitment to improving maths education as he opened the biggest education conference in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Dixon welcomed more than 2,000 maths teachers from across Victoria, Australia and the world to the 48th Mathematical Association of Victoria's annual conference at La Trobe University, Bundoora.

"It's encouraging to see so many maths teachers here today ready to learn from each other, challenge each other and share their unique ideas about the work they are doing in their classrooms to make maths education meaningful and fun," Mr Dixon said.

"This government knows the greatest influence in getting students interested in and excited by maths is the teacher, which is why we have invested \$24.3 million in our new Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists Initiative."

Read more: <http://vic.nationals.org.au/news/Article.aspx?ID=13641>

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VIC: \$213,000 to bring the arts to the classroom

Martin Dixon, Minister for Education, 01 December 2011

Six Victorian arts organisations will swap the stage for the classroom in 2012 thanks to the latest round of grants through the Victorian Government's Extended School Residencies program.

Minister for Education Martin Dixon today visited Mahogany Rise Primary School in Frankston North to announce the six Victorian schools that will share in \$213,000 in grants to support a range of arts projects that will extend and strengthen student learning across the curriculum.

"Engagement with the arts can have a powerful effect on young people," Mr Dixon said.

"The arts teach us how to think creatively, explore possibilities and take challenges in new and diverse ways. These skills help us in a range of areas beyond the arts, leading to higher self-esteem, encouraging teamwork and supporting social and personal development."

Through the Extended School Residencies program, arts organisations will work within a school for a minimum of two terms.

Read more: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2638-213000-to-bring-the-arts-to-the-classroom-.html>

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VIC: Baillieu scraps renowned reading recovery program

Rob Hulls, Shadow Education Minister, 2 December 2011

The Baillieu Government should urgently reinstate funding for Victoria's successful Reading Recovery program, Shadow Education Minister, Rob Hulls, said today.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development northern region office has been forced to cut \$100 million from their budget. It will mean any staff member, including Reading Recovery tutors, who resigns or whose contract expires will not be replaced.

The State Opposition is concerned other regions across the state will be hit by these cuts.

Mr Hulls said it appeared the program was the latest victim of the Baillieu Government's \$481 million funding cuts from the education budget.

"Mr Baillieu's decision to slash almost \$500 million from the education budget has now forced schools to cut tutors for the Reading Recovery program," Mr Hulls said.

Read more: <http://www.alpvictoria.com.au/news-events-media/news/baillieu-scraps-renowned-reading-recovery-program/>

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VIC: Class struggle

Ian Munro, The Age, December 2, 2011

The iconic progressive school Preshil pioneered a new kind of education when it opened in 1931. But now it is being shaken to its core by internal conflict, mistrust, misinformation and staff departures.

TO THE casual observer, the pioneering progressive school Preshil would seem the last place for the emergence of enduring conflict and ill-feeling. With its deepest roots sharing the same plot as England's libertarian Summerhill, the school stands as a beacon of difference, the sort of place that might adopt Elvis Costello's Peace, Love and Understanding as its anthem.

It long ago parted ways with Summerhill's "play all day if you want to" ethos, but its prominence — founded in 1931, Preshil is Victoria's oldest progressive school — and its expansion during the 1960s and '70s countercultural movement continue to lend Preshil a distinctive whiff of radicalism.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/class-struggle-20111202-1oa6y.html#ixzz1fLVSUss>

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WA: Geraldton's Waggrakine Primary School scoops teaching awards

Yasmine Phillips, PerthNow, December 05, 2011

WAGGRAKINE Primary School has emerged as the big winner at today's WA Education Awards, taking home three out of eight awards.

The Geraldton school can now boast to have the WA Primary Principal of the Year in principal Lis Turner, the WA School Support Staff Member of the Year in education assistant Tania Crick and one of the Beginning Teachers of the Year in Paula Moses.

Waggrakine Primary School teacher Alison Watt was also a finalist for the WA Premier's Primary Teacher of the Year award, which was won by Tonya Wood from Sawyers Valley Primary School.

Ballajura Community College principal Steffan Silcox was named the WA Secondary Principal of the Year for almost 40 years service to the education system and his innovative programs at the school.

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/geraldtons-waggrakine-primary-school-scoops-teaching-awards/story-e6frg13u-1226214200920>

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REMINDERS

8-14 January - National Science Teachers Summer School - Canberra -
http://www.asta.edu.au/media/2012_national_science_teachers

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ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- Australian Education Digest : <http://www.acsso.org.au/australian-education-digest/> (weekly)
- International News Roundup : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup/> (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/public-education-voice> (quarterly)

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