

As we get used to the familiar routine of the school year and the memory of the summer holidays starts to fade it's sometimes good to look at our own school activities and the reason why our children are there, and what they are learning, and how we as parents can support this at home. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has produced a parent friendly version of the Australian Curriculum in a handy downloadable PDF format. It's presented in a straightforward and visual way that aids easy understanding – it will be a useful tool if you would like to know what your children are learning and a great conversation starter with your child's teacher. They are [here](#) in the various year bandings and can easily be incorporated into your school's communication app or website so as to make it readily available to your school community.

Parental engagement in appreciating the value of learning is one of the crucial advantages that we can give to our children, as is developing their interest in a range of extra-curricular activities. Occasionally there are programmes that cover this with a welcome overlap into formal classroom activities. Club Kidpreneur, with its CK Challenge, is one of these with a practical and theoretical entrepreneurial skills based programme that was embraced in over 500 Australian primary schools last year. It also has the advantage of actively engaging students, parents and school staff, together with the wider community, in an activity that can improve student's sense of self-reliance, wellbeing and to develop a confident what-if perspective on their future lives. www.clubkidpreneur.com

Thinking of the future leads into considering sustainability. ACSSO is a member of the Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (AESA). The key part of AESA's work has been looking into pathways for making education for sustainability more accessible for teachers and students. The result is a newly completed website called 'Getting Started with Sustainability in Schools' www.sustainabilityinschools.edu.au. It's a portal of easily accessible resources and case study examples linking sustainability with everyday teaching practice. Please feel free to explore the website and encourage your child's teacher to use it.

Once again the Safe Schools Coalition Australia (SSCA) appears to be under organised and vitriolic attack from those that should be said to define the values of tolerance and acceptance – an irony that is not lost on ACSSO. The Prime Minister has now initiated a review of the programme that will give the opportunity for an objective appraisal of its efficacy – an opportunity that can be welcomed. Australian Government schools are the backstop of open and inclusive educational opportunities for all – regardless of culture, history, gender orientation, expectations and level of income. At a school level the Government funded SSCA programme is an entirely voluntary programme in the absolute control of the Principal and their staff team to decide what

level of delivery is appropriate for their school and its students. ACSSO fully supports the programme and its wider benefits in defining public education as a champion of inclusivity, acceptance, welcome and safety for all as an indisputable part of our authentic Australian values. It would be good to think that the findings of the review can also allow the Government to expand the scope and delivery of the SSCA initiative as a vital programme for the benefit of the wellbeing of our children and the wider community - children that have an absolute right to feel safe and valued in their schools and wider communities. For more information please visit the Safe Schools Coalition website: www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au

With growing talk around election issues and political machinations can I ask you to consider your family's education priorities. Whilst they are fresh in your mind please go to our new look website www.acsso.org.au and send them in to us on the 'Have a say' link.

Wishing you all the very best for the start of autumn and the necessarily cooler nights to come.

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