



Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

A9210 ABN 44 711 074 857
20 Garden Street, South Yarra VIC 3141
PO Box 2138, Prahran VIC 3181
Phone: 03 9825 7200 Fax: 03 9826 6066
Email: aisv@ais.vic.edu.au

No: 15/2009

Week Ending: 15 May 2009

[Research Investigates the Impact of Relationships on Student Attitudes](#)

Research has suggested that parental attitudes have a strong impact on students' academic motivation.

[New South Wales Independent Schools Call for Fair School Comparisons](#)

The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales has called for the publication of school financial information to be provided on the same basis by schools in all sectors.

[Teachers Threaten Boycott of Literacy and Numeracy Testing](#)

The Australian Education Union has threatened to boycott national literacy and numeracy benchmark testing unless the publication of school league tables is prevented.

[Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

[ResourceSmart School Awards](#)

The Victorian Government is offering prizes for schools that can demonstrate a commitment to the environment.

[Australian Government Language Grants](#)

The Australian Government is offering grants to schools that promote Asian languages and culture.

[Aviation Scholarships](#)

The Royal Australian Air Force Association is offering scholarships to young people who are interested in undertaking flying training.

[Refugees and Education Workshop](#)

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture is offering a workshop for teachers to support student from refugee backgrounds.

[SunSmart Competition](#)

The Cancer Council is running a competition for school children who can promote sun safety.

[Seminars for the week beginning 18 May 2009](#)

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is to the best of our knowledge and belief correct at the date of publication. However, no warranty or guarantee is or can be provided by AISV or any member of its staff, and no liability is or can be accepted for any loss or damage resulting from any person relying on or using this information contained in this publication.

Copyright: AISV Member Schools are welcome to use the information in this publication. Acknowledgement of AISV would be appreciated.

Research Investigates the Impact of Relationships on Student Attitudes

Sydney Morning Herald, Anna Patty, 14/05/09

Research has suggested that parental attitudes have a greater impact on students' academic motivation but that their peers have a greater influence over their social and emotional wellbeing. The study from the University of Sydney included 3450 Australian students in years 7 to 12 and considered the importance of relationships for the students. It assessed their academic outcomes, including motivation, engagement, homework completion, enjoyment of school, attendance and educational aspirations, as well as their non-academic outcomes, including physical self-concept, honesty and emotional stability. The report found that the attitudes of parents and teachers had the greatest impact on students' academic outcomes while students' peers had the greatest impact on their non-academic outcomes. It also found that positive connections and quality relationships with teachers, parents and peers were all important in adolescents' lives. The lead researcher for the study, Professor Andrew Martin, stated that 'the implications of the research are that fostering positive peer affiliation and relationships, and addressing and targeting negative peer interactions, will have positive emotional and social effects. That speaks to the needs of very serious efforts to addressing all forms of bullying.' The study was published in the latest edition of *Teachers College Record*.

New South Wales Independent Schools Call for Fair School Comparisons

Sydney Morning Herald, Anna Patty, 14/05/09

The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales (AISNSW) has asked the Australian Government to provide assurances that the publication of school performance information will permit fair comparisons between schools in different sectors. The Executive Director of AISNSW, Dr Geoff Newcombe, indicated that independent schools generally had few concerns regarding the transparency of school reporting. However, he indicated that comparisons of school income sources needed to be consistent and that current income data for schools was not directly comparable between school sectors. He pointed out that independent schools were required to raise funds for various purposes, such as capital funding expenses and insurance, while these costs were met at the system level rather than by individual government schools. Dr Newcombe stated that 'when you seek information on income, the crucial information is what the income is raised for...We want the Government to assure us before anything is published that the data is comparable between the three sectors.' AISNSW had previously received advice from the office of the Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, that school financial information would be 'disaggregated by broad categories such as fees and levies, scholarships and grants. These requirements will be the same as those required of state government schools under the National Education Agreement.'

Teachers Threaten Boycott of Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Sydney Morning Herald, Anna Patty, 12/05/09

The Australian Education Union (AEU) has threatened that teachers would boycott national literacy and numeracy benchmark testing if governments fail to prevent the release of 'league tables' comparing school performance information. The AEU Federal President, Mr Angelo Gavrielatos, argued that a refusal to pass legislation prohibiting the creation and publication of league tables would guarantee their creation. He criticised plans by the New South Wales Government to overturn legislation passed in 1997 that prevented the publication of school performance information on a comparative basis. Mr Gavrielatos also pointed to the publication of comparable data in the *Hobart Mercury* last week (See Weekly Briefing 14/09) and stated that 'unless appropriate action is taken by governments, the creation and publication of league tables in all states and territories is inevitable. If ministers fail to take action, we will have to take measures which will not allow the creation of league tables.'

Parliamentary News

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) rose on Thursday 7 May 2009 and will next sit from Tuesday 2 June 2009 until Thursday 11 June 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) returned from the Autumn Recess on Tuesday 12 May 2009 for the delivery of the 2009 Australian Budget. Both Houses rose on Thursday 14 May 2009. The House of Representatives will sit from Monday 25 May 2009 until Thursday 4 June 2009. During this time, the Senate will not sit, but will consider the Budget Estimates. The Senate will not resume sitting until Monday 15 June 2009.

ResourceSmart School Awards

Media Release, The Hon Gavin Jennings MLA & The Hon Bronwyn Pike MLA, 04/05/09

The Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, The Hon Gavin Jennings MLA, and the Victorian Minister for Education, The Hon Bronwyn Pike MLA, have announced that the Victorian Government will provide awards to schools that are able to demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Under the *2009 Victorian ResourceSmart School of the Year Awards*, all Victorian primary and secondary schools that undertake sustainability projects will be able to enter the awards. Awards will be presented to schools in the Energy Smart, Water Smart, Waste Smart and Biodiversity Smart categories. In particular, the 2009 Awards will incorporate the 'nude food' Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge, which encourages students to bring lunches to school on Wednesday 22 July 2009 without any wrapping. Entries to the competition close on Monday 24 August 2009. Go to www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators/rebates_and_grants_2433.html for further information on the awards.

Australian Government Language Grants

Media Release, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, 04/05/09

Minister Gillard has announced that the Australian Government will provide grants to schools to promote the teaching and learning of Asian languages and Studies of Asia. As part of the *National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program*, the *Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools* grants will provide \$62.4 million between 2009 and 2011 to primary and secondary schools that teach Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean or which study the cultures of these four countries. Individual schools will be eligible to access up to \$20,000, while clusters of two schools will be able to receive \$25,000 and clusters of at

least four schools can receive \$40,000 or more. The program will be administered by the Asia Education Foundation. Go to www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public_html/nalssp_grants.htm for further information on the grants

Aviation Scholarships

The Royal Australian Air Force Association, the Royal Victorian Aero Club, the 460 Bomber Squadron Scholarship Trust and Mobil Aviation are seeking applications from young people aged between 17 and 25 for three scholarships to undertake flying training. The scholarships provide recipients with the General Flying Progress Test stage of the Private Pilot's Licence and are valued at approximately \$6,500 each. Interested parties are required to collect application forms from the Royal Victorian Aero Club's counter at either Moorabbin Airport or Coldstream Airfield. Applications must be returned to the same place by Friday 31 July 2009. Go to www.rvac.com.au/flying-scholarships for further information about the scholarships.

Refugees and Education Workshop

In conjunction with World Refugee Day, Foundation House, the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, is offering a free workshop on ways that teachers and schools can support students from a refugee background. The *Refugee Experience and the Impact on Education: An Introduction* workshop outlines the experiences of trauma that many refugee students have undergone and discusses the impact that this can have on student learning and wellbeing. It also offers participants with appropriate strategies to help rebuild students' sense of safety, dignity, identity and connection to others while allowing the students a space to learn. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 16 June 2009, from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm and will be held at the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre, 150 Palmerston Street Carlton. Contact Kelly Juriansz at juriansz.kelly.k@edumail.vic.gov.au to register to attend the workshop. Go to www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/rwinfopack.html to access a resource kit for schools that acknowledges the contribution of refugees to Australian society and go to www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/teachlearn/student/StrengtheningOutcomes-rpt-v1.pdf to access additional information on the range of resources available to support students from refugee backgrounds.

SunSmart Competition

As part of National Skin Cancer Action Week, the Cancer Council is running a SunSmart competition for school children. Children aged between 12 and 17 years are able to enter the competition as individuals or school groups by using images or text to convey the message and protecting your skin from the sun. Entries must be no more than 500 words, three images or two minutes for movies. All entries must include the five SunSmart messages – slip, slop, slap, seek and slide. Applications close on Friday 6 November 2009 and the winners will be announced during National Skin Cancer Action Week from Sunday 15 November 2009 until Saturday 21 November 2009. Go to www.cancer.org.au/sunsmartcomp for further information and to access competition entry forms.

Seminars for the week beginning 18 May 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 18/05	New Principals' Forum (continued from Sunday 17/05)	8.30 am – 3.30 pm	Como Hotel
	ICT Accomplished Schools	9.00 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
	VCE LOTE – The Detailed Study 2	9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Board Room
	Professional Learning Culture	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	CSE
Tuesday 19/05	Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) – Day One	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Seminar Room
	How to differentiate the curriculum to cater for ALL of the students in your class	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Bayview Hotel
	AISV Annual General Meeting and Dinner	5.00 pm – 9.30 pm	Camberwell GS
Wednesday 20/05	Using Interactive White Boards in Numeracy Learning Centres	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Firbank GS
	Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) – Day Two	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Seminar Room
Thursday 21/05	Leadership in Practice – Day 3	7.30 am – 10.00 am	Como Hotel
	The Primary School LOTE Class – What Makes for a Fantastic Program? – Day Two	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
	New LOTE Teachers Support/Professional Learning Group – Day Two	4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Seminar Room
Friday 22/05	Scaffolding Writing for the ESL Learner (P - 6)	9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Seminar Room
	Understanding Disordered Eating in Young People – Prevention and Early Intervention	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre

The Seminar Room is located at 20 Garden Street. The Training Centre and Board Room are located at 30 Garden Street. The New Principals' Forum and the Leading the Team Forum will take place at the Como Hotel, 630 Chapel Street South Yarra. The Professional Learning Culture Workshop will take place at the Centre for Strategic Education, Mercer House, 82 Jolimont Street East Melbourne. The Curriculum Differentiation workshop will be held at Bayview on the Park, 52 Queens Road Melbourne. The Interactive White Boards seminar will be held at the Sh@re Learning Centre, Firbank Grammar School, Barkly Street Brighton. The AISV Annual General Meeting will be held at Camberwell Grammar School, 55 Mont Albert Road Canterbury.

Note: The AISV Weekly Briefing is also available on the AISV web site, including back issues. The AISV web site is at <http://www.ais.vic.edu.au>

To obtain further information on any of the above matters, please contact AISV

Ph: (03) 9825 7200 Fax: (03) 9826 6066

Email: aisv@ais.vic.edu.au