CCSP eNews

ATSI Committee Chair, Sharon Cooke

Yaama (Hello), I am Sharon Cooke, the Chair of the ATSI CCSP Committee.

The ATSI Committee was formed as a standing committee of the CCSP in 2005 and since that time has met on a regular basis at least 3 or 4 times a year. The committee is made up of parent reps from the 11 NSW dioceses. Our ATSI CCSP committee came together to bring the voices of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic families to the table of Catholic education NSW.

Over the years the ATSI CCSP Committee has been engaged in many valuable initiatives that benefit our Aboriginal families in our schools as well as the broader school community.

Some of these initiatives have been producing resources on cultural awareness training and professional learning for school staff, guidance around school funding and ideas for the development and design of specific programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families. The committee has also been very proactive in developing resources to support parents and schools in transitioning students to kindergarten, high school and into post-school options.

On Monday 4th August celebrations were held for Aboriginal Children’s Day at Redfern Park. The theme was – KIDS IN CULTURE – STRONG, PROUD, RESILIENT. The celebrations were held without any funding. The whole day ran solely on the good will of services, organisations and schools who donated their time to host children’s activities and performances. This day was seen as an opportunity to promote the ATSI CCSP Committee to other services in the Sydney area and a way to network and share the good news around what our Catholic schools are doing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Organisers were very pleased with the turn out and felt it could easily grow to be an important event on the calendar for our wider ATSI CCSP group. This year’s event was attended and supported by Sydney Diocesan ATSI CCSP parent rep Neisha Licitra.

To view our page and find great resources on attendance and other things visit the website:

Roger O’Sullivan Award Winner

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the inaugural Roger O’Sullivan Award is St Michael’s Primary Parish School, Deniliquen in the diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. Congratulations to the staff and students of St Michael’s, on the wonderful suite of initiatives they have at their school that are successfully building community and parent engagement in their child’s education. The presentation will be held before the end of term in Deniliquen.

It was heart-warming to receive so many high-calibre applications evidencing the great work that is being done in our schools all over NSW. Each and every application was deserving of high commendation and so it made the selection process for the panel very difficult.

Thank you to all those schools who put so much effort into applying for the award and once again congratulations on the great work that you are doing in your schools. It is our hope to showcase some of the initiatives on the www.partners4learning.edu.au website so they can be shared with other schools and educators. Don’t forget, you will get another chance to apply next year too!

Parents and Students

NSW Domestic Violence Line

Did you know there is a 24 hour, 7 day a week telephone service that offers immediate and short term crisis counselling, support, referral, and specialist advice to women and children seeking to escape from situations of intimate partner/ex-partner violence? This service operated by the Community Services’ NSW Domestic Violence (DV) acts as a single referral point providing information on approximately 2,500 different support services available state-wide, including crisis accommodation.

Anyone who is experiencing or knows someone experiencing domestic violence can contact the NSW Domestic Violence Line on 1800 65 64 63 for help or visit www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au

Transition to School Website

This website developed by Early Childhood Intervention Australia is a wonderful resource with plenty of tips and hints for families of children starting school: from when is the right starting age to the special requirements for children with additional needs.

The Raising Children Network Website

The Raising Children Network website is an invaluable resource for families and schools. Parents can track their child's needs and development from birth to the early teens. Every imaginable eventuality is considered on this site from: Dad’s Guide to Pregnancy to Talking to Teens and many of these can be produced in a handy downloadable printed booklet. Great to hand out at parent meetings, kinda orientations and with enrolment packs too.

http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/

What is RoSA?

The RoSA is the Record of School Achievement your adolescent will receive if they have completed year 7 to 10 subjects but leave school before sitting the HSC. Some students will remain in high school after completing year 10, and leave when they turn 17 years old. In this case, the RoSA is cumulative and will include a summary of all of the subjects that student has undertaken in years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and even 12 – giving an up-to-date picture of everything the student has achieved in secondary. The RoSA is mailed to students soon after the school notifies the Board of Studies that the student has left.

Twice a year (in May and October) students have the option of sitting a Literacy and Numeracy test for the purpose of demonstrating their ability to prospective employers or education institutions. Students need to advise their teacher as soon as they make the decision to take the test as they will need to be enrolled. For more information view the PDF below or visit the Board of Studies website at the link below.


Better Together: Schools Advisory Bodies Website

This new website is a brilliant resource for School Boards, Councils, P&Fs, school executives and others involved in Catholic education. Grounded in solid Catholic principles and practices, it features a bounty of excellent resources on everything from parent engagement to meeting procedures to why we have Catholic schools. This website has already proven to be an invaluable companion to so many who administer parent bodies, run meetings or wish to research Catholic teachings and parent engagement more fully. The website was created through a partnership with the dioceses of Armidale, Broken Bay and the CCSP under the Empowering Local Schools initiative. Please visit the Better Together website at www.btadvisorybodies.catholic.edu.au. Once you have, it is guaranteed you will return again and again.

March 2015 State Election

The CCSP has long had a role in informing parents about election issues that affect our Catholic schools and in providing materials for schools and P&Fs. In conjunction with the NSW Catholic Education Commission, the CCSP has prepared an Election Kit for the 2015 State Election which is being sent to all principals and P&Fs in NSW schools. The Kit includes: A Guide To Political Action; A series of 16 electronic newsletter inserts; A4 Flyer on ‘The Facts’; Frequently Asked Questions; list of student numbers in each electorate; and the list of State MP contact details. These resources are also downloadable from our website at http://ccsp.eon.com.au/elections. In this kit, you will find guidelines on how to approach politicians and how to conduct meetings with them that are positive and effective. It is critical that local State and Federal Members of Parliament know and understand how decisions affect our schools and families. Remember, as Catholic school parents we can never become complacent about our schools funding!

On the evening of 22nd October, parliamentarians, Catholic Education Commissioners and Secretariat, Catholic Education Directors and CCSP reps gathered at a reception at Parliament House, Macquarie Street. Speakers included Archbishop Elect, Anthony Fisher, CEC Executive Director, Brian Croke, Minister for Education and NSW MPs. The CCSP/Lismore Parent Assembly iConnect Conference

‘It takes a village to raise a child’ is the theme of the conference to be held the weekend of 16, 17 May, 2015 at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour. This conference, co-hosted by the CCSP and Lismore Parent Assembly promises to be filled with inspirational speakers, great networking and worthwhile workshops. Keynotes include Michael Grose, Australia’s number one parenting educator, Bruce Sullivan, Relationship Specialist and Fr Elio Capra sdb, modern, straight-talking theologian.

We hope you are able to join us and look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. For more information about the conference and to register, please visit our website at www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au
for Education, Adrian Piccoli and Opposition Leader, John Robertson. Politicians, educators and parents enjoyed the opportunity to meet and discuss issues pertinent to our schools and education in general.

Schoolzine

Schoolzine has transformed the humble school newsletter into a multi-functional, interactive platform that can be accessed wherever you have Internet... at home on your PC, via your mobile or perhaps on an iPad - at your convenience. This is not simply emailing home a PDF copy of your old print newsletter. This is truly revolutionising the flow of information and communication between home, school and the broader community, resulting in the best possible outcomes for the youngest members of the community - our children!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=docqRB7KdCU