

CCSP eNews

It Takes A Village

The 11th CCSP joint parent conference was hosted by the Lismore Parent Assembly at the stunning Opal Cove Resort in Coffs Harbour last weekend. Approximately 200 parents, educators, presenters and clergy joined in their ‘village’ to listen to the fantastic line-up of speakers; network with others from around NSW and out of state; and refresh their commitment to parenting, educating and their village. The workshop themes of the *village school*, *village chapel*, *village skate park*, *village well-being centre*, and *village parish* provided the perfect backdrop for connecting with all the aspects of our village and family life. Director of Catholic Schools, Lismore, David Condon reminded us that while schools play an important and pivotal role in our children’s education



“It has to be clearly understood however that parents do not give up their rights as the first and prime educators of their children when they push them through the gates of the local parish or state school for the first time. The state or church is only a support mechanism for what goes on in the home”.

Among the many highlights of the two-day conference were the angelic voices of the St Augustine’s choir directed by Wendy O’Sullivan who opened the conference, the inspiring speakers, our 20th Birthday Party Dinner on Saturday night and above all the opportunity to connect with all the people in our village! A huge thank you to all our sponsors; the Lismore Parent Assembly and Schools Office; CCSP team and all the many hands who contributed to making it a wonderful weekend.

To hear the choir and access materials from the conference presentations go to:

<http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/conference>

Here are some photos from the weekend



Review, Review, Review

The external review of the CCSP is now underway with stakeholders from all aspects of our operation being invited to take part through interviews, focus groups and an online survey.

Phil Billington, recently retired Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sandhurst has been commissioned to conduct the review. Her experience in Catholic education combined with her commitment to parent engagement will ensure the process is expertly guided. This is a golden opportunity for the CCSP to connect with all our various audiences to find out how we can best serve our community in the years ahead. So, fill in the online survey and forward it to others in your community too. We look forward to hearing from you!

<https://surveyplanet.com/553ed9117569d4376506d09c>

Parents and Students

St Patrick’s Griffith Innovative Radio Transition Program

Congratulations to St Patrick’s principal, David Adam-Jones for the Catholic Schools Week launch of their Radio Transitioning to Kindergarten segments on 99.7 Star FM. The program was designed to aid and support families in the region whose children will be attending kindergarten in 2016. Ten radio segments covering topics such as ‘Building Positive Relationships with your School’ and ‘The Role of Grandparents’ were aired from 11th March over 10 weeks and featured parenting experts, education officers and CCSP and NCEC personnel. Principal, Mr Adam-Jones said the Transitioning to Kindergarten radio program provides a quality and creative way to communicate to parents and “has been developed to emphasise the essential links between schools and pre-school centres by using a different medium – radio – to communicate to parents and the wider community, a vital link that is inclusive and outreaching to all rural and remote families.” What a great example of starting good ‘parent engagement’ practices from the get-go!



To listen to the podcasts click here:

<http://web.spgww.catholic.edu.au/documents/transitionpodcasts.html>

ARACY Parent Engagement Research Project



Parental engagement is one of the most important factors in the educational attainment of children and youth.

ARACY (Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth) has issued an invitation to the CCSP and all other important organisations involved in this area to participate in a nationwide project exploring parent engagement in children’s learning and education.

ARACY has been engaged by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training to undertake a four year research-based work programme to better understand, strengthen practice and normalise parent engagement in children's education and learning. The project is grounded in the evidence that parents play a central role in children's learning from the early years and throughout primary and high school, and that the purpose of the project is to strengthen the Australian evidence-base about what works and provide practical tools to support partnerships between families, teachers, schools and communities in order to maximise children's learning and wellbeing outcomes. The project will explore parent engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as in culturally and linguistically diverse families and communities and will identify approaches to better equipping families and schools to work together within those communities.

We look forward to contributing to the project and connecting with our readers to provide feedback as and when the need arises. For more information about the project visit the ARACY website at

<https://www.aracy.org.au/projects/parental-engagement>

Schools

Reconciliation Action Plan

A Reconciliation Action Plan is a school or organisation's formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. School Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) provide a school-based model for action using Reconciliation Australia's existing reconciliation framework (Relationships, Respect and Opportunities). This is combined with school-specific framework featuring actions in the classroom, around the school and with the community. School RAPs have been designed as an entirely self-service, online model. Visit the website and start the process for your school, the online form doesn't have to be finished at one sitting and can be assigned to a teacher, parent, principal, secretary or anyone else at the school who is willing to drive it, This is one of the most user-friendly and innovative online programs around to build your own school's Reconciliation Action Plan so sign up today and show a genuine commitment to modelling reconciliation at your school.



<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/schools/raps/>

Leading online safety expert Alastair MacGibbon appointed Children's e-Safety Commissioner

The appointment of Alastair MacGibbon was announced in March this year, following the passing of the Enhanced Online Safety for Children Act 2015, which establishes the office of the Children's e-Safety Commissioner as an independent statutory office within the Australian Communications and Media Authority. This office has the job of establishing an effective complaints system, backed by legislation, to get harmful material targeted at Australian children down fast from large social media sites.

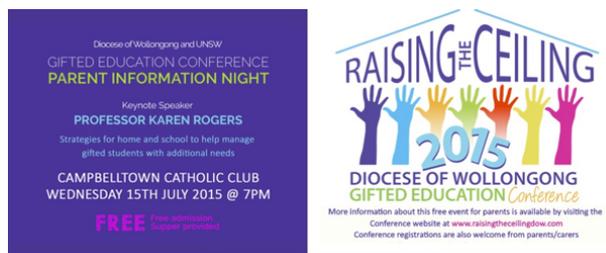


This is great news for parents and promises to provide an extra safety net in the world of online activity. \$7.5 million to assist schools to access accredited online safety programmes was announced as part of \$10 million in the 2014-15 Budget to implement the Enhancing Online Safety for Children policy. To view the CCSP's submission to this policy visit our website at <http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ccsp-submissions>. We welcome Mr MacGibbons who assured parent groups this week that he intends to act swiftly to ensure the safety of our children online. We look forward to working with Mr MacGibbons and parents in this increasingly complex area.

Web Resources

Looking for curriculum resources for parents, teachers, students. The Splash website has over 3000 videos, games and resources mapped to the Australian Curriculum.

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home>



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<http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/subscribe>

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>