VPA eletter No. 01: February 2013

Welcome back to the 2013 school year. I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing break. This year will bring new changes and challenges in Victorian government schools. The VPA aims to be Connected, United and Powerful and work hard to support educational leaders across Victoria. We invite you to become a VPA member. Please click here to visit our website and access a membership form.

2013 Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL) Program

REGISTER BY FRIDAY

Engage your school community in a proven, quality literacy acquisition program

The Victorian Principals Association in conjunction with the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development are pleased to offer primary principals the opportunity to be involved in the ‘Principals as Literacy Leaders’ program in 2013

The program will be delivered in 5 modules with ongoing support and coaching provided throughout the year.

Cost: $500 +GST for VPA members, $590 +GST for non members, includes catering, venue, resources, presenters & 10 hours coaching.

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Program One: - Melbourne – Victorian Principals Association Office Vale Street, North Melbourne</th>
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<tr>
<td>DATE:</td>
<td>MODULE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday March 4</td>
<td>Module 1: Leadership for Literacy Learning Blue Print</td>
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<td>Thurs. March 7</td>
<td>Module 2: What Leaders Need to Know about Learning to Read</td>
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<td>Monday April 22</td>
<td>Module 3: Leading Literacy data Gathering and Analysis</td>
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<td>Monday July 22</td>
<td>Module 4: Designing, Implementing &amp; Monitoring Literacy Interventions</td>
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<td>Monday Oct. 28</td>
<td>Module 5: Evaluating of Intervention &amp; Future Planning</td>
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| Program Two: - Bendigo – DEECD Regional Office 7-15 McLaren Street |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE: | MODULE | PRESENTER |
| Tues. March 5 | Module 1: Leadership for Literacy Learning Blue Print | Professor Neil Dempster |
| Wed. March 6 | Module 2: What Leaders Need to Know about Learning to Read | Anne Bayetto |
| Wed. May 1 | Module 3: Leading Literacy data Gathering and Analysis | Professor Neil Dempster |
| Tuesday July 23 | Module 4: Designing, Implementing & Monitoring Literacy Interventions | Anne Bayetto |
| Monday Oct. 21 | Module 5: Evaluating of Intervention & Future Planning | Professor Neil Dempster |

Please express your interest by emailing VPA Executive Officer, Rebecca Vosper at rvosper@vpa.org.au or phone 8379 4000. Registrations close on Friday, 15 February.
Professional Advocacy

AUSVELS
The expectation of government and Catholic sector school jurisdiction authorities is that all teachers will report students’ achievement against the AusVELS standards in 2013. AusVELS includes the Australian Curriculum for English, History, Mathematics and Science, structured to reflect Victorian priorities.

Internet Access for Government Schools
Click here to read an article in The Age regarding the impact of State Government EMA funding cuts on schools, in which the VPA viewpoint is represented. We have developed two Position Papers addressing this issue; EMA & School Start Bonus and Cuts to Frontline Services.

School Start & Term Dates Debate
Click here to read a Herald Sun article about a radical idea of starting the school year in March. I am quoted as calling for a review of term dates to address uneven term lengths.

Professional Services and Support

Spotlight on the VPA Board
VPA Deputy President - Glenn Butler
Glenn is currently the Principal of Ormond Primary School in inner South-Eastern Victoria. With 13 years as a government school principal, he has been active in building effective and productive principal class networks along formal and informal lines. As Deputy President, he is committed to creating and building real opportunities for Principal Class Officers’ concerns and ideas to be presented to government and DEECD.

Glenn’s particular expertise is around maximising the effectiveness of schools within budgetary limitations. The key strategies he utilises revolve around developing broad student leadership roles, managing community energy in schools and working creatively with medium-size schools to deliver the broadest range of progressive curriculum programs.

Glenn represents the VPA and government principals at regular VCAA meetings as well as assessment and leadership development forums. He works actively with Board and State Councillors to facilitate regular regional VPA meetings which focus on the needs of members.

Glenn believes that the VPA serves the real needs of principal class members and advocates on their behalf to the government, DEECD and the media. As the VPA is continuously asked for responses to educational and professional issues by the DEECD, all levels of government and the media, members’ views can be coordinated and conveyed to these key bodies.

Introducing a new benefit for VPA members – Free Journey Insurance
As part of the new membership fee structure, the VPA is now offering a new service to full members - free journey insurance that will protect you during your journey to and from work. Under the Victorian State Workers compensation scheme, Principal Class Officers were not fully covered.

As a VPA member, you will now be covered if you sustain an injury while travelling from your residence on your normal journey to work or on the return journey. Cover is also provided while on any authorised meal break provided your journey is limited to a radius of fifteen kilometres from your place of work.

“The scope of cover affected will apply where the insured person is:
1. Travelling directly from their usual place of residence to their usual place of employment, or
2. Travelling directly from their usual place of employment to their usual place of residence, or
3. On an authorised meal break and within a radius of 15 kilometres from their place of work.

Cover shall commence from the time the insured person leaves or arrives at the boundaries of their normal residence and/or place of employment to commence or end the journey”.

The VPA believes members require appropriate protection in your pivotal role as educational leaders.

VPA Principal Handover Checklist
The VPA Principal Handover Checklist has been newly updated and is accessible under the Members’ section on the VPA website under the ‘Collegiate Support’ tab.

Appointments announced over the School Break – Congratulations is extended from the VPA Regional Directors
Peter Greenwell, North-Eastern Victoria
Jeanette Nagorcka, North-Western Victoria
John Allman, South-Eastern Victoria
Malcolm Millar Acting Regional Director South-Western Victoria
Deputy Regional Directors, DRD, Child, Learner and Family Services Branch will lead the delivery of key health and wellbeing services directly to children, young people and their families.

Anthony Raitman, North-Eastern Victoria
Simon Milligan, North-Western Victoria
Denise Ramus, South-Eastern Victoria
Lesley Hubble, South-Western Victoria

The Deputy Regional Directors, Service Planning Branch will support integration of the learning and development system through community.

Judy Rose, North-Eastern Victoria
Dean Mann, South-Eastern Victoria
North-Western Victoria - To be appointed in 2013
Peter Henry will act as Deputy Regional Director, Service Planning in South-Western Victoria until 30 June 2013.

The Deputy Regional Directors, Provider Performance, Accountability and Improvement Branch will lead the monitoring of performance of the learning and development system at both the system level and at individual provider level.

Bob Stephens, North-Eastern Victoria
Barbara Crowe, North-Western Victoria
Karen Cain, South-Eastern Victoria
Grant Rau, South-Western Victoria

The Senior Advisors Regional Performance and Planning (SARPP) will work to help integrate the regional learning and development system and facilitate the improvement of lifting learner achievement and outcomes.

Mark Anderson, Wendy Baker, Catherine Cape, Cheryl Chapple, Vincent Dobbs, Alex Greenwell
Simon Hamilton, Mona Malouf, Julie McMahon, Mary Prendergast, Anne Rae, Dennis Pratt
Leonie Campbell, Claude Sgroi, Gary Weir, David Welch, Philip White, Rodney Williamson

Dr Xavier Csar as Executive Director, Pathways, Participation and Youth.
Arthur Townsend as Executive Director, Leadership, Policy and Performance Division- School Education Group.
Sharon Ardley as Executive Director, People & Productivity Division and Kate Rattigan as Executive Director, Legal Division.

AITSL Reflection Tool
The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) recently released a 360° online Reflection Tool to help principals improve their leadership through self-reflection and feedback from a range of sources. The 360° Reflection Tool is available on the AITSL website.

Australia China Connections
Message from the Australian Ambassador to China: Celebrating 40 years
2012 was another busy year in the Australia China relationship, marked by a number of cultural events to celebrate the 40-year anniversary, writes Australian Ambassador to China, Frances Adamson. To read more, click here.

Australia in the Asian Century Craig Emerson, Australia’s Minister for Trade and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Asian Century Policy, outlines key directions and government initiatives for implementing the findings of the recently announced Australia in the Asian Century White Paper. To read more, click here

Professional Learning

VPA CHINA STUDY TOUR
15th – 29th September, 2013

Building an Asia literacy program in your school
An amazing opportunity for leadership teams in Victoria

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST!

The 2013 VPA China Study Tour, planned for 15 – 29 September 2013 and led by VPA Life Member Aileen Hall, will be instrumental in assisting leaders and leadership teams in building Asia Literate schools.

The tour will include working in schools and give participants the opportunity to visit key cultural sites around Beijing, Xian, Nanjing and Shanghai, including the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City whilst interacting with school leaders. In keeping the cost as low as possible, it is anticipated that the cost of the tour will be $4,900 per person for twin share or $5,500 per person for a single room supplement.

Visit the VPA website to find out more. Register your interest now by emailing Rebecca Vosper at rvosper@vpa.org.au.

AusVELS Implementation Workshop – Fully Booked

Please note that registrations for all additional sessions are now fully booked. If you have successfully registered you will have received confirmation from Sue O’Connor.

11th World Convention of the International Confederation of Principals ICP 2013

For further information on this convention and the link for expressions of interest for presenting a paper / workshop is at http://icp2013.org/. The ICP’s monthly newsletter is also now available by clicking here.

Key Dates:
- Registrations OPEN
- Social/Accommodation Bookings NOW OPEN
- Preliminary Tour Bookings – NOW OPEN via www.icp2013.org
- Presenter Registration Deadline – 20 March 2013

2013 VPA Annual Conference - Optimising Public Education – Research and Renewal

SAVE THE DATE - 'Optimising Public Education - Research and Renewal'

The 2013 VPA Annual Conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne on Thursday 5th & Friday 6th September, 2013 and will focus on 'Optimising Public Education - Research and Renewal'.

Professional Learning Workshops

Smart Human Resource Planning – Living Within Your Means

A workshop for School Leaders

The workshop session will include:

- Why spend time on workforce planning?
- Top tips for getting it right
- Using the SRP Planner effectively
- Consequences of not planning e.g. Workforce Bridging, excess

- Example SRP documents and reports are included in the provided presentation notes but participants may wish to bring along their current SRP School Budget Management Report to refer to as discussions unfold.

- Wi-Fi access is available.

Please Note: This is an updated repeat of the same workshop held last year.

Cost:  
- Members $90.00 (inc. GST)
- Non-members $120.00 (inc. GST)

Date:  
- Wednesday 27th February, 9.30am – 12noon

Venue:  
- VPA Offices, Unit 2, 13 – 21 Vale St, North Melbourne

Visit the VPA website for further details and registration forms.

10 Steps to a Successful School iPad Program

Click here to access a blog on how to successfully implement the iPad in schools.

Interesting Apps for your iPad

Pinnacle Studio ($9.99)

Pinnacle Studio is a really easy to use, powerful video editing app for the iPad.
Educreations Interactive Whiteboard (iPad, Free)

Educreations Interactive Whiteboard is a great way to explain things and to get students involved in teaching each other. Users are able to record presentations and share with the rest of the world.

Great Apps for Early Years

AppStart for iPad (Free for a limited time)

AppStart for iPad is an app starter kit has all the essentials you need.

First Words Animals ($1.99)

First Words Animals is a fun educational tool which helps children understand the relationships between letters and words.

If you no longer wish to receive Victorian Principals Association electronic information, please forward “UNSUBSCRIBE” in the subject line and email to info@vpa.org.au.