

# Victorian Principals Association



Unit 2, 13-21 Vale Street, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia  
t: (03) 8379 4000 f: (03) 9326 9950 e: [info@vpa.org.au](mailto:info@vpa.org.au) w: [www.vpa.org.au](http://www.vpa.org.au)  
Freecall: 1800 VPA VPA (Vic Country) <http://vicprinassoc.wetpaint.com>



## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

" Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life. "

~Henry L. Doherty

### VPA eLETTER No 1: February 2010

Welcome back for the 2010 school year. I do hope it has started well for you.

## VPA Advocates For and On Behalf of Members

### English Online - GREAT NEWS!!!

After continuing negotiations with DEECD we are really pleased to announce there will be **NO Year 1 and 2 English Online** assessment this year. The VPA was congratulated for their research with members to develop a better time frame and implementation strategy in consultation with DEECD over the past few months. This decision by our Minister is really welcome, as it gives us time for proper strategies to be put in place. In 2011 the testing will occur at the beginning of the year. This means it is a really diagnostic instrument which can be put to optimum use by teachers

2011 suggested timing:

Prep Weeks 1 - 4

Year 1 Weeks 1 - 4

Year 2 Weeks 3 - 6

Our other big concern is still the funding especially for Years 1 and 2. Our suggestion is that the \$100 anomaly money be directed into this implementation.

### Myschool Website

**Extract from a letter written by Brian Burgess VASSP and myself sent to the Age last week:**

*The actual site is lacking crucial information such as Finances spent on education in each sector. At present the available information is very limited, e.g. basic Naplan test results. This only provides one snapshot of student learning and no context. In comparison the Victorian Performance Summary which has been available on the web since last December provides much richer information and adjusts for the nature of the students' intake.*

*Victorian government primary and secondary principals are concerned about the potential misuse of the simplistic data on the MySchool site. Overseas experience has shown us that deep student learning has not improved by publicising basic measures. Our students deserve the best education system from our federal government – not one that shames and blames.*

### Relevant articles

[The Transparency Myth](#) by Richard Teese, Professor and Director of the Centre for Post-Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning in the University of Melbourne, The Age - 27 January, 2010

*For more than 30 years Australian governments of different persuasions have sought to measure how well our schools work. However, publishing results at a school level has been resisted as narrow, insensitive, and statistically dubious.*

[Slow Learners](#) by Shaun Carney, The Age – 30 January 2010

*The bog-standard take on politicians and reform is that just about all of our leaders are too spineless or self-interested or unimaginative to really grasp the nettle and impose deep, lasting policy changes. If bad policies continue, it's the politicians' fault. A lot of the time that's accurate enough but it's far from the full picture. The week-long controversy around the launch of the My School website is a case in point.*

## VPA Unites Members and provides Professional Services

### 2010 Professional Learning now on the website

The details of VPA Professional Learning activities for 2010 are now available [on our website](#). Registration forms will be distributed and added to the website as they become available, so be sure to keep an eye on both the eletter and website so as not to miss out.

### Term 1 Professional Learning

Professional Learning activities scheduled for Term 1 are as follows:

**Maximising Your School Review** – Tuesday 16 February (Metro)

**Joint VPA / VASSP Resources Forum: BER** – Wednesday 24 February

**Preparing for Principalship** – Tuesday 16 March (Metro), Thursday 18 March (Bendigo)

**Joint VPA / VASSP Resources Forum: Fairwork Legislation** – Wednesday 17 March

### Annual Conference



VPA / VASSP combined Conference is **Monday 30- Tuesday 31 August** at the **Grand Hyatt** in Melbourne. It is centred on **Creative Leadership** and will be The Event for Victorian School Leaders in 2010.

### Leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools – Engage with Asia

**Brilliant funded PD opportunities** are available for all teachers on **March 19 at the Zoo** and for English teachers on **March 5 at The Arts Centre**. **Get your Masters or Grad Cert of Education for free!?** Not quite a 'free lunch' but getting close!

Spaces are available for teachers wishing to upgrade their qualifications (Grad Cert: 3 units to be completed this year; Masters of education: 4+ units depending on RPL credits starting this year). Expressions of Interest close February 12. All information can be found at the website: <https://studiesofasia.wikispaces.com/>

### VCAA Early Years Exchange

The VCAA has released the first of its Early Years Exchange – a monthly newsletter designed to help services 'get started with the Framework'. This month features a recorded conversation with Collette Tayler about the Framework. It is available on the [VCAA website](#).

### VPA China Instructional Leadership - China study tour 18 September – 3 October, 2010



One of our Life Members Aileen Hall is planning a study tour in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term break 18 September – 3 October. The tour would consist of working in schools and visiting interesting sites around Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou and Nanjing. It is anticipated that the tour would be under \$3800. This is a rare opportunity to really access high level Professional Learning inside the Chinese culture. I do thank Aileen for her fantastic connections and work to bring Australia and China closer. Please send me an email if you are interested in finding out more.

## VPA Facilitates Collegiate Support for Members

### Bushfire Support for our schools

Principals Australia, in collaboration with the ANU Australian Child & Adolescent Trauma Loss & Grief network, has planned staff team training events. The focus is for Principal Class, Teacher & Educational Services Personnel to register and attend one of the following programs as outlined below:

1. Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at Mt Pleasant Hotel, Grant St. Alexandria
2. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at Whitehaven Receptions, Wallan Rd. Whittlesea
3. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March at Yarra Valley Race Course, Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen
4. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Moe RSL Club, 63 – 67 Albert Rd. Moe
5. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Old Priory, 8 Priory Lane, Beechworth

Contact Terry Condon Principals Australia: 0409 790 770 Email: [terry.condon@pa.edu.au](mailto:terry.condon@pa.edu.au)

## VPA Connects & Enlists Members

### Why join the VPA? A member's experience...



*I joined the VPA upon entering the Principal Class as I wanted to be involved with a professional organisation that represented and understood the issues I faced in my role. The VPA has enabled me to keep abreast of current topics of interest and has provided me with a voice to contribute to the education agenda. I particularly like the opportunities to provide feedback on the position papers that represent the views of the members. Additionally the professional learning opportunities provided are current, topical and relevant to my role.*

*I have gained information through both regional meetings and as a councillor. This has enabled me to make more informed decisions when leading my school and afforded me the chance to develop stronger collegiate links.*

*My belief in the support offered by the VPA prompted me to join my school's leading teachers as associate members. We all enjoyed the recent conference together and were able to use this along with the Leadership in Focus and eletter publications as points of reference and discussion at our leadership meetings. Most importantly to me though is the knowledge that I know that there is always someone on the other end of the phone who cares about my job.*

**~Anne-Maree Kliman, Principal St Albans East Primary School**

### Interesting Websites

#### **The Alannah and Madeline Foundation Better Buddies Program**

Better Buddies is a whole-school initiative helping to create friendly and caring primary school communities where bullying is reduced. It is designed to enhance existing buddy programs, or introduce a buddy programs to primary schools for the first time. For more information and contact details, visit <http://www.amf.org.au/betterbuddies/>.

### Kind Regards

**Gabrielle Leigh** VPA President

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