

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

"The goal of an effective leader is to recondition your team to be solution focused rather than problem focused."

~ Jim Rohn

VPA eLETTER No 2: March 2010

Congratulations on surviving a huge term which has been very concentrated partly due to its shortness. Do make sure you take time to rest and reinvigorate - this is a must!

VPA Advocates For and On Behalf of Members

BER Key issues:

Memo Furniture/ Equipment

A memo about furniture, equipment, ICT provision and fittings was due to come out last week and we are urgently waiting for it.

Tendering

Final round of tenders for rounds 2 and 3 is continuing over the next couple of months— over 20% still to tender.

Project Managers

It is vital to meet with your Project Manager fortnightly – if they are not making themselves available please call Andrew Dalgleish.

Sharing facilities with your community

Policy guidelines for Schools as community facilities can be found on this weblink
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/infrastructure/facilitypartner.htm>

SSSO Rollout across Victoria

This was a huge issue coming out of the VPA Council and Board planning. I have spoken with DEECD – Ian Claridge and taken all the issues that were raised across Victoria. Brian Burgess and I had a very good hearing and a number of our concerns will be discussed at the state-wide meeting of SSSO managers. The Age ran a story about it this issue on Sunday; please click [here](#) to read it.

Our issues were: Reduced service delivery, staffing shortages, distance travelled and time out from schools, funding to schools, professional treatment of SSSO and the increased role of the school Principal.

Classrooms Under Siege Article

Peter Mickelborough wrote about our concerns with increasing violence in schools and lack of welfare officers to deal with the situation in over half our primary schools. The number of violence related lockdowns has increased significantly. <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/classrooms-under-siege/story-e6frf7jo-1225840645896>

Meeting with Minister Morand

Last week Grace Conway, one of our Board members, and I met with Minister Maxine Morand. We discussed a number of issues; Early Years Framework, the Kindergarten assessment, AEDI and funding for prep transition were a few key issues. We presented a number of VPA Position Papers including the VPA/VASSP Consultation Paper, Early Years Literacy Approach.

Netbook Trial

As you are aware we are into the 2nd year of the Netbook trial in Victoria. It has been implemented across 4 regions with different models in Barwon South Western, Loddon Mallee, Grampians and Broadmeadows regeneration project. In early 2010 there was a conference on Illuminate to discuss the process of the trial. The conversation can be downloaded at [here](#). More information is on <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/ictsupportservices/netbooks/default.htm#H2N1000B>

Career Transition Program

I met with Jeff Rosewarne and Tony Bugden about a new round of career transition program occurring. The memo will be out today or tomorrow and closes a week after the holiday break. Please start to prepare for this if applicable. The Principal's recommendation is of utmost importance in the consideration as there are only a few positions available. Would you make sure you are very clear with your message and do not recommend people for the program unless you are in full agreement.

VPA Unites Members and provides Professional Services

Annual Conference

The conference website will be up and running in April. Watch this space for updates.



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.

2010 Professional Learning on the website

The details of VPA Professional Learning activities for 2010 are available [on our website](#).

Term 2 Professional Learning:

Resources Forum: ICT with Dennis Masseni

Dennis Masseni from VPA Business Partner sponsor-ed, will be conducting a resources forum on ICT issues. The session will run on **Wednesday 21 April** from 10am - 12pm and is free of charge.

Path to Principalship with Geoff Barclay

Metro: Tuesday 4 May

Shepparton: Thursday 6 May

How to Avoid the MPB with Peter Hibbins

Metro: Wednesday 14 April

Benalla: Wednesday 21 April

Moe: Tuesday 4 May

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

One of our Life Members Aileen Hall on behalf of the VPA is planning a study tour in the 3rd term break 18 September – 3 October. The tour consists 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 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. We have 19 people going on the China Study Tour. This is a first for the VPA

VPA Facilitates Collegiate Support for Members

APPA

Leonie Trimper president of APPA has a very interesting newsletter available [here](#). She is working federally on our behalf focusing on 4 election issues: Students with Disabilities and Extreme Behaviours, Students' Social and Emotional Learning, Science – Australian Curriculum and Transparency of National Partnerships.

Portland Meeting

Recently I visited Portland. I was very impressed with the initiatives and learning obvious at Portland South Primary School. A local team of principals shared their stories and discussed issues. The VPA wants to ensure there is support for all members statewide.



VPA Connects & Enlists Members

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



I have been a member of the VPA ever since my promotion into the Principal Class. I felt it was important to join an association that represented the Principal Class and had a clear understanding of the specific needs associated with that role.

I have received up-to-date information from the VPA on new initiatives and directions, as well as being invited to provide feedback. The VPA encourages and promotes all members to have the opportunity to contribute ideas and to 'have a say', so that the association is able to clearly represent the views of all members and influence policy development. The VPA has provided me with the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of professional learning as well as sharing with and learning from fellow members. The Professional Learning offered by the VPA is always very timely and very relevant. I am very proud to be a member of such a professional association and in particular my involvement as a VPA Councillor for the Western Region. This has enabled me to develop stronger collegiate links and more informed decisions about department policy and initiatives and engage in a high level of professional dialogue. The VPA provides a wide range of

services and support that members can access. Last year 'Associate Memberships' were introduced for Leading Teachers. This has been a positive and constructive initiative for further development school Leadership Teams as well as their individual leadership skills and develop a collegiate network. Another level of professional learning is through publications, 'Leadership in Focus' and other e-letter publications. The level and quality of communication from the VPA President, Gabrielle Leigh has strengthened the value and quality of our association. I encourage anyone currently not members, in a Leadership Role, to consider joining. I also request anyone in the Principal Class, to encourage their Leading Teachers to join. I will continue to be a member of the VPA and the VPA Council and enjoy the professional learning opportunities as well as the collegiately of my colleagues and the support the association provides.

~ Wendy Emin, Assistant Principal Williamstown North Primary School

Interesting Websites

[21 Things for the 21st Century Project](#)

The purpose of this resource is to provide "Just in Time" training through an online interface for K-12 educators based on the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T). These standards are the basic technology skills every educator should possess.

[60 Educational Game Sites That You've Probably Never Seen](#)

[14 Digital Literacy Activities](#)

14 activities with both student and teacher guidance notes included focussing on four aspects of digital literacies. Still Images, Digital Sound, Moving Images and Digital Text. These activities are aimed at students from years 5 - 9 but you could easily adjust them to suit the needs of older and younger students. The activities can be set as either an independent task or as a whole class activity.

[100 Must-Read Blog Posts on the Future of Learning](#)

Find out what direction the relatively new field of online learning might be taking with these articles.

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Leigh VPA President

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