



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 w: www.vpa.org.au
Freecall: 1800 VPA VPA (Vic Country)



VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

VPA eletter No 1 – January 2011

Welcome back to the 2011 school year. I do hope you have found time to refresh and replenish your batteries. This year will bring a number of changes and challenges in Victorian government schools. The VPA aims to be **connected, united and powerful**. To become a VPA member please click [here](#) to visit our website and access a membership form.

2011 has started in a very challenging way for many of our colleagues around Australia. Our thoughts are with all the many people affected by the floods in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

The School Aid Floods Relief Appeal

SchoolAid has launched a Floods Relief Appeal and we expect schools around the country to rise to the challenge and support the Appeal to make a difference to the lives of the children impacted. On Thursday 17 February, by observing a minute's silence at 1pm AEDST, lowering your school flag to half mast and each student bringing in a gold coin donation towards the Appeal, your school can really make a difference! Click [here](#) for a link to the Appeal site.

English On Line – A real VPA win

We are very pleased with the results of our **VPA advocacy** about **English on line**. It is now **only compulsory for preps** in 2011. The government has finally listened to principals about our huge implementation concerns and lack of resourcing. The Memo came out on 22 December - S627-2010 Revised 2011 English Online Interview Arrangements.

It is now important to keep lobbying throughout 2011 for proper resourcing in grades one and two. In 2011 your school may select certain parts of the assessment in years one and two depending on your resources.

Australian Curriculum

The VCAA published the memorandum to all schools regarding the progress of the Australian Curriculum on Thursday 16 December 2010. The memo is now available online [here](#)

Memo re bank accounts - S581-2010 Financial Commitment Summary

Schools are required to prepare an annual 'Financial Commitment Summary' and submit this to the Department as part of the CASES21 Finance end of year procedures. If you have additional funds it is vital you fill this in accurately as there will be much publicity re financial data and school bank accounts.

VPA China Instructional Leadership - China Study Tour - Expressions of Interest

18th September – 1st October, 2011

An amazing opportunity for you!



Our Life Member, Aileen Hall is planning another study tour in 2011 after last year's being such a great success.

The tour will consist of working in schools and visiting interesting sites around Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou and Nanjing. It is anticipated that the tour would be cost under \$4900. 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/VASSP Conference 2011

Planning for the 2011 conference has begun. The joint VPA and VASSP Conference is entitled **Building Educational Capacity – Enhancing Leadership Potential**. The combined 1 day conference and annual general dinner is on **Monday 1 August**.

McKinsey Report on Improved School Systems

McKinsey's latest education report is the follow-up to the 2007 publication "How the world's best performing school systems come out on top," in which the common attributes of high-performing school systems were examined. In this new report, "How the world's most improved school systems keep getting better," twenty systems from around the world were analyzed, all with improving but differing levels of performance, on how each had achieved significant, sustained, and widespread gains in student outcomes, as measured by international and national assessments. Click [here](#) to assess the report.

Kind regards,

Gabrielle Leigh
VPA President

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