



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if you think in terms of ten years, plant trees; if you think in terms of 100 years, teach people."

~ Confucius

VPA eletter No. 1: February 2012

*Welcome back to the 2012 school year. I do hope the break has given you the opportunity to refresh and replenish your batteries. The VPA aims to be **Connected, United and Powerful** and work hard to support VPA members across Victoria.*

To become a VPA member please click [here](#) to visit our website and access a membership form.

Professional Advocacy

Notebook Leasing and Cleaning Provision in Schools Provisional Position Papers

The VPA has two new Provisional Position Papers that have been accepted after surveying our members; **Notebook Leasing** and **Cleaning Provision in Schools**. These will be passed at our next Council session in March and will then be put on our website.

Compliance Checklist – A BIG WIN for VPA

It is with much relief that we have been informed that the compliance checklist has been suspended for terms 1 and 2 at least. We hope this heralds a movement away from unnecessary 'Red Tape'. This has been a huge concern of VPA members and we appreciate that the government is responding to these concerns through this action.

Student Discipline

Click [here](#) to read a Herald Sun article from yesterday's paper, which features the VPA's view that parents need to provide adequate discipline from home.

Professional Services and Support

Social Media Guidelines

The DEECD has been developing the *Using Social Media: Guide for DEECD Employees in Schools (Guide)*. The *Guide* has been developed to support Victorian professionals within educational settings to understand and meet the behavioural requirements and obligations set out within existing policies and guidelines. In late 2011, representatives from the Innovation and Next Practice Division presented a preview of the draft *Guide* to a group of VPA members. Since this presentation, the *Guide* has been further developed. The *Guide* is now available online within the Department's Learning On Line [website](#). Initial responses to the *Guide* have been very positive.

To further inform the *Guide*, principals and teachers within Victorian schools will continue to be consulted throughout 2012. If you would like to provide feedback or comments regarding the *Guide* please click [here](#). If you require any further information regarding the *Guide* then please email or phone Melissa Bell at bell.melissa.b@edumail.vic.gov.au or 9651 4649.

Parent Payments – Avoid Controversy

School Councils can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges and for voluntary financial contributions.

These payments fall into three categories:

1. **Essential education items** which parents and guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. for stationery, text books and school uniforms where required)

2. **Optional extras** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. for school magazines or extracurricular programs or activities)
3. **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians may be invited to donate to the school (e.g. for grounds beautification, additional computers).
Visit the [DEECD website](#) for further information.

School Start Bonus

From this year, the eligibility for the payment will be based on eligibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance. Visit the [DEECD website](#) for further information.

Principal Key Dates Calendar

DEECD Bulletin S003-2012

The Principal Key Dates Calendar has been redesigned and relocated to eduGate. Click [here](#) to access the calendar.

National Quality Framework DEECD Fact Sheet - Outside School Hours Care Services

A fact sheet regarding preschool age children attending outside school hours care services is now available online [here](#). This fact sheet outlines information for operating an outside school hours care service (centre-based service) that primarily educates and cares for over preschool age children.

State Schools Relief

SSR is a not-for-profit charity that supports Victorian Government School students who cannot access clothing and footwear for school due to circumstances like poverty, neglect, family violence and natural disasters by supplying them with the shoes and clothes they need. In the 10/11 financial year they supported **10,400** applications for support at a cost of **\$762,000** for footwear and clothing. School donations continue to fall and this trend needs to be reversed. Visit the SSR [website](#) and help them make a difference in 2012.

What's So Great About Schools in Finland?

Click [here](#) to read a Make Shift article examining the Finnish education system and the reasons behind its success.

Professional Learning



SAVE THE DATE: 18-21 SEPTEMBER, 2012 APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference

Be a part of the **APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference- Our Primary Purpose Leading Learning**, at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre on **September 18-21, 2012**. We have already booked a stellar cast of speakers including Andy Hargreaves (Canada), Pasi Sahlberg (Finland), Yong Zhao (China) Lucinda Hartley (Australia) and Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore). Make sure you save the date to attend this amazing educational event in Melbourne.

You can **register** online [here](#) or through the [VPA website](#).

Special Advance Reduced Offer to School Teams

A group discount for 4 or more people aimed at school teams or all staff members is available for a one day registration at the conference. A 20% discount on a non-member one day price will apply. This would reduce the cost from **\$345** to **\$277** per person per day. Maybe you would like to hold a Curriculum Day and bring your staff. We have amazing world class speakers in place – have a look at the program.

Overcoming the Roadblocks of Leadership – How to manage the demands of the job Professional Learning

This is targeted at newly appointed principals, more experienced principals and acting principals. **The VPA Forum** for School Leaders is on Tuesday 6 March 3:00 – 5:00 at Vale Street North Melbourne. Cost \$40 per non member. Visit our [website](#) for further information and a registration form.



2012 VPA China Leadership Study Tour 7th – 20th October, 2012



An amazing opportunity for you!

VPA Life Member, Aileen Hall is planning our third study tour to China in 2012, after two highly successful tours in 2010 and 2011. She is an invaluable asset to the tour, having lived and worked in China and she generously shares her local knowledge and contacts. The 2012 VPA China Educational Leadership Study Tour is planned from 7 – 20 October. The tour will consist largely of working in schools and also include the opportunity to visit a few key cultural sites around **Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou and Nanjing** and will be instrumental in assisting leaders to build Asia Literate schools. It is anticipated that the cost of this year's tour will be **\$4900**.

The package tour will include:

- Return Airfares
- Visiting Nanjing, Suzhou and Shanghai
- Professional development - improving school results/standards
- Guidance from VPA and JESIE
- Study tour can be claimed on tax
- Single rooms in 4 star hotels
- Land transportation, airport pickup and delivery (bus with air-conditioning)
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals as per tour itinerary (excluding the meal arrangements by schools)
- Drivers and guides' service
- Travel accident insurance (in China only)

This is a rare chance to access really high level Professional Learning within the context of Chinese schools and the wider community. Our previous two study tours helped us to establish an ongoing relationship between China and Victoria. The feedback from those who have participated in the trip has been overwhelmingly positive and they are eager to implement some of the ideas from the schools they visited in their own schools back home.

"I feel that this study tour has given me a cultural and pedagogical background that will be very helpful in introducing Chinese as a LOTE language in my school... Future directions I will take from this experience into my school include; the introduction of Chinese LOTE and culture, a trip to China with my teaching staff and the development of an effective Chinese LOTE curriculum." – Ian Michelson, Principal of Bayswater Primary School

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to sign a sister school agreement with Meiling West Primary School." – Sue Henderson, Principal of Blackburn Primary School

Our partnership with JESIE aims to increase cultural understanding and acceptance of different cultures. The 2012 Tour will give you the opportunity to forge such rewarding relationships with schools and educators in China and enable you to enhance your Asia skills through an exploration of Chinese art, culture and language. Visit our [website](#) for more details. **There will be a limit on numbers so please let us know of your interest by emailing [Rebecca Vosper rvosper@vpa.org.au](mailto:Rebecca.Vosper@vpa.org.au).**

Applications Now Open for Leadership Courses for Business Managers

Refer to DEECD Bulletin S002-2012

Applications are now open for the Leadership for Business Managers Professional Learning Program in 2012. Business Managers with a leadership role are encouraged to apply. The program will be provided during March-August 2012. Principals are required to endorse and complete appropriate sections of the application form. Completed application forms should be emailed to bastow@edumail.vic.gov.au. Applications are now open and close on Friday, 17 February 2012. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, 24 February 2012.

The Breakthrough Coach- Management Development for Instructional Leaders

How to Work Less, Produce More & Still Get the Job Done in a Sensible School Week

For Principals & Secretaries

Date: Thursday 24th May 2012 (Principals ONLY)
Friday 25th May 2012 (Principals & Secretaries)

Time: 8.00am – 4.00pm both days

Location: The Teacher Learning Centre, Rokeby, Hobart, Tasmania

Cost: \$850 per team of 2 including GST (Principal/Secretary)

Registration closes **1st May, 2012**. For further information about the program click [here](#).

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

I joined the VPA so I could continue to learn, reflect, rethink and deepen my conviction to ensure that I along with like minded professionals continue to provide world class education within the communities in which we lead and serve. The VPA has provided me with high quality professional learning opportunities, collegiality and a space in which my views can be expressed and valued. The VPA has a voice and takes a stand. It is a powerful and united community that allows its members to democratically participate in the quest for excellence and ethics, challenging its members to use their voices with integrity and courage. In my role as a VPA councillor for the Northern Metropolitan Region, I have been able to listen to and support colleagues so together we can develop position papers on important issues. As a member of the VPA



and principal class I will champion a radical rethink of our school system, advocating a reform that will see schools cultivate creativity, imagination and innovation. I recommend membership of the VPA to all Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers as an important step on your leadership journey.

~ **Ric Maguire**, Principal, Campbellfield Heights Primary School

Interesting Educational Apps for your iPad

Work Wizard

Talking movable alphabet with spell check and fun spelling tests that use over 1400 words for kids.

[LOTE](#)

Click above to access a presentation on apps for Chinese, as well as LOTE in general.

Gabrielle Leigh

VPA President

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