



In this edition... *from the President...*



Dear Parents,

I write this article today to thank you.

Jennifer Branch
President
TASSP&F



A thank you for the wonderful job you are doing as parents in what I believe to be a complicated and confusing world that most of us are unsure what its future will bring.

Some recent articles in our newspapers have really upset me and I will not tolerate having blame constantly loaded onto the shoulders of parents.

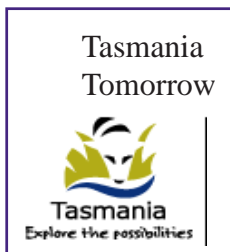
Instead society and its communities must start valuing and supporting our parents in the most important job of raising children.

Parents are the main educators of their children. They provide many of the foundations a child will need to become a fully participating citizen.

The relationships parents make with the school they choose to send their child to will be critical in the journey they are beginning in their formal education. Getting this right is vital. Parents and teachers working together will enhance your child's experience, wellbeing and educational progress within the school.

I encourage you to go to school and get involved.
Why? Because it benefits your child.

To conclude, if you are experiencing difficulties, seek help. Schools are a good place to find out where to get the best help. Stay positive. You are doing your best and again I thank you for the most important role you play in your child's life.



WELCOME TO 2008

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

**State Schools are
GREAT Schools!**

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter

NORTHERN REPORT..

Hi,

Welcome to the new school Year. With the holidays behind us again our association (Tasmanian State School Parents and Friends Inc) looks forward to the year ahead and any challenges which occur.



Our Northern meetings are a venue for parents and others to gain and share information.

Tasmanian State School Parents and Friends Inc will be holding a Seminar in Hobart 28th June 2008 at the Brighton Primary School, "ME and MY GIRL", looking at the culture of body image in young girls. Something you shouldn't miss.

With our State conference approaching we are looking for a school in the North who may like to host this event. State conference will be held Saturday 2nd August 2008. Any enquiries please phone Libby Bailey 6344 7280 or 0408139601 or Di Ellson Executive Officer 62349 488.

I encourage all schools to send a representative to our informal meetings, we would like to hear about what is going on in your school and we also would like to share information with YOU.

Our PUBLIC schools are great schools; let's make a difference in our children's education. With more of your support we can achieve this and more.

Our next Northern meeting will be held on Friday 4th April 2008 at Adult Education Centre, 51 York Street Launceston at 7.30pm. (We meet in the car park back of Adult Education) Looking forward to seeing you all.

Northern meeting dates for 2008 are:

4th APRIL 2008

4th JULY 2008

3rd OCTOBER 2008

Cheers

Libby Bailey
Northern Coordinator



TASSP&F

**NOTE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2008
at a Northern School**

Preliminary papers have been posted. Keep an eye out and put on the agenda for your next meeting. For further enquiries contact Di Ellson on 6234 9488.

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter

FROM THE NORTH- WEST...



Lisa Gillard
NW Regional Co-ordinator

Welcome back to the school year and our first parent contact for the year. I hope you had a happy Easter with lots of chocolate, hasn't that crept up on us rather fast.

Our first regional meeting was held at Penguin Primary School, a follow up to the breach in their Internet security when some student downloaded inappropriate material. Tim Latham senior IT consultant with NW Learning Services, came along as our guest speaker for the night and an informative night it was. Information supplied by Tim on how the DoE Internet filtering system works;

All three methods use a data base of sites which have been classified into Categories. New sites are being created daily and so categorization is an ongoing process.

Smart filter currently has over 20 million web addresses in 91 categories.

Categories's include drugs, games/gambling, lifestyle, purchasing, mature/violence, pornography/nudity, risk/fraud/crime etc. These categories are expanded on and up dated all the time.

School IT Support staff have also implemented local methods:

Googlefilteron - a program that forces google searches to use strict filtering only. Crazy Filter - a program designed to filter by URL and keywords with individual

logging.

Webwasher has the ability to incorporate categorized filtering with strict searching, keyword filtering as well as the ability to block uncategorized sites.

Parents were given the chance to try out the computer system at Penguin Primary and also provided some interesting questions and we all came away feeling we had learnt something.

Looking forward to our trip to King Island in second term, a chance to meet very committed and involved parents from the District High School. We are also planning a trip to the West Coast and Circular Head to meet and catch up with parents.

CHEERS LISA, JEN G, LINDIE AND ELIZABETH
NW REGIONAL TEAM

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

Primary and secondary students across Australia are being urged to go outdoors to find inspiration for the 2008 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards.

"*Forests, Feathers, Fins and Fur*" is this year's theme for country's largest poetry writing competition for students, which celebrates the work of well-known Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar.

Entries in the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards close 2 June 2008. Authors Sue Gough and Prue Mason are the judges, and winners will be notified during NLNW (1-7 September).

A National Presentation Ceremony will be held in Gunnedah on 5 September 2008.

Award entry forms and information on poetry writing, resource notes for teachers and judges' reports are available at www.dorothea.com.au

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter

Southern Report...



Hello to all members,

I am the new Southern Region Coordinator. My name is Cheryl Wickham, I am married to Kerry and have two children, Stephen, at Elizabeth College and Rhiannon at Cosgrove High School, where I am the secretary of the school Association.

My role with TSSP&F involves several committees, including assisting in giving a parent view point to the 'Working in Partnerships Conference' which is being held in Hobart on 11 and 12 July 2008.

The conference brings together an outstanding range of speakers and workshops, from organisations such as The Australian Association of Special Education, Early Childhood Intervention Australia, Network of Education Associations of Tasmania and Home Economics Institute of Australia. It all sounds heavy, but it is to do with working in partnerships to support students and families with high needs, to build safe and supportive school communities, countering bullying harassment and violence in schools, and building family partnerships. Parents of children with recognised special needs have a reduced registration rate, and the committee is lobbying the Minister for funding to assist other parents to attend this event.

I was the parent representative for the eastern shore area of the Tasmania Tomorrow, and represent parents at Kidsafe.

Our schools are great PUBLIC schools, and I would like to hear from you, whether by email, phone or in writing. I am here to listen to your concerns or maybe your school has a great story to tell. We always need to celebrate our achievements.

We hold informal regional meetings, once a term, and I am happy to attend your parent meetings, or provide any information to help you. The next regional meeting will be held on Monday 19th May with venue TBA.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Please feel free to contact me

Cheryl Wickham
Southern Coordinator



Parent Contact

Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter



This is a vital conference for parents and carers.



On Friday 11th and Saturday 12th July, 2008 there will be a major conference entitled 'Working in Partnerships' held in Hobart.

The aim of the conference is to bring together all in the community who are involved with the education, social and physical development of children and young people in Tasmania. The conference will be jointly opened by Lara Giddings and David Bartlett. A wide range of guest speakers have been organised along with various keynote speakers and workshop presenters who will conduct sessions which will cover many of the key issues and priorities facing school now and in the future.

These will include:

1. Establishing common understandings and goals for all involved in education and student welfare.
2. Establishing appropriate early learning policies and practices and sharing good practice in this area.
3. Supporting students with high needs particularly those with autism/aspergers.
4. Health and wellbeing, particularly as it applies to nutrition.
5. Developing positive behaviour support policies and practices in schools.
6. Investigating aspects of Values Education.
7. Establishing safe and supportive school environments.

A number of professional associations and groups involved in working with students have combined to plan a conference which will advance the concept of all involved in education establishing meaningful partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for all.

Guest speakers include:

Michelle Macgrath Guys Hospital, London, 'Early Years Parent & Child Support',

Professor Judith Chapman AM, 'Working in Partnerships in Values Education',

Bev Funnell, Manager Disability Bureau, 'Concord of Family Partnerships'

Anne Deveson AO, Writer/Broadcaster, 'Resilience'

Professor Tony Worsley, 'New Nutrition Education'

Paul Mason, Commissioner for Children, 'The Way Forward'

Full Details can be obtained on the conference website

<http://www.workinginpartnerships.com.au>

We would sincerely hope to see parents, principles or other staff participate together in this outstanding opportunity.

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter



MS Readathon 2008

www.msaustralia.org

The MS Readathon encourages children to improve their reading skills, to learn about multiple sclerosis and to provide support for those living with this mystery disease in Australia; by raising money through sponsorship per book read, timed reading, or flat donation for their reading efforts.

Schools play an important role in the success of the MS Readathon which provides an opportunity to further enhance a school's existing literacy program by actively promoting reading, while giving students first hand experience of social responsibility and community values as they raise sponsorship money to benefit people living with MS throughout the country.

An estimated 2,500,000 people around the world have multiple sclerosis.

- MS affects three times as many women as men.
- The average age of diagnosis is 30. 87% are of working age.
- Each working day, 5 Australians are diagnosed with MS.
- MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that randomly attacks the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). The progress, severity and specific symptoms of the disease cannot be predicted.
- MS is a lifelong disease for which a cure is yet to be found. However, doctors and scientists are making discoveries in treating and understanding MS everyday.

Students fundraise for the MS Readathon with their parent's permission, by asking for sponsorship pledges from family and adult friends.



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Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter



Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow

Beyond Year 10: information for students about their options in Year 11

This month, Year 10 students will be bringing home information about their education and training options for next year.

A booklet called *Beyond year 10 – what are my options in 2009?* will be given to each Year 10 student. It will provide information about:

- enrolment options in 2009 including senior secondary colleges (in some regions), the Tasmanian Polytechnic, the Tasmanian Academy and Training Tasmania.
- what students will be able to achieve at the different organisations.

So look out for the booklet in your son or daughter's school bag, or visit <http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au>.

For more information, contact the Tasmania Tomorrow Project team on tomorrow@education.tas.gov.au or 1800 469 997.



Something to think about:

Time is the most valuable gift we can give our kids – or anyone. Money and things are soon gone. But memories and feelings of love can last a lifetime. Care about kids enough to spend time with them.

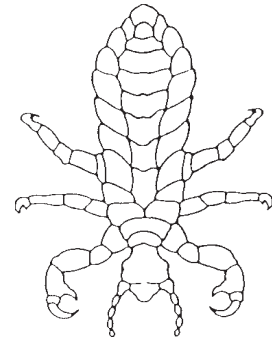
~ Glen C. Griffin, M.D.

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Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter



HEAD LICE- A TALE



Lousing About

Story by Shirley Calvert,

Pedi and Osis Nit were two head lice. They were living in someone's hair and having a lovely time exploring their environment. They had managed to swing into action in the cleanest hair in the class and could hardly believe their luck.

The aim of this book is to lighten up the stress of head lice while they are clearing out!
www.MAYGOG.com

It's that time of year again when head lice are causing kaos. Let's approach it in a fun, positive manner and nip the bugs where it hurts!

Office facilities available

- * Colour Printing and Phtocopying
- * Laminating (business card to A3)

Competitive pricing.

202 Liverpool Street, Hobart

Please call to book or for more info phone 03 62349488

NEWS FROM THE

OFFICE:

Hi, my name is Janine Kemp and I am now in the position of Communciations Officer with the TASSP&F. My role here is be of support not only in the office but to the school community as a whole. Feel free to call or contact me for any reason, whether sharing a concern, a need for a chat, or to make an enquiry. I will endeavour to assist you in what ever way I can. I look forward to chatting or meeting with you in the near future.

Regards

Janine

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents & Friends Inc. eNewsletter



Jenny Grossmith
TASSP&F Vice president
ACSSO Vice President

From Your ACSSO Representative.....

The Executive of the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) met on the 16th and 17th of February at their new, larger and improved office, now located at what was Chifley Primary School (closed at the end of last year during the ACT government's closure & amalgamation of many of their schools).

On Monday ACSSO and the Australian Parents Council (APC) had their first forum with the new Federal Governments' Department of Education, Employment and Work Relations (DEEWR) which was previously known as the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST). The forum was an important one as the new government is making significant changes to government programs and funding for education in Australia.

National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Testing for students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will be held in May. Language conventions (grammar, punctuation) and Reading will be held on the 13th, Writing on the 14th and Numeracy on the 15th.

Schools may apply to defer the tests to the next week if unable to fit them in their timetable on those days.

The report to parents will be presented in a slide graph similar to the Tasmanian report. The full scale has ten levels; however each report will only contain six. The students result will be represented by a dot, the national average an arrow, the national benchmark a line and the middle 60% of students is a grey shaded area. There will be a space on the report for comments about the student and an explanation of the levels.

Investing In Our Schools Program (IIOSP) and Capital Funding

The IIOSP has officially concluded; however, some schools are still finalising their projects and funding. Support from DEEWR is being made available to help them achieve this as soon as possible.

The recognition process has been streamlined and is now less onerous for schools, **Grants below \$50,000 do not need a ceremony, public acknowledgement (article in newsletter etc) of Federal Government funding is sufficient **Schools with multiple projects over \$50,000, only need to hold one ceremony for all projects, not one ceremony per project as was the previous requirement.

Federal Capital Works Grants are available for schools; there is 435 million available nationally for 2008. Applications for grants can be made through our state Department of Education, it is reportedly not a tedious process, and the main criterion is the school demonstrating a need for funding.

There is also a new initiative (with funding of 65 million) being developed, where schools can apply as a group or cluster for funding to construct shared facilities.

Students with Disabilities

A \$190,000,000 package has been developed for children with Autism; it will provide professional development for teachers, support for parents, information forums and specialist care in Child Care Centres. The package will be rolled out in July.

Parent Contact



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Early Childhood Education

The new initiative will see universal access to four year olds for 15 hours per week of pre-school, this will be under-pinned by the Early Years Learning Framework which focuses on Social Development, Play based Learning and beginner Literacy & Numeracy skill development.

There will be additional places in University for Early Childhood teachers and no TAFE fees for Child Services courses. 260 Child Care centres will be built or refitted and the Tax Rebate of 30% for Child Care Costs will rise to 50% and be paid quarterly. There will also be a Home Intervention Program to assist disadvantaged 3-5 year olds to develop early literacy skills i.e. provision of books.

Digital Education Revolution

This program will inject \$1 billion over four years to improve secondary student access to digital education. 900 million will be delivered through the National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF) and 100 million to the provision of high-speed fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) broadband connections to schools. The program will also allow funding for development of online curriculum, training for teachers in the use of ICT to enrich student learning and the development of web portals to enable parents to participate in their child's education. A survey has been sent to schools to determine the ratio of computers to students - this will establish those schools that are most needy of funding for computers in round one. Applications for the first round will be accepted from March to April with funding available by late June. Applications for the second round will open in July and is open for all schools and is not restricted to computers. State Governments will be responsible for any necessary upgrades to power supplies and security measures.

Tuition Vouchers

This year vouchers will be more flexible as they can now be delivered through the students' school, if parents wish to choose that option. Schools will now be notified of students who are eligible for funding, these are the students who did not reach the national benchmarks for Literacy and Numeracy in the tests conducted for year 3, 5 & 7 in 2007. The Department acknowledged that it has been difficult to determine the previous success of the vouchers, as students can be difficult to track and the outcomes tend to be qualitative not quantitative.

Trade Training Centres in Schools (TTCS)

This new initiative will start in May and is an injection of funding for pre apprenticeship programs for senior secondary school students (Year 10, 11 & 12). Individual schools or clusters of schools can apply for grants to deliver specific programs; however most Tasmanian high schools would not be eligible as they do not deliver a year 11 & 12 program. To compensate for that and ensure students in Tasmania are not disadvantaged the majority of the funding will be delivered here in through Training Tasmania.

National Curriculum

National curriculum will be focused on lifting standards, it is planned a world class curriculum will be developing by 2010 for implementation in 2011. This is an opportune time to develop the curriculum because of the cooperation between state and federal governments. A Board will be appointed, supported by \$5 million of ongoing funding. The Chair will be Barry McCrae (Australian Council for Educational Research) and Deputy Chair Tony McKay (Curriculum Corporation) The other members will be appointed shortly, they will have extensive experience in curriculum policy. A COAG Working Group is overseeing the process and will sign off on the Board and Curriculum when developed. The Board will be committed to consulting with parents extensively

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Funding Quadrennium

The framework for the new quadrennium 2009 – 2012 is being prepared now for adoption on the 1st of January next year. The Minister has advised the department to “think long term as there is cooperative federalism in regard to funding”. This is being achieved through the COAG working parties. The framework is to be reflective of this by streamlining rollovers and locking in CPIs for future quadrenniums. Policy is being developed to

- 1) Lift retention to 90% by 2020
- 2) Lift quality of what we teach through a National Curriculum, improve Literacy and Numeracy outcomes and encourage people to become teachers (especially Maths and Science)
- 3) Close the Gap through social inclusion for schools in disadvantage areas.

Family- School Partnership Bureau

The Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of DEEWR, the Honourable Julia Gillard announced the funding agreement of the Family- School Partnership Bureau. The Bureau will receive \$800,000 over four years; and will be facilitated through ACSSO and APC.

Its prime function will be to supply best practise information and support for engaging families and communities in their local school, as identified in the Framework that was developed from the Family-School Partnership Pilot Program. The concept of the Bureau is itself a recommendation of that Framework; which is still waiting for ratification by the Ministerial Council of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

Jenny Grossmith
ACCSO Vice President



Photo of ACSSO Executive:

Standing (l to r) Margaret Pledger (Parents Victoria); Mark O'Neill (ACTPCPA); Janine Giddings (NSW Federation); Di Loddon (QCPCA); Rob Silva (SAASSO); Judy Bundy (SAASPAC); Jenny Grossmith (TSSP&F)
Seated (l to r) Rob Fry (WACSSO); Jenny Branch (President); Steve Carter (NTCOGSO)

Note: There is no representative from VICSSO at present.



Jenny Branch, Julia Gillard,
Caz Bosch APC President



Parent Contact



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JOIN IN WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY ON FRIDAY 2 MAY 2008

We all want our kids to be happy, healthy and safe.

Active kids are healthy kids.

Friday 2 May 2008 is National Walk Safely to School Day.

It's the perfect opportunity for parents and carers to teach children that walking all or part of the way, to and from school, is a good thing to do.

After all, it's fun and relatively easy exercise, it's good for physical and mental health and it's the perfect way to spend some time together before or after school.

Walk Safely to School Day is also a good way to teach young people about their personal safety by developing vital road-crossing and road safety skills around the school.

'ME & MY GIRL'

The Tasmanian State Schools Parents & Friends 2008 Seminar invite parents, grandparents, carers and the extended community to participate in this event with their daughters, focusing on body image in young girls 8+years.

Guest speakers include Wendy Kennedy.

For more information contact the TASSP&F on 62349488 or email admin@parentsandfriendstasmania.asn.au



DO YOU HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?



Please keep us posted about achievements in your school community. We would be delighted to promote and publish them in Parent Contact.



East Launceston Primary School

Centenary

This year our school commemorates 100 years of educating Tasmanian students. In April 2008 we will celebrate our history and our memories through social gathers, open days, a special assembly and a Village Fair where we hope to meet with many of our past and present school families. There will also be souvenirs, memorabilia, photographic displays and an accessible database of all students from the archive. We hope you can join us to re-live and rejoice in the life of our school.

For further information contact the school on 63311233 or visit our website at www.eastlaunceston.tased.edu.au