

PARENTS & FRIENDS FEDERATION OF WA INC.



SERVICE REPRESENTATION ADVOCACY
NETWORKING LIAISON COLLABORATION

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Keep in touch.....

We are always keen to hear what you are all up to in your school and would love to feature some of your stories in our newsletters this year. So get the cameras out and drop us a paragraph on what you are up to.

Drop us an email if you would like your school event featured on our calendar of events and directory of services for 2012. If you have any suggestions as to speakers that you would like to hear, or additional services we could offer you, please let us know.

Call Siobhan
(08) 9271 5909



50 Years of Parent Voice in Education

On 16th July 2012, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Goulburn Protest – an event that shaped the future of government funding for students in Catholic and independent schools in Australia.

When the future of a small Catholic school in Goulburn, NSW was jeopardised due to a lack of funding to upgrade its toilet block, parents of children in the Catholic schools in the diocese chose to enrol their children in the local state schools. On July 16, 1962, some 600 of Goulburn's Catholic school students were enrolled in local public schools in protest over the state government's lack of funding. These parents were out to make a point. If the government couldn't fund vital infrastructure at the city's Catholic schools, it should absorb them into the public system. The protest received maximum national publicity and altered public opinion about government funding to Catholic schools.

What made this day in 1962 so significant is that it demonstrated the influence and impact of the parent voice in shaping education policy namely in relation to government funding for Catholic schooling in Australia. It was a protest that, in fact, led to the formation of the Australian Parents Council (APC).

Extract from the Goulburn Evening Post on 23 July 1962:

"The most momentous news from last night's meeting of Catholic parents and friends ... was not the motion that sent over 2000 pupils back to their desks today. That was described as only the ending of the first stage in the historic stand made by Catholics for a share in the taxes paid by all Australians and distributed for educational purposes.

The important decision from the 3 hour meeting, attended by more than 900 people, was the launching of a militant organisation, nationwide in concept, which will have as its sole objective the realisation of this claim."

That organisation was to become the Australian Parents Council. The APC celebrated its 50th anniversary in Sydney on 25th August. The Federation is an affiliate of the APC and a strong contributor to its work. Shelley Hill, the PFFWA Executive Officer was returned as Vice-President at the AGM.

The Goulburn Protest continues to inspire the work of peak parent bodies like the APC nationally, now and into the future, as the voice of families who have chosen a Catholic education for their children. We are a voice that calls for equity, quality and choice in education.

Never doubt the impact of the parent voice – your voice - as the future of government funding for schooling is debated nationally.

The Federation and the APC is your voice as this key political issue is debated in 2012, 50 years after the power of voice of parents was so evident in 1962.

Here at PFFWA, we see no need in reinventing the wheel and would like to thank
The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA)
for sharing this article.

Indigenous Parent Factor (IPF) Update

This year to date, PFFWA have funded training workshops in Port Hedland, Lombadina and Perth and community workshops in Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Leonora and Aranmore Catholic College. Other training workshops are scheduled for Collie and Fitzroy Crossing in October and both Jenni and Narelle are securing dates and venues for community workshops following on from the training conducted this year.

As our funding must be acquitted by the 31st December, we are working hard to ensure as many workshops are conducted within the next two terms.

If you would like more information about the IPF program visit www.ipf.edu.au or contact Shelley Hill, PFFWA Executive Officer on 9271 5909 or 0428 740 743.



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, the Catholic Education Office gives every primary school in the state the opportunity for one year group to have a Class Movie produced. Interested? Ask your principal if your school participates and just maybe you could be the recipient of a fantastic record of your child's class as a 16 minute movie.

Kimberley Trip

Kimberley trip During the second week of third term, Siobhan Allen and Shelley Hill visited six of the twelve schools in the Kimberley. It was a very insightful experience and provided both with a better understanding of the issues facing schools, their principals and teachers in rural and remote Western Australia but also the concerns and aspirations of parents who choose to send their children to these Catholic schools. It will enable a broader perspective of schooling and parental issues to be discussed at all levels of our representation, through the Catholic Education Office, both state and federal governments and the Church.



*Who needs a fancy
restaurant?*

Not us, that's for sure!

Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities

In May, a successful Noongar Professional Learning trial session was held at Piney Lakes, and it was booked to capacity. Following its success, a second session will be held on Thursday, 20 September 2012 from 4.00-6.00pm.

Find out how Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre can assist you in reaching national curriculum outcomes. Apply local knowledge from Piney Lakes Reserve to the greater Perth region and your own school grounds. Additional information can be found on the website. <http://www.melvillecity.com.au/environment/piney-lakes/community-programs-events/teacher-professional-learning-opportunities>



Australian Parents Council

APC Conference and 50th Anniversary

On the 24th – 26th August, the APC celebrated their 50th anniversary with a cocktail party attended by the Minister for Education, Mr Peter Garrett and other dignitaries.

The AGM and conference followed over the two days of the weekend in Sydney.

PFFWA funded three councillors to attend – Philippa Colgan, Cazz Gould (Secretary) and Helen Anderson (Vice-President). Shelley Hill, the PFFWA's executive officer and vice-president of the APC and Siobhan Allen, the Affiliates Liaison Officer were both funded by the APC as part of their commitment to affiliated parent organisations.

The Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling and the subsequent work that the government is currently conducting will be a major topic of discussion, as will ways of engaging parents in their children's education.

An update on the conference will be given in the next PFFWA newsletter.



School Curriculum and Standards Authority

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority has set up a Facebook Page to provide students directly with information they may find helpful during Year 12. They will post updates, study tips, information about examinations and the release of results. Alternately, you could visit their website www.scsa.wa.edu.au

The Australian Government's Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) on the Swap It, Don't Stop It campaign, is designed to show Australians how they can take steps to help reduce their waist measurement and improve overall health and wellbeing (here's a link if you're not familiar with the campaign swapit.gov.au)

Perhaps your school would like to be involved in this campaign!



We have just switched over our phones at the PFFWA office and are delighted to report that we are no longer losing calls!

We do apologise to anyone who has been affected by the transition.



Team Spotlight



Mel Rom
Online Media & Design Officer

The Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia is a not-for-profit organisation established to serve the needs of those parents who choose a Catholic education for their children.

The Federation is involved in providing a parental view in all areas of education including funding and policy development.

The Online Media & Design Officer for PFFWA is responsible for managing the online engagement and interactivity with parents and school parent communities and fostering community spirit.

Mel has a passion for social media, particularly Facebook and spends many hours trying to find new ways to break new ground for the Federation!

If you are a parent of a child in Catholic School we welcome you to join our Facebook Page for regular updates and information where you can leave comments and ask questions.

We promise to respond in a timely manner!

Phone: (08) 9271 5909

Email: media@pff.wa.edu.au



JOIN US ONLINE WITH
FACEBOOK



Parents & Friends Federation of Western Australia

Helping you to empower your student

Sail Through Life:

Empowering Youth



Give your child an **UNFAIR** advantage in life with skills such as:

- Positive Self Talk
- Confidence & Resilience
- Team Work & Leadership
- Goal Setting & Study

I didn't really have a way of describing negative words or actions that I didn't like my 11 year old son to exhibit.... Now as a result of attending Pieces of Eight.... We have a common language -- "Is that Squawk, talking?" -- "what would Squawk say?" It's a fun way of dealing with teenage attitude Michele, Business Coach

Workshops range from 1 hour to 2 days
Ages 9-13 yrs (Juniors, parents welcome to attend)
Ages 14-19 yrs (Special Teen Workshops)

For more information:
Call Tania on 0405 217579
Email: tania@sailthroughlife.com.au
Visit: www.sailthroughlife.com.au

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS!

the best way to learn is through play



Pieces of Eight: what is your parrot saying?

Wondering how to have a more positive outlook and less negative self talk for you and your children? Let Cpt Fran show you how in this fun filled workshop. As you try to become the crew on Captain Fran's ship, you will be faced with the challenge of having to focus on certain aspects and notice how your self talk changes as a result.

The workshop covers:

- * how self talk is formed
- * how focus impacts our lives
- * 5 take home tips to be more positive

Call or visit the website for further details regarding workshop dates and times.
www.sailthroughlife.com.au



HURRY places limited! Book NOW!

Call: 0405 217 579

email: tania@sailthroughlife.com.au

For more information visit the website:

www.sailthroughlife.com.au



PFFWA Conference details

to be announced in our next newsletter!