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President's Report

June 2009

Have you ever heard of Adult Learners' Week? No – then read on!

Adult Learners' Week is held in Australia 1 to 8 September each year. The concept was first discussed in 1990 at the World Conference on Education for All. At this conference they set a goal that the world's adult illiteracy rate would be halved by year 2000. Ten years later there was little impact on this goal with 113 million children still not accessing primary education and 880 million adults, the majority of them women, are illiterate.

The USA had a similar program that they had started in the late 1980s. In 1992 the UK introduced Adult Learners' Week, followed by Jamaica, South Africa and Australia in 1995.

When UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999 approved the International Adult Learners' Week, a larger dimension came into being. The aim is to bridge the activities during the national adult learners' weeks, to learn from the experiences of other countries, to share the celebration with people in other contexts and to amplify the cooperation between agencies active in the promotion of adult learning at an international level.

Since then, organisers in more than 40 countries have organised or are preparing learning festivals. These not only raise awareness of the need to create more opportunities for adults to learn, but celebrate the efforts and achievements of the thousands who find the courage to 'take that first step back'.

Countries (besides the developed countries) which have celebrated Adult Learners' Weeks in recent years include:

- Indonesia
- Benin
- Bosnia
- Botswana
- Herzegovina
- Flanders
- Burkina Faso
- Senegal
- Slovenia
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Madagascar

For more information see

<http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/about/international.html>

May Guest Speaker

As parents we all want to give our children as many options in life as possible. And in the current economic climate, more than ever it is imperative that our children are as marketable as possible to future employers.

With this in mind, it was encouraging to hear from our guest speaker Mrs Nicki Gibson about St Stephen's School's efforts in endeavouring to meet the career objectives of all students.

Mrs Gibson, the Careers Advisor at Carramar, briefly went through the numerous opportunities that being a St Stephen's student affords to our children. Not only do they offer the traditional Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) courses but also Structured Workplace Learning, embedded Vocational Education and Training competencies and courses for those students pursuing a direct vocational pathway. As it stands right now, St Stephen's has the largest number of embedded Vocational Education and Training competencies in the state.

St Stephen's has many resources on hand for parents to access in order to help their children with their career pathway. For example, the St Stephen's intranet provides numerous careers links including direct links to the Universities and to the TISC website.

It was also encouraging to hear that St Stephen's works hard to boost the number of ways our children can enter tertiary education.

But this isn't a task that teachers and advisors can complete alone. Parents are partners in educating their children and Mrs Gibson strongly urges parents to take an active role in this.



ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

DUNCRAIG & CARRAMAR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

June Guest Speaker

The risk from fires, bomb threats, armed hold-ups and other emergencies are all part of every day life. The wisest answer to 'How do I manage these risks?' is to PLAN.



Come and meet Tony Westall, from Gone in 5. Tony will show us the best way to evacuate quickly and safely when there is a fire in our home or office. Tony is a dynamic presenter with first-hand experience in fighting fires.

Next meeting

Tuesday 9 June, 7:30pm

Technology Hub.

August Guest Speaker

Les Bishop is a family man – father of two, married to Kylie, a chef, and in his spare time a Personal Fitness Trainer. Les is passionate about improving people's fitness, but hasn't lost sight of the realities of everyday life and its pressures. Les will explain the importance of a healthy diet and healthy body (which I am sure we all know), and how each of us can incorporate this into our very busy lives. Come and meet Les from PHATT Fitness (Play Hard All The Time) and have all your fitness questions answered from our local expert.

Poem

Isabelle Pilote, Head of Languages shared with us at our April meeting a very touching poem. Unfortunately we didn't have anyone at our next meeting that was so poetic, so I turned to the trusty internet for this gem:

Promise Yourself

(one the most classic motivational poems)

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel like there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living person you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, and too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

The Optimist Creed

From The Optimist International

<http://www.villagehero.com/motivational-poems.html>



Upcoming Events

2009

P&F Meetings	9 June 11 August 13 October 10 November
P&F Guest Speaker Tony Westall, Gone In 5	9 June
Careers Expo Duncraig Campus	9 June
Building Resilience, Duncraig Campus	16 June
End of Term Two	3 July
School Holidays	6 July to 21 July
St Stephen's School Reporting Day	21 July
Term Three Day One	22 July
National Science Week	10 August
P&F Guest Speaker Les Bishop, Phatt Fitness	11 August
Adult Learners' Week	1 to 8 September
P&F Guest Speaker Isabelle Pilote	8 September
St Stephen's School Thanksgiving Service	11 September
End of Term Three	25 September
Term 4 Day One	13 October
End Term Four	4 December

2010 (dates to be confirmed)

Term One starts week beginning	2 February
P&F Meetings	9 February 9 March (AGM) 11 May 8 June 10 August 14 September 12 October 9 November
Carramar Campus 10 th Anniversary	Friday 12 March

JUNE 2009





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28	29	30				

JULY 2009

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AUGUST 2009

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	Public Holiday
	School Holidays
	P&F Meeting
	Special School Event



Final Word... and it's a true story!

A Question of Physics

The following question was asked in a physics degree exam at the University of Copenhagen: "Describe how to determine the height of a skyscraper with a barometer."

One student replied: "You tie a long piece of string to the neck of the barometer, then lower the barometer from the roof of the skyscraper to the ground. The length of the string plus the length of the barometer will equal the height of the building."

This highly original answer so incensed the examiner that the student was failed immediately. He appealed on the grounds that his answer was indisputably correct, and the university appointed an independent arbiter to decide the case. The arbiter judged that the answer was indeed correct, but did not display any noticeable knowledge of physics.

To resolve the problem, it was decided to call the student in and allow him six minutes in which to provide a verbal answer which showed at least a minimal familiarity with the basic principles of physics. For five minutes the student sat in silence, forehead creased in thought. The arbiter reminded him that time was running out, to which the student replied that he had several extremely relevant answers, but couldn't make up his mind which to use.

On being advised to hurry up the student replied as follows:

"Firstly, you could take the barometer up to the roof of the skyscraper, drop it over the edge, and measure

the time it takes to reach the ground. The height of the building can then be worked out from the formula $H = 0.5g \times t^2$. But bad luck on the barometer."

"Or if the sun is shining you could measure the height of the barometer, then set it on end and measure the length of its shadow. Then you measure the length of the skyscraper's shadow, and thereafter it is a simple matter of proportional arithmetic to work out the height of the skyscraper."

"But if you **wanted** to be highly scientific about it, you could tie a short piece of string to the barometer and swing it like a pendulum, first at ground level and then on the roof of the skyscraper. The height is worked out by the difference in the gravitational restoring force $T = 2\pi \sqrt{l/g}$."

"Or if the skyscraper has an outside emergency staircase, it would be easier to walk up it and mark off the height of the skyscraper in barometer lengths, then add them up."

"If you merely wanted to be boring and orthodox about it, of course, you could use the barometer to measure the air pressure on the roof of the skyscraper and on the ground, and convert the difference in millibars into feet to give the height of the building."

But since we are constantly being exhorted to exercise independence of mind and apply scientific methods, undoubtedly the best way would be to knock on the janitor's door and say to him 'If you would like a nice new barometer, I will give you this one if you tell me the height of this skyscraper'."

The student was Nils Bohr, the only Dane to win the Nobel prize for Physics.

Contact Parents and Friends' Executive any time!

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