



ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

DUNCRAIG & CARRAMAR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- President's Report
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- October Guest Speaker – Keith Lehmann
- November Guest Speaker – Luke Simpkins. MP
- Upcoming Events

President's Report

October 2009

Term 4 is now upon us - there are only 8 weeks for this school year, and only 11 weeks to go before Christmas. Sneaks up on us quickly, doesn't it?

I have been conscious that the P&F has been quite quiet this year – no fundraising events and little social activities. But we have been busy in the background planning for next year. What a year this will be for our campus! Carramar Campus turns 10 next year, and both the school and P&F are planning lots of celebrations. So stay tuned to communications from the school and P&F; and come and join us in celebrating our fabulous school.

I know when the school year is coming to an end when all of the celebration school events happen. We recently attended St Stephen's Carramar Campus' Thanksgiving. It was very capably held in the Sports Centre for the first time. It is a great night to thank everyone for their commitment to our students and I encourage those who have not been to come along next year. One of the addresses for the night was by the Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of WA the Reverend Ken Williams. This night was particularly good as the audience was involved with singing, and introducing themselves to their seated neighbours, and discussing what is important about our school life. As usual, the students stole the show with their singing, dancing, acting parts, and playing of musical instruments. Congratulations everyone on a job well done!

Lee Morton, President

September Guest Speaker

Mme Isabelle Pilote - Head of LOTE, St Stephen's School, Carramar.

Isabelle spoke to the meeting about a new unique programme for teaching French. AIM (Accelerated Integrated Method) is a Canadian programme developed by Wendy Maxwell, using gestures to accompany speech (which are not based on sign language). Isabelle used a DVD presentation to demonstrate the advantage of AIM. She attended a conference in Melbourne in September and the programme has been implemented at St Stephen's this year with Year 7 students. Teaching needs to change from reading and writing in themes, the AIM method of teaching is in actions, and 400 gestures had to be learnt by teachers. The first 2 terms, 2 periods of 40 minutes a week, concentrate on oral (listening and speaking only) and only French may be spoken. The following 2 terms concentrate on reading and writing, which will then be learnt very quickly. A play will be presented at the end of the year. The cost is \$1500 for a kit; each child receives a DVD to assist with the learning of the 400 gestures.

The AIM method has been very successful and has achieved its goal. Children are emotionally engaged in learning and there have been no behaviour problems. Autistic children have been the best students. It has also rejuvenated the teachers and, despite the energy and extra work involved, it has been challenging and rewarding. This was demonstrated by a DVD shown to the meeting of a class being taught by Isabelle showing the full participation of the class.

The programme will extend to Year 8 next year. In Year 10 a new course of study will accommodate unit 1A & 1B. There will be a different level of sophistication and difficulty for older students. There is a goal to start teaching this method in primary classes.



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Email from a Parent

Attention: Caryl Roberts (Principal St Stephen's School)

Dear Mrs Roberts (Caryl)

I felt the need to write to tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed Isabelle Pilote's presentation to the Carramar P&F on 08/09/09. She did a great job talking about the move to implement the AIM French Programme for Year 7's at the school. Her enthusiasm and motivation was absolutely delightful to witness and as a parent I was touched by her passion and commitment in promoting new approaches to French teaching at the school. In addition I was absolutely in awe of the enormous energy demands it made on her (and other staff) to adopt this strategy and thoroughly applaud her for not shying away from it. What a fantastic teacher (and French language teaching area) within the school!

If you have the opportunity please forward my appreciation to Isabelle.

Regards

Steve Graham (Parent)

(Absolutely agree! Ed)

Next meeting

Tuesday 13 October, 7:30pm

Technology Hub.

Come along with your bright smile – Keira Robertshaw, St Stephen's new Marketing Manager will be there to take our photo

October Guest Speaker – Keith Lehmann, Celebrate Recovery

Keith is a Baptist Minister who runs the Banksia Grove Soup Kitchen, better known as the Dinner Club. This fabulous project has a direct association with our school, and Keith joins us as our Special Guest Speaker on Tuesday 13 October, 7:30 pm. Here is a little bit of information about him:

“The Dinner Club started back in 1996. Vivienne, my wife, and I decided that we were tired of just doing ‘Church Stuff’ and prayed about what we might do that was real....we believed that there was a need for the poor to be fed so we started to feed people in Scarborough in November 1996. Banksia Grove started after a request from the Department of Community Development to set up a similar service there. St Stephen's became involved about 1998 when a teacher from Duncraig Campus saw what we were doing and asked if some students could help.

The program at Banksia Grove has been going now for over 6 years.

We give meals to whoever turns up...mostly kids under 18 who need a good meal. (Similar age to our kids. Ed.)

St. Stephen's has been really good to us over the years by encouraging students to volunteer to help us out.”



Christians Helping Christians

It is amazing what you can find on the internet (and scary too!). Whilst researching for this newsletter I came across an interesting project called Ministry Blue. It is a resource website that gathers in donations and then sends them out to worthy Christian causes. Here is the link if you wish to find out more – especially if you know of a business that has office equipment and furniture that needs another good home:

<http://www.ministryblue.com/ministryblue.html>

The aim of Ministryblue is to provide free, cheap or innovative resources for Australian Christian ministries and charities. Fund raising is through seeking discounts or free things from organisations that are then passed onto the wider Christian community or to charities.

Ministryblue.com was started by Rob Lamont in April 2001 as the covering organisation to a number of projects run by Rob. Ministryblue is also the expanded base that Christian Youth Resources, Australia was responsible for but due to the dramatic growth we have chosen to make CYRA only responsible for Book sales. (CYRA was started back in 1981.)

November Guest Speaker

Luke Simpkins MP is the Federal Member for Cowan. Luke has introduced a number of local initiatives including a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteers who make a difference. Come along and listen to Luke explain these initiatives, and ask him those 'hard' questions. He is involved in local activities such as Principal for the Day, supporting Jeans for Genes day, is Vice Patron of the WA Assistance Dogs Inc, conducted Parliament Alive program to name a few. Here is an excerpt of one of the 150 Parliamentary speeches Luke has made since becoming the Member for Cowan in November 2007:



On Young People

"This country is let down badly by those that think only of their rights without mentioning their responsibilities. The main responsibility is always personal responsibility, without which none of us can ever reach our full potential . . . there are a lot of young people in Cowan who appreciate their sense of responsibility to the community and who have a sense of personal responsibility as well. It is for that reason I have great hope for the future, and I am proud of the next generation because this country will be in very good hands if the examples shown by these young people are followed by their peers."

Upcoming Events

2009

P&F Meetings	13 October 10 November	Parent Social BBQ	7 November (tbc)
P&F Guest Speaker Keith Lehmann	13 October	P&F Guest Speaker Luke Simpkins	10 November
Term 4 Day One	13 October	Secondary End of Year Celebration	27 November
Year 12 Graduation Dinner	22 October	Primary End of Year Celebration	30 November
		End of Term 4	4 December



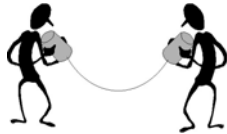
2010 (dates to be confirmed)

P&F Meetings

- 9 February
- 9 March (AGM)
- 11 May
- 8 June
- 10 August
- 14 September
- 12 October
- 9 November

Contact Parents and Friends' Executive any time!

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DECEMBER 2009

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- Public Holiday
- School Holidays
- P&F Meeting
- Special School Event

OCTOBER 2009

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NOVEMBER 2009

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To be confirmed
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