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Issue 9/2009

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Head of Secondary's Report

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

home ALONE!

The NSW Government publishes a regular feature as an e-newsletter titled "Parenting Tips". With the holidays coming up parents are often faced with the question of leaving their children at home unattended. The information below is taken directly from #65 April 2008 (Source: www.community.nsw.gov.au)

'At what age can my children be left at home by themselves?' is a common question asked by many parents. Given that there is no clear direction in the law we need to use our own judgment taking into account our own family circumstances and the age and maturity of our children. Parents are expected to make 'reasonable' decisions about their children's safety.

What does the law say?

There is no actual law that states at what age children can or cannot be left alone, but the law is clear about the responsibility of parents to look after their children.

In many cultures it is usual for children to care for brothers and sisters. While some societies have different customs, in Australia there is a legal obligation for parents to make sure that children are properly looked after.

Parents are expected to provide food, clothing, a place to live, safety and supervision (Family Law Act).

The Police or the Department of Community Services can remove children from situations where their safety is in serious danger and there is no guardian present (Children [Care & Protection] Act 1987).

Parents can be charged with an offence if children are left in a dangerous situation, are not fed, clothed or provided with accommodation (Children [Care & Protection] Act 1987).

Questions to ask yourself

(If you're thinking of leaving your child at home)

Can parents leave older children in charge?

When a child or person under the age of 18 years (for example, an older brother, sister or teenage friend) cares for children, the question of negligence or liability could arise. As a parent you may be held responsible for the carer as well as your own child if something goes wrong. For these reasons it is better that carers should be adults. A person who is still legally a child would not be judged against the standards of responsibility expected of adults.

If you do leave your child in the care of an older brother or sister or other young person, you must be sure that they are reliable and mature. Ask yourself: 'Could this child cope with an emergency?' for example, a fire, an accident or a break-in.

If your child is left alone without a carer they must be old enough to take action in an emergency and know what to do and where to get help.

Are the ground rules clear?

Every family has its own ground rules. It is important to be clear about what children can and cannot do and these rules may be different when you are not there or when someone else is minding your child. For example, making a hot drink, turning on the heater, running the bath, using the toaster may seem simple tasks when you are there but may not be allowed when you're away. **It is not advisable to leave babies or toddlers alone under any circumstances.**

Who will be in charge?

It is not fair to expect an older child to take on the full weight or responsibility required to care for younger children. Their lack of experience may make it difficult for them to find ways of trying to control others. They may be harsh and might use very different methods from what you use. If you have no choice, then it is important that the child left in charge is capable and responsible and that the other children feel safe. This child should be able to handle any disagreements or fights and know what to do if the other children 'play up', disobey the ground rules, or are ill. The oldest child is not necessarily the most capable to care.

Am I sure that my child knows...?

- Where I'm going and when I'll be back.
- How to get in contact with me.
- How to use the telephone.
- Where emergency numbers are listed (put next to the phone).
- Their own telephone number and home address (police or fire will need to know where to go).
- The telephone numbers of trusted friends, neighbours or relatives.
- Where to find the first aid kit and how to use it.
- How to use deadlocks.
- What to do in case of fire.
- What to do if someone knocks on the door.
- Whether or not they should answer the phone if it rings.
- How to judge if another child is unwell and help is needed.
- How to contact the doctor, hospital, police or fire brigade in an emergency (e.g. how to use 000 number).

Family rules:

- How many friends are allowed?
- Can they play outside?
- Can they use the swimming pool?
- Can they go to the shop or visit a neighbour?
- What are the rules about the family pets?
- What is the special family password that they can say if I phone and they need help, or a code to use if phone to check on them. For example, 3 rings, hang up and ring again before they pick up the phone.

When the time is right

There comes a time when your teenager will start pleading with you to let them stay home alone without someone to look after them. This is a normal part of adolescence when young people are trying to feel more adult and independent. Once again, the age and maturity of your child will make a difference. For example, you may feel very confident with a 13 year old who is very responsible and quite worried about a 16 year old who may try to take risks. Letting go of the reins gradually might mean giving your child a chance to practise being by themselves and to make mistakes.

Mr Bruce Titlestad, Head of Secondary

H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) Update

We have the latest information from the Federal Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon regarding the H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) Update

We are now in the **PROTECT** phase of this outbreak.

That means that partial or full individual ***school closures are no longer recommended.***

Also the ***voluntary exclusion for 7 days*** of students and staff who have travelled to affected countries or Victoria is no longer appropriate and ***ceases*** effect from 17 June.

The **key messages** include:

1. Children and staff who have influenza-like illness should not attend school until they are well.
2. Any student and staff who present to school with influenza-like symptoms will be checked by our School Nurse who will determine whether the person needs to go home. In such an event, parents will be contacted.
The message is: "**Stay home and do not go to work, school or social events until you are well.**"
3. Healthy children and adults with a mild flu-like illness do not need to go to the GP or hospital to be tested for human swine flu. They should completely recover on their own without the need for prescription medicines.
Those with severe illness should consult their GP for specific advice.
4. Hygiene is very important to reduce the spread of influenza.
 - wash hands frequently
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
 - cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing
 - avoid contact with people who are unwell

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Caryl Roberts, Principal

Education Tax Refund

The Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund) Bill 2008 recently received Royal Assent. This measure, which applies from 1 July 2008, permits eligible taxpayers to claim a tax offset for certain education expenditure incurred in respect of children undertaking primary and secondary school studies. This article outlines the requirements which must be satisfied in order to benefit from the tax offset. Please refer to pages 8, 9 and 10 for further information.

Kiss & Drive Areas

Please note that no parking is allowed at any time in the Kiss and Drive areas, particularly in the area by the music steps off the Hepburn avenue entrance. These areas are for quick drop off and pick up only.
To make the Kiss and Drive work effectively, please follow the School Traffic Plan. One car parked in the area invites another car to do the same and so on, so please use these areas for quick drop off and pick up only.

Thanksgiving Service

The Thanksgiving Service is one of the most important events of the year for our School. This year's Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday 10 September at 7.00pm. Last year, the School held a combined campus Thanksgiving Service but, this year, each campus will hold its own service. Duncraig's Thanksgiving Service will take place at the Christian City Church in Hepburn Heights. Please put this date onto your calendar. More information will be given closer to the date.

Year 7 Canberra Tour

It is exciting to be taking 105 Year 7 students to Canberra during the first year of our Transition Program. The Year 7 teachers, with the assistance of 12 parents, will be accompanying the students during the last week of Term 2, from 28 June to the 4 July.

While undertaking this educational tour of our capital, we will participate in a variety of educational programs focused on Australian history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of young Australians being able to visit their national Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government contributes funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program towards the travel expenses incurred. We thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

The Year 7 teachers, students and parents are looking forward to this great experience.

Anneline Neethling, Year 7 Coordinator

Key Dates	
Monday 22 June	Lou Morrison Kimberley Experience all week
Tuesday 23 June	Yr 12 Curtin University Excursion, Council Meeting
Wednesday 24 June	Jnr CAS Rd 7
Monday 29 June	Lou Morrison Kimberley Experience all week, Yr 10 Work Experience all week, Yr 7 Canberra Tour all week
Tuesday 30 June	Year 12 Camp (afternoon)
Wednesday 1 July	Year 9-12 Camp, Jnr CAS Finals
Thursday 2 July	Year 9-12 Camp
Friday 3 July	Year 9-12 Camp, Primary Inter House Cross Country, Dove Tales End Term 2.

Mission Australia

Mission Australia's Annual Survey of Young Australians closes on 26 June 2009. This short survey is an opportunity for young people aged 11 to 24 years to have a voice on what they value, their concerns and where they go for advice and support. Students can complete this survey online at www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey or hard copies are available by emailing HampshireA@missionaustralia.com.au (Anne Hampshire).

Reminder to Parents

Should you park in a Disabled bay within the School grounds and do not have an Acrod sticker, the local Council can and will fine you \$120. You will be responsible for payment of the fine.

Food Collection for DICC

The Connect Team (a group of students in the Secondary School) are asking for donations of tinned food and non-perishable food items to support the Duncraig Care and Information Centre. Please remind your child to bring this food item to school next week. All donations will provide valuable support to families in need in the local area.

Primary

Reporting Day in the Primary School

Tuesday 21 July is Reporting Day when we invite parents into School to collect students' reports and to meet with teachers to discuss progress. Primary School teachers are available for appointments between the hours of 7.30am and 11.00am and between 2.00pm and 7.30pm. All parents are expected to take advantage of the ten minute interviews which will be held on this day. A form will be sent home for you to complete, requesting a time for you to meet with your child's teacher and we ask that this be returned asap so that we can confirm times.

Interschool Sport

Year 6 have just completed three very successful rounds of inter school sport against Lake Joondalup Baptist College, Liwara Catholic School and St Marks. All five teams of netball, girls and boys soccer, have had some excellent results and have always played in the spirit of the game.

The annual Lightning Carnival will be held on Friday 19 June from 10.00am until 2.30pm. The boys soccer and netball will be held at Kingsway Reserve and girls soccer at Warrantyte Park Craigie.

Cross Country

Training will continue until the end of Term 2 on the following days:

Tuesday 3.15pm-3.45pm and Friday 7.45am-8.15am

Interhouse Cross Country Carnival will be held at school on Friday 3 July from 11.00am to 1.00pm .

Non-Uniform Day Change of Date for Term 2

All Secondary School parents please note the following change of date for non-uniform day.

Non-uniform dress code will be on Tuesday 30 June and **not** on Monday 29 June. The Year 12s will be in non-uniform dress code due to leaving immediately after school on Tuesday for their Retreat. Therefore, to save any confusion during the week, the Non-Uniform Day has been changed to the Tuesday as a trial which will be evaluated. Your child has been reminded on several occasions of this change of date. In support of this, please remind your child about this change of date.

Career Expo and Industry Breakfast

Our inaugural Career Expo was a great success and many of our students used the opportunity to talk to advisors from all of the Universities and TAFE colleges as well as representatives from Apprenticentre, Motor Trades, Plumbing and Painting and Electronic Music production. At one stage there were so many people in the Administration foyer it was hard to move. This event offers students a chance to explore the myriad of their life after St Stephen's School.

The following morning we held our first Industry Breakfast for Year 10 students. This was arranged in a carousel set-up with five or six students having round table discussions with leaders from 17 different industries. After 15 minutes they moved onto another table to discuss a different career. Students were then able to share a fantastic corporate style breakfast with the industry leaders and have further discussions with these people. We are very keen to hear from any parents who would like to be involved in this next year. Positive feedback about the way our students represented themselves has been received, their families and their school are proud of them.

These two events were so successful they will be annual events in the Careers calendar.

Years 7-10 Reporting Day 21 July

Reporting Day is an opportunity for you to discuss with your son/daughter's teachers, how things are progressing at school. Your son/daughter would have received an interview booking sheet this week to begin the process of arranging interviews for you to see their teachers. Please guide them in terms of what times suit you best. Student reports will be with you before Reporting Day for your reference.

Dawn Clements, Deputy - Curriculum and Learning

Congratulations

Gemma Kendell, Year 11, has been selected by Hockey WA as the goalkeeper for the U18 team. Gemma will be competing in Canberra during June/July this year.

English Department

1. Exam Feedback for all students who have/successfully completed their exams recently.

In an endeavour to help our students learn from the experience, the English Department has produced a Feedback Booklet covering all of the exams from Year 10 General to Year 12 Literature. The booklet represent 66 pages of feedback written by a range of teachers.

The intentions for the booklet are to:

- Provide students with a clear outline of the areas where all students struggle;
- Give advanced clarification of areas that students need to work on as they progress through Years 10,11 and 12;
- Outline areas that students may wish to study and revise, within a time frame that makes such revision possible, meaningful and worthwhile;
- Prevent the repetition of mistakes across this three year span so that students can build on their skills and identify areas that they need to work on;
- Allow students the benefit of a range of ideas and feedback, especially in situations where feedback specific to their exam has not been fully covered in the report for that exam.

The booklet is available through class teachers or for download on the student drive at the following address Students/LearningAreas/English/Feedback Booklet for English Exams.

2. English Seminars Term 3 (Years 12 and 11)

During the course of Term 3 , on Tuesday afternoons between 3.30pm and 5.00pm, all Year 12 students in 2A/2B and 3A/3B are required to attend seminars that focus on analysis, exam skills, the exam itself and the core concepts of the English course. Year 11 students are also invited to attend. The seminars will be run by the current Year 12 staff, namely, Mr Taylor, Mr Beckett and Mrs Crewe.

3. Studying For English - Parents and Students In Year 12 and 11.

Please note that with exams less than 15 weeks away (a little longer for Year 11s) students should be studying regularly for English. Aside from assessment work and homework (should it be given) students should be studying a minimum of three hours a week for English.

English is not a subject that can be crammed for the night before; the only way to learn how to read or write is to read and write, and that takes time. Throw into the mix that students will need to write a large quantity (10-15 pages) of quality work in a three hour time period and it is clear that they need to study and write under time pressure.

The bottom line is that students can study for English. They have had, and continue to have, access to a number of past exams on the student drive, the curriculum council draft exams (which are online at http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/Internet/Senior_Secondary/Courses/English), a study package given to them at the start of the year that explains how to study, and the expertise of their teachers, whom they only need to ask to gain assistance.

Mr Phillip Taylor, Head of English

Canteen Roster

Date	8:30 -11:30	11:00 - 2:00
Monday 22 June	A Parvasani K Brouwer (10-1)	
Tuesday 23 June	J Hardie	L Dalton
Wednesday 24 June	G Brune P Glavinas	L Cross
Thursday 25 June	H Wright HELP NEEDED	T Dennis HELP NEEDED
Friday 26 June	N Naglan L Luck	HELP NEEDED
Monday 29 June	N Stewart V Norriss	HELP NEEDED
Tuesday 30 June	A Delange	Sufficient Staff Available
Wednesday 1 July	K Morrish HELP NEEDED	J Stewart HELP NEEDED
Thursday 2 July	C Campbell W Hatfield HELP NEEDED	T Knox E Wilson HELP NEEDED
Friday 3 July	K Hewitt F Reed	C Tambakis HELP NEEDED

A big thanks to Amar Parvasani for cooking up a curry feast for lunch orders. Please remember that extra help is required on 1 and 2 July for Year 9 Camp catering. Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday.

Sheryn, Jane and Narelle

Camp Quality

Harry Potter fan? We are too! Camp Quality is hosting a special red carpet screening of the new Harry Potter movie and we'd love you to come. Ticket price is \$25 and includes movie ticket, popcorn and a drink. Come dressed as your favourite character! There will be loads of fun on the day including face painting and the chance to win an XBOX 360.

Purchase your ticket online.

<<http://www.campquality.org.au/public/how-you-can-help/cq-products/harrypotter-screening.aspx>>

Tennis

John Fairchild's Tennis Edge, Kids Tennis Coaching, Saturday 25 July for 8 weeks. Enrolments phone John Fairchild 9448 4580.

Weaving Loom

Free to a good home - a weaving loom. It will be on the outside patio of the Primary Art Room for you to have a look at. If there are any queries please call Primary Art on 9243 2438.

Karate at St Stephen's School

Karate training has a range of benefits for everyone, promoting physical wellbeing, increased confidence, concentration, and it's fun! Separate adult teen and junior classes with qualified and committed instructors. Phone Ben on 9243 3554 for more information.

High School Year Overseas

Students interested in going overseas are invited to attend this meeting. Venue: EF Language School, 365 Beaufort St, Highgate on Saturday, 2.00pm - 3.30pm. Phone 1800 251 866 or check www.ef.com/highschool.

Murdoch University

Murdoch University has asked that we give advance notice to parents that their residential WA Science and Engineering Summer School (WASESS) will be held from 17-22 January 2010 and is for up to 60 students entering Years 11 or 12 in 2010. Applications and posters will be sent to schools early Term 3 and will also be found at wwwscieng.murdoch.edu.au (note there is no dot after www).

Michael Grose

Michael Grose a well respected writer and speaker on Parenting children successfully, is coming to Perth. Tuesday 1 September (cost involved). Enquiries: office@parentinaideas.com.au

Uniting Care West Winter Appeal

Help in a time of crisis. Please give generously. Every little bit helps. Donate online at www.unitingcarewest.org.au

Lifestyle Triple P

Helping you raise healthy kids. A Free program for parents concerned about their child's weight will be run over Terms 3 and 4 this year. For further information phone local Lifestyle Triple P facilitator Andrea Zulch on 9400 9500.

Whitford Family Centre

Expressions of interest are being taken on Tuesday 23 June from 9.00am-1.00pm and Thursday 25 June from 9.00am-10.00am. An administration fee of \$15 applies. Please phone 9307 2243 or email whitfordfamilycentre@people.net.au

David Milne Golf Academy

Holiday Golf Clinics Tuesdays from 7 July until 16 July please contact 9301 2599 or admin@davidmilnegolfacademy.com.au

The Education Tax Refund

By Kenneth Wong

The *Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund) Bill 2009* recently received Royal Assent. This measure, which applies from 1 July 2009, permits eligible taxpayers to claim a tax offset for certain education expenditure incurred in respect of children undertaking primary and secondary school studies. This article outlines the requirements which must be satisfied in order to benefit from the tax offset.



The new Education Tax Refund is a refundable tax offset available from the 2009 financial year to qualifying taxpayers incurring specified education expenditure in respect of their children attending primary or secondary school.

The tax offset may also be available to 'independent students' who meet the various requirements contained in the legislation.

What is the Education Tax Refund?

Under the amendments to Division 61 ITAA97, eligible taxpayers are able to claim a 50% tax offset in respect of eligible education expenses incurred during an income year, up to:

- \$750 for each child undertaking a recognised course of primary school studies (equivalent to an offset of \$375 per child, per income year), and
- \$1,500 for each child undertaking a recognised course of secondary school studies (equivalent to an offset of \$750 per child, per income year).

The 50% education expense tax offset is refundable and therefore any part of the offset that cannot be

applied to reduce a tax liability in the current income year is paid out as a refund to the taxpayer.

The tax offset will be included in 2009 year individual tax returns. Taxpayers eligible to claim the offset who are not required to lodge a tax return should submit a stand-alone claim in respect of the offset.

Who is eligible?

Broadly, the education expense tax offset is available to:

- taxpayers who are entitled to a Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A payment or certain other prescribed payments listed in s61-610 ITAA97, or
- 'independent students' i.e. Australian resident students who are under the age of 25 years, and in receipt of payments under a prescribed educational scheme, such as:
 - the Youth Allowance;
 - the ABSTUDY Allowance, or
 - payments under the Labour Market Programs.

The Education Tax Refund (continued)



Further, the student must meet the prescribed schooling requirement and the taxpayer or the independent student must incur eligible education expenses.

What is the schooling requirement?

The schooling requirement must be assessed for each half year commencing 1 July or 1 January. As a general rule, a child or an independent student satisfies the schooling requirement if he or she is registered or enrolled:

- in a primary or secondary school course provided at a school or TAFE
- as a home-schooled student with the education authority of the State or Territory in which the individual resides, or
- in a course of study or instruction determined

by the Minister administering the *Student Assistance Act 1973* to be a course to which the education expenses tax offset applies.

To satisfy the schooling requirement, the child or the independent student must attend the course of study on at least one day in a six month period commencing 1 July or 1 January. If a child or a student starts or leaves school part way through the year, or only satisfies the requirement for part of the income year, then the child or the student will only be eligible for the offset for the half of the financial year that they met the school attendance requirements.

EXAMPLE:

Warren was enrolled at a primary school in November 2008 and attended his first day at the school in February 2009. Soon after he started, his mother purchased various materials to assist his learning. Warren's mother is entitled to the FTB Part A payment. Warren only satisfies the schooling requirement from 1 January to 30 June 2009 and therefore his mother is only entitled to the tax offset in respect of that six month period.

What are eligible education expenses?

Eligible expenses are items that support a child's education and include the purchase, lease, or hire of:

- home computers, laptops and related equipment (such as flash drives and printers)
- disability aids for special needs students
- home internet connection
- computer software for educational use (such as word processing, spreadsheets, and antivirus software)
- school textbooks and other paper-based learning materials (such as textbooks, stationery and study guides), and
- prescribed tools of trade.

TIP

Eligible expenses also include the repair and maintenance of the above items.

WARNING

The eligible education expenses must have been incurred on a day when the child or the student satisfied the schooling requirement.

NOTE: Where an eligible education expense has been incurred in respect of more than one eligible child, the expense can be pooled and shared between the children when accessing the tax offset.

It is important to remember that expenses of the type listed below are not eligible education expenses for the purposes of the tax offset:

- school fees
- school uniforms expenses
- student attendance at school-based extra-curricular activities such as excursions
- tutoring costs
- sporting equipment, and
- school subject levies.

What amount of tax offset is claimable?

According to s61-650 ITAA97, the amount of the education expense tax offset that may be claimed in an income year is the amount that is the lesser of:

- the sum of all the eligible expenses incurred for the current income year and any excess education expenses incurred in the income year ending immediately before the current year, and
- the offset limit applicable to the taxpayer for the current income year, ie. \$375 or \$750 per child.

NOTE: If an eligible taxpayer incurred education expenses in excess of the taxpayer's offset limit for the current income year, the excess can be carried over to the following income year. However, excess expenses that are not claimed in the subsequent income year will automatically lapse.

EXAMPLE

Jethro is a year 11 student whose parents purchased a computer for use in his school studies, at a cost of \$1,800. All eligibility requirements are satisfied and therefore a tax offset of \$750 ($\$1,500 \times 50\%$) is

available, with the excess expenditure of \$100 able to be included in the following year provided the eligibility requirements were satisfied in that year.

Generally, the limits for education tax offset are \$375 for each eligible primary school student and \$750 for each eligible secondary school student. However, in situations where eligibility for the tax offset is only satisfied for part of a year, apportionment will be necessary.

EXAMPLE

Assume Tim completes secondary school in December and commences full-time work in February the following year. During the period July to December, Tim's father had incurred \$2,000 of eligible education expenditure and all other requirements for the education tax refund are satisfied.

Tim's father could claim a tax offset of \$375 in respect of the six month period (being half of the \$750 maximum offset).

NOTE: For a couple with shared responsibilities in respect of a child, s61-670 ITAA97 provides that each individual is only entitled to that portion of the offset amount which equates to their percentage of the shared FTB entitlement or their individual percentage under a shared-care arrangement.

Comment

The education expense tax offset applies to eligible expenses incurred by taxpayers from 1 July 2008.

Taxpayers should remember that they may be called upon to substantiate both the amount of expenditure included in a tax offset claim, and the date that the expenditure was incurred. By media release of 22 January 2009, the Tax Office has reminded taxpayers of the need to keep receipts for all relevant expenditure.

Taxpayers are advised to refer to 6.100 of the 2008 & 2009 Tax Summary for commentary in respect of the substantiation rules generally. ■