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Issue 8/2009

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## Head of Primary's Report

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

I know that I am exceedingly fortunate in that I find so many aspects of my role enjoyable and rewarding. I would like to share a few of these with you.

Ask most Primary School students and they will probably tell you that my role in the School is to present them with keys which they have earned for the *You Can Do It* program that we have in the School. (I can assure you, I do other things as well!) When students have gathered five signatures, they come to my office to receive their special key. The five parts to this program are *Persistence, Confidence, Organisation, Getting Along* and *Resilience*. Students come to receive their key with beaming faces and are full of enthusiasm. How rewarding to see these young people so excited and happy as well as seeing them developing those skills which are so important for a successful life.

Students are sometimes sent to show their beautiful work to me. How wonderful! I see those who have their struggles yet have written a lovely story, or have worked so hard to complete their maths or those who have taken pride in their handwriting. It is a privilege to be able to share their joy and to encourage them to continue doing their best. Seeing children who have found learning difficult and then, suddenly, make great progress is something to celebrate. I always tell those students to show their parents what they have achieved. I hope they do.

As I move around the School, I see students with lovely manners, Many students greet me each day, open doors for me, willingly share their experiences or just smile. These things are noticed and appreciated. I trust that students in the School are showing all adults the same respect and good manners. (They're allowed to have the occasional slip up at home, by the way!) I also see many students who share a real pride in their School, who are willing to serve, encourage and help others, or do things without being asked. All of these are so good to see.

A few weeks ago, a member of the public called to say how well behaved our Early Learning Centre students had been on a recent excursion to the zoo. He had noticed the St Stephen's School badge and wanted to tell me that this group of students had been a credit to us. He and his wife had observed the interaction of the students with each other and with their teachers. He was very impressed.

From time to time, in our role as parents or teachers, our children display inappropriate behaviour and cause us some anxious moments. When these occur, we are always very quick to notice and to hand out consequences. The media often brings out the negatives when it comes to reporting on our youth. I encourage you to look for those moments, as young people go about their day, when they do the things which make us proud. You will find many of them.

Mrs Christine Benson, Head of Primary School

## Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence 2009

Reminder: Nominations close 19 June for this opportunity to celebrate excellence in schools and recognise the achievements of teachers, principals, support staff and schools. If there's someone you know who is going above and beyond and making a difference, or a school community that shines, help them get the recognition they deserve.

Go to <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au/ta/go/home/op/edit/pid/594>

## Use of iPods - An important message to Parents and Students

There is no doubt of the educational value of iPods as learning tools; however, there are some health risks to be aware of when using this tool. Health studies have shown that students using iPods need to be aware of the level of volume they set their iPods on as hearing loss and ringing in the ears can be the result of setting the volume too high. A study has shown that some iPod users have developed an "iPod thumb". The study stated that using the user list on the circular scroll wheel repeatedly caused painful thumb and finger inflammation. As well as health risks, consistent use of iPods can lead to social risks, ie people forget how to properly communicate and interact with one another. iPods have their place in learning, but users need to be aware of the risks if this tool is not used properly.

*Dr Glenn Chinen, Deputy Head of Secondary for Care*

## International Student Exchange

If you like the challenge of living in a new country for a few weeks, semester a or for a year and learning about a totally different culture and becoming fluent in another language, then go global with Youth For Understanding (YFU). For more information see Dr Chinen or go on the web ([www.yfu.com.au](http://www.yfu.com.au)).

## Traffic Updates

Thank you to parents who are supporting the School's Traffic Plan, particularly concerning the left turn (from 3:05pm to 3:35pm) when exiting onto Doveridge Drive from the main School driveway. With just minor details to be sorted with the Lorraine Paul Building and further work on Hamer Oval, updates to the Traffic Plan are currently still in progress. In particular, making improvements concerning parking in the 'Year 12 carpark' area are underway. Thank you for your support, patience and understanding on these matters.

*Dr Glenn Chinen, Deputy Head of Secondary for Care*

## Donations – Knitting Needles and Wool

Alethea students and staff will be taking up knitting, the aim being for all members of the House to contribute to making rugs for less fortunate people in the community. We would appreciate donations of knitting needles and wool that are no longer used by your family. Oddments of wool are fine, as we intend to use as many colours as possible in each rug. Your help in this venture would be appreciated.

*Mrs Robyn Hammond, Dean of Alethea*

## Dental Therapy Van

The Dental Therapy van will be closed on 4 July - 21 July. Emergency centres are as follows:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - Marmion DTC - 94471275, Wednesday - Craigie - 9401 3731.

| Key Dates         |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Tuesday 9 June    | Snr CAS Rd 5, Career Expo 4:30-6.30pm                                      |
| Wednesday 10 June | Jnr CAS Rd 5   |
| Thursday 11 June  | Yr 6 I/S sport   |
| Friday 12 June    | Music Concert 2  |
| Tuesday 16 June   | P&F Meeting  |
| Wednesday 17 June | Jnr CAS Rd 6   |
| Thursday 18 June  | IPSHA Speakers Challenge, Finance committee                                |
| Friday 19 June    | Lou Morrison Kimberley Experience, Yr 6 I/S Lightning carnival, Dove Tales |



**ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL**

UNITING SPIRITS IN AUSTRALIA

DUNDEE & CARROLL  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**St Stephen's School**  
invites you to

# A CAREERS EXPO

**Tuesday 9 June 2009**  
**4.30 pm – 6.30 pm**  
**Administration Foyer**  
**100 Doveridge Dve, Duncraig**  
**Enquiries to 9243 2183.**

2009 Career Lighthouse  
School Project



**Need help with your  
career choices?**

**Come along and hear from  
the experts or, better still,  
see and try for yourself!**

- **Universities**
- **TAFE**
- **Australian Defence Force**
- **Try'a Trade**
- **Sausage Sizzle**



*National Career Development Week: Get the Life You Love!*

# Building



**ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL**

UNITED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

BUNBRAIN & DARRANBAR,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Resilience



## Teach and Model Resilience to Your Child

**WHERE:** Cousins Hall  
St Stephen's School  
Duncraig Campus

**WHEN:** Tuesday 16 June 2009  
7.00 pm - 7.20 pm  
Drinks & nibbles  
7.20 pm - 8.00 pm  
Building Resilience  
8.00 pm - 8.15 pm  
Tea & Coffee  
8.15 pm  
P&F Meeting

**RSVP:**  
For catering purposes, please RSVP  
to Mrs Dianne Loan on 9243 2410 or  
loand@ststephens.wa.edu.au to confirm  
your attendance.

**A**ssociate Professor Pia Broderick is a Developmental and Clinical Psychologist in the School of Psychology at Murdoch University. She also conducts a private practice in clinical psychology specialising in therapy for children, adolescents and adults.

Her expertise is in the optimal development of children and families and the ways in which parents can build self esteem, independence and resilience in their children.

Her talk will address the development of resilience in children and adolescents, focusing particularly on how parents can teach and model resilience to their children.

## Non Uniform Day

In May, many students around the country celebrated Loud Shirt Day, supporting children who are deaf or hearing impaired. This is a national fundraising initiative organised by Telethon Speech and Hearing and raises funds to help to teach hearing impaired children to speak. It is still not too late for us to do this in Primary School so we are asking that on Monday 29 June, students wear their loudest or brightest shirt in support of this cause. We are asking students to donate a small amount of their own money to help hearing impaired children to talk.

## Ecumenical Service

A couple of weeks ago, 50 students from the Primary School attended the annual IPSHA Ecumenical Service. This year it was hosted by our colleagues at the Carramar campus and was the first time St Stephen's School has had a facility in which to host this. The theme for the service was *Remember the Lord*. Approximately 1000 students from around the metro area (and Bunbury) met together to worship. Members of staff from both campuses took part in the service which was a great success.

## Combined School and Church Service

Last week the Primary School and the Duncraig Uniting Church congregation held a combined service. I thank all those who supported the students who took part in the service, to the staff who gave up their time to help and to Rev Dr Sonny Rajamoney for his direction in the preparation. In August there will be a second combined service with our friends from the Greenwood Uniting Church congregation. We look forward to working with both churches in the future.

## Kiss 'n Drive

Students to be collected by parents at the end of the school day will now be waiting inside the gate next to the Pre-Primary classroom and not the main gate. Parents are requested to drive as far into the Kiss 'n Drive area as possible. Teachers do their very best to dismiss classes promptly but students do not always move to the collection point quickly. There may be occasions when you are requested to move on as your child has not arrived. This is to ensure that traffic continues to flow as freely as possible and does not bank up around the school causing problems on Doveridge Drive. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who are always cooperative if asked to do this.

*Christine Benson, Head of Primary*

## Year 6 Project Televised

Ten Year 6 Community Problem Students can be seen on The Garden Gurus show on Channel Nine on 6 June. The students' project is called 'Sowing the Seeds' and involves the setting up of a vegetable/ herb and fruit garden at Culunga Aboriginal Community School. The St Stephen's and Culunga students worked together this week, with a lovely sense of community, to establish the first stage of the garden. The Gurus were very generous with their advice and donations of material. Neville Passmore is a St Stephen's parent.

*Shirley Houston, Coordinator of Gifted Program*

## Children's Winter Pyjamas

Thank you to all of those families who donated children's winter pyjamas. At Staff retreat we looked at how to bring the Christian message into a world context and the guest speakers were keen to tell us that God doesn't need 'big' projects as they are often frightening and difficult to organise. It is small projects like these pyjamas that can make a personal impact on needy families. All of the pyjamas have gone to Uniting Care West at Merriwa. A small way to serve God, serve one another.

## Secondary

### Community Service Hours - no longer a Graduation requirement for WACE from 2009

The Curriculum Council made the decision on 13 May 2009 to remove the mandatory 20 hours community service requirement for Graduation with WACE. Students will however still have their service hours recorded so that they can be credited with such achievement which will be indicated on school reports and Curriculum Council academic transcripts.

*Mrs Dawn Clements, Deputy - Curriculum and Learning*

## Congratulations

Kienan Higgins, Year 10 has been selected in the Under 16 State School Boys Football team.

### All secondary parents

Please note that Mr Mark Downsborough is the Secondary Examinations Coordinator and enquiries about misadventures concerning students sitting school examinations need to be made with Mr Downsborough by telephone 9243 2105.

It is commendable to see our students taking the examinations seriously. As a staff we have been impressed with their behaviour and attitude and we congratulate them on their application to all procedures.

*Mrs Dawn Clements , Deputy Curriculum and Learning*

### Enrol to Vote Week

Students who are 17 years old and are Australian citizens are encouraged to enroll to vote now so that they are eligible to vote once they turn 18 years of age. The enrolment process is the same for 17 year olds as it is for those aged 18 or over. During the Enrol to Vote Week students in Year 12 will be issued with an enrolment form to be completed and returned to school. St Stephen's School will again be promoting the Enrol to Vote Week and we ask you to encourage your child to complete the form and return it to school.

Further information is available on the Enrol to Vote Week website [www.enroltovoteweek.com.au](http://www.enroltovoteweek.com.au)

## Canteen Roster

| Date              | 8:30 -11:30                       | 11:00 - 2:00                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday 8 June     | L Kerspian<br>D Evans             | D Reinhardt                    |
| Tuesday 9 June    | K Cox<br>J Power                  | B Blythe                       |
| Wednesday 10 June | F Keltic                          | D Corcoran                     |
| Thursday 11 June  | H Wright<br>A De Lange            | F Kestel<br>HELP NEEDED        |
| Friday 12 June    | J Cutter<br>HELP NEEDED           | K Bush<br>C Ash<br>HELP NEEDED |
| Monday 15 June    | T Bowie<br>M Mosenthal            | YEN                            |
| Tuesday 16 June   | S Delamotte<br>M Bodenstaff       | D Moore                        |
| Wednesday 17 June | M Von-Eyk<br>K Mornish            | K Wright                       |
| Thursday 18 June  | L Beament<br>L Bissel<br>T Vlahos | S Anderson<br>HELP NEEDED      |
| Friday 19 June    | L Guard<br>L Hall                 | G Dunn<br>HELP NEEDED          |

June is potato month for our healthy theme. Please look out for the various promotions and free tastings we will be running.

Congratulations to Lisa Kerspiran who is our volunteer of the month.

We need two extra volunteers on the 1 and 2 July to help with catering for the Year 9 camp. This involves food preparation in the canteen making up salad rolls etc. You will be required from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Please contact Sheryn Aubrey on 9243 2104 if you can assist.

## Community News

The Bulldogs 10 and under boys indoor cricket team are looking for a new player. If you enjoy playing cricket, are 10 years old or younger and would like to be involved in this fast and exciting version of the game then please contact **Lee Pattison** on **0403 310 487** for further information. All games are played on Saturday mornings at Bouncer Sports centre in Joondalup.

### SU holiday camps

SU camps offer excitement, fun and the chance to do something different and interesting during the school holidays. Scripture Union (SU) is a Christian organisation, and gives students an opportunity to hear what Christianity is all about. We believe that Jesus can give hope and purpose to life, and on camp, you can find out why. The leaders on camps are volunteers, who are trained for camp and are responsible and fun people.

Scripture Union WA has winter camps for Primary and High School students - canoeing, white water rafting, adventure, leaders, and primary Cooida. A brochure can be collected from Primary or Secondary reception or from the website [www.suwa.org.au](http://www.suwa.org.au)

### The Princess Bitchface Syndrome & Effective Parenting of Young Girls

As author of The Princess Bitchface Syndrome and Surviving Adolescents, Dr Carr-Gregg offers advice for parents when their 'previously quiet, loving daughter becomes a restless, rebellious stranger who behaves like a responsible adult one day and a campish brat the next. You are invited to Perth College to spend an evening with Dr Carr-Gregg who will discuss the topics: The Princess Bitchface Syndrome and Effective Parenting of Young girls. Judith Cottier Theatre, Tuesday 21 July 2009 from 7:00-8:30pm. Tickets are \$20 through the News and Events section on the Perth College website [pc.wa.edu.au](http://pc.wa.edu.au)

### City of Joondalup 2009 Calendar of Events

City of Joondalup 2009 Calendar of events free workshops on Living with Teenagers, Parent Separation, Everything you need to know about Leavers Week and Understand your Adolescent for parents are being held between the 10 June and 8 December. For further information contact the Youth Services Team Leader on 9400 4223.

### WAPPA Parent Evening - Raising 21st Century Minds

Featuring... **KELLY SPORTS**

MON JULY 6 & TUES JULY 7 2009

**FUN4KIDS**

**WINTER ESCAPE!**

MON JULY 6 & TUE JULY 7 8.30 AM-3.30 PM

AGE 5-11 YEAR OLDS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Christian City Church  
connect  
PERBURN PECHES

Including **CLASH** STADIUM  
School Holiday Program  
WINTER OLYMPICS  
For Yr 7, 8 & 9's

Contact: [beng@cs3hh.com.au](mailto:beng@cs3hh.com.au) for info

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| <b>DUNCRAIG</b><br>100 Doveridge Drive Duncraig 6924<br>PO Box 88 Greenwood Western Australia 6924<br>☎ +61 8 9447 1111 ✉ +61 8 9447 1118 | <b>CARRAMAR</b><br>50 St Stephens Crescent Tapping<br>PO Box 246 Joondalup Western Australia 6919<br>☎ +61 8 9306 7100 ✉ +61 8 9306 7101 |
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