

Wagga Wagga District NEWSLETTER



Tuesday 31 July 2001

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Dear Colleagues

I am looking forward to tomorrow's meeting at the District Office (4-5pm) to brainstorm possibilities for the celebration and publicising of Education Week 2001. It will be an opportunity throughout the week to showcase outstanding work of students, program implementation by school staff and student performance skills. The plan is not to run a different agenda to the celebrations in schools but to tap into those programs for a wider audience. Thank you to all schools who returned education week surveys promptly in response to Media unit requests.

This term's District Principals' Meeting will be held on Thursday 30 August at the RSL. The venue has also been booked from 2pm on 29 August to allow primary and secondary principals to hold association meetings as requested by the executive of each group. The organization also allows for collegial networking of principals by meeting for dinner at a venue to be arranged on the Wednesday night.

Congratulations on your many excellent School Development Day programs. I've enjoyed reading about them in your newsletters and commend you on the way in which you are keeping your communities informed.

Two articles are attached for your interest. "Striving To Keep The Customers Satisfied" raises several issues to be considered in the reporting to parents process. "Answering The Call To Teach" is a timely reminder for us all, as we head towards Education Week, of why we became teachers and the motivation of teachers we need in our schools teaching our own children.

Regards,

Colin Parker
District Superintendent

NEWS FROM THE CEO

Welcome back to all Principals and staff and I am sure you are looking forward to another busy yet productive term.

The school self-evaluation process should be in full swing this term and I have sent out material as I receive it to help schools with the evaluation process. You will be pleased to hear that the "School Accountability and Improvement" directorate is developing survey tools and processes that will assist school teams gain the most from the time spent on self-evaluation. It is hoped in the near future to have these on our directorate website so that Principals can browse and download as required.

Once again I offer my assistance to schools in the planning of evaluations or setting up of teams over the next few weeks.

Colin and I are currently planning to visit a number of district primary schools to discuss progress, plans and future targets. More information will be given at the Combined Principals District Meeting on 30 August. I look forward to meeting once again with you all at that time.

Peter Brabin
Chief Education Officer School Improvement

BOYS EDUCATION

Schools may have received information about a private two-day boys' education conference to be held in Sydney 23-24 August 2001 at a cost of \$495.00.

We have received advice from the Gender Equity Unity, that a departmental boys' education conference which reflects departmental policy and priorities will be offered in Sydney on Friday 19 October 2001 at a much lower cost. A flyer will be circulated to all schools in the near future.

If you require further information please contact me on telephone 69373868.

Rose Manousaridis
Student Welfare Consultant

COMPENSATION FOR TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The provisions of the Crown Employees (Teachers in School and TAFE and Related Employees) Salaries and Conditions Award relating to payment for travel on official business are contained in Part B (page 47).

1. Except where authorised, teachers are responsible for meeting costs incurred in travel between their residence and usual place of work.
2. Teachers who occupy the following positions may be authorised to use their private vehicle for travel on official business in the performance of their normal duties where other modes of travel are unsuitable or unavailable.

School Counsellors, Itinerant Teachers (teachers of the Behaviourally disordered, the visually impaired, the hearing impaired), District

Guidance Officers (DGOs), Pre School Teachers, Support Teachers Intensive

Reading, Careers Advisers, Support Teachers Learning Difficulties (STLDs),

Early Student Support Program Teachers (ESSP).

Official Business Rate

- 2.1 The official business rate is payable where the use of a teacher's private motor vehicle on official business is authorised and the teacher is required to travel on official business using their motor vehicle on a regular basis of at least once per week throughout the school year or travel a minimum of 400 kilometres during the school year, except where:
 - 2.1.1 an official vehicle is available;
 - 2.1.2 for all or specific days of travel, public transport is obviously available, suitable, and does not result in a loss of the teacher's professional time and or restriction in the performance of the teacher's duties and professional responsibilities.
- 2.2 Where a teacher commences duty other than at the start of the school year the minimum period of 400 kilometres to be travelled, as provided by subclause 5.1 above, shall be adjusted proportionately.

3. Specified Journey Rate

The specified journey rate is payable to teachers who are authorised to use their private motor vehicle to travel on official business intermittently as opposed to regular use (as provided by clause 5 of this Schedule) for which the official business rate is paid, except where

- 3.1.1 an official vehicle is available;
- 3.1.2 for all or specific days of travel, public transport is obviously available, suitable, and does not result in a loss of the teacher's professional time and/or restriction in the performance of the teacher's duties and professional responsibilities.

4. Official Business and Specified Journey Rates

Clause of Schedule which applies	Rate/Vehicle Engine Capacity	Cents Per Km	
		0 B 8,000 km per annum	8,001 km or more per annum
5	Official Business Rate		
	Below 1600 cc	44.8	18.7
	1600 B 2700 cc	62.5	22.2
	Above 2700 cc	67.2	23.9
6	Specified Journey Rate		
	Below 1600 cc		18.7
	1600 B 2700 cc		22.2
	Above 2700 cc		23.9

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AISE STUDENT EXCHANGE

Students interested in studying in USA, Austria, Germany, Holland, Poland or Switzerland for a semester or year as an exchange student are encouraged to call AISE, the Australian Intercultural Student Exchange program, to receive a free AISE brochure. AISE offers 15 – 18 year old students the opportunity to study in their country of choice for a semester or a year, departing in either January or August.

AISE also offers families the opportunity to “share your home with an international family member” by “adopting” an exchange student brother or sister here in Australia. The Study Overseas program and the Host Family program are separate arrangements and facilities do not need to Host in order to send a child overseas. The option is yours.

National Coordinator of AISE, Steven Mottlee, has been involved with student exchanges for 10 years and is available to give advice and information to students and their families who are interested in participating in the student exchange program.

For information on AISE – Australian Intercultural Student Exchange and to receive a free brochure please call 1800 151617 or fax 02 6230 4946.

2001 READING RECOVERY CONFERENCES

Friday 17 August CSU Convention Centre - ***Speaking and Listening Implications for Teaching and Learning***. Speakers: Lynne Munsie, NSW Reading Recovery Trainer and Professor Bridie Raban, Melbourne University

Saturday 13 October Melbourne Convention Centre (Cnr Spencer & Flinders Sts) ***Creating life-long learners***, Featuring Dame Professor Marie Clay
Speakers: Dr Barbara Watson National Director of Reading Recovery. Trainers: Anne Ballantyne (NZ), Chris Boocock (NZ), Janice Farmer-Hailey (NSW), Lynne Munsie (NSW), Mary Rosser (QLD).

Cost: \$198. Registration Forms available from Sue Hayward.

Good reading - What does it **sound** like?

When students are reading do you listen to how the process is sounding? Reading is not about 'getting the words right' it is about effective problem-solving in order to make sense of the message on the run. Some things to think about when reflecting on the process:

Does the child:

- * read fluently and in a phrased way?
- * read using the meaning of the text?
- * look at the pictures to gather meaning?
- * stop at a difficulty?
- * monitor their reading?
- * re read in order to confirm a response? or to self-correct?
- * attempt a word using some visual information?
- * make a good substitution?
- * self-correct at the point of error?
- * ask for help?

Do you know how to help the student who is reading word-by-word (which is not efficient reading)? Why not ask a Reading Recovery teacher? These people know of some tried and true techniques that you will find useful in not only this area but in many others. They are a very valuable resource - use them!

Sue Hayward
Reading Recovery Tutor

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEB PAGE

The Wagga Wagga District Web page now features a Vocational Education section designed to specifically support all VET teachers. Each Curriculum Framework Course features its own page, which provides for one click access to all resources produced by the Board of Studies, Curriculum Support, and Training and Development Directorates. In addition, resources for delivery and assessment produced by the local VET teacher networks are available in MS Word format. Teachers are able to download these documents and customise them for their local use.

VET FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The VET finance committee will meet in the near future to allocate VET finances to schools. The amount of each allocation will depend upon the number of students accessing VET courses. The allocation will be made mid term 3.

CERTIFICATE IV TRAINING

VET teachers who have yet to complete their Certificate IV package will need to begin soon and complete the package by the end of Term 3. Many teachers have completed the package without a designated relief day. The decision to allocate a relief day will be a school decision and the day paid from the next VET funding allocation.

COMPACT VET EXPO

All Year 10 students are encouraged to attend the VET expo to be held at the Wagga Leagues Club on 13 August. The expo is designed to offer students current information regarding all framework and non-framework courses and will feature input from teachers, past students and industry representatives. Contact Debbie Castle of Wagga Compact on telephone number 69 319300.

WORK PLACE LEARNING INITIATIVE

All schools currently involved in the pilot School to Work Program will secure an additional grant of \$1400 to support the development of "Work Readiness" resources and programs. Schools will be asked to send one representative to two workshops in terms 3 and 4 to develop district resources. Relief will be provided for those workshops.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these initiatives please contact me on telephone 69 373895 or mobile 0411 486502.

Bruce Norton
Vocational Education Consultant

ISA – ITINERANT SUPPORT AUTISM

The Itinerant Support Autism Service is now established. To request placement on this caseload the Access Request Form and Attachment 1 from the Special Educational Handbook will need to be completed and sent into District Office.

Please discuss any application with your School Counsellor who will advise you in relation to eligibility criteria.

TRANSITION – YEAR 6

Primary Schools who have Year 6 students receiving Funding Support 2001 have been requested to inform the receiving High schools of pending enrolments. The High School learning support team will need to profile the students' needs in preparation for Funding Support 2002 applications. All applications will need to be into District Office on the 21 September.

Clare Kelly
Special Education Consultant (Relieving)

RENTWORKS END OF LEASE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

(From Memo DGS01.1305) ... the agreement will apply to all Rentworks Ltd leased equipment ...

Some clarification:

- The purchase of rollouts only applies to rollouts due to be returned **after** 15 July 2001.
- Does not include rollouts from earlier phases that still have not been collected by Rentworks, for example, those from March, April and May. These have not been purchased by DET.
- Only applies to Rentworks computers, not the Commonwealth Bank rollouts. (which are due to be returned term 1, 2004).

If you have any queries please contact me on 69 373879.

Matt Gown
Information Technology Consultant

STATE RECORDS NSW - EXHIBITION AND TALK - CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Elisabeth Law, Information Services Librarian, Charles Sturt University has requested that the attached information be circulated to schools.

Judy Grant
Office Manager

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