

TAKE LEARNING TO A HIGHER LEVEL

EDUCATION WITH ALTITUDE

**NEW
RESOURCE!**
Eureka Skydeck's
Great Melbourne
Race

Enhance your Melbourne
City Experience with our
Great Melbourne Race

Students will navigate,
problem solve & learn about
Melbourne's landmarks whilst
having fun in & around
Melbourne's CBD.

For more information and class bookings
contact our Educator:
T (03) 9693 8810
E schools@eurekaskydeck.com.au

Or visit us online at
www.eurekaskydeck.com.au

Bookings essential. Applies to Primary and Secondary students only.

**EUREKA
skydeck
88**

what's new

CensusAtSchool 2011 underway

The School 2011 CensusAtSchool questionnaire is open at the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. CensusAtSchool is a free, online questionnaire and analysis tool for students in Years 5 to 12, conducted nationwide to provide real data relevant to students.

"Previously CensusAtSchool was run every second year, but from now on it will be annual," said Christine Sergi, ABS Director of Statistical Capability Development. "This will help teachers plan more effectively, especially as the new Australian curriculum is implemented across the country."

Previous questionnaires attracted over 200,000 student responses that can currently be accessed through the Random Data Sampler. "This provides a rich source of statistical data and an engaging way to teach statistical concepts," said Jean Arnott, specialist teacher consultant with the ABS. "As 2011 is also a census year, the CensusAtSchool questionnaire is a great way to raise awareness of what the census is and why it is so important."

"With the data collected in CensusAtSchool questionnaires, we've designed an extensive range of resources that can be applied across the curriculum," she said. "As well as being free of charge, CensusAtSchool resources are an easy and interesting way of increasing the statistical literacy of Australian school children."

Key dates:

Questionnaire now open

8th July data collection phase ends

9th July 2011 data available

www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool

New version of student data tracking software released

GradeXpert has released GradeXpert Version 5 student assessment tracking software for Microsoft Windows.

The software allows schools to store many years worth of test and assessment results, such as NAPLAN or their own internal tests, on their own school server. They can then analyse those results graphically to identify students who are performing above or below benchmarks, class means and grade means and take appropriate action.

Version 5 includes features most requested by users, including one-click graphing, box and whiskers graphs, custom result types, custom note types, graph drill-downs and integrated spell checker.

"We find that many schools are still using Excel spreadsheets or sometimes even paper-based solutions, to try keep track of student's test results from year to year," says GradeXpert director Anthony Sacker. "This naturally limits their ability to effectively analyse the performance of a student, class or grade from term to term and year to year."

When the new Australian Curriculum is finalised, it will be available as a pre-loaded set of assessments in GradeXpert, ready for teachers to add assessment results.

www.gradexpert.com.au

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Today welcomes education news and announcements for the daily news service and magazine.

Send to minnis@minnisjournals.com.au

Small grants program helps disadvantaged children

Children's charity Barnardos Australia and office supplies company OfficeMax have launched the ninth round of the Max e Grants program. To date, \$598,500 has been distributed via 520 grants, which have supported 1015 children from pre-school, primary and secondary levels of education.

The present grants round will close in July 2011. All schools that have identified a child at disadvantage are encouraged to apply.

The Max e Grants program enables educators to apply on behalf of specific children. The funds can be used to provide schoolbooks, uniforms, fees, equipment, special tuition, excursions – anything that will help the child to participate in a full educational life.

Barnardos' Marketing Manager, Bill Petch said: "This program has been a huge success in that it has directly benefited over 1000 children in a unique way that helps them to better participate in educational endeavours. It's also a great help to educators, who find that children under financial hardship may not suit the terms and conditions of regular grants. There is a definite need for such grants when you consider that 20% of Australian households with children are low income families living on an average of \$346 per week."

Max e Grants are funded by OfficeMax with the financial support of several leading suppliers of educational products and supplies.

www.maxegrants.com.au



Barnardos' Marketing Manager Bill Petch with OfficeMax Max e Grants Manager Irina Dwyer and children from St Anne's Primary School, Park Orchard, Melbourne, Declan Hickey, Aleisha Hickey and Meg Pattison

Too few Indonesian language learners

A three-day meeting at Murdoch University in Perth last month discussed ways of addressing the plummeting number of Australian students studying Indonesian.

Organiser Prof David T Hill, Chair of South East Asian Studies at Murdoch and an expert in Indonesian studies, said that while Government recognised the strategic importance of Indonesian, not enough had been done to actively promote learning of the language at school and university level.

"While Indonesian is still a major language in our schools, research has found that enrolments are declining nationally by an average of 10,000 students every year," he said.

"The number of university students studying Indonesian has also been

declining steadily and relentlessly for the last decade – there was a 30 per cent drop nationally from 2001 to 2009. At least five university Indonesian programs have closed in the last eight years.

"If we do not intervene, the consequence is clear: Indonesian programs will continue to close, retiring staff will not be replaced, enrolments will continue to fall. At the same time, government departments and businesses that recruit Indonesian-speaking graduates are having difficulty securing new staff with advanced language skills."

The *National Colloquium on the Future of Indonesian in Australian Universities*, brought together language experts and those who rely on the skills of Indonesian language graduates to discuss ways of increasing the number of people studying Indonesian at university level.

EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE IN EDUCATION

We understand the importance of career development in education. To make it easy for you to extend your professional expertise, The University of Queensland offers a range of flexible and relevant postgraduate education programs.

Studying with UQ's School of Education will expose you to the latest developments, policies and practices in education.

Postgraduate coursework programs include:

- Master of Educational Studies
- Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies

You can choose from nine specialisations, enabling you to tailor a program to meet specific needs or interests, or to undertake a more general approach by selecting from a range of courses.

Accepting applications now.

Further information:

T: (07) 3365 6550 E: education@uq.edu.au

www.uq.edu.au/education
School of Education



Survey reveals high schooling prices

A new Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) survey reveals the total schooling costs bill for parents of children born in 2011. The new survey for the first time compares the costs for children attending school in metropolitan areas and regional areas.

The estimates were calculated from education costs information supplied by parents of more than 8000 children nationally from preschool to secondary school in metropolitan and regional areas.

ASG's general manager development, Frida Kordovoulos, said: "The new schooling cost estimates show parents of children attending school in regional areas reap significant benefits in terms of costs when compared to those in metropolitan areas."

The survey shows parents living in metropolitan areas can expect to pay up to \$80,000 if they choose a government education setting for their children's schooling, \$217,000 for systemic e.g. Catholic, or up to \$415,000 for private schooling.

Parents living in regional areas can expect costs of up to \$68,000 if they choose a government education setting, \$165,000 for systemic schooling or up to \$303,000 for private schooling.

National 2011 school year costs

Nationally, preschool in 2011 will cost up to \$4945 in a government preschool and up to \$11,626 in a non-government facility.

Parents of secondary school children in metropolitan areas can expect to pay up to \$4657 for government secondary schooling, \$12,138 for systemic and up to \$20,888 for private secondary schooling. In regional areas, the amounts are up to \$4039 for government secondary schooling, \$8993 for systemic and up to \$16,272 at a private secondary school.

National and state-based estimates for metropolitan and regional areas are available from ASG's website.

www.asg.com.au/edcosts



Outback school excursions

Territory Discoveries is hosting an educators' educational trip to the Red Centre from 17th-21st April 2011 to allow teachers planning excursions an opportunity to visit the central Australia region and experience first hand the learning outcomes available for students.

The educational trip will visit local and remote Aboriginal communities, explores the heritage of central Australia, includes a session at the School of the Air and will immerse the participants in spectacular outback landscapes that are rich in cultural significance.

Territory Discoveries specialise in designing school excursions and can tailor make itineraries to meet subject requirements for a range of subjects including biology, Aboriginal studies, PDHD, primary industries, music, agriculture, visual arts, community and family studies, geography, earth environmental studies and photography.

www.territorydiscoveries.com/schools

Taking school groups overseas involves risk!

Help meet your duty-of-care requirements by utilising The Travel Doctor-TMVC.

The Travel Doctor-TMVC is Australia's premier travel health provider, with national coverage. We recognise that travelling school groups have special needs, & are experienced in meeting these needs.

- ✓ Briefings for students, parents & teachers - ensuring consistency of advice
- ✓ Dedicated clinics for your group/s - makes sure all students, teachers & any accompanying parents get the same information & are prepared to the same standards

- ✓ Specific recommendations for your itinerary/ies

- ✓ Specialised Travellers' Medical Kits

Good preparation leads to good outcomes for the students & the school!

We can also help with competitive group travel insurance.

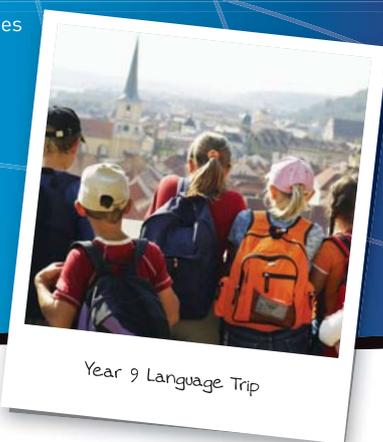
To find out how we can help you smoothly manage your travel health considerations call Cath Pugh (National Schools Liaison Officer) on 08 8212 7522 or email Cath.Pugh@traveldoctor.com.au.



...for a safe and healthy journey

We know travellers!

Clinics Australia Wide. To make an appointment or locate your nearest clinic call 1300 658 844 or visit www.traveldoctor.com.au



NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Today welcomes education news and announcements for the daily news service and magazine.

Send to minnis@minnisjournals.com.au

Lifesaving mateship lessons



Year nine students will be taught the importance of mateship in a bid to reduce risky behaviour and save lives as part of a school-based intervention program to be introduced in Queensland.

The three-year program, funded by a \$327,000 Australian Research Council Discovery grant and designed by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), aims to encourage teens to protect their friends.

Lead researcher Dr Lisa Buckley, from QUT's Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q), said serious injuries due to transport, violence and alcohol associated risk-taking were the main causes of teenage death.

Dr Buckley, who piloted the program in Queensland, will look at whether or not mateship can stop teens from participating in risk-taking behaviours. "After the pilot program, we saw a reduction in a number of risk-taking behaviours and in injury, including a 10 per cent drop in students injured while being violent," she said.

"We also found students from participating schools reported a 20 per cent increase in wearing a bicycle helmet, and we saw a 15 per cent reduction in students being injured while cycling, when compared to students from non-participating schools."

Dr Buckley said in terms of changing attitudes, students who took a part in the program had a greater awareness of risk and actions they could take to reduce risk.

"For example when asked about protecting friends and reducing injury, one student said they would 'try to talk them out of it', while another said it was important to 'take the peer pressure out of it'."

www.news.qut.edu.au

ThinkQuest 2011 competition

ThinkQuest International Competition 2011

ThinkQuest Projects
Digital Media
Application Development



The Oracle Education Foundation is urging Australian schools to enter teams in the international 2011 ThinkQuest Competition. Each team may be comprised of one to six students and a coach. This year's events are: ThinkQuest projects, Digital media, and Application development.

Students may partner with peers within Australia or in different parts of the world. Some of the best entries in past years have been based on a collaborative effort by teams with students spread across the globe.

Previous Australian winners include a team that won first prize in the 12 Years and Under division in 2007. This team created a colourful online magazine with the aim of increasing awareness of endangered animals around the world.

Last year saw the competition's first Indigenous Australian student partner with students from the USA and India to submit a website on preserving Indigenous and dying languages.

First and second placed teams in each age division for each event will win a trip to ThinkQuest Live for team members and their coach, and one parent or adult chaperone per student. ThinkQuest Live is a five-day event hosted by OEF in San Francisco, with a jam-packed program of educational activities, social events and sightseeing excursions.

The first, second and third place teams in each age division for each event will receive a laptop for each team member. The first place teams in each age division for each event will also earn a \$US5,000 donation for their school or organisation.

Entries close on 27th April 2011. For entry details and competition rules visit www.thinkquest.org.

Agitated, Disruptive – Even Aggressive Students? We can help!

Since 1980, CPI has helped to keep schools safe across Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the United States, and Canada by teaching professionals how to defuse confrontational situations with confidence and ease. To date, over six million individuals—including thousands of educators—have participated in CPI's highly successful *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*SM training course.

For details on the *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*SM training course, call us toll-free at **1800 55 3247**, visit crisisprevention.com, or email us at info@crisisprevention.com.



International Headquarters:

10850 W. Park Place, Suite 600 • Milwaukee, WI 53224
Toll-free: 1800 55 3247 (Please ring before 9:00 a.m. Tues.–Sat.)
Fax: 001 414.979.7098
Email: info@crisisprevention.com • crisisprevention.com



Join us at an upcoming
2011 training course:

14–17 February • Perth, WA
1–4 March • Brisbane, QLD
8–11 March • North Adelaide, SA
15–18 March • Brighton-le-Sands
(Sydney), NSW

Priority Code:
EC110

Top Arts: VCE 2010 exhibition



Opening 31st March, the National Gallery of Victoria will present Top Arts: VCE 2010. Now in its 17th year, the exhibition will display 55 works by 53 students from government, Catholic and independent schools from across Victoria.

Exemplary drawings, photography, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, books, short films and textiles will be represented in this year's exhibition.

Works have been inspired by a wide range of themes, including responses to the natural and urban environment, family relationships, and consumerism. Responses to art movements and historical events are also explored with one student depicting her grandmother's five years in Auschwitz and another drawing the brutality of the Russian Revolution.

Merren Ricketson, Top Arts Coordinating Curator said: "Each year Top Arts

highlights the unlimited creativity unleashed in art classrooms across the state."

Students selected for the exhibition completed Art or Studio Arts last year as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education. This year 110 students were shortlisted from more than 1800 applicants.

Top Arts is exceptionally popular with VCE students, schools and the general public. Last year, more than 90,000 people visited the exhibition. A diverse range of public programs, including opportunities to meet the exhibitors and view their developmental folios will accompany the exhibition.

The works will be on display at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square from 31st March–19th June 2011. Hours are 10.00 am–5.00 pm. Closed Mondays. Admission is free.

ngv.vic.gov.au.



Just like calling in a substitute teacher, we can help with growing enrolments.

- › Our education range includes;
 - classrooms
 - multi-purpose halls
 - libraries
 - trade centres
 - administration offices
 - staff rooms
- › Off-site construction fast tracks infrastructure development and minimises disruption to the school
- › Innovative design and superior engineering delivers aesthetic buildings with hardy internal finishes
- › Sustainable classrooms that lead the way in structural integrity, energy and water efficiency
- › Double or single storey solutions with architectural roof lines that maximise natural light and thermal ventilation

Hire or Sale Options
call 13 62 11 or
visit www.ausco.com.au

Buildings to live, work & learn



DESIGN | BUILD | INSTALL | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

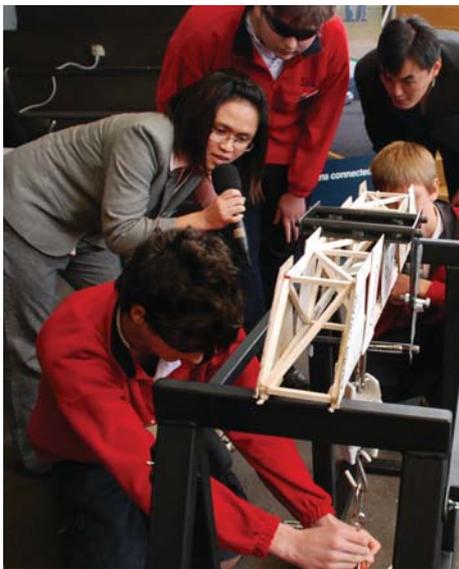
Competition for budding bridge builders

Engineering and specialist technical firm, Aurecon has launched its 2011 model Bridge Building Competition for high school students. Scheduled to take place in August, the annual event helps Aurecon in its efforts to raise awareness and interest in the engineering profession among secondary school students.

Designed to inspire and encourage high school students to take up STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in their electives, the competition encourages students to think laterally and solve a specific problem using engineering and technical skills.

Following the popularity of last year's event, the competition has been expanded to additional locations in Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand.

The competition brings together schools to see who can build the strongest bridge out of balsa sticks, glue and string. On judging day in August the model bridges are tested to destruction to determine the maximum load capacity and judged on aesthetics and workmanship.



Kaniva College team, winner of the Victorian competition in 2010

Each of the bridges entered are to be constructed during school hours from materials supplied by Aurecon: eight balsa wood sticks 6.5 mm x 6.5 mm x 580 mm long; eight balsa wood

sticks 6.5 mm x 6.5 mm x 335 mm long; one cardboard tube 60 d x 60l mm; a tube of quick drying epoxy glue and a 5 m piece of string.

The St Pius X High School, overall winners of the 2010 competition, built a bridge that withstood 100.6 kg before collapsing – an incredible achievement for a 65 cm bridge span.

The school's science teacher, Julie Healey, said the event helped her appreciate the range of specialised engineering disciplines available, commenting: "Students found participating and talking to young engineers very valuable as they had no idea the profession was so broad."

Bill Cox, Chief Executive, Australia and New Zealand, Aurecon said: "This competition started 10 years ago and has been a resounding success; last year we had 423 students comprising 141 teams from 111 schools compete and this year we are inviting many more schools to register and join the fun."

Prizes are awarded in each state and an overall winning design is identified. Schools can register and check locations, dates and conditions of entry at the Aurecon website.

www.aurecongroup.com/buildingbridges

HUGE OUTDOOR CLOCK

Our 540mm outdoor clocks are designed and manufactured in Australia to stand up to the elements and look great.

\$475.00

incl. GST

540mm Diameter

Features:

- Acrylic safety lense
- Water resistant
- Battery operated
- Stainless steel security screws.



Call (02) 4861 7265 or visit www.sydneyclockco.com.au/school



Sydney Clock Company • Australian Designed and Manufactured Clocks.

P: (02) 4861 7265 | F: (02) 4861 7265 | E: info@sydneyclockco.com.au

Love Teaching?

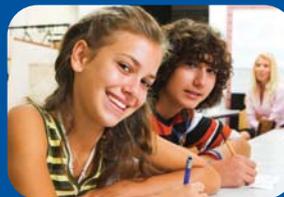
Buy your own education franchise



The Kip McGrath business offers you a great opportunity to invest in your future, while making a real difference in the lives of children.



Joining Kip McGrath offers you the chance to buy your own business without all the hassle. We take care of managing the accounts, payroll and GST, as well as providing full training and ongoing marketing support.



Join a recognised and trusted name in the tutoring field.

Call Mr Kip McGrath on 02 4929 6711 or visit kipmcgrath.com.au

Kip McGrath
EDUCATION CENTRES