

Principal's Report and News

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Concord School Website

If you require information about Concord School at any time then please visit our comprehensive website at www.concordsch.vic.edu.au. To view 'special events' you will need a user name and password. Please contact the office for this information.

Official School Facebook Page

To be kept directly informed of student learning and school news, please LIKE us on facebook through the link [facebook.com/concordschoolvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/concordschoolvictoria)



Principal's Report

Concord School uses technology effectively to support the learning needs of students. We have electronic whiteboards in each room and incorporate the use of notebooks, netbooks and iPads throughout the school as developmentally appropriate to the different skill levels and ages of students. We also have the MILE room, radio station and film studio in the Discovery Centre to further engage learners. A challenge for all schools is to remain cybersafe as students communicate through the use of phones and social media. Our school has developed a sequential, developmentally-appropriate eSmart curriculum and was the first special school in Australia to achieve eSmart status.

It was very pleasing earlier this week to receive a transcript of the speech Jenny Macklin MP made in the House of Representatives on 23rd February while supporting the Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014 in which she discusses our school. The relevant pages of this speech can be found at the back of this newsletter. Congratulations to Pam Wright and all staff who have been involved in the promotion of eSmart within our school.

5th March 2015, Newsletter No 3



Welcome BBQ at Watsonia Campus – 13th March

Please note that the Welcome BBQ will now be held on Friday, 13th March and not the 20th as was previously advised.

Visitors from Malaysia

At Concord School, we frequently have visitors from other countries touring our school to learn how we meet the learning needs of our students. In recent years we have hosted visitors from Singapore, China and Brazil. On Tuesday, 17th March, it will be an honour to host 32 students, Principals and Education Department representatives from Malaysia from 1.30-3.30pm. These visits also provide a great opportunity for our school to learn how Special Schools operate in other countries and to see if there are any strategies we can incorporate to improve the structures within our school and the learning of our students.

Presentation Ball

The Concord School Presentation Ball is a highlight of each student's schooling. This annual event for Year 12 students will be held at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre on Friday 14th August, 2014. Last year's event was hugely successful as usual and I encourage all Year 12 students and their families to become involved.

Centrelink Officer

Meeting Families/Carers At Centrelink Greensborough

Centrelink will meet with Families/Carers of Concord School Students **at their Office**, 16-20 Grimshaw Street Greensborough on

Wednesday **18th March 2015** at 11.00am.

Please contact Concord School on 9467 3972 to make an appointment.

Centrelink staff will help with any queries/forms or any questions needing to be answered.

Coming Events for 2015

Date	Event
Monday 9th March 2015	Labour Day Holiday - students not required at school
Friday 13th March 2015	Welcome BBQ at Watsonia Campus
Friday 27th March 2015	Whole school assembly - Bundoora campus gym @ 9.15am
Friday 27th March 2015	Last day of term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal

Personal Possessions Brought to School

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The DEECD does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff and students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Medication at School

For the safety of students, it is important that the correct procedures are followed regarding the administration of medication to students. Parents/carers are requested to read the following information carefully:

Concord School staff will NOT administer medication unless it is sent to school in the **original packaging**. The medication must be supported by specific written instruction from the medical practitioner or pharmacist including the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered (original medications bottle or container should provide this information).

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Tenesha.

Tenesha is SKL's class leader and is part of Concord School's choir and dance group. One of Tenesha's best attributes is her ability to look out for her peers; continually cheering on her classmates and always including others in the yard. In Tenesha's second year in Secondary 7-8, she is continuing to mature into a grounded and friendly teenager, and as a result her confidence is further blossoming.

We are proud of Tenesha's role as a peer mentor and leader in the Secondary 7-8 area and look forward to all that she will accomplish this year!

Congratulations Tenesha, you are a worthy recipient of the Principals' Award!

"Students striving to be the best they can be!"

Jason Coningsby
Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

Regular attendance at school is an important part of every student's success and is necessary in order to gain the greatest benefit from the learning opportunities offered at Concord School. Students who are frequently absent from school miss class based learning, direct instruction, regular contact with their teachers and socialisation opportunities with their peers.



Students are expected to:

- attend school at all times when the school is open for instruction
- arrive on time to school and to every class
- provide a written explanation from their parents/carers to their teachers when they have been absent from school
- remain on the school premises during school time unless they have the permission to leave from both the school and their

parents/carers

- work cooperatively with the school to develop personal attendance improvement goals and strategies when their attendance has been inconsistent.

Did you know?

- Missing one day of school each week adds up to 2 months missed over a year.
- Each day absent in school has an impact on literacy and numeracy skills.
- Poor attendance may be associated with future unemployment, criminal activity, substance abuse, and poorer health and life expectancy.

What can you do?

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation. Regular attendance at school sets up good behaviours for regular attendance at work.
- Help your teenager maintain daily routines and get a good night's sleep. On average, teenagers need 8-9 hours sleep to be healthy and alert. You should also monitor their use of the Internet, mobile phone and TV at night to ensure they are not staying up too late or being disturbed while sleeping.
- Try not to schedule hair, dental or medical appointments during school hours.
- Don't let your teenager stay home unless genuinely sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

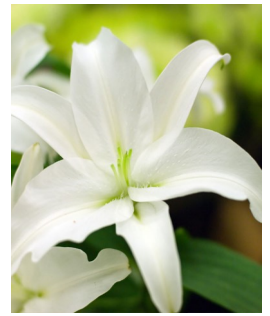


Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

Rest In Peace Bruno Schipano

Staff members at Concord school were very saddened when they heard the news that one of our past students Bruno Schipano recently passed away suddenly at the age of 31.

Bruno will be sadly missed by his family especially his father Domenic and his sister Elizabeth. He will also be missed by the many close friends he made while he was a student at Concord School.



Kitchen Garden at Concord School

This week, students have started harvesting some of the vegetables from the school garden and used them to make their dishes.

Many students at Concord school have mentioned they have a vegetable patch at home. We would love a photo of your vegetable patch to put in our Food Technology room.

Jane Stacey
Food Technology



Family and Friends Association

Hot Cross Buns: Order forms have gone home with orders due back at school on 13 March. Delivery will be in last week of Term 1.

Entertainment Books: More information will be sent home when available.

Mother's Day Raffle: Donations of new items are being sought to assist with our Mother's Day Raffle and would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has donated funds to FFA fundraisers – your contributions are greatly valued.

Next meeting is being held on **Monday 16th March at 1.30pm** in the Conference Room at the Grimshaw Campus.

New members are always welcome.



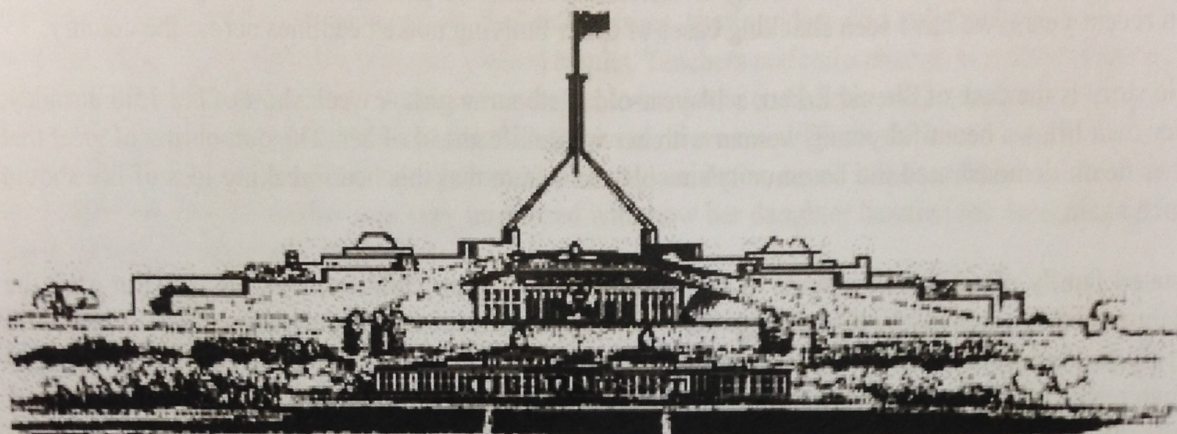
Sue Gibb
Secretary
Family and Friends Association





COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

BILLS

**Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill
2014, Enhancing Online Safety for Children
(Consequential Amendments) Bill 2014**

Second Reading

SPEECH

Monday, 23 February 2015

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Monday, 23 February 2015	Source House
Page 39	Proof Yes
Questioner	Responder
Speaker Macklin, Jenny, MP	Question No.

Ms MACKLIN (Jagajaga) (13:18): Few thoughts concern the mind of parents more than the safety of their children. In recent years, we have seen shocking cases of cyber bullying make headlines across the country.

One terrible story is the case of Sheniz Erkan, a 14-year-old Melbourne girl. A week short of her 15th birthday, she took her own life—a beautiful young woman with her whole life ahead of her. The outpouring of grief that followed her death demonstrated the community's resolve to ensure that this heartbreaking loss of life should never happen again.

Her devastated family pleaded with parents to keep a closer eye on their children's internet use. But even the most vigilant parent cannot realistically monitor their child's every interaction on the internet. An estimated 90 per cent of 12- to 17- year-olds in Australia use social media—and I imagine that is an underestimate. A majority of Australian teenagers over the age of 14 use Facebook more than once a day. With the proliferation of smart phones and tablets, access to social media has never been easier. All this comes with a lot of risk.

Research by the Australian Communications and Media Authority indicates four per cent of eight- to nine-year-olds; 21 per cent of 14- to 15-year-olds; and 16 per cent of 16- to 17-year-olds reported being cyberbullied. And it is not just parents that are worried about the growth in cyberbullying. Internal emails from Twitter CEO, Dick Costolo, revealed that he had admitted to his staff that he is 'ashamed' and 'embarrassed' by how his company handled bullying and harassment among its users. He stated:

We suck at dealing with abuse and trolls on the platform and we've sucked at it for years. It's no secret and the rest of the world talks about it every day. We lose core user after core user by not addressing simple trolling issues that they face every day.

These very revealing emails capture the scale of the problem that we face. Not even one of the largest social media companies in the world has worked out how to deal with cyberbullying. Nonetheless that is the objective of the bill that we are talking about today.

The Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014, seeks to reduce the risk of our young people becoming victims of cyberbullying. Dr Judith Slocombe, Chief Executive of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a national charity protecting children from violence said:

There is no difference between someone who bullies online and one who bullies face-to-face. They are just different methods. They both can cause enormous harm.

There are laws in every state and territory which cover all forms of bullying. This bill backs up these laws for the digital age. It establishes a Children's e-Safety Commissioner and sets out its functions and powers. In practice, the establishment of the commissioner will mean a child or their parent will be able to complain to the commissioner if they have been the subject of cyberbullying. The commissioner may then investigate such a complaint.

The bill sets out an expectation that each social media service will comply with a set of basic online safety requirements. This includes minimum standards in a service provider's terms and conditions of use, a complaints scheme and a dedicated contact person. The establishment of a Children's e-Safety Commissioner is an important step in the right direction. Along with all members, I hope that the establishment of a dedicated Children's e-Safety Commissioner will lift the profile of cyberbullying. This will help to generate further the conversation in the Australian community about what to do. The primary role of the commissioner will be to resolve existing acts of cyberbullying, but we have to accept that cyberbullying is as much a social problem as a technological one. Bullying occurred long before the advent of the internet. The internet does enable the bully to remain anonymous and unaccountable for the torment they create. Preventing the bullying from occurring in the first place is vital to countering cyberbullying.

I am pleased to say in my electorate two local schools in particular have taken such an approach. Viewbank College, a secondary school, and Concord School are taking a positive and proactive approach to countering cyberbullying. Concord School is a special school for students with learning needs, while Viewbank is a large public secondary school with students from a diverse range of backgrounds. In 2013, the two schools established a cybersafety program that saw mainstream year 9 students from Viewbank and special education year 9 students from Concord come together to promote understanding and acceptance of difference.

The program was designed to help students develop strategies for dealing with issues arising from cyberbullying, sexting and unsafe content. I am told the project was very successful. Students from both schools engaged with the topic of cybersafety and enjoyed discussing issues, sharing ideas and collaborating with students from another school. Importantly, the program yielded results. Teachers noticed a change in attitude from the students participating in the program. Just to use one example, towards the end of the project in 2013, a student began to have some issues on Facebook. The student felt the issues were too difficult for her to handle alone. She drew on the skills she had learned in the program and collected evidence, saved it into a folder and discussed it with her mother. The child's mother was very impressed with how her daughter handled the issue and contacted the school, where the issue was resolved.

I do want to especially commend Concord School and Viewbank secondary for their innovative and collaborative approach to tackling cyberbullying in the local community. I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Judith Craze and Ross Purcell at Viewbank; Pam Wright, the e-learning coordinator at Concord; and Claire Park. Pam Wright, who conceived the program understood, that many of the special needs students at Concord had experienced bullying at mainstream schools. She understood that interactions between the two cohorts of students needed to be on a different level, so Pam came up with the idea of students working together to make short films about cyberbullying. The project culminated in a showcase evening of the students' work, where the films were displayed.

Concord School also became the first special school in Australia to become a part of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's eSmart Schools cyberbullying program. This eSmart program helps establish important behavioural norms early in a child's life. This includes things like asking someone for permission before taking a photo of them on a smart phone, asking the permission of an adult before purchasing items online and, perhaps most importantly of all, establishing a dialogue between child and parent about their online activity. Establishing this last norm is vital if a child is to share experiences of cyberbullying with their parents.

This approach serves to underline an important truth about cyberbullying: changing the attitudes of our young people so that cyberbullying is prevented from occurring in the first place and equipping students with the emotional skills to deal with the challenges of cyberbullying when it does occur is essential to any approach to this problem. It is also worth noting a success achieved by the eSmart program include that 80 per cent of school principals believe that eSmart Schools is effective in changing school culture in relation to cybersafety, technology use and bullying. The message from the report is clear: no one action or approach will do.

Many of the contributions by members on this bill have been very personal and I do want to recognise that there is much goodwill towards this initiative. We will certainly be supporting it. We were pleased, when we were in government, to establish a cybersafety plan in 2008 with funding of \$125.8 million, which was committed to combating online risks and helping parents and educators to protect children from inappropriate material. I do support this bill because I know that parents in my electorate expect me to do everything that I can to help them protect their children. It is my hope that this bill will help children and their parents resolve matters of cyberbullying before any harm comes to them. I commend the bill to the House.

Community News

From Page to Stage!



A fun six-week drama program for people aged 14-25 with an intellectual &/or physical disability

With Community Theatre Director, Nicola Byrnes

Focusing on drama and theatre making, including improvisation, dance, circus skills, storytelling, and character development

FITZROY LIBRARY

Wednesdays from 11 Mar • 4.30pm - 6.30pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 1300 695 427

More info: Hilary Coleman, phone 03 94265664, email Hilary.Coleman@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Event sponsored by
THE THOMAS, SAMUEL
& GEORGE SWING TRUST



Interested in Playing Aussie Rules Football?
Do you have an intellectual disability?



JOIN THE MIGHTY
FIDA BEARS

COME AND TRY DAY



Tired of sitting around and looking for something exciting and fun to do?

Are you a Football Fanatic?

Have you always wanted to play Aussie Rules?

Want to make lots of new friends?

Then get out of that chair, get away from the TV, the computer, iPad and get yourself down to our Come and Try Football Day and have some fun.



WHEN: FRIDAY 27th MARCH 2015



WHERE: Lower Plenty Football Ground
South Oval, Para Road, Montmorency
Melways: Map 21 B 6



TIME: 5 pm till 7.00 pm



WHAT YOU NEED: Runners, Shorts and T-Shirt

The Lower Plenty FIDA Bears are part of the Lower Plenty Football Club and play in the FIDA competition. Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) is a 10 week structured football competition for Males and Females between the ages of 14 and 40 with an intellectual disability with the aim to give people who may not otherwise have had the chance, an opportunity to play football. Sound interesting and something you would like to be a part of, then give us a call.

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Wild@heART

Community Arts

drawing

storytelling



CREATIVE SATURDAYS

Fully accessible weekly arts workshops

Saturdays 1-5pm

Creeds Farm Living & Learning Centre
2 Snugburgh Way, Epping North
\$10 per week

film

music

painting

For info & to register
contact **9326 9970** or
info@wildatheart.org.au
www.wildatheart.org.au

theatre

A DHS funded respite activity
for people living with disability
at home with their family.



Department of
Human Services

