In this issue ...

Partnering in Action...
Primary Parents Partners

Spotlight on…
Turkindi Network

The impact of VET in Schools on the intentions and achievements of young people

Alternative Learning Program (follow-up)

Congratulations! (new TTC’s)

The coming 2011

InterAct: Whole-of-Community Approach. Transporting the Solution

Parental Engagement in Primary Schools . . . And Merry Christmas!
By providing encouragement and guiding their children’s learning in multiple ways, parents have the most to offer in helping more young people to remain engaged in education. But parental engagement is more than being on the school canteen or Governing Council. Effective engagement in a child’s learning demands that parents know what their child is learning and how. Through 2011, parental engagement will be a key focus for our work and we look forward to working with schools and the wider community to harness what parents have to offer. Until then, AITEC team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and thanks you for your support through 2010.

Geoff Ewens, Managing Director

Parenting in Action…
Primary Parents Partners

Research concludes that primary numeracy; mathematics and science success leads to better attainment of Year 12 or equivalent. Also as important as this fact, is the reality of the need for significance in a classroom. Learning content must be connected to what children already know and opportunities must be provided for students to build on that knowledge. It is important for parents to understand what their children already know, what they learn in the first years of schooling and why they learn it. This way parents can speak positively about mathematics and its relation to real life**.

Conscious of these facts, during 2010 AITEC explored a variety of different ways to facilitate greater parental involvement in their child’s learning, particularly in such fields.

Building on the DECS “Primary Science Connections” initiative, an AITEC partnership named “Primary Parents as Partners” aims for a better student progress in primary education by more closely aligning the learning at school with the parent support for learning at home through:

1) sharing teaching and support approaches and techniques with volunteer parents;
2) developing a learning support network of “parents helping parents”.

One of the activities related to this partnership will be the development of a pilot project to align the teaching approaches and processes used at primary school in numeracy, mathematics and/or science with those at home. Schools interested in working with AITEC in this area are strongly encouraged to contact us.

References and Resources for Parents and Teachers

- **A Good Start to Numeracy** (Doig, McCrae and Rowe, 2003).
- *Curriculum K-12 Directorate,* Parents Count Too. Ideas and pamphlets to support children’s mathematical thinking at home.
- *Parented Learning,* Research, case studies, advice, a bank of practical resources and professional development to support enhanced parent, family and community partnerships within and between school communities.

For further information
Please contact
- Geoff Ewens,
- Sasha Dragovelic,
- René Peters or
- Laura García on 08 8232 9688
sbcpb@aitec.edu.au

Unit 4 122-130 Carrington St. Adelaide, South Australia 5000

To be removed from this mailing list, please send an email to sbcpb@aitec.edu.au insert your address - with the subject line ‘Unsubscribe’.
Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools subjects and courses help to improve student attitudes towards school, but does not necessarily lead to increased Year 12 retention, according to a recent paper published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) through the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) Program.

Other interesting conclusions revealed through this research were:
1) VET does help to smooth the transition to employment for some students through an exposure to the world of work, particularly if the school VET program contains a structured workplace learning component.
2) For the majority of students, their post-school plans do not change between Years 11 and 12, with school VET having limited influence on post-school plans.
3) However, NCVER found that participation in school VET can influence a small group of students intent on getting a job straight after school to change their post-school plans to include further VET study or an apprenticeship or traineeship.
4) School VET programs also reinforce post-school plans for those intent on post-school VET pathways.

The AITEC team congratulates all Turkindi’s recently elected board members for the coming year.

For AITEC it is a privilege to work with this network and is delighted to be a Financial Member and support its work.

One of the goals shared by Turkindi and AITEC is to develop partnerships and collaborate on ways that increase and maximize Aboriginal Parents engagement in their children’s learning and schools.
CONGRATULATIONS!

We wish to express our sincere congratulations to the following participant schools for their recent success related to Trade Training Centres (TTC):

1) Christian Brothers College and St Mary’s College for the Adelaide City Electro-technology Trade Training Centre.
   Their funding will be used to extend, upgrade and fit-out learning areas to accommodate a state-of-the-art area incorporating classrooms and workshops that will meet industry standard needs for the delivery of electro-technology.

2) Charles Campbell Secondary School, Norwood Morialta High School and Open Access College for the East Adelaide Trade Training Centre.
   These three schools will use the funding to purchase specialist equipment and a significant upgrade, extension and refurbishment of the existing design and technology and adjacent areas at Charles Campbell Secondary School and Norwood Morialta High School.

Earlier this year AITEC shared ideas, advice and industry contacts with Christian Brothers College (CBC) and Charles Campbell Secondary School (CCSS) as well as provided a letter of support. Now, 7 months later, TTC’s funding has been announced and the schools were among the successful beneficiaries.

Our team was impressed with the enthusiasm demonstrated by the planning groups and we look forward to supporting these new TTC’s in our role as School Business Community Partnership Broker for the Adelaide Eastern region.

Kind regards,
The AITEC Partnership Broker team (René, Sasha, Laura and Geoff)

The coming 2011

With the New Year fast approaching, AITEC wish to raise attention to key events and changes in the educational scheme that will target and impact on young people during 2011:

- **Youth Week.** 1-10 April. Australia’s largest celebration of young people. Keep your eye on its website [for more information](#) over the coming months on how you can get involved.

- **National Career Development Week.** 16 to 22 May 2011. It celebrates all of the careers activities held in Australia throughout the year and encourages all Australians to actively engage in career development and develop their skills. [View more](#).

- **National Curriculum.** On December 8th, 2010 the Federal, State and Territory Education endorsed and published the first four learning areas (English, Mathematics, History and Science) of the Australian Curriculum up to year 10. Senior years curriculum for such areas is currently under revision and will be published for further consultation during 2011.

- **Transition to the new SACE** will be complete in 2011, when new subjects and requirements will be in place at both Stage 1 and Stage 2. From 2011, the updated Stage 2 subjects will replace the current subjects.

Did you know?

- 320 additional young people in Eastern Adelaide and 150 in the Hills should complete YR12 or equivalent (Cert II) every year to achieve the 90% attainment goal
- Currently, 480 young students in Eastern Adelaide and 152 of those in the Hills have left school by the end of YR10.

**Alternative Learning Program (Follow-up)**

Commonwealth Bank’s financial literacy courses (part of the StartSmart program) had a positive impact in re-engaging students with their education.

After the 2-week “circuit breaker” program for over 15 high school students at a Hills school (please refer to previous newsletters), further positive outcomes are emerging.

Different stakeholders involved in this alternative learning program have reported that 3 students re-engaged with mainstream education, 11 have obtained work experience placements, two have obtained Apprenticeships, the rest continue to attend school and now also engage with the school counsellor to discuss and work on their personal issues. In addition, the Youth Connections provider continues to work with some of this students addressing personal barriers through case management.
InterAct: Whole-of-Community approach.

Transporting the Solution: YACSA’s final Policy Council Think-Tank for 2010

On November 19, the forum Transporting the Solutions, took place in Berri. The Think-Tank was an interactive and collaborative workshop to identify innovative solutions to regional transport issues that affect young people.

During this consultation process, most of the 40 attendees identified the lack of coherent and comprehensible information on the current range of available transport options as the main short-term goal. AITEC participated in this Think-Tank and promoted the idea of a more efficient utilisation of existing transport resources as well as the importance of independent transport options for young people. Being both factors decisive elements for High School students in The Hills region.

 interessig ideas emerged during the Brainstorming session

Central website/directory of all existing transport options
Community car schemes
Pilot projects
Circle line buses to commute between regional towns
Co-ordinated car pooling
A public-private partnership in the use and application of transport resources
Car sharing
Extended hours for buses
Cheaper fares/subsidised taxis for young people
Increased use of existing under-utilised resources (e.g. school buses)
Motorised or electric bikes/improved cycling facilities
A “Wandering Star” service that does door-to-door drop offs

The Adelaide Hills and Mount Barker Councils ran a series of workshops to provide an opportunity for community input and assist in creating alternatives to private vehicle travel.

To have your say please contact Benjamin Russ on 8227 0372 or email ben@infraplan.com.au
You can also complete the Travel Behaviour and Options Survey online www.surveymonkey.com/s/2C3VPYT

Top 5 negative impacts on youth due to lack of transport:

1. Lack of access to employment, training and recreation
2. Isolation from community
3. Lack of access to services
4. Boredom
5. Car dependence