



Small Schools Newsletter

February 2013

Newsletter into the future

The Small Schools Newsletter will more than likely go online this year. We are asking that all members make the effort to update details ASAP. Go to Federation's website or ring 1300 654 363 to update your details.

Stewart House needs your support

Why not make Stewart House your number one school charity in 2013? Support the envelope donation drive, merchandise sales, have mufti days, discos and cake stalls and so on.

Have you considered being part of the salary contribution scheme? For as little as \$4 a pay you can help support the commitment Stewart House has to NSW public school children in need.

Stewart House was opened in Curl Curl on the Northern Beaches in 1931 to support the health and welfare of children in need. Since the 1960s, when a school was established on the site, children have been able to receive short term respite care and balanced health and educational programs that promote self-esteem and a healthier lifestyle.

Charity donations support the out of school hours care program and each year 1800 public school children in need, from all over NSW and ACT, stay at Stewart House.

It costs \$1236 per child to put a child through Stewart House.

Contact Stewart House at www.stewarthouse.org.au or phone (02) 9938 3100 or (02) 9938 3021.

Gonski campaign

The Gonski campaign about a fairer funding model for schools continues to gain momentum. We need to keep up the pressure to politicians if we are going to get any real gains. Parents, teachers, principals and community members can visit www.igiveagonski.com.au or the I give a Gonski Facebook page for further information.

More than 50,000 supporters have registered on the website already.

The Gillard Government has endorsed the principles of Gonski but when will the money flow? The Opposition has failed to endorse the Gonski principles which would inject much needed funds into your school, so if your local member is in the Liberal or National Party contact them and ask them why.

Please encourage your school community to get on board with the Gonski campaign!

Teacher housing

Federation's Small Schools Committee will meet with the head of the NSW Teacher Housing Authority on April 5.

If there are any issues you wish the committee to raise, please contact the Officer attached to the Small Schools Committee, John Pratt, (02) 6331 5761 or bathurst@nswtf.org.au

Alternatively, you may direct specific enquiries or concerns regarding your Teacher Housing Authority accommodation to Federation's representative on the board of the Teacher Housing Authority, Deb Marten on (02) 6921 4227 or wagga@nswtf.org.au.

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Petitions

Attached are the continuing petitions regarding the NSW Government's Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) and Every Student, Every School (ESES) strategies.

We need 10,000 signatures in order to have the issues debated in Parliament.

Please distribute these petitions amongst your school communities and return completed originals (unfortunately photocopies and faxes cannot be accepted) to NSW Teachers Federation, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills, 2010.

LSLD and your community

The *Sydney Morning Herald* (September 14, 2012) reported former Department of Education and Training General Manager of Finance and Administration Ken Dixon said cutting 400 ancillary jobs was just the tip of the iceberg. He reportedly said that a new software program had been introduced to manage human resources, payroll systems and finance – to take the place of 1600 jobs.

“The 400 jobs are just the tip of the iceberg,” he said. “There were 1600 jobs factored into the business case.”

That figure of 1600 positions will leave very few schools or their communities untouched.

For those left behind, the work of the ancillary staff must still go on. The LMBR software does not deal with parents at the front counter, phone calls, collecting the mail, or fixing playground casualties.

For many who will lose their jobs in our rural communities, it will be the loss of a lifeline. For many of our rural families, dealing with droughts, floods and fires, the difference between economic survival and ruin was the income from full or part time work for one of the parents as support staff in the local school.

Clearly the cuts to schools will have an impact not only on teachers and students but local communities as well.

Centre for Professional Learning

Members of Federation can now apply for professional learning courses to be conducted by the union's newly established Centre for Professional Learning (CPL).

The union is seeking to support the professional work of its members and the CPL will provide high quality training and support in a range of educational areas. The courses aim to provide practical, tested and well researched approaches to issues that face teachers every day at the school level.

Courses will be presented by highly experienced and skilled teachers, consultants and experts. Leading academics will also blend their intellectual work with the practical contributions from senior teachers.

A CPL course program and course content outlines are attached.

Access the CPL website (www.cpl.asn.au) for application forms or online applications for courses.