network principal . . .

I hope everyone is trying their best not to participate in the flu season and are feeling strong and enthusiastic. By now our schools have their plans in place and are getting ready to do student reports - it is a productive time of year.

The School Leaders Group meets regularly to look at ways of positioning our network as a professional learning community that adds value to each other’s work. It hopes to publish our strategic plan for 2014-2016 shortly. We would welcome any feedback from members as to the makeup of the plan - any ideas or concerns will be considered. What are your big ticket items in the next two years? Where do require assistance or where can you offer assistance? Give it some thought. E-mail me or get on our ESSN Connect Community - http://connect.det.wa.edu.au/group/staff/community/summary?coispo=DomainCommunity:13496337&__clnsslui=2vc34zix20zukfezj33

Feedback from our Term 2 conferences was very positive. Marion Wright and our Professional Learning Group members did a brilliant job organising and running the day at the different venues. Thanks to school staff at the venues for setting up, and congratulations to those staff who presented sessions on the day. I visited a few venues on the day and learned a lot at the sessions I attended. The diversity of staff and sessions was quite impressive. As representatives of their school and the network, staff acted professionally and participated actively with a few exceptions. These exceptions were minor in terms of numbers but the impact is not in the best interest of their school or our network. These staff need to consider their actions - their peers were not impressed.

Our 2015 conference planning is already underway. If you want to get involved in any way see your principal. Principals will be responsible for registering next year. We want more sharing of practice and some workshopping. How can we involve our community members in the day - sessions for parents?

Of course the annual conference is only one way to network. A number of member schools are involved in collaborative projects. I recently attended the Coolbellup LC SDD with a few other network leaders. We heard about peer observations from a Curtin University lecturer. It was insightful and will form part
of a network project to look at how we can work together to implement the AITSL framework - [http://www.toolkit.aitsl.edu.au/](http://www.toolkit.aitsl.edu.au/) - you can get an app if you wish.

We will be running an art competition for students - get them involved, see your principal or the website for details. A secondary sports carnival is also being organised via Melissa Sarich at CVC college - long overdue.

Congratulations to Keran Davies the Principal of Leeming SHS ESC who got a network grant for transition programs based upon person centred planning. Stay tuned for further news. There are some other funding sources available via the More Support for Students with a Disability national program. As usual keep an eye on our website for further news. Member password is available from your principal if you have forgotten.

Andrew Wilson
Network Principal

promotions group update . . .

Thanks to our hard working Melissa Sarich from Canning Vale College the once a term Art competition which we hope you will all embrace is now in full swing. This term’s theme is NAIDOC Week so please send your contributions to her in time for the judging.

A Google account has been created so that all of the artwork that is sent in can be placed into the Google drive. In this way we can all access it and help with the judging. The instruction on how to submit items are as follows.

- You can login to the account at [http://mail.google.com/](http://mail.google.com/)
- The username is essnpromotions@gmail.com and the password is EssnRules

If you click on the square made up of 9 little squares it will open a drop down box where you can select Drive. The artwork will be saved here.

Our group is also refining its plan for the future and copies will be available shortly.

For those schools currently without their own web site, we have put a link to schools online on the ESSN web site for anybody seeking information on your programs etc. Should you create your own web site in future or change the address of the one you have please let us know so the link can be changed.

Please remember to get your newsletter contributions in as early as possible to make it easy for our editorial process. With regard to staff who have signed on as members and get an email when any item is posted on the web we are now approaching 300 but of course there are still many who have not taken the opportunity to sign on. Why not do it today? It’s as easy as:

- Click on the Subscribe button.
- Enter your email address correctly.
- A confirmation message is sent to that email address.
- Open the email and click the link to confirm your subscription.
- You are now subscribed to receive notifications of updates for the website.

Thanks to all those who are currently subscribed but it would be great to have everyone from the Network on board.

John Exeter, Principal, Carson Street School
Asdan in a nutshell... 

Four Preparatory Awards

- New Horizons (Years 7-9)
- Transition Challenge (Years 9-11)
- Towards Independence (Year 10 to adulthood)
- Workright (for senior students engaged in Workplace Learning)

The Preparatory Awards are NOT a curriculum, learning area, subject or source of IEP goals. Rather the ASDAN Preparatory Awards provide a framework to

- Acknowledge and
- Applaud students’
- Achievements while increasing teacher/school
- Accountability

Awards have 10 common features:

1. Divided into modules or units (not all required allowing individualisation)
2. Focus on broadly defined, real life activities (sport, cooking, art, horticulture, etc. = all the activities you are already doing)
3. Inclusive as for all students irrespective of their literacy or numeracy skills
4. All achievements are recognised (certificate when achieve each module, then final glittery certificate when whole award is achieved)
5. Each award calls for reflection on achievements either by student or adult if student unable to
6. Student books are records of student work & achievements
7. All Awards use support/prompt levels (NH, SH, GH, PH, Sensory Experience & Experience Recorded)
8. Student portfolios are the means of assessment
9. Portfolios are moderated internally and externally
10. Provide a seamless transition from class to class, school to school and from school to adulthood (as many ATEs coming on board)

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) have endorsed all but New Horizons (which is for lower secondary students) and students earn endorsed programs points and receive a statement of achievement on graduation.

The WA ASDAN Leadership Team covers a number of regions to provide training, organise forums, etc:

- North Metro-Paul Jones @ Duncraig ESC
- South Metro – Keran Davies@ Leeming SHS ESC, Brendon Bleakley @ Atwell College,
- Kimberley-Gerri Garland @ Kensington Secondary School
- Midwest, Goldfields, Wheatbelt, Pilbara, Southwest – Jennifer Oversby @ Malibu School, Judy Gardner @ Kensington Secondary School.
- Southwest - Candyce Doorn @ Halls Head Community ESC

If any school is interested in learning more, please contact the relevant regional contact above!

Judy Gardner, Principal,
Kensington Secondary School
**professional learning update . . .**

Over Thursday and Friday 19th and 20th June, the State Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) and the Western Australian Education Support Principals and Administrator’s Association (WAESPAA) respectively hosted 170 school personnel to discover more about the suite of Victorian Curriculum and Assessment options.

In 2007 the University of Melbourne in collaboration with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development secured an Australian Research Council grant to develop pathways of learning in the foundational learning areas of communication, literacy, interpersonal development and personal learning for students with intellectual and developmental disability.

Karen Underwood (presently the Manager of Participation, Achievement and Transitions – Student Inclusion and Engagement Division, VIC) worked on this research, and at the same time designed and developed an enhanced Victorian curriculum (AUSVELS) which was validated by this research, made suitable for teachers with responsibility for students whose achievement is pre-intentional and prior to school entry level. The artefacts from this combined research and curriculum development effort is now known as ABLES (Abilities Based Learning and Education Support).

ABLES is a practical, teacher-friendly resource that assists schools and teachers to identify a student’s starting point for learning and to construct an individual learning plan utilising the mandated curriculum of the day. It has currently been designed for the contextual learning areas of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing, Personal Learning and Interpersonal Development. Numeracy is currently in development.

Over the two days, Karen led an informative and practical demonstration of both ABLES and the AUSVELS which was overwhelmingly positively received as a seamless and inclusive curriculum offering. The SCSA are presently determining how the Victorian curriculum resources and the resources WA Education Support teachers currently use can be adapted and developed into a complimentary curriculum resource package for inclusion within the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline and hope to have these non-mandated resources and support materials ready for WA teachers to use in 2015.

Whilst the ABLES assessment and reporting tools require log – ins and are not yet available for WA teachers, the AUSVELS curriculum with additional levels is readily accessible for an option for students who are ‘working towards foundation’ of the Australian Curriculum. More information about the ABLES curriculum, assessment and reporting suite and AUSVELS curriculum may be found at:


*Merrilee Wright*

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**Coming event—ESSN secondary sports carnival**

Take your marks...Get set.... Go! To the ESSN Secondary Sports Carnival at Canning Vale College on December 4. This inclusive event will feature both modified activities and more traditional races. The emphasis is on participation and fun and parents will be encouraged to attend with a plan for a “coffee van” to be on site. We have the support of WADSA who will provide staff and expertise to ensure all students can “have a go”. We are still in the early stages of planning but already have about 7 schools who have indicated that they are keen to participate, however, the more the merrier.

Please contact Melissa Sarich by email or on 9456 7000 if you would be interested in joining in or would like more information.

*By Melissa Sarich, Canning Vale College*
**BangOnABarbie in Fremantle**

Headwest, Brain Injury Association of WA Inc. is holding a free family event on Saturday 16th August between 12-3pm called **BangOnABarbie in Fremantle** and we would love schools to help us promote the event by placing information in your school newsletter and online media.

**BangOnABarbie in Fremantle** is a spin off from our national campaign run during Brain Injury Awareness Week called BangOnBeanie that encourages everyone to purchase and proudly wear a bright blue beanie in order to raise awareness of brain injury in our community.

**BangOnABarbie in Fremantle** is particularly relevant for families as it will have:
- Brainy science experiments – Headwest and Scitech will be encouraging attendees to learn more about their brain by performing some mind blowing experiments.
- Knit A Neuron –Did you know the human brain has over 100 billion neurons? Come down and knit a neuron and find out more.
- Music – the fantastic all abilities choir Spirit of the Streets – will be performing.
- Food – and of course a yummy BBQ.

If you would like more information (or flyers) please don’t hesitate to contact me – Nicola Churchill, or see the information on our website at:


Nicola Churchill, Headwest Brain Injury Association of WA

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**KidSport funding availability**

**What are the eligibility criteria?**
- Applicant must be aged 5-18 years.
- Applicant must have a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card or be referred by a recognised referral agent.
- Applicant’s primary place of residence must be in the local government area they are applying to.
- It is preferred that applicants register with a club that is in their local government area.

**What else?**
- Funding will cover the cost of fees to join the nominated sport or recreation club (*this may include other related costs as identified by the club*).
- Maximum of up to $200 per child per calendar year.
- Fees are only for the nominated registered season.
- No retrospective fees will be paid.
- No limitation to number of applications per family as long as criteria is met.

For more information, or to download an application form, visit the KidSport website at

Malibu School is in Safety Bay and has 102 students from Kindergarten (four year olds) to seniors who graduate from school when they are eighteen. As a Distinctive School for AAC we take pride that we encourage all students to have a voice. As many of our students require the use of an augmentative and alternative mode of communication (AAC) and these modes are specific to the individual. To meet each pupil’s needs, Malibu School uses a combination of high tech equipment (voice output communication aids, computers, iOS devices) and ‘low’ or ‘light’ technology systems (symbols, signing, aided language displays, communication books) to promote AAC goals. Malibu school values communication as one of its priority learning areas and actively supports requests for AAC intervention at school.

The secondary students are engaged in ASDAN and we are excited that we are a Distinctive School in this area as well. Students are working on the Transition Challenge, Towards Independence and Workright awards. Families love the portfolios and teachers love the formative student record that is produced. Student achievement is shown in many ways through photographs, statements by educators, observations, data records, worksheets, work samples and digitally. All portfolios are moderated to ensure standards are met and after moderation has been successfully completed, students receive official certification.

Malibu School offers students in Year 12 and the Additional Year the opportunity to participate in our dynamic Transition Program. This program enables the students to have a comprehensive program based around key academic programs, family needs, community inclusion, networking with ATE providers and positive partnerships to take beyond school life. Students have opportunity to engage in programs at TAFE and complete based Certificate I programs here at school. These certificates include programs delivered through our very own café and horticulture garden.
Leeming ESC

Leeming ESC is located in an attractive residential suburb in the City of Melville. The campus occupies a large site with extensive playing fields together with access to a well-resourced community recreation centre. Students have access to all facilities on the campus including the library, technology workshops, computer labs, home economics, Trade Training Centre, art and sports facilities. We currently have 64 students enrolled from Years 8-12 and experience a positive partnership with our partner school and a supportive school community. We focus on developing the individual academic, social and emotional wellbeing of students where they enjoy coming to school, have friends and are engaged in their learning.

Students (Year 8 – 10) have Individual Education Plans with senior students (Year 11-13) having a Person Centred ‘My Plan’. The plans are designed by their teacher in consultation with parents, local area coordinators and therapists. The IEPs are based on functional literacy and numeracy skills and the three Focus Areas of integrated curriculum, Leisure and Recreation, Career Education and Independent Living. My Plans focus on the academic, social and work needs of the student in planning for their future. Teaching and learning is directed towards providing opportunities for the transference, generalisation and maintenance of skills learnt in the classroom to real life contexts through programs such as Community Based Learning.

Leeming ESC students are also taught by Leeming SHS specialist teachers in several option areas. Programs are provided in the learning areas of Business Education, Design and Technology,
Home Economics, Physical Education and Music. Celebration and recognition of student learning is a priority at Leeming ESC. Students in Years 8-12 receive ASDAN certification and senior school students work toward completing School Curriculum and Standard Authority Endorsed programs such as ASDAN, Workplace Learning and Bushrangers as well as Preliminary Units in Maths, English, Physical Education and Career and Enterprise. Students receive Statements of Attainment from SCSA and earn points towards their WACE Certificate.

Year 11 and 12 students also attend on and off site TAFE courses in: Certificate I and II in Agrifoods, Hospitality, Warehousing and Retail. Students have the opportunity to access School Based Traineeships in Industry areas such as Retail and Hospitality. Providing students with experience and opportunities in a variety of industry areas allows them to identify the best transition pathway when they leave school.

Leeming SHS ESC became part of a state wide Bush Ranger cadet program in 2012 with the support of the parents, staff and local community. The program is enjoyed by all students as they gain a greater knowledge of land conservation and management, sustainable living, bush survival and leadership skills. Students enjoy activities at school, in the community and on camps. Leeming ESC offers an after school Bushrangers program one day a week with 34 students attending. Through the Bushrangers program Leeming SHS ESC has developed strong community partnerships with DEC, Conservation Volunteers, Hot Rock – Seed2tree, Creec, Tangoroa Blue and Lotteries West.

Keran Davies, Principal, Leeming ESC

Dream Cricket

On Friday 28th March the Carson Street School students had a visit from the Rotary sponsored DreamCricket team and participated in two hours of skill development including bowling, batting, fielding, throwing and catching. The morning’s activities were followed by a barbeque for all the students and helpers.

The sponsor is Get Approved Car Finance and Insurance, who also supplied the staff to man the activities and work with the children. A representative from the Sports Commission WA was also present and very impressed with the program.

DreamCricket introduces primary school students with a disability to the game of cricket by using a series of activities aimed at teaching skills such as fielding and batting as well as the laws of the game. It was first held in NSW in October 2010 with 80 children participating.
Interschool Beach Carnival

The Education Support interschool beach carnival takes place early each year and involves four Education Support schools in the Rockingham area – Endeavour ESC, Leda ESC, Malibu School and Rockingham Beach ESC. 100 students and 70 staff members head down to the Rockingham foreshore and enjoy a day in the sun. The children are kept busy as they rotate through 10 activity stations in mixed age and school groups. It is truly a sight to behold with water activities, sand activities and the much loved icy pole and watermelon stop! This has been a favourite day for our schools for over eight years and we see it continuing as a highlight of our year.

Margaret Keen, Principal

Riding for the Disabled Horse Riding Lessons

Every year students at our school have the opportunity to attend horse riding lessons at Riding for the Disabled Association, Baldivis. This is a wonderful opportunity for children as they develop their independence and confidence through the challenge of riding and caring for a horse. We arrange for the parents to access the KidSport vouchers to pay for the majority of the lessons and then it is affordable for all our families. As you can see the children enjoy their lessons very much and we have seen significant improvements in some children’s attitude and behaviour as a result of this opportunity.

Margaret Keen, Principal