network principal . . .

I hope all school staff and their communities had a great holiday break and a successful start to the 2014 school year. With 23 schools as full or collaborative members we are well placed to support each other in our goal of being schools of choice for students with special education needs in the south metropolitan education region.

Focus 2014 from DOE has set out a number of priority areas for schools and networks to consider, plan, implement and evaluate. The School Leader’s Group will be drafting up our action plans for 2014-2015. Of course we need input from all members so see your principal with ideas. We have secured funds mainly by using my network principal release time to resource our plans and foster a culture of reciprocity, innovation and collaboration amongst our schools. Many principals and staff are giving of their time to progress the network which of course is in the best interests of all. The network is not a separate entity but the collection of all our members- you give and you will receive!

Please keep abreast of our work via the Website and subscribe, use the distribution lists set up and even try our Connect link for sharing within our professional learning community. You asked for avenues to discuss your issues- you now have them. All of the lists and set up for Connect were published in our Term 4 newsletter 2013 available on the website. If you have a question it is highly likely someone in our network has an answer or at least shares your question. We often feel as though we need PD or expert input when in fact staff discussing their work is a far more powerful way of addressing change and making improvements. Our DG has raised this in a number of forums that it is Classrooms First and that staff need to reflect on their work and receive feedback.

We have produced some banners to showcase our network - check them out, plus our one page charter on the webpage - www.educationsupportsouthnetwork.com.au and ask your Principal for the members’ section password if you forget. Community members have access to news not confined to the members’ section and school staff are encouraged to let all their stakeholders know of our site.

The first day of Term 2 sees our annual conference held
in a variety of venues. I commend the programs to you, and would like to acknowledge the fantastic efforts of our professional learning group headed by Marion Wright, the Principal of Koorana ESC. See further details later in this newsletter. It is also a great chance for staff to network and represent their school. Roughly speaking it is a $300,000 investment from DoE and the State Government for this day to occur, not counting in-kind support from the organisers. Worth considering.

I would like to acknowledge John Exeter for winning the 2013 AFL footy tipping competition. He received his prize at our last School Leaders Group meeting. This year we have cash money prizes on offer, and it is vital he does not win again - we have 50 members in the comp this year - wish you all well- it is not too late to join as we will have some novelty type prizes and encourage banter via the wall.


- Yellow Pages update - Collaborations Group via Pauline.Winrow@education.wa.edu.au
- Conference and Subsidised PD - Professional Learning Group via website
- VET interest group/project - Merrilee.Wright@education.wa.edu.au
- Newsletter articles open to all and gallery pictures - Promotions Group: john.exeter@education.wa.edu.au
- Strategic Leadership Group with all the sector reps via - mark.watson@education.wa.edu.au

If you are not sure where to direct your enquiry after speaking to your Principal simply click on the contact tab on the website and you will be sent to me. I would ask if you use a private e-mail to identify yourself so I don’t respond to Spam - thanks. http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/barackobam409128.html

2014 promises a lot of opportunities to prepare for a big 2015, but more importantly to seek wisdom in our quest to educate the most vulnerable students in our system. We are in this together.

TCOT

Andrew Wilson,
Network Principal ESSN

promotions group update . . .

While we are sad to lose the dynamic leadership of Melinda Manship who is no longer in the region, we are very pleased to have Melissa Sarich and Eugene Maguire joining our team and look forward to their drive and inspiration. Our other members are Kathy Britton Maddington ESC, Marg Keen Rockingham ESC and Steve Hordacre Kalamunda Secondary ESC. Melinda’s last duty in 2013 was to complete the five banners which are now available for use by members when needed.

Changes are being made to the website on a regular basis. For instance, member schools will note that the page listing all our schools has had a redraft with logos taken from the banner added for reference and to brighten the page.

Margaret Keen has put out the Newsletter Schedule and it’s important that schools keep to the timeline when submitting copy. Also note that if you are one of the three schools who are chosen each term to present their
profile we ask that you do not submit the school handbook, but choose a few of the things about their school which make it distinctive!!.

Please use Microsoft Word or Publisher, but do not spend time on layout and this will help Lisa when it is compiled. Each term there is always space for items of special interest from all schools including any ‘Handy Hints’ you may have to share, so please consider making a regular contribution.

John Exeter, Principal, Carson Street School

MSSD update . . .

A voice for all

Malibu School’s successful application for Distinctive School status in the area of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) is a significant achievement and has provided our staff with recognition for their ongoing work in this area. The establishment of Distinctive Schools, as part of The National Partnership Agreement More Support for Students with Disabilities, aims to strengthen the capacity of Australian schools and teachers to support students with disabilities by contributing to improved learning experiences, educational outcomes and transitions to further education or work.

Over many years, Malibu School has developed a deep knowledge and understanding of the learning and support needs of our students who have complex communication needs. It is clear that the impact of having complex communication needs on a person’s participation and inclusion in education is immense and although the use of evidence based AAC strategies is well documented and validated through sound research over the past 20 years, it is only just emerging as best practice in our schools. Our project, AAC – A Voice for All, will focus on enhancing the ability of partnership schools to better support students who have little or no speech, develop innovative approaches to classroom instruction and educational outcomes and create professional learning communities within networks and regions. This will be facilitated through professional learning workshops, online training and peer mentoring and the delivery of appropriate resources.

We look forward to our journey over the next 12 months as a centre of expertise in AAC, in order to further develop and share our knowledge, proficiency and resources across partner schools, networks and regions.

Noelene Mason, Principal, Malibu School
professional learning update . . .

The Professional Learning Group members have been working hard to ensure the annual ESSN Conference is as successful as those in the previous years. Over 650 ESSN members – including teachers, education assistants, registrars, school officers, VET and workplace learning coordinators as well as principals – are expected to attend the conference at a variety of venues around the metropolitan area.

Finishing touches are currently being put to the variety of sessions available to all members. Conference sessions range from protective behaviours for both primary and secondary students to laughter yoga. A variety of experienced presenters have been assembled to provide members with an insight and taste of the variety of programs available to staff and schools.

Registration for the conference will be available soon on the ESSN website and we encourage you to get in early as places are limited for a number of sessions – best in best dressed!

Below is a summary of what’s on offer:

- **Primary Teachers**
  - Venue: Canning Vale Community Centre
  - Concurrent sessions including GESB presentation, Primary Behaviour Centre, SSEND, iPad for Experts; ABLLS

- **K-3 EAs**
  - Venue: Rosie O’Grady’s
  - Concurrent sessions including Protective Behaviours, iPads, Intro to Literacy, Intro to PATHS, Code of Conduct, Conflict resolution; Speech for non-verbal students; Music and Movement

- **4-7 EAs**
  - Venue: Perth Christian Life Centre
  - Concurrent sessions including Positive Behaviour Support, Sensory Integration, Massage in Schools, Escalation Profiles, Social Thinking, Protective Behaviours (Safe 4 kids) The Alert Program, What is 123 Magic and Emotion

- **Secondary Teachers**
  - Venue: Seven Oaks Senior College
  - Concurrent sessions including VET, Autism, ALERT, Drug and Alcohol Education, Trauma, iPads, Person Centred Planning, Retirement/Wellbeing, Behaviour Management, IEP/Assessment

- **Secondary EAs**
  - Venue: Atwell College
  - Concurrent sessions including Brain Ambulance, High Support Needs, Supporting Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Protective Behaviours, Laughter Yoga, Autism Spectrum Australia, WPL

- **Registrars**
  - Venue: Willow Pond
  - Sessions on Brain Ambulance, DoE presentations

*Marion Wright, Chair, Professional Learning Group*
MSSD update (cont’d). . .

Leeming SHS MSSD

In 2013 Leeming SHS ESC along with Atwell Community College and Halls Head Community College ESC successfully applied for a MSSD Grant (More Support for Students with Disabilities). As an ASDAN MSSD school our main focus is to provide expertise to support local schools, education support centres and schools in the South Metropolitan Region building the capacity across ASDAN learning communities. The ASDAN Preparatory Award Programs have been designed for students with special educational needs and disability. Each award program provides a real-life context to promote the development of personal, social, independent, ICT and work-related skills. ASDAN provides students with special needs an opportunity to be formally recognised for their achievements through moderation and certification. Leeming ESC delivers New Horizons, Transition Challenge, Workright and Towards Independence through an integrated model across all learning areas. Staff have developed ASDAN classroom planning with links to the Australian Curriculum and enrol students through School Curriculum Standards Authority from Year 10. Leeming ESC has expertise in developing portfolios to meet moderation requirements of the ASDAN Awards.

The project will provide training and professional learning for teachers and education assistants to meet the individual needs of students and the requirements of ASDAN Awards. Professional learning on developing internal moderation processes is an essential element to providing rigor and validity to evidence that meets the ASDAN Award outcomes and ensures all processes have been met before external moderation. This project will meet the needs of existing and new ASDAN schools by providing support through networks, training and professional learning each term in 2014. Collaboration and support through networks will provide staff the opportunity to share expertise, high quality teaching and learning practices and resources.

ESSN Partnership Schools involved in the project include:
- Cannington Community ESC
- Kalamunda SHS ESC
- Catlereagh School
- Hamilton SHS
- Malibu School
- Kenwick School
- Armadale ESC
- Canning Vale College
- Kensington School

2014 Schedule of Events for the South Metropolitan Region:

- **Training** for new teachers and education assistants delivering ASDAN Awards
  - Term 1 Friday 21st March South Metropolitan Regional Office
  - Term 4 Monday 8th December

- **Forum/Professional Learning** - providing information, updates, external moderation preparation, sharing of resources and exemplar portfolios, digital portfolios, enrolling students in endorsed ASDAN Awards through SCSA, IEP’s, integrated curriculum ideas and links to the Australian Curriculum.
  - Term 3 Thursday 21st August

- **External Moderation** - moderate student portfolios for ASDAN Award certification.
  - Term 2 Tuesday 1st July
  - Term 3 Monday 22nd September 2014 for school leavers
Term 4 Monday 1st December

- **Education Assistant Professional Learning** - the PL will focus on portfolio development, ideas for delivering ASDAN outcomes and writing learning journeys.

Term 2 Monday 2nd June

- **Network Meetings**

  One meeting per term with the first meeting on Tuesday 8th April at Leeming SHS ESC 3:30pm – 5:00pm.

  For further information email keran.davies1@education.wa.edu.au

Kalamunda ESC—MSSD Distinctive School Project Update

“Structuring your classroom for success – TEACCH APPROACH project “

Here at KESC we are currently working with 10 partner schools, which span 3 different educational settings, High School ESC, Primary ESC and Primary schools. Within this group there are a few regional schools, which we are really looking forward to working with.

We are designing, writing and producing our learning modules, which will hopefully become an online resource for our wider community of educators.

We have also welcomed a new member to the project team Mrs Lisa Hose who is one of our Education Assistants. Lisa is a great asset to the “design and deliver” stage of our project. Her role will see her assist me to deliver professional development and support in all aspects of the project.

All of our partner schools have completed the survey that was sent out and we are now in the process of having partnership agreements finalised.

We have been working closely with two of our partner schools to set up prototype classrooms in both high school and regular education settings in order to demonstrate the successful implementation of the structured teaching approach.

Our plan is to have our partner schools visit our KESC site to see “TEACCH” style classrooms in action and in their similar education settings (high school education support centre, primary, primary education support centre) and then complete a 2 day workshop on understanding the How and Why of the TEACCH Philosophy.

Modules will be completed during term 3 and ongoing mentoring will be available on an individual school level.

We are looking forward to the challenge of learning new skills in design and coordination of our project and imparting our knowledge to our partner schools. We look forward to a busy 2014 school year as a “Distinctive School”.

By Jarna Wright, Principal, Kalamunda ESC
Koorana Education Support Centre

Koorana Education Support Centre is situated in Warnbro in the City of Rockingham, approximately 55 kilometres south of Perth. We currently have 15 students enrolled from Kindergarten to Year 7.

Our Early Intervention program attracts students from a variety of locations and uses the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis and Discrete Trials to help children develop their social, academic, self-help and behavioural skills.

For our Years 1 to 7 classes students are provided learning opportunities in all eight learning areas ranging from literacy and numeracy to Auslan and cooking.

As well as their academic achievements, Koorana ESC has a strong commitment to meeting every child's emotional needs. Under the umbrella of KidsMatter (a national mental health initiative promoting prevention and early intervention) we have a positive school community built through a whole-school approach to children's mental health and wellbeing. Our students participate in Drumbeat, PATHS (Promoting Alternate Thinking Strategies) and Massage in Schools as well as our very popular Rock and Water program.

All our students have access to the latest technology. From classroom computers to iPads, students are provided with the opportunity and instruction to use technology effectively. Many students use iPads to communicate with staff and iPads are an integral part of the teaching and learning program. Electronic interactive whiteboards in every room further engage students' learning.

Koorana Education Support Centre is co-located within Koorana Primary School. This allows our students to benefit from the many shared facilities such as a healthy canteen, library, P&C, School Council and uniforms.

Koorana ESC may be small, but we pack an awful lot into our school day!

By Marion Wright, Principal, Koorana ESC
Kensington Secondary School
An Independent Public Education Support School

THE SCHOOL PURPOSE is to ensure students develop the understandings, skills and attitudes relevant to their individual needs, so that they fulfil their potential and ultimately contribute to the development of society.

THE STUDENTS include approximately 40 students with mild to severe intellectual disabilities; some also have autism, cerebral palsy or vision/hearing difficulties. All provided with Individual Education Plans, developed with families. New and graduating students are provided with transition programs to support them as they move into secondary school and then on to adult life.

FACILITIES include a Design & Technology Centre for woodwork, art & sewing, an Indoor heated pool for swimming lessons and hydrotherapy, a recently upgraded Home Science block with a laundry and a small, furnished flat to teach cooking and domestic skills, a Library with a range of resources and computers and a Multi-sensory Room set up especially for vision-impaired students.

THE STAFF include class teachers, some with Special Education qualifications, sport, horticulture, music, swimming, IT, & manual arts specialist teachers, Visiting Teachers for vision/hearing impaired students, highly experienced and qualified Education Assistants. The school has Small classes with high levels of staffing, support from a School Psychologist, a full-time registered nurse on site and visiting therapists for eligible students.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS include ASDAN Courses of Study leading to a Statement of Results from as endorsed by the WA Curriculum Council; functional literacy and numeracy programs to develop skills needed for work and in the community; TEACCH classrooms and programs for students with autism; alternative communication (signing, picture exchange, PODD, eye gaze and electronic devices; gross and fine motor programs, including hydrotherapy, physiotherapy exercises and the use of therapy equipment; creative sessions including music and art; sport & recreation at school and in the community to develop student interests, skills and fitness; personal self-care & housekeeping programs.

CAREER EDUCATION focuses on upper secondary students continuing to develop relevant work skills, knowledge and attitudes through school activities, including running the school canteen, and through participation in work enclaves, such as Hillside Farm and community newspaper delivery. Eligible upper school students are enrolled in Workplace Learning, work at school, Hillside Farm, at work experience in supported and open employment businesses and in the wider community with staff support as needed.

By Judy Gardner, Principal, Kensington Secondary School.
Cloverdale ESC starts 2014 on a positive note

Cloverdale ESC has started 2014 on a wonderfully positive note. Our classes are full of busy productive students and staff who are looking forward to an exciting year.

We have a highly effective early intervention program in place which eases the transition from home to school for students and their families.

Communication for our students who have a complex communication disorder continues to be a priority with Proloquo2go implemented on our 1 – 1 iPads throughout the school.

All staff have had training in how to set up and modify the app to suit individual needs and abilities.

Throughout the school we offer Community Access as either shopping or swimming. Our older students are actively participating in a Kitchen Garden and using their produce each week to cook a most delicious lunch.

Each week students enjoy “Clubs” where several students from each class form new groups to experience Science, Craft, Speech, Cooking, Gardening and the very popular Girls’ Club.

We are continuing our Round 1 MSSD Project which is running until the end of Term 2. This project supports staff working with students with disability in mainstream settings with the aim of enabling every student to participate in the Australian Curriculum – Mathematics by using iPad technology. Our project has created a document matching a variety of applications with each outcome of the Australian Curriculum Mathematics from Foundation to Year 2.

Since the start of our Project, Cloverdale ESC has delivered over 60 hours of PL to 48 members of Partner School staff at 11 schools to enable them to use ipad apps targeted to the individual needs of 184 students.

We are currently working with app developers to create specific apps for several areas of the Mathematics Curriculum and look forward to sharing our completed resource with schools across the state later this year.

By Susan Moran,
Teacher, Cloverdale ESC
Carson Street School—cycling like other kids...

During Bike Week, Carson Street School held an excursion to Burswood Park. This was an ideal chance to promote the benefits of cycling for children with special needs as a recreation, a practical form of healthy exercise and a means of transport.

While few of our students are able to ride a ‘normal’ two wheeler bike, the majority have experienced the joys and challenges of adapted cycling and who knows what they will be riding in the years to come because cycling is a lifelong recreation. TADWA and Dreamfit attended with a number of new bikes which had been adapted for special needs children and WADSA provided our students with a fun activity involving remote controlled cars. For those not able to ride we had a visit from Landsdale Farm. The day was rounded off with a barbecue lunch provided by the Town of Victoria Park.

John Exeter, Principal,
Carson Street School