2016 has been a strong year for the family of schools that make up the Education Support South Network. As a network principal I attend a number of meetings via the regional office as to how networks operate. I am pleased to report that our network in my opinion and that of the regional office is operating well and adding value to the education of students and the capacity building of our schools.

Why does it work? My view is that we were the first network to operate outside of the perceived parameters for networks based upon geographic notions. We were formed based upon our common purpose and goals which enabled us to set a platform for collaboration, professional learning and promoting our schools. It sounds simple but trust me it wasn’t that easy in the early days.

Some people often critique how something is done. That is easy to understand. Why didn’t THEY do this and do that, why don’t WE do this and do that, what do THEY do for me... Our Network is about harnessing all that is good about our schools- getting and sharing this via a culture of reciprocity. We all have an individual responsibility to do our work to the highest possible standards. THEY ARE US!!

There are so many staff in our schools who live this view and are willing to extend their expertise to a wider audience and learn from their peers. From the school leaders who devise plans for improvement and operations through to the staff who contribute to our conference and the staff who help run the day, the newsletter team, the staff who pay the bills and manage our finances, the teams who get the carnivals, market days, art displays and the like ready. I appreciate their efforts and am sure we all do.

I know of at least four schools in our network who will have a new principal next year. There will also be retirements and staff moving elsewhere, we wish them well and welcome those new to our network. Tell them all about us and get them involved.
Change is inevitable but improvement is not! One only has to be a follower of fashion to realise this and the same can be said of education. DOE has been progressing the classroom first strategy for years and at its epicentre is quality teaching. We have been the victim of fads and easy to follow programs that promise much. Often we do not implement the program properly or it is flawed in its design or we lose interest or it is for the wrong audience. Our students are the ones that need more – they don’t learn in a prepackaged format. Over the years we have tried trampolines and pressing brain buttons, we have “whole languaged” a generation of illiterates and we have even modified curriculum content that had no utility at all. We need to establish our own evidence base of effective special education teaching. We need to create our own clearing house. This will be the key driver for most of our work this decade. Stay tuned for the launch of our own teaching channel!

We currently have 287 members of our Connect Community which is a pretty good uptake for a restricted community. We publish newsletters and minutes of key meetings. We have individual e-mail distribution lists for all groups and we have our website. We communicate well but need to maintain a strong representative voice. Contact Teacher rep Natasha Williams, EA rep Nicole Hovers and Ministerial rep Tanya Buchan if you need to get things on the agenda for improvement or simply ask a question.

The end of the year is often a good time to reflect and acknowledge things that went well and make plans to address those that didn’t. DOE has already published FOCUS 2017 and it provides a blueprint for improvement. I encourage everyone to at least familiarise themselves with it. Next year sees the rollout of NDIS, the end of MSSD, the introduction of ABLES WA, the new enrolment policy, the employee performance policy, an Aboriginal education priority as well as the culmination of the old Australian Curriculum Framework. We will make sure we are well placed to assist each other.

Next year will be my last as your network principal and I will ensure I continue to work hard and ensure a successful transition for 2018. Fundamentally we are operating as a team so it will not be a major issue. I have really enjoyed the role since its inception and feel it is time to move on. I particularly want to develop an executive officer role who can carry out the operational requirements of running the network. This will be funded and further details will follow.

I would like to wish all our members a wonderful holiday and hope they re-ignite the fire ready for a new school year. Thanks for all you have done for our students.

TCOT
Andrew Wilson
Manager of Corporate Services / Support Staff

Tanya Buchan is the Cannington Community Education Support Centre (CCESC) Level 4 Manager of Corporate Services. She is responsible for managing CCESC’s finances, human resources, and assets. She also has extensive experience working in the private sector. Tanya holds a Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Accounting, a Certificate II in Payroll, Certificate II in Accounts Receivable and Payable, and a Certificate III in Business. She is currently studying a Graduate Certificate of Business in Education.

I appreciate the recognition for all my hard work. It is always nice to be appreciated in front of your peers. I am very honoured to have received this reward and will continue to work hard to achieve excellence as a Manager Corporate Services for Cannington Community ESC. I would like to thank Andrew Wilson, Sandra Boyd, Jess Bates, Sue Graham and Cheryl Macpherson for all their support and especially Sandra Boyd for nominating me for this award. The team that I work with at Cannington Community ESC are a great group and I would not be able to do my job without them all. Thank you everyone.  Tanya Buchan

Teacher of the Year - Secondary

Holly Coombe has a nickname. This nickname came about because Holly is a champion of Education Support that extends well beyond the four walls of her classroom. She has a tenacity and steely determination that sees her never settling for second best. She is constantly seeking innovative ways to help students achieve incredible outcomes both in the classroom and in the wider community. She is absolutely determined to always find a way. For these reasons Holly Coombe is known as “de-termin(ed)ator.”

Winning the WAESPAA Secondary teacher category has been a “career highlight” that I won’t forget! Not only was the awards night announcement an amazing experience, the recognition from our school community has lead me to reflect on my practice and the achievements I’ve experienced in the last 4 years. Thanks to the WAESPAA team for organising such an outstanding evening.  Holly Coombe
WAESPAA Awards Night 2016 . . .

Rockingham Beach Education Support Centre
Our school motto ‘Aspire and Achieve Together’ motivates us to set our goals to be as innovative as we can. In turn our school provides a dynamic service to the community. We take pride in the programs we provide to all our students, enabling them to aspire and achieve to their full potential.

Rockingham Beach ESC has been an Independent Public School for the past six years and utilised the flexibilities available to IPS schools to write our own policy in regards to enrolment. In 2011 we were the first education support centre to enrol kindergarten and pre-primary students and in the following year this flexibility was opened up to all education support centres which is of great benefit for students with disabilities. As a Teacher Development School we deliver professional learning to schools across the state. Our professional learning enables schools to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and focusses on how to develop strong partnerships with their families. We have a strong focus on families and believe that "we don't just enrol a child we enrol the whole family!"
"Rockingham Beach is a really dynamic school. We have a great team, which is why we do so well here."

Teacher of the Year - Primary
Mr Rodney Mackintosh of Malibu School is the winner of the WAESPAA Primary Teacher of the Year for 2016. Rod is a unique and inspiring educator who has dedicated his teaching career to breaking down barriers and forging new and exciting futures for students with Complex Communication Needs (CCN).
**school update . . .**

**ESSN Secondary Sports Carnival**

On the 10th November the Education Support South Network held an interschool sports carnival at Leeming Education Support Centre. This year’s carnival included students from 10 different schools and provided a range of activities including long jump, sprint, target soccer, turbo javelin, relays and hurdles as well as the beanbag toss, pass ball and the fun zone.

We are very proud to say that although we were a small team three of our students received medals and we joined in with other schools teams. Even the rain shower in the afternoon did not spoil a wonderful day which allowed our students to shine.

Soizick Vossart  
Hamilton Senior High School
school update . . .
ESSN Secondary Sports Carnival

On Thursday 10th December Leeming SHS ESC hosted the annual ESSN Sports Carnival. We had 8 other schools involved this year including: Armadale, Atwell, Cannington, Canning Vale, Hamilton, Kalamunda, Kensington and Malibu. While the weather forecast didn’t look good it held off for most of the day which was fantastic. The students participated in many activities including throwing, jumping and running events but they also had the added Fun Zone to enjoy. The Fun Zone with the sumo suits and giant board games was a hit with many of the staff and students. WADSA kindly supplied some sensory items for our sensory area and the chill out zone was well used on the day.

The barbeque and cupcake stall that was run during the day was to raise funds for Leeming’s graduation and we thank everyone for helping us raise a great number of funds. A big thank you to all our parent helpers and businesses that kindly donated their time and supplies for the day. The feedback from the carnival has been great and it looks like everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all the schools for being involved and making the day a great success for everyone. Congratulations to Armadale and Leeming for taking out the trophies and we look forward to bigger and better things next year.

Jenna Allomes
Leeming SHS ESC
To celebrate and showcase student achievement in the arts, Cannington Community ESC put on an exciting evening concert (held 20th October) in the theme of a Caribbean Cruise (which we fondly named *Sunset on the Lido Deck*). The production was a wonderful success and was testament to what students with disabilities can achieve when given the opportunity.

The student performances for the night included pop singers, instrumentalists, comedians, actors, and DJs. We were fortunate to have a special guest from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Samantha, who gave out 2 trophies on the night. The Best Performing Artist Award went to *Liam Hubbard* for his outstanding rendition of Johnny Cash and Elvis, and the Rising Star award went to *Lachlan McQueen-Fleming* for his entertaining Cuban Pete skit. Well done guys!

The People's-Choice Art Award went to *Isabella Orr* for her meticulously hand-crafted recycled art piece. The Art Critics trophy was awarded to *Hugo Hendrawan* for his talented drawings and sketches. Thanks to all the students who entered art into the exhibition.

I want to specifically acknowledge that *Sunset on the Lido Deck* was the culmination of the students' year-long efforts in their Community Arts classes, months of rehearsals, and overall passion for their craft. It was also a huge team effort. Special thanks goes to our passionate staff members who all pitched in to help sew costumes, make stage props, take photos, organise the art exhibition, collect tickets, assist with costume changes, take care of hair...
and make-up, supervise students, transport equipment, provide refreshments, clean up etc. It was a mammoth combined effort and events like these simply do not happen without supportive staff.

Many audience members were quite literally blown away by the showmanship and talent they witnessed on the stage that evening. Needless to say I was incredibly proud of all the students and I felt a little emotional watching them perform, knowing how far some of them have truly come. For some, it has taken 3 years of personal development to build the confidence to sing in front of an audience. The magnitude of our students’ achievements is not always obvious.

On a final note, the benefits of running a school production in our educational context extend far beyond technique and repertoire; arguably it is more about building character, increasing confidence, overcoming fears, and, ultimately, changing attitudes towards people with disability. We know what our students are capable of and people living with disabilities can and do make valuable contributions to society.

I hope you enjoy the photos! If you want to know more about this initiative, feel free to email me at Rachael.Jones@education.wa.edu.au.

Rachael Jones
Teacher
Cannington Community ESC
school update . . .

Gwynne Park Education Support Centre

Gwynne Park Education Support Centre has had an exciting year of achievements. We are very proud to announce our efforts have been recognised by the Department of Education as a 2017 Independent Public School. This news and transition has been warmly welcomed by our school community.

Our school runs a range of programs across each year level including Discrete Trial Training (DTT). DTT is one ABA evidence based approach used in our Early Intervention program and our Pre Primary/Year 1 class to enhance the learning process, led by our Early Intervention teacher Hayley Ding. DTT is a highly repetitive program where skills and concepts are broken down to the simplest components, building upon a hierarchy of identified skills. Our super staff at Gwynne Park ESC direct learning using highly sequenced and repetitive instructions, use of reinforcers and continuous feedback to teach new skills. We have seen an impressive achievement of goals over 2016.

Many of our classes use the TEACCH approach to build student independence. TEACCH learning was supported by Sam Brassington at Kalamunda ESC. Our Year 1/2 teacher, Natasha Miller has guided our staff through the development of this approach in our school. Our senior students have made excellent progress on their TEACCH independent work boxes. Students have worked on these boxes since the beginning of the year where the work tasks are regularly updated. The focus is on getting them to work independently and revise skills that need maintenance. The students have been committed to finishing their work, engaging in reading and writing station tasks by following their individual schedules.

Our school’s Kids Matter Action Team has been active this year with a range of events and activities for our school community. Earlier this year we held a School Development Day Workshop for the staff and families to attend. In this workshop we looked at developing a better understanding of what mental health is and how it impacts our school community. We have also held events such as our School Sports Carnival, Celebration Days and the Crunch and Sip Afternoon Tea organised by our cooking specialist teacher Yasmin Roz. These events have given our school community the opportunity to come together and share the learning experiences with our students.

Thank you to our great team, we are looking forward to another busy year in 2017.

Sarah Thomas
Deputy Principal
school update . . .

Armadale Education Support Centre

It has been a very busy term for Armadale ESC. We have been doing a lot of fundraising over the last 7 weeks to promote, not only that we are compassionate, but also to introduce one of our new school expected behaviours that is to ‘Care for all’.

We started the term with a Lap-a-thon to raise money for the Cancer Council. It coincided with Halloween, so students were invited to dress up if they chose to. It was a lovely day for all involved and there was a lot of running around chasing the giant M&M and the Pikachu! We raised $303.

The ESSN Carnival was at Leeming ESC, which was just an amazing day full of so much joy and enthusiasm from everyone involved. Our students had the best day, and tried hard for all events. This showed because we won the Aggregate Winner’s Perpetual Trophy, which we were pretty pleased about.

The ESSN Market day was a huge success and as a school we were so proud to see our students behind their stall organising the stock and taking the money and giving change. They had been busy preparing all year and it was such a successful event, and we can’t wait for next year.

The Ability Centre – Big Shave

Our PE teacher, Mr Jamie Adamson, has been growing his hair all year, so he could wear it in a ‘man-bun’. Fortunately for us, it was all so he could shave it off to raise money for the Ability Centre. So on November 30th we celebrated the big shave, with an afternoon of games and team building activities, that built up to the shaving Mr A’s head.

The class that raised the most money got to chop off the pig-tails and the individual that raised the most, Ms H, got to shave his head. The students loved it and we raised over $400 for a worthy cause.

Phew! What a term, throw in Presentation and Graduation ceremonies, and then a Year 10 Block placement and Year 6 Transition and we are all well and truly ready for the summer break.

Enjoy everyone,
AECS Team
school update . . .

WADSA Multi Sports Carnival

On 22 August Success Primary KBLC hosted the annual WADSA Multi Sports Carnival. Several schools braved the chilly winds yet clear skies that the day bought but were soon warmed in our undercover area where the activities were located. The area became a hive of activity very quickly as the carnival commenced.

There was a multitude of new activities on offer to engage with which were from WADSA. Lots of positive interactions from the students and staff indicated that the new activity equipment was engaging and motivating.

The WADSA Multi Sports Carnival was attended by:
Atwell College KBLC
Riverton ESC
Malibu School
Kenwick School
Gwynne Park ESC

The WADSA equipment was also used and well received at our whole school faction carnival team events on 2 September 2016.

We are looking forward to receiving a loan pack of this equipment soon from WADSA so we can continue to hone our skills for coming carnivals. Watch Out!!

Kaye Blackburn
Associate Principal
Success Primary School
In Semester One, in both Music and Art, our senior students in Areas 1, 4 & 7 learned about the musical story of Peter and the Wolf. Peter and the Wolf was written in 1936 by a Russian composer called Sergei Prokofiev. Sergei Prokofiev wrote the story to teach children about the instruments of the orchestra. Each character in the story is represented by a different instrument.

Our students participated in many activities over the semester including puppet making, drawing, watching the 1946 Disney version of Peter and the Wolf, playing audio instrumental matching games, completing worksheets and playing instrumental bingo games so that they could learn more about the instruments of the orchestra and the characters in the story.

Towards the end of Semester One, we took our students to the Perth Concert Hall to see the live stage show and the orchestral performance of Peter and the Wolf. Most of our children were spellbound to see the story ‘come to life’ and were ‘okay’ when the storyline was a little different to what they had learned in class. They were also very excited that we went to Maccas for lunch before the performance!

After performing again at our combined assembly, and as part of our whole school integration approach to participating in the Performing Arts, our KESC team put on a visual and aural display that included the amalgamation of both Music and Visual Arts in special education at our school.

Our students at KESC thrived on a whole semester of emersion of the classical musical story of Peter and the Wolf. They loved learning about the classical Instruments of the orchestra and would often be heard singing or humming the theme songs of the characters in the story in the classroom or the playground. Thank you, Mr Prokoviev, for bringing music and the orchestra to our children in such a unique and special way.

Jarna Wright
Principal
Kalamunda ESC
The Independent Living Centre of WA and Leeming Senior High School Education Support Centre have collaborated to pilot a mobile phone skills program for students in Year 12/13. Learning how to be safe and responsible when using a mobile phone and skills to promote independence are the core components of the program.

Lessons have focused on the responsibilities of being a phone owner, personal safety, using alarms and timers, taking and sharing photos appropriately, using the calculator and sending text messages.

Mobile phones have become an integral part of our classroom practice. With phones face down, students use the alarm and timer as a vital organisational tool to complete tasks within time frames, transition between classes and break times. The conventional methods of learning to tell the time, adding or subtracting are now broached with great excitement as students use their phones to practise these features. With word predictor students are practising and/or developing functional literacy and communication skills. Links to the curriculum are endless.

“Taking it to the Streets” is the next phase of our program with students using their mobile phones to practise a host of skills in the community to foster independence and safety.

“It’s not just about phones; it’s about empowering our students at Leeming Senior High School Education Support Centre to access their world.”
Louisa Franceschini-Pill

“We are both excited to have the opportunity to work with such an enthusiastic class and hope the skills and the content being learnt will serve the students now and into their futures as young adults”
Liza & Emma
school update...
Graduations and Concerts in 2016

Atwell College
Maddington ESC
Koorana ESC
Rockingham Beach ESC
Carson Street School
Wirrabirra School
promotions update . . .

IDPWD Art Display at Central Office

Each school in the ESSN was asked to produce a canvas for the International Day for People with Disability (IDPWD) on December 3rd. These were arranged in the foyer of Central Office in East Perth for two weeks. Thanks to everyone for their creativity and willing participation in this display and to Suzanne Hall for setting up the display.

John Exeter, Promotions
IDPWD Art Display at Central Office

Coolbellup Learning Centre

Kenwick School

Malibu School

Rockingham Beach ESC
Wirrabirra ESC

Maddington ESC

Koorana ESC

Cannington Community ESC

Carson Street School
create.link.participate

create.link.participate is an initiative for students to create innovative enterprise products, link with community to build relationships and participate in something different as a school.

The ESSN Market Day is about bringing together our students and their communities in a fun and collaborative environment. The aim of this event is to showcase and sell a variety of classroom enterprise products including a variety of art and craft, Christmas items and decorations, plants, food and drinks and interactive games.

This year’s ESSN Market Day was hosted by Cannington Community Education Support Centre at the Cannington Exhibition and Showgrounds on Thursday 17th November 2016. It was a huge success with over 400 staff, students and community members visiting during the day. We had 10 ESSN schools participate and their students created an array of enterprise products to sell on the day. These schools include; Armadale ESC, Canning Vale College, Cannington Community ESC, Gwynne Park ESC, Kalamunda SHS ESC, Kensington Secondary School, Kenwick School, Leeming SHS ESC, Maddington ESC, and Malibu School.

We would like to thank everyone that contributed and attended the event. We are really proud of the buzzing atmosphere that was evident at Market Day and it is wonderful to see all the creative products and hard work that goes into the stall preparations. It is great to see schools interact and the joy that it brings to many of the students faces.

We look forward to future events and welcome any feedback.
Thank you
Angela Whittington and Cathy Houden

** Please note: Malibu School will be hosting the next ESSN Market Day.**