

Issue No. 11

09/09/14

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APFACTS is proud to present a week-long program of workshops and events from **September 15-19, 2014** for secondary school students, parents and the wider Canberra community.

The secondary student workshops will be presented by leading anti-bullying, cyber bullying and leadership organisation, **PROJECT ROCKIT**.

The presenters from **PROJECT ROCKIT** are giants in youth leadership. They have made an outstanding contribution in response to bullying and cyberbullying in Australia and have delivered real outcomes for over 40,000 students through their unique and interactive anti-bullying and youth leadership program.

The parent workshops will be presented by a range of experts in the field, including **ThinkUKnow**, **Nina Funnell** and **Martine Oglethorpe**. Together, the parent workshops offer a comprehensive approach to issues of cybersafety and digital citizenship. These workshops will provide parents with the information they need to communicate effectively about digital issues with their children.

In addition to these workshops, APFACTS will be hosting the **Cyber Savvy Week Community Forum**. The Community Forum will engage an expert panel for an ACT-wide conversation on boosting the digital skills and safety of our students.

The following speakers will be joining us at the forum:

- **ACT Education Minister, Joy Burch, MLA**
- **Chris Faulks, Canberra Business Council**
- **Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President**
- **Craig Edwards, Assistant Principal, Gungahlin College**
- **Matthew Purcell, Canberra Boys Grammar School (Code Cadets)**

APFACTS has always advocated that education and social issues are best tackled by all parties working together. Through engaging students, parents, and the wider Canberra community, we are confident that we can achieve sustainable strategies for the future.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the workshops!

Charuni Weerasooriya, President

In this edition



President's Message

We are very excited to be bringing you a week-long series of workshops for secondary students and parents from **September 15-19, 2014**.

This newsletter will give you more details on the Workshops and a Community Forum which will focus on boosting the digital skills and online safety of our children, hope you can make it!

For more information and to book tickets, please visit our website :
www.apfacts.org.au

For more education news, views and events, please join us on social media :

[Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

[More](#)

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STUDENT WORKSHOPS

APFACTS is excited to be bring Co-founders of Project Rockit Lucy and Rosie Thomas back to Canberra for a week-long program of anti-cyber bullying workshops for secondary students.

PROJECT ROCKIT workshops provide students with new and in-touch strategies for dealing with cyber bullying, as well as practical tips for preventing and reacting to harm. The workshops also focus on the strengths of technology, and encourage digital citizenship and leadership in social media.

APFACTS successfully hosted a number of these workshops in partnership with ACT schools in 2013, and is looking forward to the return of PROJECT ROCKIT in Term 3, 2014.

DOT COM FORUMS - Secondary Student Workshops

Two-hour sessions for up to 250 students – aimed at students in Years 7, 8, 9.

DOT COM Forums bring students together for an empowering approach to cyberbullying and personal leadership.

The sessions examine cyberbullying, social networking and online culture in a way that is positive and non-judgemental, providing a range of strategies in dealing with cyberbullying and promoting cybersafety.

Outcomes for students

- Students have a fresh, shared understanding of cyber bullying and the concept of digital citizenship.
- Students understand the role that bystanders can play in subverting the course of cyber bullying episodes and are empowered to support those targeted online.
- Students are aware that their online identity can have an impact in real life, in terms of future opportunities, respect from peers and personal relationships.
- Students are equipped with new strategies for standing up to cyber bullying and protective/proactive behaviours.

ABOUT PROJECT ROCKIT

Project Rockit began in 2006, as the brainchild of sisters Lucy and Rosie Thomas who wanted to tackle the issue of schoolyard bullying.

Co-founders Rosie and Lucy Thomas have a genuine understanding of youth culture as well as the issues facing young people. Being digital natives, they use their work with thousands of young people to help demystify the most common social media platforms used by young people.

Lucy and Rosie have conducted workshops to over 40,000 Australian students, presented strategies for youth engagement and cultural change at major National and International conferences and are consultants to Microsoft and Facebook, building strategies for tackling cyber bullying.

Do you know of an event or resource that non-government schools should know about?

Email us at:

admin@apfacts.org.au

PROJECT ROCKIT have appeared on a number of national TV programs including:

- [Channel 7's 'Sunrise'](#)
- [ABC's 'Compass'](#)
- [Channel 10's 'The Project'](#)

For more information on Lucy and Rosie Thomas, [check out their bio's](#).

Some testimonials:

'I urge you in the strongest possible terms, to do everything in your power, to support this unique anti-bullying initiative and help create resilient and empathetic young people who are equipped to deal with bullying and who lead by example' – **Michael Carr-Gregg, Child and Adolescent Psychologist.**

'I've never seen anyone engage young people as well as you guys' – **The Hon Peter Garrett, MP.**

"The PROJECT ROCKIT presentations and delivery are dynamic and totally switched onto the current teenage audience. The kids love it. They are captured right from the beginning and totally absorbed in the energetic presentation, which delivers some very powerful messages. Later on in the classroom, the students were excited about the ideas and strategies that PROJECT ROCKIT presented. We talked as a group about how we could implement many of the strategies and make some real and meaningful changes to complex peer issues." **Jenny Stanbury – Head of Health and Resilience – Wesley College.**

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Giving parents the information they need to communicate effectively with their children on the issues of cybersafety and digital citizenship.

The parent workshops will be run from Monday 15 September - Thursday 18 September 2014, and will engage a number of experts in the field to help parents with topics regarding online behaviour, safety, skills and techniques and more.

Monday 15 September – ThinkUKnow

ThinkUKnow is internet safety program developed in partnership with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Microsoft Australia and Datacom.

This workshop will help parents to understand issues including: cyberbullying, online grooming, privacy management, app safety and inappropriate content, connecting with your teenager around technology and building digital citizenship.

DATE: Monday, September 15, 2014

VENUE: Senior School Hall, Canberra Girls Grammar School, Melbourne Avenue, Deakin

TIME: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Please join us! [Book here](#)

Tuesday 16 September – Nina Funnell

Nina Funnell is a journalist, author, speaker and advocate. Nina has written and spoken on a number of topics including cyber bullying, digital self-harm, body image and gender equality. Workshop tackles the myths and issues surrounding teens and digital technology.

DATE: Tuesday, September 16, 2014

VENUE: Garrett Wing Function Room, Daramalan College, Cowper Street, Dickson

TIME: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Please join us! [Book here](#)

Wednesday 17 September – Martine Oglethorpe

Martine Oglethorpe has a background in Education and a Masters in Counselling, and is the author of The Modern Parent blog.

Workshop helps parents with information, skills and strategies to safely navigate children through the online world, leading to less stress and more joy when incorporating the digital world into our daily lives.

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2014

VENUE: Leyshon Lecture Theatre, Radford College, College Street, Bruce

TIME: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Please join us! [Book here](#)

COMMUNITY FORUM

An expert panel of guests will be joining APFACTS as we bringing together Government, business, schools and parents for an ACT-wide conversation around the need for partnership to boost digital skills of ACT students while also looking at the mechanisms to keep them safe online.

Panel members:

- ACT Education Minister, Joy Burch, MLA
- Chris Faulks, Canberra Business Council
- Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President
- Craig Edwards, Assistant Principal, Gungahlin College
- Matthew Purcell, Canberra Boys Grammar School (Code Cadets)

Please join us. [More](#)

DATE: Thursday, September 18, 2014

VENUE: Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching & Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

TIME: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

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