

Issue No. 12

23/09/14

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another busy term but I am incredibly proud of the work of our organization which hosted APFACTS Cyber Savvy Week last week which saw a week-long focus on digital citizenship with students, parents and the wider community.

It has long been our belief that social issues such as Cyber bullying require a whole school approach and our workshops impacted so many Canberra's to think about the issues and opportunities our digital world brings.

If you haven't had a chance yet to see APFACTS Cyber Savvy Week or check out our resource page, please visit: [www.apfacts.org.au](http://www.apfacts.org.au).

Some exciting workshops also coming up in November with internationally acclaimed education futurist David Price OBE which we are presenting with the Australian Parents Council, check out the [details](#)

Wishing you a wonderful Term 3 break!

**Charuni Weerasooriya**

## APFACTS CYBER SAVVY WEEK - SEPTEMBER 15 - 19, 2014

APFACTS was proud to host a week-long program of workshops and events on cyber safety and digital citizenship for students, parents and the wider Canberra community last week.

This exciting week involved three main events:

### Student workshops run by PROJECT ROCKIT

Students loved the high impact two hour workshops utilising an empowering approach to cyberbullying and personal leadership. The workshops examined cyberbullying, social networking and online culture in a positive and non-judgmental way, and provided a range of strategies for dealing with cyberbullying and promoting cyber safety.

Over 1,200 students from Years 6 – 8 attended workshops this year, schools included: St Edmund's College, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra Girls Grammar School, Daramalan College and Radford College.

### Parent Workshops

#### ThinkUKnow

ThinkUKnow, an internet safety program developed in partnership with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Microsoft Australia and Datacom helped parents understand issues including: cyberbullying, online grooming, privacy management, app safety and inappropriate content, connecting with teenagers around technology and building digital citizenship.

Parents in attendance engaged in a lengthy discussion on how best to connect with young people around technology.

### In this edition

- ▶ [President's Message](#)
- ▶ [APFACTS Cyber Savvy Week - September 15 - 19, 2014](#)
- ▶ [Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 21 October, 2014](#)
- ▶ [APC National Conference](#)
- ▶ [Changes to school bus services](#)
- ▶ [Curriculum Update](#)
- ▶ [Preschool Matters Grant](#)
- ▶ [David Price Workshops](#)
- ▶ [National Symposium](#)
- ▶ [Parent Resources](#)
- ▶ [Stay in Touch with Education Issues](#)

### President's Message

Welcome to the APFACTS Term 3, 2014 newsletter.

We encourage you to be part of the conversation around education issues, join us on:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Visit our website](#)

### Executive Committee members

**Charuni Weerasooriya**  
President

**Elizabeth Findlay**  
Vice-President (Canberra)

**Paul Crowley**  
Vice-President (Fraser)

**Caitlyn Blackford**  
Secretary

“One of the most important take-away messages from this discussion was the idea that “it’s about behavior, not technology”. More specifically, ThinkUKnow explained that parents do not need to understand or use all of the apps our kids are using in order to have meaningful conversations with them about appropriate online behavior” said Julie Sengelman, Executive Officer, APFACTS.

For more tips on cybersafety and digital citizenship, head to the [ThinkUKnow website](#)

### **[Nina Funnell](#)**

Nina’s workshop tackled the myths and issues surrounding teens and digital technology by drawing upon the latest research in the area. In particular, Nina provided a unique insight into how young people typically behave online, and provided strategies for parents on how best to confront these issues.

“Continuing the theme of the ThinkUKnow workshop, Nina encouraged all parents to engage in regular and open conversations with their kids about appropriate behavior online” said Julie Sengelman, Executive Officer, APFACTS.

### **[Martine Ogleshorpe](#)**

Drawing upon a combination of her professional expertise and personal experiences, Martine offered a number of practical strategies for parents.

“Perhaps most importantly, Martine encouraged parents to talk regularly with their kids about digital issues, and recommended the early implementation of rules and boundaries” said Charuni Weerasooriya, President, APFACTS.

## **[Community Forum](#)**

### **[A Community Forum on digital skills and safety of ACT students](#)**

To conclude APFACTS Cyber Savvy Week, we were proud to host a Community Forum at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning.

The forum featured a panel of experts in the field, and represented a multi-stakeholder perspective on issues of digital skills and safety for young people. The panel included:

- 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)

The forum was well attended by a wide and diverse audience, including parents, teachers, representatives from the Australian Government Department of Communications, ACT P&C Council and Steve Dospot MLA, Shadow Minister for Education and Training and ICT in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

To view some of the main discussion points of the evening, visit our [Twitter page](#)

“We were really pleased to kick off a much needed discussion about how we boost digital skills and safety for all ACT students. A really interesting discussion, and we look forward to working with many stakeholders to expand areas where skills and safety can be enhanced” said Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President.

APFACTS thanks our sponsors for student and parent workshops: [Association of Independent Schools of the ACT](#) and [Catholic Education Office Canberra and Goulburn](#) for their support.

For more information about APFACTS Cybersavvy week or to check out resources that can assist you, please visit our [website](#)

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

**Email us at:**  
[admin@apfacts.org.au](mailto:admin@apfacts.org.au)

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER, 2014**

APFACTS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 21 October 2014.

At the AGM, we will be electing new committee members for 2014/15.

We will also recognize the outstanding contribution that has been made to APFACTS by our Treasurer, Peter Murray. Peter has been involved with APFACTS for 5 years and has been an integral member of the Executive team.

Immediately following the AGM will be a General Meeting held by the incoming Committee Members.

## **APC NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The Australian Parents Council (APC) is the national federation of organisations representing the parents of non-government school children in Australia.

The Australian Parents Council (APC) held its annual conference and AGM in Perth in August, which was attended by all national representatives. A function was held to celebrate the work of Parents Australia with indigenous parents in Western Australia. A message from the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott was read to the audience by his representative in WA. To watch this message, click [here](#)

Delegates at Conference heard from Dr Stacey Fox from the Australian Research Alliance from Children & Youth (ARACY) about what is next for parent engagement in Australia. Dr Fox highlighted the APFACTS pilot project into parental engagement which has been funded by the ACT to benchmark best practice in the ACT and establish measurement tools.

There was an interesting discussion held by a panel of education stakeholders on the topic "what is an education worth having" a theme that will follow the Australian Parents Council's work in the coming months.

At the AGM, our President, Charuni Weerasooriya, was elected as a Vice President of the Australian Parents Council.

## **CHANGES TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES**

Earlier this year, APFACTS learnt that ACTION Buses had planned to announce a new school bus service that would see a reduction in services to schools in the ACT from the start of Term 3. Of the many issues we elevated with ACTION in relation to these changes, perhaps the most prominent was the fact that parents and schools were not consulted about the changes, and received little notice of the changes once they were agreed upon.

Throughout Term 2, APFACTS worked with ACTION Buses to ensure that parents had as much notice as possible about the impending changes. Read more:

- APFACTS Press Release: May 23, 2014: [Proposed changes to school bus services](#)
- APFACTS Comments in the Canberra Times: May 23, 2014: [School bus services reduced](#)

With the changes now in place, it is our understanding that there will be a review by ACTION Buses in November 2014. We encourage all parents to contact us if they have not already done so, to ensure that we are able to provide comprehensive feedback of the impacts of these changes to our school communities.

To share your views, please email Julie Sengelman:  
[ExecutiveOfficer@apfacts.org.au](mailto:ExecutiveOfficer@apfacts.org.au)

## CURRICULUM UPDATE

### NAPLAN

In August, parents around Australia who have children in years 3,5,7 & 9 received their NAPLAN results. The results demonstrated that the ACT continues to lead the way, placing as top or equal top in 16 out of the 20 areas tested. To read more about the NAPLAN results, please see the following links:

- Article in the Canberra Times, 18 August 2014 - [ACT Maintains Envious place in NAPLAN Results](#)
- Media Release Education Department ACT - [ACT remains top of the class in NAPLAN](#)

### Online NAPLAN trials to conclude

ACARA has been undertaking research activities to study the feasibility and practicality of delivering NAPLAN tests 'in an online environment'. The online trials, which took place in up to 270 schools in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, have concluded.

ACARA has stated that online assessment may have the potential to increase levels of student participation, particularly for students who are travelling or have special needs.

The data from the trials is currently being prepared for analysis. ACARA plans to distribute the prepared results to schools in Term 4, before being provided to the ACARA Board in 2015.

### Cyber Safety

On 8 September 2014, ACARA released a statement explaining that the Australian Curriculum covers "online safety" from the very first year of schooling:

"As they progress through their schooling, students learn how to recognize online bullying and harassment, how to apply online protocols and recognize and respond safely to inappropriate online content through the [Australian Curriculum for health and physical education](#) and [digital technologies](#)."

Are you interested in curriculum issues? If you have any areas regarding curriculum you would like us to discuss, please [email us](#).

## PRESCHOOL MATTERS GRANT

As a part of the Preschool Matters Program, a small grants program has been established to promote parental engagement in preschool education. The Preschool Matters Grants Program will be open from 1 September 2014 with applications closing on 30 September 2014.

To find out more information on how your Preschool can apply for a grant of up to \$500 to assist in the implementation of activities that promote parental engagement and support collaborative partnerships with families, please see [more](#)

## DAVID PRICE WORKSHOPS

The Australian Parents Council in collaboration with APFACTS, will be

presenting a series of workshops with David Price OBE throughout Australia in October/November.

David Price OBE is a Senior Associate at the Innovation Unit in England and an internationally acclaimed Education futurist. David has led ground-breaking education programs which have successfully re-engaged learners in thousands of schools in many countries including the UK, Canada, Singapore and Australia. David has given keynote presentations all over the world and created hugely popular teaching resources.

In 2009, David was awarded the OBE for services to education. His book "Open" released in 2013 has sold copies around the world and highlights how we will live, work and learn in the future.

APFACTS is proud to be working with the APC to offer a range of workshops:

- November 5: Keynote and workshop for parents and teachers, [book](#)
- November 5: One day project based learning workshop for teachers, [book](#)

## NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Family, School & Community Partnerships Bureau recently convened a National Symposium on Policy, Practice and Evaluation: Student Learning and Wellbeing in Melbourne. To watch video's of speakers, please follow the link to the [Bureau website](#)

## PARENT RESOURCES

The Cyber Savvy Resources Page includes links to help and advice, research, and articles on topics such as technology in schools, digital citizenship and parent guides to the digital world. These include:

- [Cybersafety help and advice website](#) - Australian Government Department of Communications.
- [Cybersmart](#) - Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)
- [Cyberbullying Research Report](#) - Australian Government Department of Communications
- [Cyber Safety](#) - ACT Government
- [Parents Guide to Online Safety](#) – Cybersmart
- [Cybersafety and Cyberbullying](#) - Queensland Government Department of Education, Training and Employment
- [Facebook for Parents](#) - Common Sense Media
- [Instagram or Vine? 5 things to know if your kids are sharing videos](#) - Common Sense Media

To view the complete list, head to the [Cyber Savvy Resources Page](#) on our website.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH EDUCATION ISSUES

Interested in education issues and want to know more?

- Join us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on Twitter : [@APFACTS1](#)
- Visit the [APFACTS](#) website and have your say on education issues.
- Learn more about APFACTS work - [visit www.apfacts.org.au](http://www.apfacts.org.au)

You can change your email address by contacting [admin@apfacts.org.au](mailto:admin@apfacts.org.au)  
If you no longer wish to receive this e-newsletter, please [unsubscribe](#).  
Please consider the environment before printing this document.



[Terms of use](#)

Contact us | t: +61 2 6287 3538 | e: [admin@apfacts.org.au](mailto:admin@apfacts.org.au) | w: [www.apfacts.org.au](http://www.apfacts.org.au)  
p: PO Box 4034, Weston ACT 2611

