

# BOARD BULLETIN

The official publication of the Board of Studies NSW

Vol 17 No 4 Term 4 2008

## The journey's just begun

Schools working in partnership with Aboriginal communities have achieved exciting results, some of which are described in the latest support materials from the Board's Aboriginal Curriculum Unit (ACU).

*The journey's just begun* is a 30-minute DVD and 44-page handbook demonstrating how genuine partnerships can create far-reaching benefits for schools and communities.

The professional support materials follow the journeys taken by four NSW schools to improve student learning by engaging parents, Elders and Aboriginal community organisations in curriculum projects.

Broulee Public School, Gilgandra Public School, Gilgandra High School and St Joseph's Primary School Walgett are featured, with curriculum projects in K-8 Mathematics and K-6 Aboriginal Languages. The processes described can be applied to any aspect of the curriculum.

"These school experiences represent the journey that can be taken by all schools reaching out to improve Aboriginal educational outcomes," said Kevin Lowe, Inspector, Aboriginal Education.

"The DVD and handbook are designed to be used in school development days and other in-service programs. They contain advice and templates that can



help a school to collaboratively develop a school action plan for curriculum-based projects.

"*The journey's just begun* has been tested with school and community representatives in a range of locations and we are confident it will be a useful tool in all schools in NSW."

The Department of Education and Training has bulk-purchased the DVD and handbook for distribution to all government schools. Non-government schools may purchase the DVD and handbook set for \$20 through the Board's Shop Online.

Development of *The journey's just begun* was co-funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The DVD and handbook are informed by the ACU's wide range of curriculum support projects that have been developed with schools and communities over the past eight years. These projects can be viewed at <http://ab-ed.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>. ■



### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Parents Guide welcomed back to schools	2
A new way to get the news	3
Nominations for the Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize	4
Important dates	4
Centre pages: Official Notices	

# Parents Guide welcomed back to schools



For many parents, understanding what their child learns at school can be challenging – the natural flow of learning may be unclear in the jumble of day-to-day school activities.

To help, the NSW Board of Studies has put together a comprehensive and structured curriculum booklet, *The Parents' Guide to the NSW Primary Syllabuses*, for kindergarten to Year 6.

Parents of more than 80,000 kindergarten students will receive the booklet from schools next year. The Board will issue the guides before the end of 2008 so schools can work with the materials early in Term 1. Additional copies may be purchased from Shop Online.

Colourfully illustrated with original student drawings and samples of work, the 16-page guide clearly sets out the curriculum requirements, with charts representing the amount of time spent on key learning areas.

The guide gives parents a valuable insight into their child's activities in the classroom. It aims to improve communication between parents and teachers by making parents feel they can ask informed questions about their child's learning.

First distributed at the start of 2008, the guide has since received praise from principals and teachers – with emails to the Board describing it as “a wonderful booklet” and “an excellent guide” and welcoming its plain English terminology.

The guide is also available in various community languages on the Board's website, including Chinese, Arabic and Vietnamese.

A teacher from a south-western Sydney public school has applauded the release of this publication, saying such documents “are extremely important in bridging the gap between parents and teachers”.

Christopher Baker says the guide also recognises that parents are fundamental to their children's learning.

Christopher says the guide provides an easy-to-read overview, written in simple language that is not overwhelming, and helps manage expectations.

“The guide makes it easier for teachers to confer with parents on the progress of the student, without parents feeling overwhelmed by a lack of understanding of the syllabus documents and the continuum of learning. It clears the haze around what goes on in classrooms,” Christopher says.

“The guides also bring parents up to date with what has changed in the curriculum since they were at school, and how the continuum of learning is progressive and integrated.”

He says the layout, colour and language are all highly suitable for the target audience and reflect the professionalism and approachability without being intimidating.

“I believe it has great potential in 'starting school' and 'new enrolment' packages – especially for first-time parents (those without children already at school) and parents from language backgrounds other than English.

He also appreciates the inclusion of perspectives of learning, such as Aboriginal education. ■

# A new way to get the news

The Official Notices in this Board Bulletin are the last to be delivered in print form.

The Board of Studies website is the place to see Official Notices and a wide range of other important information. But you don't have to continually check the website – if you subscribe, we will let you know when there is news relevant to you and your school.

You can subscribe to receive email bulletins or to get information through an RSS feed.

This is how you do it:

On the Board's home page you will find a picture that looks like this:



Clicking on that will take you to these options:

**📡 - Subscribe to RSS**  
 Subscribe to Board of Studies News items below.  
[What is RSS?](#)  
 **Full Mode** 📡

To subscribe only to items published in the following categories, click the Feed icons below.

---

**✉ - Subscribe by Email**  
 Choose articles you wish to subscribe to and enter your email address below to subscribe to new BOS articles published.

All  Official Notices only

## You can subscribe to our email service

You will receive email notifications containing brief descriptions of new items on the Board's website and links to them. You can quickly scan the descriptions to find items that are relevant to you.

There will never be more than one email notification a day, and usually no more than one a week.

There is also an option to receive Official Notices only. This means you will only be notified when new Official Notices are published.

Remember that you can easily get a free email account on the internet. You might want to set up a separate account just for Board and other educational email subscriptions to keep your main email account free of the automatic notices.

The Board of Studies will not use the email address in your subscription for any other purpose, nor will your address ever be shared with a third party.

## Or you can subscribe to our RSS service

RSS might sound complicated but it's really simple. In fact it stands for *Really Simple Syndication*. It is a convenient way for you to receive news from a variety of sources straight to your desktop.

When you subscribe to an RSS feed (or channel), new stories and updates are automatically delivered to your computer the moment they are published.

There are several different types of Board of Studies RSS feeds. For example, if you subscribe to the *Full Mode* RSS feed you will get every article published in all categories by the Board of Studies. Or if you subscribe to the *Years 7-10* feed you will only receive articles that are published in the Years 7-10 category. If you subscribe to the *History* feed you will receive articles published in the History category only.

In order to subscribe to feeds, you need to download news reader software or use a web-based news reader. This allows you to access all your feeds in one convenient location and check your news when it suits you.

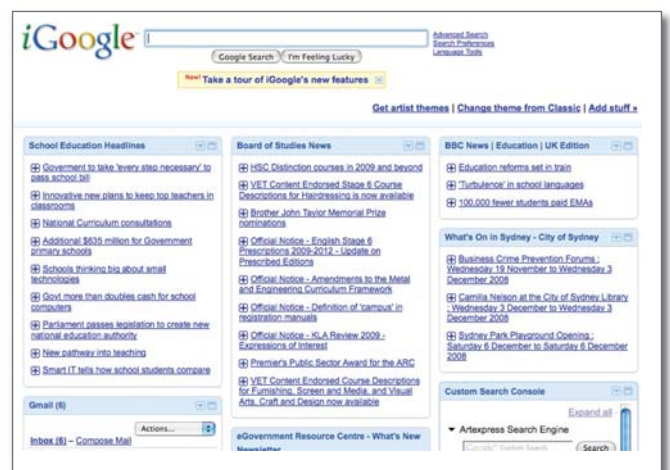
News readers (also called aggregators) will download and display RSS feeds for you. A number of free news readers are available, for example:

- Google Reader
- iGoogle
- Bloglines
- Newsgator
- NetVibes
- My Yahoo!

To put one of the Board of Studies feeds in your RSS news reader simply copy the URL that corresponds to the topic you want and paste the URL into your reader. More instructions and links are on the Board's website.

**Still can't work it out?**

**Email service@bos.nsw.edu.au for help. ■**



# Nominations for the Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize

It's time for schools to consider Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize nominations for any students who have overcome significant hardship to attain academic excellence in their Higher School Certificate.

The prize is presented each year to recognise a student's outstanding academic achievement despite a disability or other disadvantage. In 2007 the cash component of the prize was increased from \$500 to \$1000 thanks to generous donations from the education community. It also includes a trophy and certificate.

First presented in 1993, the prize was established by the Board of Studies NSW in memory of Brother John

Taylor, a distinguished member of the Board who made a significant contribution to education in NSW. The prize is administered by trustees representing the Board of Studies NSW and Catholic Education.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 19 December 2008. This gives principals the chance to see the student's results before finalising and submitting the nomination.

The 2008 Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize will be presented in February 2009. All nominees and nominating schools will receive a certificate of recognition.

For more information call Rebecca Lloyd on 9367 8250 or email [information@bos.nsw.edu.au](mailto:information@bos.nsw.edu.au) ■

## Important Dates

### Year 11 and 12

<b>16 December</b>	HSC First-in-Course awards ceremony at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music
<b>17 December</b>	HSC results available to students by internet, SMS and telephone; results available to principals via Schools Online
<b>19 December</b>	Students receive HSC results summary by mail
<b>19 December</b>	Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize nominations due
<b>20 December</b>	DesignTECH – a selection of outstanding HSC major works from 2008 Design and Technology students – launched at Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
<b>13 January 2009</b>	Formal HSC student credentials delivered by mail
<b>27 January 2009</b>	Unveiling of Art Express works in David Jones windows
<b>16 February 2009</b>	Official opening of Art Express at the Art Gallery of NSW
<b>31 January and 2–7 February 2009</b>	OnSTAGE performances at the Seymour Theatre Centre

<b>3–6 February 2009</b>	Writers OnSTAGE/OnScreen at the Seymour Theatre Centre
<b>25 March – 19 April 2009</b>	DesignTECH on show at Grafton Regional Gallery

### Year 10

<b>8 December</b>	School Certificate results available to principals via Schools Online
<b>11 December</b>	School Certificate award documents arrive in schools

### Primary

<b>5 December</b>	Independent schools Term 4 concludes
<b>19 December</b>	NSW Government schools and Catholic schools – Term 4 concludes
<b>27 January 2009</b>	NSW Government, Independent and Catholic schools – Term 1 commences

The *Board Bulletin* is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

Print Post No. PP24163100021  
2008536

The *Board Bulletin* is produced by Policy and Public Affairs, Office of the Board of Studies NSW, 117 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000. Phone (02) 9367 8111. Editorial inquiries: Phone (02) 9367 8118. Distribution inquiries: Fax (02) 9262 6270. Internet address: [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

© Board of Studies NSW 2008

ISSN 1038-5053