



This week's stories from the media

- Australian kids can't run throw catch or jump
- Student fitness survey
- Preschoolers given class in racial prejudice
- Unis push class on gender for student teachers
- Educators left to their own devices
- Jingle Bells welcome in VIC schools
- Schoolies warned: drugs and photos

Student Fitness Survey

By 2020, 80% of all adults and a third of Australian children will be over overweight or obese.

Studies show Australian children do not get enough exercise.

The obesity epidemic is leading some to question whether schools should do more to combat the problem.

One suggestion is that physical fitness tests should be included in the annual NAPLAN tests.

Take our survey and tell us what you think....



[Complete the survey](#)

Australian Kids Can't Run Throw Catch Or Jump

Aussie kids can't catch, sprint or kick and are among the least active in the world, ranking 21 out of 38 countries as screen time overtakes their lives and fuels obesity.

Fewer than one in four grade 6 kids have mastered physical milestones like catching, throwing, sprinting, jumping and side galloping says the Journal Physical of Activity and Health.

They have been given a D minus for meeting the one hour a day activity requirements.

The study says less than 1 in 5 Australian children aged between 5 and 17 years meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

This is despite the fact Australia boast great sporting infrastructure like sporting fields and playgrounds.

Slovenia, which scored better than Australia measures its students fitness each year and includes lots of physical activity in schools.

Experts are calling for a National Physical Activity Plan to include high quality physical education in schools, build physical activity into childcare services, public education and programs to help parents reduce kids' screen time.

"The Report Card indicates that as our society has changed and there are fewer opportunities for free or unstructured play and active travel...."

[More](#)

Has Australia improved? Read [SAASSO's report on the 2014 study.](#)



“...less than 1 in 5 Australian children aged between 5 and 17 years meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day....”

Preschoolers Given Class In Racial Prejudice

Preschoolers as young as three are encouraged to identify racial prejudice and celebrate difference in a new Australian Human Rights Commission program.

The Building Belonging program, for use in primary schools and preschool and childcare centres, aims to help educators “handle challenging or confronting questions about racial differences” while also “tackling racial prejudice”.

Teachers are given answers to questions children may pose, including: “Why are there black people?” and “Why did Ned call me an Abo?”

Building Belonging materials include an e-book, All My Friends and Me, which has characters who have names of Chinese, African, Persian and Aboriginal origin.

Children are also advised to make friends with someone from another racial background.

[More](#)

Unis Push Class On Gender For Student Teachers

Student teachers are being schooled in gender studies, including the contentious idea that gender and sexuality are socially constructed and changeable, sparking concerns about the topic’s rising influence in classrooms.

The subjects are available to those studying early childhood education as well as primary and secondary teaching courses.

The revelation comes in the wake of ongoing controversy around the Safe Schools anti-bullying program, which critics argue is steeped in gender theory, as well as the emergence of a respectful relationships curriculum in schools, which promotes a feminist view that inequality in opposite-sex relationships is at the core of family violence.

The University of Sydney’s elective unit, called Young People, Sex and Sexual Health, is offered to teaching students and promises to foster a “new view of the ways in which the sexual identities of young people are often constructed from outside influences”.

[More](#)

27 sleeps until the end of the school year!

Educators Left To Own Devices

List Premier Education, has launched its ZenoBot program, which has the potential to shift staid classrooms into the world of Hollywood-style science fiction.

The program uses digital avatar technology to create a virtual classroom assistant or teacher’s aide. An avatar is a computer-generated icon that can represent a particular person.

The program creates a virtual teaching assistant - projected onto a whiteboard or screen in the classroom - to “teach” the class, freeing up the teacher to focus attention on students.

The avatar can be personalised by giving it a voice, facial expressions and gestures.

[Full Story](#)

Jingle Bells Welcome In VIC Schools

The bells will be jingling around Victorian schools this Christmas after the state government clarified confusing directions issued last year concerning Christmas celebrations.

Education Minister James Merlino has uploaded a video to his Facebook page saying there were a lot of lies last year about the government banning carols in schools.

Mr Merlino said he wanted to be clear that no one was banning Christmas carols, nativity plays or decorations.

[More](#)

Schoolies Warned: Drugs & Photos

The long-term consequences of a nude selfie present just as much risk to school leavers as drugs and alcohol, schoolies organisers have warned.

Inappropriate social media posts and criminal activity have been highlighted as dangers for students to think about as they head into annual end-of-year celebrations.

“Taking a photo that’s clearly inappropriate, kids need to be conscious of the fact that photo could follow them,” Gold Coast Schoolies Advisory Group chair Mark Reaburn said.

“A conviction during schoolies is a conviction that could follow them through their careers.”

[Read more](#)