



This week's stories from the media

- Trial of maths checks for Year 3 & 4 students
- New app for parents
- Driving force behind future teachers
- New VIC schools given first nations names
- NSW schools to teach impact of colonisation
- Private school enrolments

New App For Parents

SA families with children 0-5 years will be supported through critical years of a child's development through a new mobile app.

The Early Years SA app will be the go-to for information for parents about their children's health, learning, development and wellbeing, and will provide age-specific notifications, tips and access to local services.

The Early Years app will provide:

- age-specific notifications about child health and development checks, dental checks, immunisation and enrolment.
- access to information about resources and services for SA families (i.e. Child and Family Health Services, Parenting SA resources, learning & play activities, family wellbeing and mental health services).
- parents and families practical tips and strategies to engage with children, including information on sleep, nutrition and family life and care.

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Trial Of Maths Checks For Year 3 & 4 Students

Thousands of SA primary school students will take new test from next year after the Education Minister said a subject had "not been giving the focus it needs".

Education Minister Blair Boyer will announce details of the "maths check" on Thursday morning, saying the subject has "not been given the focus it needs" in recent years.

The new test will be trialled in 50 government schools & modelled on the Maths Assessment Interview developed in Victoria.

It will involve a one-on-one interview between a teacher and student where skills such as counting, telling time and measuring will be assessed.

Mr Boyer said the test would be delivered in years 3 and 4 because they were key times when students were learning elements of maths crucial to understanding more complex problems in later years.

The proposed maths check comes six years after the introduction of a phonics check by the former Liberal Government for students in year 1.

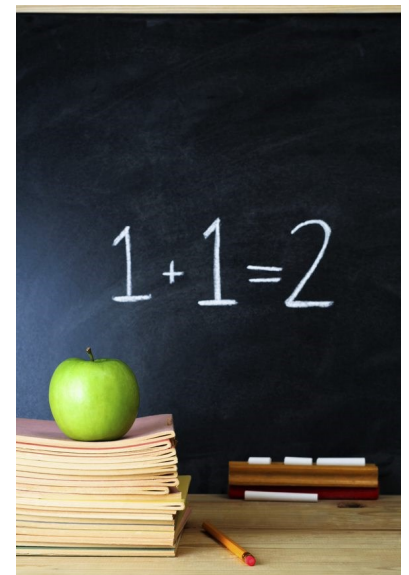
Students are asked to read aloud up to 40 real and made-up words.

Since it was first run in SA schools in 2018 the number of students who can read at least 28 of the words has risen from 43% to 68%.

Students who want to test their literacy skills can take part in the 2023 Prime Minister's Spelling Bee.

Teachers can register students for the school round until August 18 at spelling-bee.com.au.

[More](#)



“...The new test will be trialled in 50 government schools & modelled on the Maths Assessment Interview developed in Victoria....”

Driving Force Behind Future Teachers

A new study surveying early-career teachers has identified that inspiration from past teachers was a key motivator in their decision to pursue a career in education.

Research conducted by Swinburne University heard from nearly 400 pre-service teachers studying across 20 Australian universities.

Data found that the majority of teaching students were motivated by an "altruistic desire to help shape future generations" despite negative perceived attitudes of teaching as a "low-status career".

Experts asked participants to rank each of the most attractive features of the teaching profession and to identify who had the most influence on their decision to pursue education.

The majority of respondents cited past teachers they had known as the strongest influence on their decision to study teaching.

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New VIC Schools To Be Given First Nations Names

The Victorian government has fast-tracked the rollout of its school naming policy, announcing 14 new government schools will be given Indigenous-language names when they open next year.

It is part of the Andrews government's effort to ensure better recognition and representation of Aboriginal culture and language across the state in its wider efforts to action the Treaty and Truth elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Minister Natalie Hutchins announced the names of the new schools, as well as the names of four new kindergartens, during a visit to the newly named Yarrabing Secondary College – formerly known as Aintree Secondary School.

Yarrabing (pronounced yarra-bing) is a Woi-wurrung word of the Wurundjeri people meaning "white gum", and was drawn from a short-list made by Traditional Owner groups.

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NSW Teaching Impact Of Colonisation

Students in New South Wales will be taught about the impact of colonisation on First Nations peoples in an overhaul of the state's curriculum standards.

Students between years seven and ten will receive the new syllabus, aiming to present a "more balanced view" of Australia's history.

Students in years seven and eight will now be taught Indigenous perspectives on European colonisation as a core study area.

The Education Standards Authority says the changes will give students a more complete range of perspectives in learning Australian history.

[Full Story](#)

International Youth Day

August 12 is International Youth Day



Private School Enrolments

“Aspirational” middle class Australians are paying tuition fees to send their kids to private schools at twice the rate of other OECD countries.

Australia's unusual funding arrangements for private schools are largely responsible for a trend that has seen more than one in three students enrolled in the non-government sector, double the global average, experts say.

In 2022, 35.5% of Australian kids were enrolled in a non-government school, the highest proportion since at least 2002, and in NSW the figure is higher still, at 36.3% – more than twice the OECD average of 18%.

“There's been a deliberate policy in this country to support and promote private schools.”

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