EDITORIAL
The Commonwealth Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, Peter Garrett, in April announced the Australian Awards for Outstanding Teaching and School Leadership were back. The awards aim to recognise the ‘best of the best’ in the profession. The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) relaunched the awards to recognise the nation’s outstanding teachers and principals. The awards began in 2006 and have been presented until 2009, with no awards last year. AITSL will use its new National Professional Standards for Teachers and National Professional Standard for Principals as the basis for judging the awards across five award categories: Australian Primary Teacher of the Year, which includes early childhood and special education; Australian Secondary Teacher of the Year, which includes special education; Australian Primary Principal of the Year, which includes early childhood and special education; Australian Secondary Principal of the Year, which includes special education; and Excellence in Teaching or Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education. AITSL wants the education departments, Catholic systems and associations of independent schools in each state and territory to nominate one outstanding teacher or principal in the five award categories, using their existing awards processes to identify their nominees. It’s worth contacting your department, system or association because winners in each category will receive a professional learning sabbatical scholarship in Australia or overseas for up to four weeks to the value of $25,000. Nominations close on 30 June.

LINKS:

FAST FACTS
Number of applicants in 2009 from all states and territories in the Schools First Awards Program of the National Australia Bank, the Foundation for Young Australians and the Australian Council for Educational Research: 1,552.
Number of successful applicants: 88.
Number that identified improved learning outcomes as their primary objective for which they received a Schools First award: 23 of 53 successful applicants that supplied data for the first interim report.
That identified the development of workplace skills: 9.
That identified the promotion of healthy lifestyles, mental health and wellbeing: 10.
That identified social and emotional support for students and families: 10.
That identified children’s readiness for school: one.


QUICK QUIZ
1. What does Alan Wright’s April article in Teacher and Russell Boyle’s March article have in common?
2. According to a large-scale survey by Andrew Flanagan and Miriam Metzger in the United States, when do most students begin using the internet?
3. What’s the name of a $7.8 million program to equip teachers with the skills to purposefully incorporate infotech in their teaching?
4. What does Wendy Evans recommend to combat workplace psychos?
5. What’s the aim of the new Essential Secondary Science Assessment in New South Wales?
6. According to Adam Brice, are iPads a distraction in the classroom or an effective learning tool?
7. Does Jarrod Robinson ban mobile phones in his class?
8. When Gerard Ferrara runs training on psychometric testing, how often do participants mention their or their child’s high IQ test results?
9. Their partner’s IQ test results?
10. What does ‘eureka’ mean?

ADVERTISER OF THE MONTH
DAVELL has designed the Special School Locker to accommodate backpacks, sports bags, laptops, text books and has hanging space for school blazers. The lockers come in many colours (including two tone), and have a three point locking system. Choose from key operated, padlocked or keyless digital entry. Davell lockers are GECa (Good Environmental Choice Australia) approved and have a lifetime warranty. Davell was established in 1946 and is Australian owned and operated. Phone 1800 069 105 for further information on the Special School Locker.