

EDITORIAL

The four classical elements – earth, air, fire and water – have affected Australian schools this summer, in the form of cyclones, bushfires and floods. Floods in Queensland, northern New South Wales and Victoria inundated schools and had a devastating impact on many teachers and students. The Queensland Department of Education and Training and school staff readied 89 of 92 schools that were inundated in January for the new school year. Northern NSW was also flooded although schools were generally unaffected. Nine schools in Victoria’s north-east were closed at the beginning of the school year after floods there in February. In Western Australia, meanwhile, three schools south-east of Perth were closed under threat of bushfire, and two schools in the state’s north-west were closed due to extreme wet weather, while 74 schools in the Northern Territory were closed due to a cyclone warning, all in February. The disasters brought Australians together. The Queensland and national education associations held a SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal Day on 17 February. NSW Department of Education and Training Director-General Michael Coutts-Trotter even encouraged schools to be ‘Maroon for a Day’ – which has a generous State of Origin significance. Victoria’s Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provided State Schools’ Relief funds to flood-affected students in Queensland, and then Victoria, while the Queensland Teachers’ Union provided flood-affected members with relief payments from its natural disaster fund. **T**

Donate to the Queensland Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal, 1800 219 028
 Donate to Hannah’s Foundation appeal, www.hannahsfoundation.org.au

FAST FACTS

Proportion of Years 8 to 11 students meeting physical activity recommendations: 17.6 per cent for Year 8; 16.3 per cent for Year 9; 15 per cent for Year 10; and 12.6 per cent for Year 11.
 Meeting dietary recommendations for vegetables and fruit: 27.5 per cent and 47.5 per cent respectively for Year 8; 24.3 and 40.8 per cent for Year 9; 21.7 and 39.6 per cent for Year 10; and 21.5 and 37.8 per cent for Year 11.
 Consuming fast food at least once a week: 39.4 per cent for Year 8; 42.3 per cent for Year 9; 45.2 per cent for Year 10; and 46.5 per cent for Year 11.
 Proportion of male and female students who are underweight: 4.3 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively.
 Who are healthy weight: 71.1 per cent and 72 per cent respectively.
 Who are overweight: 19.2 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively.
 Who are obese: 5.4 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively.

Source: State Cancer Councils, Cancer Council Australia and the National Heart Foundation of Australia. (2010). *National Secondary Students’ Diet and Activity survey 2009-10*.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who graced the cover of our January/February issue?
2. What does the acronym PISA stand for?
3. Who leads the consortium that manages PISA internationally?
4. PISA has a ‘little brother’ that addresses reading literacy: what’s it called?
5. Students whose learning is embedded in the arts achieve better grades and overall test scores. True or false?
6. How many daily serves of vegetables are recommended by the CSIRO?
7. And what exactly is a serve of vegetables?
8. So how many daily serves of fruit are recommended?
9. Maria Hart has identified an effective tool for improving child mental and emotional health that improves students’ concentration and confidence. What is it?
10. What’s happened to the Commonwealth government’s promised \$1.25 billion for five school years to reward the very best teachers, starting in 2014?

Answers: 1. Shane Watson and students; 2. the Program for International Student Assessment; 3. the Australian Council for Educational Research; 4. the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study; 5. true, according to Robyn Ewing; 6. two to four serves; 7. the equivalent to half a cup of cooked vegetables or legumes or one medium potato or one cup of salad; 8. three or more; 9. messages; 10. the funding situation for the program remains unclear.

ADVERTISER OF THE MONTH



CAMP JUNGAI
 Rubicon, VIC
 THE PERFECT SETTING FOR YOUR CAMP

Camp Jungai, situated on the crystal clear waters of the Rubicon River, is renowned for its fabulous natural setting, excellent facilities and great activities.

Offering a huge range of adventure, cultural and environmental activities and boasting a selection of accommodation options, Camp Jungai is the perfect setting for your camp.

475 Rubicon Rd Thornton, VIC 3712
 T 03 5773 2320 F 03 5773 2439
 E jungai@oeg.vic.edu.au
www.oeg.net.au/jungai