



Grapevine

SUPPORT REFUGEE STUDENTS

In a world first, one Australian school will form a unique partnership with a Ugandan refugee school, courtesy of a partnership between Australia for UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency's charity in Australia, and Skype. Called Here & There, the collaborative program will enable Years 7 and 8 students in both countries to learn about each other's lives as part of their geography studies. Secondary schools across Australia can apply by explaining why their Year 7 and 8 students would like to share stories about their lives with students from Nakivale Refugee Settlement. The school selected will then work with the school in Nakivale on a multimedia project designed to help students understand differences and similarities in childhood as experienced in their respective countries by interviewing one another on a supervised Skype video call in September. Here & There is aimed at raising awareness of issues facing refugees and has been designed to dovetail with the Australian geography curriculum. Interested schools can apply online by 20 August. Schools are encouraged to exercise creativity in their application through innovative use of multimedia, using either video or images, and can change and add to their application before the deadline.

LINKS

<http://www.herethere.org.au/Submit-Your-School>

BEST IN SHOW

Last month, in 'Quick draw,' we brought you a story about the Generator, a new virtual creative studio from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). A month later, the Generator has had some international recognition, winning Best Education Site and Best Overall Site at the Museums and the Web International Conference Best of the Web Awards 2011 held in Philadelphia in the United States. ACMI faced competition from the likes of the Smithsonian in Washington DC, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and

the Tate in London. It's the first time an Australian organisation has won the Best Overall Site award. What did the judges say? '(The Generator has) everything people of all ages need to know about making their own videos, (and) provides informative videos featuring professionals in the field and in the medium that students are working with – instructive on multiple levels.' 'The site teaches, with terrific effectiveness, what anyone needs to know about self-publication and representation via visual images. Impressive! Outstanding!' 'Great concept and execution, very thorough. Fantastic resource for aspiring filmmakers to think about what makes a good film: the story.'

IT'S AN HONOUR

In the Queen's Birthday 2011 Honours List, Rupert Maclean, Chair of Technical and Vocational Education and Lifelong Learning at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and Lisa Paul, Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, became Officers in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Sister Rita Agnes Torpey, who leads Papitalai Secondary School on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Maureen Zampatti, a music teacher at St Joseph's College, Geelong, was also awarded the OAM. Also awarded the OAM was Professor Stephen Dinham, Chair of Teacher Education in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and previously Research Director of Teaching, Learning and Leadership at the Australian Council for Educational Research. He was not alone at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. His colleague Professor John Hattie, Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute, was awarded the Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Hattie came to the Melbourne Education Research Institute early this year from the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland.

EVEN MORE NEW CYBERSAFETY GUIDES

It seems as though everyone is keen to address cybersafety. As we reported in these pages last month, the Australian Communications and Media Authority released its online cybersafety professional development program, Connect.ed, in May, the same month Facebook released its online cybersafety guide for educators. In June, Kids Helpline and Optus launched the Make Cyberspace a Better Place campaign to help schools improve cybersafety. The partners delivered education packs containing information on cyberbullying, sexting and the safe use of technology to the nation's 10,000 or so primary and secondary schools. According to research by Megan Price and John Dalglish for Kids Helpline, the most common forms of cyberbullying are name calling, abusive comments, harassment, exclusion, impersonation, threats of harm, and defamation, the spreading of rumours and public humiliation. Price and Dalglish also found that cyberbullying is more prevalent during the transitional ages between primary and secondary school. The Make Cyberspace a Better Place campaign was launched by Alex Hawke, a Liberal in the Commonwealth parliament and Deputy Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Cybersafety, at Oakhill College in Castle Hill, Sydney. Oakhill College was the first school nationally to adopt the new lesson plans.

LINKS

www.cybersmart.gov.au/outreach.aspx
<http://facebookforeducators.org>

REFERENCES

Price, M., & Dalglish, J. (2010). *Cyberbullying: Experiences, impacts and coping strategies as described by Australian young people*. *Youth Studies Australia*. 29(2): 51-59.

The Grapevine is written by Steve Holden, Editor of Teacher.