

Education

Advertisement

MORE JOB LISTINGS

Parents should go past school gate

Ainslie Macgibbon February 11, 2013



Family ties ... Chris Wyatt, head of Newington College Lindfield K-6, speaks with parents outside the school. The college enables parents to study the same language their children are learning. Photo: Mick Tsikas

Family-school partnership is one of the latest buzzwords in education.

A familiar script, performed most nights at homes near you, begins "How was school today?" The response is often limited to: "Good", "Fine", "OK" or "Hmpf".

End of story. But should it be? A prevailing belief among educators today is that schools cannot do it alone. "Family-school partnership", "complementary learning", "parental engagement" and "parental involvement" are some of the buzz phrases that now characterise education, school websites and school prospectuses.

Along with the more traditional forms of involving parents at school, such as fundraising and canteen duty, some schools offer myriad opportunities for getting involved, from serving on well-being and curriculum committees to actually learning with your child.

At the Newington College prep campus, Lindfield, parents have been part of a program in which they can learn the same language their children are learning.

The head of campus, Chris Wyatt, says the French teacher at the school was looking for ways to be more involved with parents at home and was successful in securing a grant that enabled them to run language classes for parents of students in years K-6 before school and around school dropoff times.

The French teacher, Corinne Pixton, says: "Having parents learn the same language as their children has many benefits, it was very successful and parents loved it ... and it was great for them to be in the learner spot again."

[Read full article](#)

TAFE Courses Online

Study From Home At Your Own Pace Download A Course Guide Today.



Most viewed

1. [ABC staff await a 'Hunger Games' battle for their jobs](#)

2. [ALP accused of dirty tricks to protect Wollongong MP Noreen Hay](#)

3. [News Limited questions Quentin Dempster's position as chair of the Walkley advisory board](#)

4. [Expert panel warns of supertrawler environmental risks](#)

5. [Treasury secretary Dr Martin Parkinson takes swing at critics](#)

Education

[Education](#)

[Investigations](#)

[Environment](#)

[Clique](#)

[Interactives](#)

[Top](#)

[More sites](#)

[Sections](#)

Copyright © 2014 Fairfax Digital

[Terms of use »](#)

[Standard site »](#)

[Feedback »](#)

