Nominations for the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Awards are now open!

Our school communities are often fortunate enough to have a team of enthusiastic parent helpers. Helpers in the library, sports, canteen, P&F and the school board are all volunteers in disguise. These contributions are vital for a thriving school community. However, we don’t always view these “helpers” as volunteers nor do we regularly acknowledge their contribution.

Why not acknowledge this valuable and selfless support and nominate an individual or a whole team within your school community? Details on how to apply can be found on the ACT Volunteering website and as listed below.

There are eight categories open for nominations for both individuals and volunteer teams, as once again Volunteering ACT seeks to recognise those in the Canberra region who make a valuable contribution.

To nominate a Volunteer, Volunteer team or to nominate a Volunteer under 18 please call us on ACT Volunteering on 6251 4060

Please read the Guidelines for the 2016 ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards before submitting your nomination form.

Nominations close on Wednesday 23 March 2016

Once completed please submit your nomination form to volunteering@vc.act.org.au and ensure that the checklist on each nomination form has been completed.

MEDIA RELEASE from ACARA
(Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority)

MY SCHOOL UPDATED AND IMPROVED FOR 2016
The My School website has today (March 9th 2016) been updated with the latest data on around 10,000 schools across the country.

ACARA CEO Robert Randall says the 2016 update, which includes the results from the 2015 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests, will be beneficial for parents and educators alike.

“My School provides readily accessible information about Australian schools to allow educators to share information about school achievements, with the aim of supporting and driving improvement across the nation,” Mr Randall says. “For parents, the site provides valuable information to help them make informed decisions about their child’s education.”

The 2016 My School update includes:
- eight years of performance data
- 2015 school profile and population data
- 2015 NAPLAN results
- 2015 student attendance data (Semester 1 and Term 3)
- school financial information, including capital expenditure and sources of funding
- a refreshed look and feel to the website, including a review of the content.

Following the Education Council’s agreement in September 2015 for ACARA to improve the My School website, ACARA has refreshed the look and feel of My School, including:
- reducing the content on the homepage and presenting it in a simplified layout, which makes it easier for visitors to identify information important to them
- simplifying the existing content from the prior ‘More information’ section
- reviewing the My School fact sheets for plain English and streamlining their content
- updating the glossary to improve clarity and readability.

“We’ve made an effort to make the site more user-friendly,” Mr Randall says. “We’ve developed animated videos to help better visually explain ICSEA (which measures the level of socio-educational advantage of a school’s students) and the purpose of the My School website in general.

“We have also simplified access to search results on the site, whilst maintaining important security measures.”

My School is regularly visited by parents and school educators alike, with almost 1.5 million user sessions in 2014-15 alone.

“There is no other website that provides the wealth of data available on My School, with the ability to make fair comparisons among schools with similar students,” Mr Randall says. “We know parents appreciate having this information available in one central online location, in a format that is now even easier to navigate and understand.”

Visit the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

We are always keen to hear from you,

Contact: Linda Fleming
02 6287 3538 or send us an email at Executive.officer@apfacts.org.au

23.02.2016