Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Burnett, Madeleine

Reference Type: Stepmother - preschool

State or territory: Vic

Serial Identification Number: 476326

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

A kid at my work is in yr11 and Benalla P-12 College. She spends more time mucking around and is unmotivated. She said her teachers lack the enthusiasm they had when I was there for VCE. I'm unsure if this is the children's unwillingness to learn so the teachers gave up trying - or - if the teachers need motivation to keep the kids on track. Her assessments seem to come all at once

Rating: 5

Teachers and teaching

As stated previously. Some of the teachers have lost motivation and cannot control the class.

Although, it's not solely the teachers to blame - perhaps these kids lack discipline and need a stricter guideline. EG. If we were caught using mobile phones we had to hand it over for the class. Also, I feel too much is relied on as computer based work - if they're handwriting then maybe there's less opportunity to play up.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Without leadership the students most likely cannot decide for themselves how to utilise their time.

If they had goals to work towards then maybe they would be more motivated. Also if they had more past students (not just the ones who went to university) come in and talk about their lives and out of school experience, then it may benefit the current VCE students.

Rating: 5

School and Community

Without being connected to the community they will not respect it - if they don't respect their community they will be more likely to vandalise it, disrespect local businesses etc.

I also highly regard the aged care and preschool merger to interact the elderly with our young children. There has been successful cases of this integration and I believe all ages would benefit.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

I feel too much of the curriculum is based online or via computer.

Children's spelling has gotten worse as the computer fixes their mistakes for them. There is a difference between being a competent user of a computer and addicted.

I feel that if there is limited use of personal technology in classrooms (EG iPads, laptops) then the teachers will be able to keep a closer eye on the kids and they will learn to respect technology. (Also think of cyber bullying, online predators, decreased social skills...)

Rating: 4

Entrepreneurship and schools

Integration of schools was fantastic.

I remember inter-school sports and athletic carnivals that were great as i had friends at other schools.

Kids need something to work towards and the use of extra curricular activities is a great way to keep them active and become more social.

I also like seeing some VCE students at my uni campus as they are doing one uni class.

Rating: 5

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Enrolments - I recently added my interest to a kindergarten and received no enrolment package after being told her she wouldn make her a priority. I became very disheartened and lost interest in what is meant to be a great kinder.

Distance education is great if you can stay focused on your task / have the right internet coverage and tutor availability.

I have no stance on boarding as I haven't experienced it myself.

Rating for enrolments: 5

Rating for clusters: 5

Rating for distance education: 3

Rating for boarding: 2

Diversity

I believe that schools should be teaching cultural sensitivity in primary schools. Our town is full of mainly white Anglo-Saxon people. I am at uni and just now learning about the indigenous and Torres straight islander people's heritage and hardship.

I feel like I would have understood the national sorry day if I had a greater understanding of their hardship. (I was in year 8 at the time and said racist comments surrounding this, even though I have indigenous relatives - but my stepfather at the time was saying these things and I knew no better as I lacked understanding of Australias history)

Also, my university is full of diversity and I love to see everyone's faces unite, there is no hatred or racism, we are all students learning together.

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

We all got taught there is nothing but university.

I feel I should have embraced the gap year at 18 and earnt money and life skills. Instead I had a gap year at 22 and it was the best thing I did.

VCE students are pressured so much to get the perfect ATAR and then it's just a number for nothing at the end of the day.

A lot of students went on to get apprenticeships and full time jobs and I feel there is a stigma attached to the workforce. Even though they're adding to society and earning their money, I feel like it's worse to work full time at Woolworths than it is to study and work in a dive bar for a crappy pay.

I respect the workforce and believe that students need support when looking at options other than further study.

Rating: 0

Additional Comments