

Welcome to the latest PPSS Newsletter

It is hard to believe that December is just around the corner. We hope you are all looking forward to the school holidays. This is also the time when we start contemplating the excitement and challenges of transitioning to a new school year.

These holidays may also be when you begin to consider how to ensure next year's school staff have a good understanding of how your family was formed and the additional considerations your child sometimes requires.

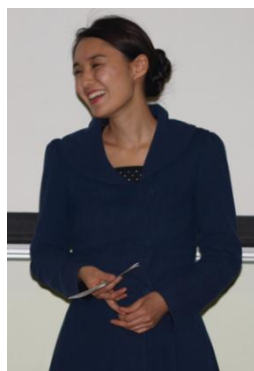
PPSS's *Let's Talk About School* handbooks can assist. Both handbooks are written in a format that is easily accessible by teachers giving a thorough, but brief, overview and insight in to the needs of our children. The handbooks have been written based on understandings from current literature and input from families like yours. They have been very well received by families and teachers alike.

If you would like to purchase a copy of *Helping Educators Understand the Implications of Adoption and Permanent Care* or place an order for *Helping Educators Understand the Implications of Kinship Care*, please email info@ppss.org.au. The price is \$18 which includes postage and handling.

Annual General Meeting

Our thanks to the many PPSS members, friends and colleagues who came to our AGM on 21 November, 2012. Held at the beautiful Abbotsford Convent, it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past year as well as look forward to where PPSS is heading.

We hope you enjoyed hearing our speaker, Alice Pung, author and editor of *Growing Up Asian in Australia*. Alice's experiences of her childhood in Australia will have resonated with many of our families and provided a chance for us all to join in celebrating the 'difference' that we all share.



Creating Rituals and Ceremonies

PPSS warmly invites all families to our next bi-monthly event.

**Revised
Date**

We will explore simple, practical rituals that can be used every day to help families to connect, relax, remember and ease transitions.

The children will work hands-on to create their own rituals, whilst parents and carers discuss the value and practical use of ceremonies and rituals.

The session will finish with the children sharing their discoveries with their parents/carers. A great activity for the school holidays. Hope to see you there (maximum 15 families, please book early).

When: Wednesday 23 January, 2013 at 1.30 – 3.00pm

Where: PPSS, 135 Mt Alexander Rd, Flemington

RSVP: www.trybooking.com/CCKK by 16 January

Cost: Gold coin donation

Nibbles and refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Lindy Bok or Deb Hunt on 9020 1839.

Training

**Let's Talk About School:
Adoption and Permanent Care**

**Eastern
Suburbs**

When: Tuesday 27 November from 7.00 – 9.00pm

Venue: The Courtyard Room, Whitehorse Centre
379–397 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading

RSVP: Call PPSS on 9020 1833 to secure a place

Contact Lindy Bok on 9020 1837 for more information.

If you are unable to attend this session, but would like to purchase a copy of the **Let's Talk** publication, contact Deb at deborah@ppss.org.au or call 9020 1839. The price is \$18 which includes postage and handling.



Support Groups and Community Events

Journal Club

Thursday December 6, 8.00pm - 9.30pm
Topic: Helping Children Build a Conscience
Venue: Collingwood Library, 11 Stanton St, Collingwood.

Peninsula ***NEW***

Permanent Care/Local Adoption Support Group
Friday 30 November, 10.30am
Contact Melinda Carlyle on 0432 879 181, email melindacarlyle@hotmail.com for address details

Playgroups

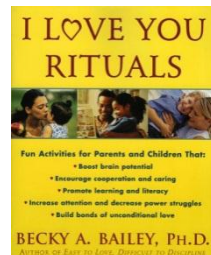
Please check our website www.ppss.org.au for playgroups in Northern, Southern, Western and Greater Western regions.

Book Review

I Love You Rituals by Becky A. Bailey, Ph.D

I Love You Rituals is a gentle and loving book that explores the physical and emotional qualities developed through rituals, the importance of touch and eye contact, and being in the moment. The ideas in Becky Bailey's book are great for young children to pre-adolescent.

I Love You Rituals are ideal for the everyday moments that may be a challenge for your child, but also for marking particular occasions or events. The very tactile and creative rituals are useful for children who may be otherwise reluctant to engage in physical contact. Becky Bailey's writing is easy to read and the rituals presented with step-by-step guides on how to use them.



External workshops

Punishment Versus Discipline

28 November, 10am – 1pm

When children are 'misbehaving' what should we do? Punish, discipline, use consequences or give them an ice cream?

Take a Walk on the Wildside

5 December, 10am – 1pm

Develop communication skills to enable workers or carers to translate meaning of behaviour and make it transparent.

To register for either of these workshops
<http://www.theactgroup.com.au/calendar>

Important Links

Presentations from speakers at the Foster and Kinship Care Conference

We hope you enjoyed the National Foster and Kinship Care Conference. Some presenters have provided their presentations and some notes on the website for delegates to download. Go to <http://www.strengtheningcare2012.com.au/program/>

Within the program, underneath each title you will see a link (eg. A2 PRESENTATION), click on the link and it will load a PDF of the presentation. You can then save this PDF to your computer.

Adoption, Permanent Care, Foster Care & Kinship Care Conferences

October was a busy month with the National Foster and Kinship Care Conference and the National Adoption and Permanent Care Conference, both hosted in Melbourne.

PPSS was proud to be involved with both conferences and to provide the kinship, permanent care and adoptive communities a chance to meet and talk with us as well as browse through the books now sold through our favourite new retail service (shop.ppss.org.au).

The Foster and Kinship Care Conference, held 19-21 October and coordinated by the Foster Care Association of Victoria, offered carers and professionals a collaborative environment to share stories and common challenges and learn practical strategies to use in therapeutic caring for vulnerable children in kinship and foster care. Derek Clark was a particularly inspiring speaker; deemed 'unadoptable' and placed in the US foster care system, he now works with professionals and other young people in foster care.

The National Adoption and Permanent Care Conference, held 22-23 October, delivered a complex and often challenging discussion of past practices in adoption. Despite best efforts at careful planning by the conference committees, not everything went quite as expected. We must make sure that policy-makers and practitioners don't lose sight of the need for parent support in adoption and permanent care that will deliver best outcomes for the vulnerable children who enter our families via this pathway.

PPSS Board member Dan Barron presented to both conferences. Board members Jenny Conrick and Mandy Everton also participated as presenters at the National Adoption and Permanent Care Conference. We loved that so many of our members came up and said hello to us at the tables we hosted at both events, and welcome the many parents, carers and professionals who signed up for membership.