Parents in Education Week is a state-wide initiative to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of parental engagement in children’s learning and schooling. It is envisaged that Parents in Education Week will become an annual event in South Australia.

Catholic schools are invited to promote this initiative within their school communities and to participate in events during the week.

So what’s happening during Parents in Education Week?

Parents in Education Forum

A Parents in Education Forum, hosted by Minister Susan Close, will be held in Adelaide on Wednesday, 21 October 2015 at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 2pm to 6pm.

Reflecting our sector’s commitment to strong home/school/community engagement and working in partnership with families, the Catholic education community in South Australia will be strongly represented at this peak forum.

The forum will provide participants with:

• the opportunity to discuss issues relating to parent engagement in learning and schooling with the Minister for Education, sector leaders, principals and parents
• a greater understanding of how parents can be engaged in their child’s learning and how schools can enable this and;
• an opportunity to network to promote the sharing of ideas to engage parents in education.

A feature of the Parents in Education Forum will be an interactive panel discussion with panellists:

- Hon Susan Close MP, Minister for Education and Child Development
- Dr Stacey Fox, Senior Manager, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)
- Mr Tony Harrison, Chief Executive, Department for Education and Child Development
- Mr Kelvin Grivell, Principal, Encounter Lutheran College
- Ms Ann Bliss, Executive Director, Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities

Parents are invited to forward questions they may have for the Panellists prior to the Forum. We encourage parents from our Catholic school communities to contribute their questions. Parents can e-mail a question (put Question for ParentsinEd panel in the subject heading) to: fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au.

The event will be live-streamed so members of our school communities will be able to watch the forum and contribute by ‘live tweeting’ using #ParentsinEd. A link to access the live stream will be forwarded closer to the date.
Free workshops and expo for parents

A series of free workshops for parents will be held during the week at the Flinders University Building, 182 Victoria Square, Adelaide. Topics such as “Learning Early” through to “Life with or without University” will focus on parent engagement across the journey of children’s learning and development from birth to senior secondary and post school pathways.

An expo will be held on Level 1 between 10am and 2.30pm with a number of support agencies providing relevant information that parents may find useful.

Come and visit the Catholic Education SA stand at the expo.

For the full program and to make a booking, go to: https://parents-in-education-week.eventbrite.com.au

How our school communities can actively engage in the Parents in Education Week

✓ Promote the week on your school website and in your school newsletter using the logo provided

✓ Promote the link to access the live stream of the Parents in Education Forum on Wednesday 21st October from 2pm or better still organise a space and invite parents to come in to participate

✓ Invite parents to submit a question for the Forum Panellists via fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au prior to the day or via live tweet using #ParentsinEd

✓ Promote the free workshops and expo for parents on your school Facebook site/website and/or newsletter (if accessible and/or relevant for your parent community)

✓ Post a ‘Message from the Principal’ on your school Facebook site/website and/or newsletter acknowledging the week and celebrating the ways parents and families are engaged in their children’s learning and the life of your school community

✓ Send an SMS message to parents during the week acknowledging their support of their child’s learning

✓ Ask teachers to share one thing they value about how parents in your school community support their child’s learning. Collate these and post on your school Facebook site/website and/or newsletter

✓ Ask students to share one thing their parents do to support their learning. Collate these and post on your school Facebook site/website and/or newsletter

✓ Promote the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities website resources in your school newsletter, website and/or Facebook

✓ Host a ‘Thank You’ morning tea for parents on Friday 23rd October (when no central events are planned)

✓ Like and follow the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities Facebook page for updates.