

## Whyalla Principal Hub Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### Introduction:

#### **Youth Development**

The intent of the YD initiative has been to support students moving from primary school to high school\* by engaging them in their own learning journey, focusing on their strengths and linking them with people in the community who can support them.

A focus on transition has also been a catalyst for many conversations and some schools have identified initiatives designed to build the capacity of their staff, their town and/or their students so that more of the 'already engaged' students can prosper and model the positive youth development to others.

**Initiative ends at the end of 2012:** Although the initiative may not have been around long enough to support schools in the way I would have liked, an opportunity for the time and money spent in 2012 to have a sustainable impact remains... and could help you work towards a successful transition of your own to the DECD structure of 2014 and beyond.

#### **Cluster Collaboration**

In recent consultations regarding Child Development Legislation and the restructuring of DECD the issue of 'cluster collaborations' has been raised. As the Youth Development Initiative has placed a high priority on collaboration through its focus on transition I thought it might be useful to share some of the opportunities that have come to light for Whyalla schools.

In 2013 both the Youth Development and Community Mentoring programs will be replaced by the Flexible Targeted Student Learning Support (FTSLS) approach. Schools are able to collaborate to develop a local option for the use of funds.

\*Note: EJEHS included re transition from year 10 to 11

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## Transition Forum/Working Group

**What is it?** A forum for interested parties to...

- Meet and document a plan for helping ALL of the young people of Whyalla transition successfully from primary to high school or high school to high school
- Conduct an audit of current transition processes and utilise the DECD Transition Rubric and Mind Matters Transitions resources
- Develop a process to follow (or use the already developed PL TWG Model)

**Why am I suggesting it?** Because...

- All local Port Lincoln schools have joined Port Lincoln's Transition Working Group and helped initiate a new transition plan for year 7 to year 8
- All year 7 and 8 teaching staff responded positively to the opportunities for collaboration that were part of the plan
- Whyalla's Youth Development Steering Committee supports the idea of a forum to discuss transition issues for our young people **and/or** the formation of a transition working group including a school leader/transition coordinator from every primary and secondary school in Whyalla

**How could it look?**

- Like the process used in Port Lincoln
- Use of the resource being created by the Youth Development Team\* (What info should be included?)
- Collaborative reference to the DECD Transitions Rubric
- A list of ideas cross referenced to the DECD Rubric and Mind Matters Four Stages of Transition will be prepared and distributed before the end of the year

**To consider**

- Who is interested in participating in a Forum?
- Who would allow their transition coordinator to join an ongoing Working Group?
- A Forum and/or a Working Group needs someone to lead it
  - Who is willing to take on this role in my absence?
  - Who is willing to pool their FTSLs\* funds to employ a Cluster Transition Coordinator (0.2) or Youth Worker (0.5) as per option 7?

\*CMAD Schools only, but all schools could and should be involved

## Links to the Whyalla High's Student Leadership and Decision Making Project

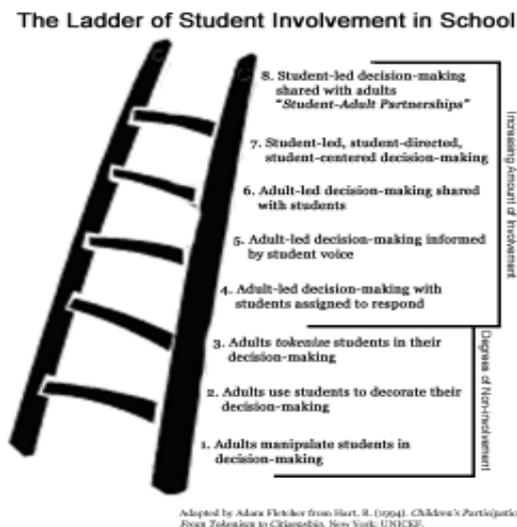
### What is it?

A youth leadership tour to Canberra to build leadership capacity through observing and developing an understanding of our Nation's leadership and democratic decision making models. It includes the production of a multimedia record of the tour for presentation to each high school/the two youth forums and to local primary schools for use as a resource in their teaching programs/transition plans

The purpose of the Youth Forums is to develop a model for student voice in Whyalla that links with the Regional SRC and local council. Representatives from Plaza Youth YAC, the Aboriginal Advisory Group and other community forums will be consulted as part of the process.

### Why is it important? Because...

Student Voice needs action in order to become meaningful student involvement. The Ladder of Student Involvement shows how that action can happen, showing how students can move from being manipulated in schools to becoming partners throughout education.



The *Ladder of Student Involvement in School* was adapted from the work of Roger Hart, an international expert on children's participation. By mapping situations and activities that involve students on the rungs of the Ladder, schools can assess their levels of meaningful student involvement. The higher the rung on the *Ladder*, the greater the meaningfulness of student involvement. This guide seeks to help schools reach higher rungs – that is, increase the amount and improve the quality of student participation in schools. Note that the rungs on this *Ladder* aren't necessarily a developmental process that happens over finite increments. Student involvement can go from the second rung directly to the sixth. The *Ladder* is meant to represent possibilities, not predictions, for growth.

Taken from Fletcher, A. (2005) *Meaningful Student Involvement Guide to Students as Partners in School Change*

### To consider

- Students from Whyalla Stuart High School, Edward John Eyre High School and all local primary schools will be invited to participate in the Youth Voice Forums (One at the local council chambers and one at 'the Shak' at WHS). Who would like their students to participate?
- Who is open to using the tour record as a resource to use in their teaching programs and/or transition programs?

## **Possible links to the Community Radio Initiative at Stuart High**

### **What is it?**

I have been involved in discussions with Greg Coulter of Stuart High and Brett Prince from 5YYY re \$11 000 worth of funding for the development of curriculum for a Community Radio program. Ideally the initiative will focus on the Australian Curriculum's General Capabilities, relevant subject areas and the real world aspects of running a community radio station.

The aim is for the curriculum to be flexible enough to cover a range of content and to be innovated on by teaching staff according to their needs. Funding is also provided for the training of students and staff in the use of recording and production tools so that the end products can be used on air at 5YYY.

It has been mentioned that the equipment could be mobile and links with other local schools could be made.

### **Why am I suggesting it? Because...**

- This is an excellent opportunity to use youth voice as a tool for engagement in learning and visiting Stuart High to use equipment, or having their students tour your school to use it, is also an opportunity to support students transitioning to Stuart High School\*
- You may be keen to collaborate with Greg and/or Brett as well.

### **How could it look?**

- Other schools could link with Stuart High School to access equipment and expertise
- Students part of the Youth Empowerment Process could be involved in the development phases and the ongoing programming and content issues.
- Music programs could be expanded to include recording of original material for air play

### **To consider**

- Contact Greg if you are interested in this project
- Contact Greg if you or your staff would like to be involved in any training provided by Brett from 5YYY

\*Both by engaging high school students as the 'experts' as well as giving primary school students a taste of high school

## Youth Development Initiatives in Whyalla

### **Approved/implemented:**

MindMatters Transitions workshop June 21<sup>st</sup> 2012

Whyalla High School Student Leadership and Decision Making Project – WHS

Student Led Initiatives – Stuart R-7

The Shak – WHS

Better Buddies – Stuart R-7

Community Radio – Stuart High

Intensive Interactions – Whyalla Special School

### **To be confirmed:**

PLP Training and Enhanced Student Success – WHS

### **To Consider:**

**What opportunities can you see to collaborate with other local schools either now or in the future?**

**Would a focus on marketing public schools (as there is in Pt Lincoln) be a good opportunity to collaborate?**

**Have your students been involved in the Regional SRC (Ray Marino)?**

**Continue to collaborate with other schools re the Australian Curriculum – especially in relation to the general capabilities and the transition from year 7 to year 8**

**What new ways can you embrace the people and services in your community to support your young people become active community members?**

**Have you considered accessing the services of MindMatters, KidsMatters or the Music Outback Foundation?**

**There is \$13 000 of YD money remaining - but unassigned dollars will not carry over. Applications are due 19<sup>th</sup> November (Monday next week)**