

PCSchool Admin Conference 2010 - a HUGE Success!

Special points of interest:

- **Admin Conference Review**
- **PCSchool Google Groups**
- **Conference Date Claimer for 2011**
- **SMS Messaging Special Offer**
- **The Mozambique Connection**
- **What's new in PCSchool**

The Administration, Curriculum & IT Conference and Training Day, recently held on the Gold Coast, was deemed 'Inspirational'.

The one hundred and twenty plus attendees from across Australia, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates and Mozambique made the most of the networking opportunities and time-out from their usual busy schedules. While the one hundred and five attendees who stayed on for the Training Day found the hands on sessions and the sharing of ideas and information invaluable.

This year the conference covered many advances in the PCSchool 'Spider' Web App including the release of the new Calendar Control and the Parent Teacher Interview Scheduler, as well as 'Spider' setup and maintenance. New capabilities using Assessment Reporting and Analysis, SMS-LMS Integration and Database Management were also covered.

The enhancements to the Document Management feature to include Staff, Creditors and Alumni were demonstrated and received with great enthusiasm by attendees, along with the advantages and ease of using the PCSchool SMS Messaging module. Both Document Management and SMS Messaging were very popular with several schools purchasing them in the week following the conference. See Page 2 on receiving a discount on SMS Credit Bundles.

The evaluation sheets we collected from attendees at the end of the conference gave us the following feedback:

- **Conference Overall**
 - ⇒ 96% rated it above 8/10
 - ⇒ 42% rated it 10/10
 - ⇒ With an overall average of 8.8/10
- **Break Out Sessions**
 - ⇒ 92% rated sessions above 8/10
 - ⇒ 25% rated sessions 10/10
 - ⇒ With an overall average of 8.5/10

Our Key Note Speaker Wayne Buckland, Principal of Bream Bay College, was a huge success, receiving high praise and averaging questionnaire scores of 9.5/10. Wayne's motivational presentation provoked comments such as '*outstanding*', '*the possibilities!*', '*I loved the vision and relevance*;' and '*it's good to be challenged by someone using PCSchool progressively*'. A very big thank you to Wayne for giving us such a positive start to this years conference and being an inspiring principal and supporter of PCSchool.

The 'Challenge Accepted' Case Study presentations by Wayne Buckland (Bream Bay College, NZ), Megan Jowsey (Auckland Girls Grammar School, NZ), Don Hastie (Rangitoto College, NZ) and Grant Franke (Rei dos Reis School, Mozambique) were given an excellent rating of 9.2/10 for their talks with comments like '*great informative speakers*', '*it's beneficial to hear other schools stories*' and '*fantastic, very inspiring*'. So a huge thank you from PCSchool for their participation.

Grant Franke from Rei dos Reis School in Mozambique helped to put things into perspective with his talk on the difficulties of running a school in a developing country. It was humbling to hear how 'Computer Studies' consisted of year 8 students practicing their skills with a keyboard made of cardboard and how students attend lessons in three separate shifts due to limited classrooms and teachers. You can read more about Grants Australian Experience and the Rei dos Reis School on Page 4.

Our support services received high commendations from our users once again with the following results:

- **Help Desk**
 - ⇒ 90% rated it above 8/10
 - ⇒ 50% rated it 10/10
 - ⇒ With an overall average of 9/10

Inside this issue:

Admin Conference Follow-up and Review	1
SMS Messaging Special Offer	2
Finance Conference 2011 Date Claimers	2
PCSchool Google Groups	3
Rei dos Reis School—Mozambique Connection	4
What's new in PCSchool	5
Positions Vacant	5

PCSchool Admin Conference 2010 - Continued...

- On Line Help
 - ⇒ 50% rated it above 8/10
 - ⇒ With an overall average of 7.5/10

We at PCSchool are very pleased with these assessments from our users and endeavor to continue our high standards.

At the end of the Training Day evaluation forms were collected and the results were:

- Administration Training Sessions
 - ⇒ Overall average of 8.5/10
- Curriculum Training Sessions
 - ⇒ Overall average of 9.3/10
- Crystal Reports Training Sessions
 - ⇒ Overall average of 9/10
- IT Training Sessions
 - ⇒ Overall average of 8.4/10

Excellent feedback in the form of comments was received from our users. One attendee from New Zealand wrote:

"A very inspiring conference... it is now up to us to find time to make the best use of the great tools and flexibility offered by the program"

Another attendee commented:

"I loved the family feel of the business and amongst the attendees. I can see the enormous potential for our college to enhance the synthesis of parent / teacher / student efforts to maximize our learning community—this was an exciting revelation"

A PCSchool programs update is available now for those schools who wish to begin using the new Back Office features demonstrated in the Conference such as Document Management, SMS Messaging, Assessment Analysis etc.

The new PCSchool Spider web based innovations such as Calendar Control and Parent Teacher Interview Scheduler will be available to schools at the end of 2010.

For information on Program and Spider updates join the PCSchool Google Group:

http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms

Other articles of interest relating to the conference include:

- Better Communication—Google Groups Page 3
- SMS Messaging Special Offer Page 2
- Finance Conference 2011 Information Page 2
- Rei dos Reis School in Mozambique Page 4

SMS Messaging—Special Conference Deal!

SMS or Text Messaging is a quick, efficient and cost effective way of communicating with your school community. Whether it be to let parents know that their student is absent from class or a bus is returning late from an activity, reminding Year 12's of exams or organising an emergency staff meeting PCSchool has the capabilities, in partnership with The SMS Engine, to get your message out!

As a special Conference Deal, schools can purchase bundles of 5,000 credits for 8.5c per credit (1 credit =1 SMS message) or bundles of 3,000 credits for 9.5c per credit, this offer is available until December 2010.

For schools who wish to purchase the SMS Messaging module or would like more information on SMS Messaging contact PCSchool: kate@pcschool.net Aust Ph: 07 4939 5995 NZ Ph: 09 974 9624

A Tutorial Video on using SMS Messaging is available: www.pcschool.net/download/SMSMessaging.zip

Finance Conference 2011 - Date Claimer

Just as one conference ends we start planning our next one!

The Finance Conference for 2011 will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 14th & 15th July, followed by the Training Day on 16th July. The Venue for the Finance Conference 2011 will be the Millennium Hotel Christchurch.

We hope to make available a draft program for the Conference and Training Day along with the fee schedule for conference attendance and accommodation later in the year.

Updates on the Conference will be posted on the PCSchool Website and the PCSchool Google Groups. To join the PCSchool Google Group and receive updates go to : http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms

Conference	Date	Location
Financial Conference & Training Day	14-16 July 2011	Christchurch, NZ

Better Communication - PCSchool Google Groups

At the end of our two day conference we like to give our users the opportunity, during our Plenary Session, to tell us what they want from us as an SMS provider.

Conference attendees commented that they want:

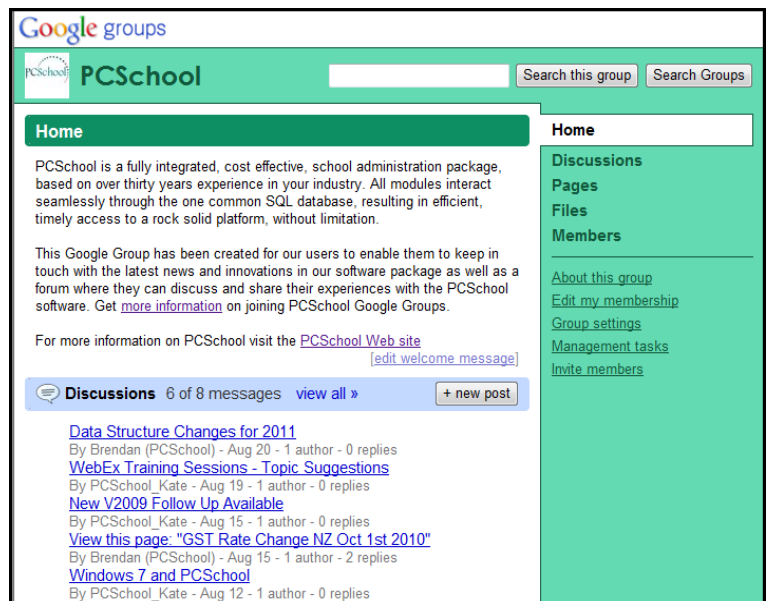
- Advice when program updates are available and what changes they contain.
- Notification of new products as they become available.
- To be kept up to date on known issues / required changes: Payroll and GST Changes etc.
- A common forum where schools can share information.

We heard you and have created the PCSchool Google Groups.

PCSchool will now be using the Google Group as the primary method of communication with our users to keep them informed of updates, new products, useful tips in using the program etc.

The Google Group is also an information sharing forum between schools where they can post discussion topics and pose questions to other schools.

We strongly urge **EVERY PCSCHOOL USER** to become a member of the PCSchool Google Group to ensure they receive timely updates, notice of new features and the opportunity to share their experience with other PCSchool users.



Today's Topic Summary
Abridged Email

Group: http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms/topics

- [New V2009 Follow Up Available](#) [1 Update]
- [View this page: "GST Rate Change NZ Oct 1st 2010"](#) [3 Updates]

Topic: [New V2009 Follow Up Available](#)
 PCSchool_Kate <kate@pcschool.net> Aug 15 11:50PM -0700 ^

See PCSchool Google Groups Page:
http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms/web/version-2009-followups
 for information on the latest PCSchool Version 2009 Follow Up.
[more...](#)

Topic: [View this page: "GST Rate Change NZ Oct 1st 2010"](#)
 "Brendan (PCSchool)" <brendan@pcschool.net> Aug 15 01:05PM -0700 ^

Click on http://groups.google.com.au/group/pcschool_sms/web/gst-rate-change-nz-oct-1st-2010?hl=en
 - or copy & paste it into your browser's address bar if that doesn't work.
[more...](#)

"Brendan (PCSchool)" <brendan@pcschool.net> Aug 15 01:05PM -0700 ^

Click on http://groups.google.com.au/group/pcschool_sms/web/gst-rate-change-nz-oct-1st-2010?hl=en

By joining the PCSchool Google Group you will receive an Abridged Email once a day containing a summary of the previous days discussion topics and page additions.

A PCSchool Fact Sheet containing information on joining and using the PCSchool Google Group is available to be downloaded from:

www.pcschool.net/guides/FS-GoogleGroups.pdf

Join the PCSchool Google Group for the latest updates and information

http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms

Out of Africa—The Mozambique Connection

Having lived the past 20 years in African villages and informal settlements I've been asked by many what my impressions of the "1st world" or Australia were. All spare thoughts this day have been spent wondering just how is it going to be possible to do this in a short newsletter? Well here goes!

It has always been a temptation for me to take some of my African colleagues from Mozambique down to a shopping mall in the middle of Johannesburg to just enjoy them gaping! Yet it was my turn to gape when flying in over Sydney, I literally couldn't believe my eyes, such a huge cityand no shacks!! Parts of South Africa are certainly as modern as Oz but there is always the stark reminder of poverty and the 3rd world right next door. Mozambique of course has only the occasional glimpse of modernity so the jump from Beira's two-fans-and-one-propeller airport to Joburg and then Sydney International was a bit of a surreal experience to say the least!! Here are some of the other amazing novelties experienced in Sydney (and Gold Coast):

Traffic that drives in straight lines and sticks to the rules, clean cars, clean fast trains packed with people who don't like talking! So many white people (it was great to be anonymous)! People leaving their furniture on the street!! Having a quick coffee at home before going to a cafe for a coffee! So many different people all speaking English and being the only person in a whole country without an accent! Many worried and hurried people who keep saying "no worries"!

Yes friends, on the whole I found Australia to be very strange!

But....also lovely, in both its nature and being filled with a lot of open and caring people. There was one thing that really saddened me though, and that is the rampant consumerism that seems to assail one's being constantly. (I must mention that it is also becoming a big problem in my home country of SA), although I enjoyed the novelty of computerized classrooms and school's running at levels of administration and excellence that I never dreamed of, it is still great to come back to the dusty chalkboards and characters of Africa.

I'd like to end off with a brief description of two of these characters:

Matiogo is a 15 year old girl at our school who I'd been subtly avoiding for a week. She's a lovely girl but she lost her mother last year and a few weeks back her father as well. I'd been avoiding her because there was just no way our school, with it's stretched budget, could help her. She finally cornered me on the school driveway one afternoon. She began to share with me her worries and fears of living with her stepmother and how she was missing her parents. Among others she briefly mentioned her financial concerns. When she'd finally finished she left smiling and said, "Thank you for listening sir." Despite all the areas of need in her life, to be listened too was all she really wanted.

Chiussa is our chemistry teacher he also gives me much hope. He lives on a shoe string budget with a wife and four kids. I think he only has two shirts one white and one yellow, always spotlessly clean but only ever either or!

He often seems a little depressed and haunted, I suspect a lot of it is due to his difficult life. He gives me hope when he teaches his subject, he seems to transform into a passionate Einstein. Although his experience and training are limited he loves his job and his subject, he once told me of how he "once!" looked through a microscope! He told it so passionately I felt like I'd just watched Avatar in 3D! It was with much joy that I handed to him the electronic microscope bought by a friend in Australia (it cost him \$25). The attached photo hopefully catches the moment.



So friends even though places like Oz and South Africa are fraught with excess and consumerism, its mostly the simple stuff that really counts and we really have a need to share.

God Bless,

Grant Franke - Rei dos Reis School, Mozambique

Get the latest news on Mozambique:

www.pcschool.net/guides/OzMozConnection.pdf

If you or your school wish to support Rei dos Reis School please visit:

www.missioneducate.org.au

PCSchool are proud sponsors of Rei dos Reis School and provide them with the PCSchool School Management System Software and Software Support

What's New in PCSchool

PCSchool Google Groups

The newly created Google Groups allows us to communicate with PCSchool users more effectively. See details on Page 3 and download the Fact Sheet.

www.pcschool.net/guides/FS-GoogleGroups.pdf

See File Alert in Student View

New feature where an alert popup is triggered if a student has an off computer file. Download the Fact Sheet for information.

www.pcschool.net/guides/FS-SeeFileAlert.pdf

Late Option

How to turn off the confirmation popup when entering a late against a student. Download the Fact Sheet for information.

www.pcschool.net/guides/FS-IgnoreLateOption.pdf

Create Tag Set From Debtors Billing Batch

How to create a tag set from a debtors billing batch and use it to print accounts for those students / families billed. Download the Fact Sheet for information.

www.pcschool.net/guides/FS-BillingTagSet.pdf

Position Vacant—Suncoast Christian College (QLD)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL / MARKETING ASSISTANT

Suncoast Christian College is established as a ministry of Suncoast Christian Church, a member of Christian Outreach Centres Australia.

Situated on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, this well established Pre-prep to Year 12 co-educational, Christian College of 860 students invites applications from suitably qualified passionate and dynamic applicants with a genuine commitment to the aims of Christian Education.

The contract position, commencing 20 September 2010 and concluding 17 June 2011, will report to the Business Manager and will be responsible for the school marketing in addition to supporting the Principal.

Applicants should have experience in marketing processes, a self directed application to tasks, a demonstrated ability in the use of technology and a high level of administrative support, the ability to manage several tasks simultaneously and be able to deal with confidential information. The successful applicant will have a friendly disposition, be organised and have good communication skills and must be a committed Christian.



Applications close 6 September 2010.

For an information package and position description, please contact the College administration office on 07 5451 3600 or info@suncoastcc.qld.edu.au.

Join the PCSchool Google Group for the latest updates and information

http://groups.google.com/group/pcschool_sms