



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

SPARK News

Dear supporter,

As we look back at the month of April we share highlights from our work with volunteers, school holiday programs and some great resources on Refugees. We also welcome a new member to the SPARK team and share what's happening this month.



Read on to find out more!

Welcome Volunteer Officer Jacqui

SPARK welcome new team member Jacqui Clark who joined the team in mid-April. Jacqui has a wealth of experience in Community Development having worked in International Development in Guatemala as well as in recruitment for Médecins Sans Frontières. Jacqui will be working alongside Volunteer and Community Engagement Officer Indu to support SPARK volunteers and engage in the community. Welcome Jacqui!

April SPARK Program Highlights



SPARK ran three *Volunteer Trainings* this holidays for dozens of volunteers who will start this term supporting our Bright Sparks Learning Club, Active Kids and Community Events programs.

We held our quarterly *Volunteer Leaders Meeting* with leaders from seven of our schools participating. We reviewed how we can better support our leaders and volunteer teams going forward.

SPARK partnered with Promoting Healthy Outcomes for Refugees (PHOR) to deliver another *Kids in the Kitchen* event at Fairfield High school in the holidays. Dozens of newly arrived children learned about living a healthy lifestyle while having fun and making new friends. Thank you to all of our volunteers for making it a success!

What's on in May: SPARK Programs



English and Citizenship classes start at Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre this week that will run every Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am during the school

term. Our Bilingual Facilitators are also running an **English Conversation Club** at Fairvale Public School on Mondays.

Bright Sparks Learning Club begins again at our seven partner primary schools, supporting newly arrived children settle well, have fun and thrive.

Active Kids is back at Fairvale Public School and **Circus Under One Big Top** starts at Liverpool West Public School in a few weeks with many newly arrived children certain to make friends and have fun while learning circus tricks!

Community Events



SPARK will be celebrating Families Week this month by participating in the **Family Fun and Information Day** in both Fairfield and Liverpool. There will be free activities for children, bilingual storytellers and free, recycled children's books! See below for where & when:

* Neeta City, Fairfield on Wednesday 17th May 10.30am - 1pm

* Macquarie Mall, Liverpool on Wednesday 17th May 10am - 1pm

Fairfield High School is holding a **Refugee Expo on 19th May 9.30am - 1.30pm** for newly arrived refugee families to learn more about local services and supports. SPARK will be one of many organisations connecting with parents, carers, family members and community.

Refugee Resources



In 1991 UNICEF developed the STARS model as an approach to working with Refugee children. STARS stands for Safety, Trust, Attachment, Responsibility and Skills. The model provides strategies for teachers, schools and all those working with refugee children. SPARK will be sharing this model with SPARK volunteers and sharing it across our children's programs in this coming term.

[Roads to Refugee](#) is a wonderful resource for anyone wishing to learn more about the refugee experience - from the Refugee Journey to settlement, ways to get involved and exploring further resources.

Volunteer Leaders Leon wins Volunteer of the Year Award!



Congratulations to SPARK Volunteer Leon Sugrim who recently won the Volunteer Of the Year Award at the Banks Volunteer Awards 2017. Leon has been the Bright Sparks Volunteer Leader at Marsden Road Public School for the last two years and is involved in a number of

volunteering roles in a number of organisations including SPARK and the Recreation Sports and Aquatic Club at Bankstown.

As a single dad of a young lady with Down syndrome, Leon is passionate about empowering people to see the strengths and opportunities for people experiencing disadvantage, particularly people with disabilities. Thank you and congratulations Leon for being such a wonderful champion of inclusive communities!

If you are interested in [volunteering](#), [partnering](#) with or [supporting](#) SPARK please find more information on our [website](#) or get in contact with us at spark@vinnies.org.au



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