



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

## SPARK News

Dear supporter,



This term SPARK has hit the ground running. Along with Bright Sparks at every school, we have been able to run a number of parent programs in Liverpool West, Marsden Road and Fairfield Public School.

As the program grows we are reaching our goal of supporting whole families in their transition into Australian life. Read on to find out more!

## Bilingual Book Club & Parent Welcome Spaces



At 3 schools this term SPARK have launched a dedicated Parent Space for parents to wait for their kids during Bright Sparks. Each space has community language newspapers, bilingual facilitators to help them with forms and questions, ipads and wifi, and information about community services.

We're also proud to have built up a library of bilingual books parents can read with their children - in both their first language and in english! From Arabic to Karen, Urdu to Serbian - parents have been able to borrow these as part of the Bilingual Book Club. Next term we hope to start these Parent services across more schools.

## Little Sparks



Early years learning is an area SPARK is passionate about. At all of our parent programs we are setting up Little Sparks, a place focused on children 0-5 who are in the important stage of early development.

This photograph is an example of the Little Sparks space set up at Marsden Road Public School for kids 0 - 5 to learn through play while their parents attended parenting program 1-2-3 Magic.

## Kids & Blokes night

On Monday night we were very excited to run the first 'Kids & Blokes' event that celebrates and honours men's relationship with their children.



Over fifty-five kids and their dads, brothers and uncles came together to spend a special night together playing, sharing a meal and recognising the important role men play in the lives of their children.

We love being able to work with and support newly arrived fathers in their transition into Australian life and are planning to run more events like this in the future!

## Community Sparks

Our Community Sparks program has been an important part of SPARK over the years. This year we've focused on offering parents workshops and programs.



**Volunteering**  
**A Pathway to Your Future**  
**Free workshop, Child Care provided**

Understand what volunteering is and how it can help you make connections, meet new people and develop skills for employment

Monday 7th March  
9:30am - 12:00pm



At Marsden Road Public School we ran the 1-2-3 Magic Emotion Coaching, a parenting program aimed at giving parents tools to support their children. At Fairfield Public School SPARK ran an Introduction to Volunteering workshop that aimed to show parents how volunteering could be a pathway to employment through skill-building.

We are working closely with many schools to organise programs and plan for the needs of parent communities.

## More Opportunities with Volunteer Plus!

Looking to volunteer outside of Bright Sparks? SPARK are looking for volunteers for our Active Kids Sports Club at Yennora Public School in Term 2. If you'd like to join the roster and support wider family and community engagement events please email [spark@vinnies.org.au](mailto:spark@vinnies.org.au) with 'Volunteering Opportunities' in the headline.

[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)



If you are no longer interested in receiving Vinnies emails you can [unsubscribe instantly](#).