



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

SPARK News



Dear supporter,

October was full of partnerships, strengthening programs and up-skilling our Bilingual workers. The past few weeks have also seen the start of our regular Bright Sparks and Community Sparks programs for children and parents as well as two very popular School Holiday Activities.

Read on to find out more and if you're new to the SPARK newsletter you can view [past newsletters](#) here.

School Holiday Activities



Making sure families have accessible and free activities during the school holidays is important for keeping them connected. SPARK have partnered with two organisations to deliver fun and free events this October.

SPARK partnered with *Parks Community Inc* to support the very special Kids and Blokes event with children from a range of schools in the Fairfield Area. This event focused on recognising and supporting the important role fathers and male carers have in their children's lives.

We partnered again with *PHOR* (Promoting Healthy Outcomes for Refugees) to deliver a very successful Kids in the Kitchen at Fairfield High school. Children had the opportunity to learn about Healthy eating and an Active lifestyle. Thank you to our Community and Events volunteers who supported on the day!

The Circus comes to Fairvale!



Our six week Circus Program is back, this time at Fairvale Public school! A mix of 60 newly arrived and established children are learning to work together, build their confidence and circus skills with the aim of putting on a performance for their peers and family.

In partnership with *Circus Monoxide*, the Circus program provides an opportunity for newly arrived children to settle

into school, make friends and develop a sense of belonging to the community. The outcomes of this program are strong and we are very excited to be delivering this for the second time this year!

Bright Sparks Learning Club



At Bright Sparks newly arrived children have ample opportunities to make connections and build confidence. The New Words Poster, Special Sessions and group games are just some of activities that have been incorporated into Bright Sparks this year.

Children have the opportunity to develop their social skills and teamwork through fun games like Untie The Knot while building their confidence and public speaking by sharing new words they've learned each session with a New Words Poster. Special Sessions that happen at the end of each term have been a great success with volunteers planning plays, mini-olympics and scavenger hunts across schools this term.

Bright Sparks Learning Club takes place each week across 7 primary schools in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland local government areas.

SPARK Bilingual Facilitators shine



Our Bilingual facilitators are an invaluable resource here at SPARK. Their connection with many newly arrived families, through culture and language, has allowed us to support parents in new ways this year.

This October Bilingual Facilitators have been trained to run a range of parenting programs to be delivered in Arabic. From *Tuning into Teens* to *1-2-3 Magic*, SPARK will be able to support families in their first language. From running our Bilingual Book Clubs, providing advice and referral support to families, attending parent excursions and workshops - our bilingual facilitators truly inspire inclusive communities!

SPARK Volunteer Thank You Event!

köszönöm תודה *dekuji*

mahalo 고맙습니다

thank you

merci 谢谢 *danke*

Ευχαριστώ شكرا

We are inviting all SPARK volunteers to our end of year *Volunteer Thank You Event* that will take place on Friday 25th November at our Lewisham Offices. Please RSVP with Indu at spark@vinnies.org.au by Thursday 10th November.

どうもありがとう *gracias*

For volunteers who are interested in the many new and exciting volunteer opportunities we have at SPARK please [visit our website](#) for the latest information.

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

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