



# Media release

From the Minister for Education Hon Bronwyn Pike and the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Hon Maxine Morand

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## EDUCATION WEEK: HELPING YOUR CHILD TO SHINE

Education is taking centre stage across the state this week as Victoria showcases the great work happening in kindergartens and schools during Education Week celebrations from May 17-23.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike and Children and Early Childhood Development Minister Maxine Morand said the week was a great chance for the community to connect with local schools and kindergartens and see the very best in modern education.

Thousands of students and children throughout Victoria will enjoy a calendar of free activities including gallery tours, circus workshops, science demonstrations and environmental activities.

“Education is the Brumby Government’s number one priority and there has never been a bigger effort or investment in the Victorian education system than there is right now to give young people every opportunity to shine,” Ms Pike said.

“We’re continuing to invest in the services that matter most to families, with the biggest schools rebuilding program in the state’s history underway to see every government school rebuilt, renovated or extended.

“We are investing in the latest technology including high-speed broadband delivery to every school, electronic whiteboards and wireless internet, and there is more money than ever before to help teachers be the best they can be.

“All of this is helping our students perform among the nation’s best in national testing and importantly it’s ensuring 21<sup>st</sup> Century children get a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education as well as the skills they need to get 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs.”

Ms Morand said the importance of the early years has also been acknowledged with a \$10.5 million investment to develop the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

“The Brumby Government understands providing high quality early childhood services gives children the best possible start in life and opportunities to learn, grow and have positive experiences in education.”

“Moving from childcare, kindergarten or home to school is a milestone in children’s development and we’re ensuring transition plans help support children and families through this vitally important stage,” Ms Morand said.

Education Week also pays tribute to excellence in teaching through the Victorian Education Excellence Awards, presented on May 15. This year there will be two new awards: Partnership with Parents and Communities Awards and a Pathways and Transitions Award.

Hundred of teachers will also be acknowledged for 40, 45 and 50 years of service, as well as retiring school councillors, community members and outstanding parents.

For more information about Education Week events visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/educationweek](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/educationweek)

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