Case Study – Yea High School

Background
Yea High School is a co-educational secondary college of 350 students, situated 100 kilometres North-East of Melbourne. It provides for the educational needs of a mixture of rural and semi-rural communities and is committed to working in partnership with families.

Situation
The school believes that families and the school working as partners will increase student achievement and help students develop positive attitudes towards their education. To encourage family involvement with the school and their child’s education, the school has developed guidelines under the following headings:

How can you be more engaged with your child’s education?
Opportunities exist for parents to become involved with school council and the curriculum committee. Often family members will assist with the running of activities such as sports days or musical productions for example.

Involvement with your child:
- Communicate high expectations with your child
- Check your child’s daily planner
- Ask questions about your child's schoolwork and relate it to everyday events
- Make homework a priority. Encourage your child to work independently, but offer assistance when necessary
- Give your child responsibility both at home and in the community
- Encourage the use of writing as a productive tool in everyday life
- Take time each day to listen to what is important in your child's world
- Talk about what your child is learning and look at his/her school books
- Teach your child to learn from his/her mistakes instead of being discouraged by them
- Encourage participation in extracurricular activities.

Involvement with school staff:
- Attend student learning goal setting or learning plan conferences
- Attend student expos, student led conferences or exhibitions
- Attend family/teacher interviews
- Call or e-mail teachers between formal conferences if you feel you need an update on your child's progress
- Ask teachers for advice on what you can do at home to reinforce skills learned in school
- Respond to communications from school
- Volunteer your services at school.

Involvement with the school community:
- Take part in family organisation meetings
- Go to school functions
- Support and attend extracurricular activities
- Get to know other parents, especially parents of your child's friends
- Read school newsletters and other school information.
- Check the school website regularly

Some useful links