Dear Teachers, Welcome to **POWA HOUSE**, the Parliament of Western Australia’s quarterly newsletter. The Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) welcomes all educators back from the break and hopes you are refreshed and ready to engage, inspire and inform your students throughout the school year.

**POWA TO THE REGIONS**

Over 500 primary school students throughout the South West recently had the opportunity to participate in “Pop-up Parliaments”. The Parliamentary Education Office (PEO), along with the Constitutional Centre and the Electoral Education Centre, spent a week visiting schools in the region and providing immersive learning opportunities.

Two professional learning sessions were also held in Bunbury and Margaret River, providing teachers with the opportunity to explore a variety of resources and methods to engage with primary and secondary students. The PEO will present its next round of school incursions and professional learning opportunities in the Albany area in week 4 of term 3, from 6 to 10 August. If you wish to access these exciting free incursions and/or attend the professional learning session, you can express your interest by clicking here!

**TEACHERS IN THE HOUSE**

Forty primary and secondary teachers recently attended Parliament House to participate in professional learning sessions. Held in the Legislative Assembly, these sessions gave participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in all of our latest civics and citizenship resources and share strategies on how to engage students effectively. Feedback from these sessions was very positive and provided a dynamic forum for educators to exchange ideas. If you wish to book a place for our next PL sessions to be held on 5 and 6 September, you can book here.
POWA OF POETRY

The much anticipated inaugural Parliamentary Poetry Competition is now open. All secondary school students throughout Western Australia are eligible to enter.

Each school can nominate one poem and enter via our official competition portal. The authors of the three poems judged to best capture the competition’s theme “Democracy in WA” will be invited, along with five guests, to a reception at Parliament House and have their poems published on the official Parliament of Western Australia website.

All school winners will receive a commendation certificate. For instructions, guidelines and key dates [click here](#).

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POWA HOUSE

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE - EDUCATION NEWSLETTER, TERM 2, 2018
WWW.PARLIAMENT.WA.GOV.AU

‘Democracy in WA’

To celebrate the fortieth Parliament of Western Australia, the Parliamentary Education Office is excited to announce the inaugural School Parliamentary Poetry Competition!

**Parliamentary Poetry Competition open to all secondary students throughout Western Australia!**

- Do you love your state of Western Australia?
- Have you a way with words?
- Do you want to become a published poet?

**The Theme:**

“Democracy in WA”. Be as literal or creative as you wish – you could write about an important Act that has transformed our state, an individual politician such as Edith Cowan, or any other idea that captures the theme of Democracy in WA.

**The Structure:**

Choose whichever genre of poetry you wish - narrative, epic, dramatic, lyric, prose or free verse. Poems must be no more than 300 words.

**The Prize:**

If your poem is chosen as one of the top three, you and five of your guests will be invited to a Parliamentary reception in term 4, with your poem featured on the Parliament of Western Australia website. The winning poem will be announced, and the award presented, at the reception.

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**Student Parliamentary Poetry Competition**

**POWA HOUSE**

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**TREASURE DISCOVERED AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE!**

Visiting school groups can now undertake a teacher-guided 30-minute treasure hunt around the grounds of Parliament House. This engaging group activity is ideal if groups arrive early for a scheduled tour, are waiting for their bus at the conclusion of a tour or simply need the opportunity to burn off some excess energy. This activity covers a number of components of the HaSS framework, including history, geography and civics and citizenship.

Contact the PEO on 9222 7259 for further information.
Parliamentary Education Office -
Education Newsletter, Term 2, 2018
www.parliament.wa.gov.au

The Parliament of Western Australia’s Education Office recently conducted a “Demystifying Democracy” workshop at the City of Bunbury for dozens of community members. Participants had the opportunity to learn about lodging petitions, contacting Members of Parliament and how to make a submission to a Parliamentary committee. Seniors, secondary, VET and university students also learnt what a typical day for a Member of Parliament entailed, thanks to the participation of Hon Adele Farina, who is one of the six Members of the Legislative Council representing the South West Region.

The next “Demystifying Democracy” workshop will be held at the City of Albany’s Civic Room from 4pm to 5:30 pm on Tuesday the 7th of August 2018.

School Tours

The number of students attending guided tours of Parliament House continues to grow. On sitting days, students have the opportunity to watch members of Parliament in action and on non-sitting days, classes can enter the Legislative Assembly and participate in a role-play.

For cohorts with a variety of literacy levels, a new activity has also been developed. “Vote with Your Feet” is an immersive activity that provides an opportunity for all class members to be actively involved in the legislative process by participating in a division. During the ringing of the division bell, students move to either the right or left-hand side of the chamber to indicate whether they are voting for or against a bill. All activities are linked to the mandated Western Australian civics and citizenship curriculum and can be booked here.

Community Education Workshop

The Parliament of Western Australia’s Education Office recently conducted a “Demystifying Democracy” workshop at the City of Bunbury for dozens of community members. Participants had the opportunity to learn about lodging petitions, contacting Members of Parliament and how to make a submission to a Parliamentary committee. Seniors, secondary, VET and university students also learnt what a typical day for a Member of Parliament entailed, thanks to the participation of Hon Adele Farina, who is one of the six Members of the Legislative Council representing the South West Region.

The next “Demystifying Democracy” workshop will be held at the City of Albany’s Civic Room from 4pm to 5:30 pm on Tuesday the 7th of August 2018.
COUNTRY SCHOOL TRAVEL REBATE

Term one has seen schools in country areas take advantage of the Parliament of Western Australia’s Country School Travel Rebate. This initiative provides for schools within the Travel Zone access to support funding. For guidelines and eligibility requirements [click here](#).

STUDENTS VOTE WITH THEIR FEET.

Thanks to the students of Toodyay District High School and Balcatta Senior High School, both primary and secondary teachers now have the opportunity to show their classes how laws are made and voted upon within the Parliament of Western Australia.

Your class will be able to see how students of their very own age groups debate and vote on actual legislation, which has been adapted from Hansard.

These four engaging videos, which include closed captioning, provide a great framework for HaSS teachers wishing to delve deeper into parliamentary process. These vignettes can be used as a powerful learning strategy that accurately models how bills are voted on by both voice and feet.

This instructional resource is an effective way to introduce your class to democracy in action and is a great warm-up activity prior to your students participating in their very own role-play. You can view these new videos and download our parliamentary role-plays [here](#).