

MEDIA RELEASE

May 7 2013

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP;

STUDENTS TO SWITCH PLACES WITH PRINCIPALS – FOR A DAY

Students from all over Australia are being given the chance to take on the top job at their school – for a day - as part of a campaign to raise the profile and appreciation of school leadership.

Launched this morning (Tuesday May 7), a new national program 'Student Principal for a Day' will see one student from each participating school switching places with the principal.

The program – coordinated by Principals Australia Institute (PAI) – will allow primary and secondary students to take part in a number of leadership opportunities and contribute to a national online conversation about issues relevant to students.

A variety of hands-on tasks for the honorary principal may include holding an assembly, joining in a staff meeting, or visiting classrooms.

“As a principal, I know how important it is to provide young people with opportunities to stretch their capacity as thinkers and leaders,” says Jim Davies, CEO of PAI.

“This is a fantastic time to listen to student voices from all around Australia, and a simple way to help students value the role of their principal and the school leadership team.

“The principalship is something to aspire to; my hope is that ‘Student Principal for a Day’ will inspire young people to consider a career in education - or to even become a principal one day.”

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Mr Davies said PAI hoped the day, set for Thursday June 6, would focus the nation's attention on the value and importance of quality school leadership.

"We are really passionate about raising the status of the profession and I think that 'Student Principal for a Day' will serve as a catalyst to showcase the important role that principals play not only in our schools, but also in our communities.

"In 2012, the National Professional Standard for Principals was introduced. Student Principal for a Day will draw attention to the standard and recognise the diverse school contexts that Australia's principals work in and the vital contribution that they make."

**Schools can register to participate at the Student Principal for a Day website:
www.sp4d.edu.au**

Schools have until May 28 2013 to register their student principal.

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Principals Australia Institute (PAI) provides professional learning, leadership development and support to the nation's 10,000 principals and schools. PAI is a not-for-profit organisation supporting primary and secondary schools across all schooling sectors (government, Catholic and independent).