



## VoRTCS Connect – November 2013

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### Burgers for Bucks

Great news! We've been nominated to participate in the *Grill'd Local Matters* donation program at **Grill'd West End** this month.



Every month, Grill'd donates \$500 to local groups and asks their customers to decide who the money goes to.

When customers buy a burger, they will receive a token to put into one of 3 jars representing different groups. Whoever has the most tokens at the end of the month receives \$300. The other two groups receive \$100 each.

To do your bit to help our cause, spread the word and head on down to **Grill'd located at 88 Boundary St West End QLD 4101**

### Quick Links **Tutoring During the Holiday Season**

[Our Website](#)  
[Donate Now](#)  
[Facebook](#)

How fast the year has flown and with the end-of-year holidays on our doorstep it's time to think about how your team will organise tutoring during this period.

The holidays present a great opportunity for your team to branch out from the usual urgent needs of school and TAFE studies, and focus on other areas that may not be part of the regular routine.

### HAVE YOU JOINED US ON Facebook?

Our Facebook page is continuously growing! Please [click here](#) and Like our page to keep up-to-date with daily

These could include playing educational games, speaking about Australian weather and beach safety, navigating public transport, contacts in case of emergency, enjoying a game of soccer/cricket or helping the family plan a day trip to Southbank or the beach.

We definitely encourage your team continue weekly tutoring sessions, if possible, or putting aside a few dates (perhaps a

news and facts.

fortnight apart) that you can all still visit the family.

## It's almost Christmas!

It is important to give the family and fellow team members plenty of notice regarding your availability and clearly identifying if/when tutoring sessions need to be cancelled.

Also, we strongly recommend that your team and family agree on a 'start date' for 2014 when sessions will return to a weekly basis.

## This month's newsletter is all about tutoring during the Holidays.

The Brisbane City Council has put together a great list of free events and activities over December and January. You may like to help the family plan and participate in these holiday activities. For details, go to:



<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on/featured/school-holiday-activities-for-kids/>

### Office Hours Over Dec 2013 - Jan 2014

## Please take a few minutes to get the latest program update.

Between December 2 and December 19, office hours will be as normal: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm

Between December 20 and January 5, the Merivale Street office will be closed.

From January 6, office hours will return to normal: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm.

### Important Numbers to Know

VoRTCS Emergency Contact, Chris Franklin **0433 909 250**. *This is a temporary number for use only during the 2013/2014 Christmas holidays.*

Vinnies Helpline, food & material assistance **3010 1096**

Life Threatening Emergencies **000**

State Emergency Services (SES), floods & storm assistance **132 500**

Power outages/supply, fallen power lines **13 19 62**

\*Attached to this newsletter is a **Quick Reference Contact List** of services and organisations that provide assistance in a variety of situations.

### Have You Responded?



If you want to join our End-of-Year Tutor Celebration, you now have until this Wednesday 4 December to RSVP.

The response has been very good and so far, we have over 50 people attending. As we need to cater for the right number, please contact Marion MacMahon via [marion201253@hotmail.com](mailto:marion201253@hotmail.com) if you'd like to attend.

### **Looking for Something Different to do With Your Families Over the Holidays?**

Why not take advantage of the huge range of activities available through the internet? You can download and print a wealth of games, puzzles etc for use with adults and children. And for those who use iPads or tablets, some of these internet sites are particularly helpful.

*Following is just a very brief summary of the endless possibilities out there!*

**Skillwise** is a useful website for adult literacy/ESL. It is divided into two main sections: Words and Numbers. Each has a fact sheet, interactive game, quiz, printable exercises etc. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise>

**Australian English @ the beach** includes quizzes, vocabulary, safety issues and short reading excerpts etc from the Prestonreservoir Adult and community Education - language and literacy student's website. <http://beach.prace.vic.edu.au/>

You could also look at the Australian surf-lifesaving surf-ed. website at <http://sls.com.au/beach-safety> which includes some multilingual info.

**Livewire puzzles free fun** - this site has variety of ways for learners to practise their vocabulary skills and enhance conversation - both online and printable activities. <http://www.puzzles.ca/freerun.html>

Also try <http://www.allpuzzles.net/> for online fun and conversation starters.

**ManyThingsorg** is designed for ESL students. There are quizzes, word games, word puzzles, proverbs, slang expressions, anagrams, a random-sentence generator and other computer-assisted language learning activities. Do note that it has an American bias in spelling, culture etc

<http://www.manythings.org/>

**Adele's ESL corner** is a free on-line site for English Grammar and spelling exercises with an Australian content.  
<http://www.adelescorner.org/>

**Kids' ESL Games** has a great range of online and printable games that all the family can join in. Covers phonics, grammar and vocabulary.  
<http://kidseslgames.com/>

Also try ESL Fun Games for Teachers & Students - Practice and Play. Includes printable board games.  
<http://www.eslgamesworld.com/>

You can do your own Google search by simply entering ESL - fun games and puzzles. You can specify if you want it for children or adult beginners etc or you can add 'Australia Day' or 'Christmas' etc to your ESL search. Give it a go!

### **Reminder - Online Tutoring Resource**

Our new Resource Guide has a mine of information for tutors and families. If you haven't yet looked at it, just go to <http://www.refugeetutoring.org/links.php>. Scroll down the page a little and look for the 'Resource Guide' title.

The easy-to-use guide lists and briefly explains the many organisations, services or sources of information available to assist refugees in Brisbane, and includes their phone numbers and website addresses. Where relevant and available, comments about the service have been included.

The information is sorted along 14 functional areas covering emergency services, transport, income, consumer affairs, utilities, accommodation, financial, government and voting, community services, health, legal, education, personal growth and resources and publications.

### **Feedback**

We would love to hear your feedback and ideas for stories in future editions. Please email [publications@refugeetutoring.org](mailto:publications@refugeetutoring.org)

Also, if any of your team is not getting this newsletter, please ask them to contact us so we can add their name to the list.

Please visit our website at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) & [www.refugeetutoring.org](http://www.refugeetutoring.org)  
Donate to our cause [click here](#).