

EDUCATION *Updates*

15 February 2020

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia, 13 Feb [schoolnews]: Don't 'just Google it': 3 ways students can get the most from searching online. Searching online has many educational benefits. For instance, one study found students who used advanced online search strategies also had higher grades at university. But spending more time online does not guarantee better online skills. Instead, a student's ability to successfully search online increases with guidance and explicit instruction. [LINK](#)

Australia, 12 Feb [The Guardian]: Queensland school's insistence that Cook Islands student cut hair raises human rights question. The principal of a Queensland private school has said a five-year-old student from the Cook Islands cannot have long hair, even if it is part of his culture. The Queensland family said they were told Cyrus Taniela had to abide by school rules and cut his hair during his first week of prep. The family has been planning a traditional haircutting ceremony on the boy's seventh birthday for years. [LINK](#)

Australia, 12 Feb [schoolnews]: Private School Funding per Student Growing 3x Faster than Public School. The Productivity Commission's annual Report into Government Services (ROGS) into childcare, education and training has shown that per-student total government recurrent funding to private schools has grown at 3.3 times the rate of public school funding over the last decade. The Report into Government Services (ROGS) showed that annual per-student growth in total government funding for private schools in 2017/18 was 3.4 per cent, compared with only 1.5 per cent for public schools, the Australian Education Union announced in a statement. [LINK](#)

Cambodia, 10 Feb [The ASEAN Post]: Is Cambodia's Education System Corrupted? On 26 January, Cambodian student Kong Bunrith posted a video on Facebook accusing senior officials in the country's Ministry of Justice of allegedly taking bribes. Kong had claimed that some of his peers paid up to US\$150,000 in bribes to secure passing grades. The municipal court has since summoned him for questioning over accusations of public defamation, slander and incitement to discriminate. [LINK](#)

India, 10 Feb [The Times of India]: Private Doctors can now teach medical students. With the recent amendment in the Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institutions Regulations, 1998, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has allowed medical colleges to invite private doctors as visiting faculty. [LINK](#)

India, 9 Feb [The Times of India]: Nine-year-old girl in Shillong develops anti-bullying app. Distraught over repeated bullying at school, a nine-year-old girl in Shillong has developed a mobile application which would enable a person to anonymously report such incidents to the au-

thorities. Meidaibahun Majaw, a Class 4 student said she had taken it upon herself to find a solution to the menace, after it started taking a toll on her well-being. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, 10 Feb [The Jakarta Post]: Australia's Monash University to open postgraduate campus in Indonesia. Australia's Monash University is set to establish a postgraduate campus in Indonesia, following the latter's approval, paving the way for Monash to become the first foreign university campus to operate in the country. Based in Jakarta, Monash Indonesia will offer Master and PhD degrees, as well as executive programs and micro-credentials. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 13 Feb [New Straits Times]: Education Initiatives Lauded. The key tertiary education initiatives that were highlighted by Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in the Education Minister 2020 mandate last week were lauded by members of the academia. With 'Realising Shared Prosperity through Education' as the focus for the Education Ministry this year, schools and tertiary institutions are emphasizing on preparing human capital that is skilful, productive and effective, as well as can meet industrial demands. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 12 Feb [New Straits Times]: Getting disabled students to be work-force ready. At Universiti Malaya, much is being done to assist disabled students in work-force readiness and career development via the efforts of the Student Disability Management unit of the Psychology Management & Counselling section of the institution's Student Affairs Division. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 9 Feb [New Straits Times]: Transforming UiTM into a globally renowned university. Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) has embarked on a five year strategic plan, which is expected to transform the university into a Globally Renowned University. UiTM2025 is a five year (2020-2025) framework document which will outline the university's transformation agenda as it aims to become a leading global university of science, technology, humanities and entrepreneurship by 2025. [LINK](#)

New Zealand, 12 Feb [NZ Herald]: 'Appalling': Almost one in three children with disabilities unlawfully denied school enrolment. Almost one in three New Zealand children with a disability are being unlawfully denied enrolment at their local school, a new survey has found. It also revealed many of those who were enrolled faced bullying and a massive lack of support in the classroom. [LINK](#)

Thailand, 12 Feb [The Nation Thailand]: Education Minister checks Bangkok junior schools for health shields. Taking a survey of elementary schools in Bangkok on Wednesday (February 12) to see how well they're safeguarded against the coronavirus and PM2.5 dust pollution, Education Minister Nataphol Teepsuwan stressed that health is a crucial issue right now. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

The Netherlands, 11 Feb [Dutch News]: Public libraries under threat, Dutch reading skills in decline. Spending on public libraries has gone down some 10% since 2010 and 21 of the 355 Dutch local councils are not providing a complete service accessible to all, despite being required to do so by law, a report by the Culture Council shows. The 2015 library law states that all local councils should have a public library which offers not only books but stimulates development and education and promotes reading and debate. A library bus, or a collection point for books is not in accordance with that law, the government advisory body said. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 13 Feb [BBC News]: T-levels: What are they and who is going to study them? A new vocational qualification, the T-level, is to be introduced in England in September 2020. But what are they, who are they meant for, and why are they being introduced? Aimed at 16 to 19-year-olds, the technical courses will focus on practical, rather than academic subjects. Courses will be introduced from September 2020 and last two years. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 12 Feb [BBC News]: Children who sit too much 'more likely to get depressed'. Children who spend lots of time sitting still are more likely to develop depression by the age of 18, a study suggests. Researchers at University College London looked at the activity levels of 4,257 12- to 16-year-olds. Those who did an additional hour of light activity each day, such as walking or chores, had fewer depressive symptoms when they reached adulthood. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Canada, 12 Feb [HuffPost]: Teachers' Unions Crash Event With Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce. Leaders of Ontario's big four teachers' unions announced a province-wide, one-day strike after heckling the education minister at an upscale event. Teachers with the Catholic, French and public school boards will walk off the job Friday, Feb. 21 at 5,000 schools across 72 boards. [LINK](#)

USA, 13 Feb [cna]: Harvard and Yale universities investigated for possible non-disclosure of foreign money. The US Department of Education said on Wednesday (13 Feb) it has opened an investigation into whether the universities of Harvard and Yale failed to report hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign gifts and contracts as required by law. Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut may not have reported at least US\$375 million in foreign money over the last four years, the department said in a statement. [LINK](#)

USA, 11 Feb [Daily News]: NYC Council bill seeks to make free summer camp available to all city students. A new bill introduced in the City Council Tuesday would make summer camp free to all city students. Co-sponsored by Councilmembers Debi Rose (D-Staten Island) and Ben Kallos (D-Manhattan), the legislation would require the city's Youth and Community Development Department to figure out how many programs they need by fall 2020. Then they have a year to make sure there's adequate space. [LINK](#)

USA, 10 Feb [Daily News]: NYC parents of special needs students file class action suit over special education court delays. Disabled city students who file legal complaints over their treatment at school wait an average of nine months for a resolution, despite a federal legal wait-time limit of 75 days, a new class action lawsuit alleges. The special education courts are designed to protect the legal rights of those children, but the city's system is so overburdened that vulnerable students wait months or years for help getting critical support, according to the legal complaint. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

South Africa, 11 Feb [Amnesty International]: South Africa: Broken and unequal education perpetuating poverty and inequality. The South African education system, characterised by crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms and relatively poor educational outcomes, is perpetuating inequality and as a result failing too many of its children, with the poor hardest hit according to a new report published by Amnesty International today. [LINK](#)

Tanzania, 12 Feb [The Citizen]: Why E-learning platforms should be solution-based. In this era of digital revolution, many sectors have embraced technology for better outcomes. The education sector has not been left behind, and there is now a shift from a more interactive classroom model to e-learning platforms. Technology enthusiasts are coming up with a number of platforms in Tanzania's education sector to accommodate the youth and those who have access to the internet at all times. [LINK](#)

UAE, 12 Feb [Khaleej Times]: Public schools in UAE to eliminate homework. The Ministry of Education on Tuesday, February 11, announced the launch of the "My Optimum Time" initiative, which focuses on eliminating homework and implementing measures to ensure optimal utilisation of a student's time. The initiative, which begins next week, is intended to strike a balance between the student's lessons and activities. [LINK](#)

Zimbabwe, 13 Feb [all Africa]: Zimbabwe: Minister Defends University Fees. Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Minister Professor Amon Murwira has defended State university fees of between \$3 500 and \$5 000 per semester, saying they were meant to uphold quality education. This was after he was subjected to a barrage of questions in the National Assembly yesterday where members sought to know whether the Government had considered what ordinary workers were earning. [LINK](#)

Zimbabwe, 13 Feb [all Africa]: Zimbabwe: Minister Demands \$30 Billion From Government for Student Fees. Higher Education Minister Amon Murwira has told Parliament that his ministry needs at least \$30 billion from Treasury to provide quality tertiary education. The money, according to the minister, is also meant for students to avoid paying fees in State institutions. Murwira was responding to questions by MPs in the House of Assembly Wednesday. He told legislators to stop politicking and instead play a part in solving the economic challenges being faced by the country. [LINK](#)