

EDUCATION

NOTEBOOK TRENDS/EVENTS/NEWS

Return of the pickle



COMEDIAN Rachel Berger's award-winning one-woman play *Hold the Pickle* opens for another season in June.

Elisabeth Lenders, deputy principal of Carey Grammar, says Berger's play about her Jewish immigrant parents covers material relevant to VCE history, English and drama courses. "It is fantastic. There is a personal

perspective on all the stuff that students learn about. They can see that this is a real story about her parents."

Berger's show, which was nominated for this year's Green Room awards for performance and script, tells her parents' love story — of the 13 months where they crouched in a broom cupboard to stay alive, of migrating to Australia, running a milk bar in Spotswood and then establishing an iconic delicatessen in St Kilda. Berger's childhood was spent playing on the footpath outside the deli door, with the extraordinary stories of newly arrived European migrants and refugees an integral part of her life.

The play had a sell-out season at La Mama theatre last June, followed by a season at Chapel off Chapel in September. It will run from June 9-21 at Chapel off Chapel, Prahran. Tickets \$25-35.

Quote . . . unquote

"We cannot allow the skills and training needed by a modern economy to skip a generation because of a global recession."

— Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, after Australia's governments agreed last week to shake-up welfare payments to pressure the young to work or study.

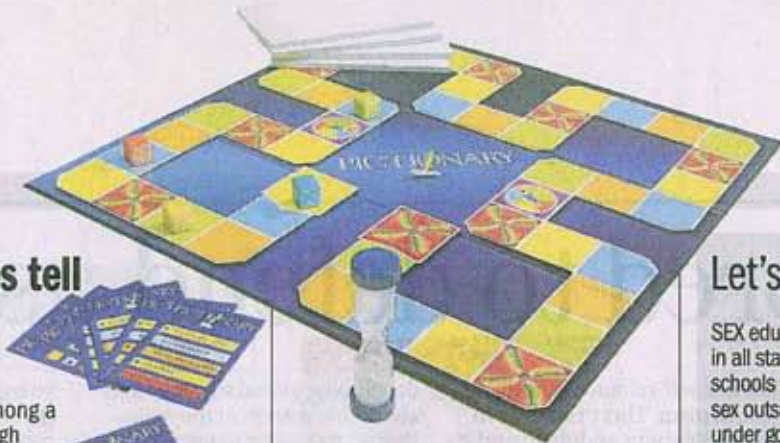


Pictures tell a story

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College is among a number of high schools getting students to play the game Pictionary as part of an educational campaign by autism service provider Alpha Autism.

Dianne Hayes, a senior teacher at the school, says the year 9 students experienced "a certain level of frustration" when playing the game that gave them greater insight into the communication difficulties faced by other students at the school with various forms of autism.



"It has helped them be more tolerant and remember to include students with, for example, Asperger's syndrome," she says. Students made a \$2 donation to play the game, with funds going to Alpha.

The school program is part of a fund-raising campaign called Drawtism, launched by Alpha this month, to encourage people to host Pictionary evenings to raise funds for education and training programs for adults living with autism. For more details go to drawtism.com.au

Let's talk about sex

SEX education is to be made compulsory in all state schools in England but faith schools will also be free to preach against sex outside marriage and homosexuality under government proposals.

The *Guardian* reports that plans to make personal, social and health education (PSHE) compulsory from the age of five will allow schools to apply the "values" and parents to opt out on religious grounds.

It means all state secondaries — including faith schools — will have to teach a core curriculum about sex and contraception in the context of teenager relationships, but religious schools will also be free to say that sex outside marriage, homosexuality or using contraception are wrong.