

STATE WIDE PROJECT – THE *MIGHTY CHOIR OF SMALL VOICES* (MCSV)

Designed to support the COME OUT Festival 2011 theme: BELONGING

Thank you for registering interest in sending us your students' complaints!

Following are just a few dot points to support eliciting 'Student Voice' about their concerns, grizzles, gripes, and grievances!

Inspired by *Cahiers de doléances* (French for 'list of hopes and grievances') in France in 1789 and the Finnish phrase *Valituskuoro* (Complaints Choir), this state wide choir project celebrates democracy and the daily concerns of South Australian children.

Ask your students – what annoys them? What are the things they would change to feel happier and have a greater sense of belonging in their community and the world?

Suggestions may range from the serious to the frivolous. Come Out have commissioned professional songwriter Robyn Habel to transform the concerns into a celebratory song for all South Australian children to sing as part of the Opening Event for the COME OUT Festival 2011 and at school assemblies during the festival.

Background

You may have heard of the International Complaints Choir project – it has become a world-wide phenomenon (www.complaintschoir.org), and is named after the Finnish expression *Valituskuoro*, describing situations where 'many people complain simultaneously'.

Something everyone does from time to time is complain; it's world wide and it's one common way of finding a connection with others and demonstrating a sense of belonging; and yes there are more appropriate ways of doing so than others!

Examples of complaints

Keep them to short phrases or sentences

- Unfriendly people
- Slow computers
- Loneliness or teasing at school
- None of your socks match
- Having to clean your room
- Teachers 'pushing in' at the canteen queue

Ideas to obtain the Grizzles?

- Have a class discussion, with someone taking notes recording the grizzles.
- Ask your class to jot some down – follow up with a unit of work (see ideas below)
- Talk to your SRC (Student Representative Council)

DID YOU KNOW?

The term *Cahiers de doléances* (Fr) refers to the process of individuals and groups in France being invited to forward to their government a list of their 'hopes and grievances'. Such a process of Cahier writing in 1788 in France was one of the catalysts for the French Revolution. This Revolution by the citizens of France over 200 years ago is often cited as the birth of the concepts of democracy, equality, liberty and citizenship as we know them today in countries such as Australia.

Educational Links

Why do we complain? What purpose does it serve? When is it necessary to complain? What might happen if you don't, or in societies that are not allowed to complain?

The ARTS

Protest songs - explore how, why and when they moved from being folk songs. Investigate, compare and analyse (and sing!) the lyrics of songs like Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind*; John Lennon's *Imagine*, or *Happy Xmas (War is Over)*; *We Are The World* by USA For Africa; *Mothers of the Disappeared* by U2; *You're the Voice* by John Farnham; or other relevant songs from Australian bands like Yothu Yindi, Kev Carmody, Warumpi Band, Christine Anu, Powderfinger, Xavier Rudd. Protest Art (Visual Art) / Theatre / Dance – i.e. explore the origins of the Peace symbol, sandwich boards, banners, graffiti, stickers; street theatre, guerrilla theatre.

SOSE / Australian Curriculum - History

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Democracy

Civics and citizenship

Role of the Ombudsman

United Nations, children and human rights

Anti-Bullying / Anti-Harrasment

Child Protection Curriculum

Health and Well-being

Some Useful Resources:

Connect to the official International Complaints Choir project

www.complaintschoir.org

Cahiers de Doléances – list of grievances

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahiers_de_dol%C3%A9ances

The History Guide, the *Cahier de Doléances* (1789)

<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/cahiers.html>

SACSA SOSE curriculum links re civics and citizenship

Have your say – How many times am I represented?

Local govt town hall detective

Adelaide town hall activity – a new look at old buildings

<http://www1.curriculum.edu.au/ddunits/state/up4links.htm>

Children's rights United Nations -

<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/cce/default.asp?id=9458>

Australian Human Rights Commission - Complaints information for young people

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/complaints_information/young_people.html

Robyn Habel

www.robynhabel.com/home.html

www.myspace.com/robynhabel

COME OUT Arts Ambassadors will be the first to learn more as we progress the project. If you haven't already done so, download the Registration Form – www.comeoutfestival.com.au