Wednesday 30 January, 2008

Exciting Territory School Year Underway

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour today marked the start of the school year, saying education was one of the Territory Government’s top priorities.

Speaking this morning at Nightcliff Primary School, Ms Scrymgour said it was a big day for the younger children attending school for the first time – and for their parents.

“It’s also an important year for the education system – the first year of the new Middle School system,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Middle School curriculum is a central part of the Government’s commitment to making our schools the best they can be and giving our students the best educational opportunities.

“With a stronger focus on literacy and numeracy and more support for students – middle years will help students make the transition to senior school.

“The Government is also continuing to invest in the Territory’s schools – the new $20 million Darwin Middle is a prime example.

“The Darwin Middle school is part of the Government’s $88.7 million Building Better Schools program – which is improving facilities across the Territory.”

Ms Scrymgour said this year school uniforms became compulsory for Transition Year up to and including Year 9 in Government schools.

“The introduction of compulsory uniforms this year will also help parents keep costs down by taking away the pressure to buy and wear the latest brands and fashions.”

“I wish all our students and teachers the best as they kick off the 2008 school year.”

About 42,000 young Territorians are starting, or returning to, school this week.

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