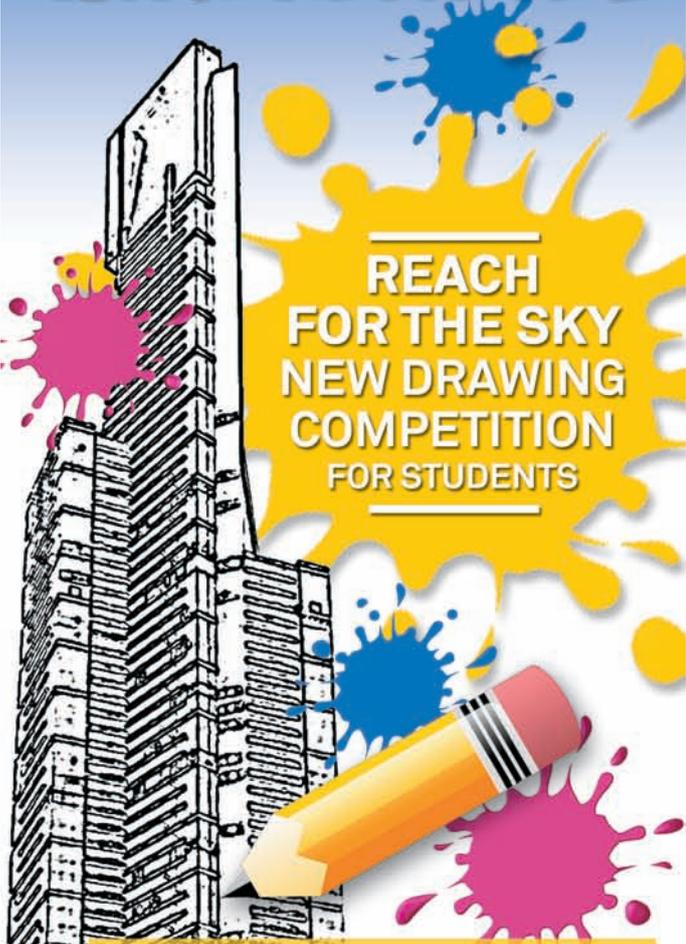


TAKE LEARNING TO A HIGHER LEVEL

EDUCATION WITH ALTITUDE



REACH
FOR THE SKY
NEW DRAWING
COMPETITION
FOR STUDENTS

**Eureka is looking for one
very creative student to WIN!**

Enter by 3rd September
2010 & students could
have a chance to win
an amazing, thrilling
HELICOPTER EXPERIENCE
above Melbourne's Skyline!

For more information and class bookings
contact our Educator:
T (03) 9693 8810
E schools@eurekaskydeck.com.au

eureka
skydeck
88

For competition
details visit us online at
www.eurekaskydeck.com.au

what's new

To the Editor

Asbestos in Queensland schools

I write to express my growing fears of asbestos exposure in Queensland schools.

Nobody sees the inside workings of schools quite like the humble relief teacher. In my 10-year career, I have worked in just under 50 schools in three different cities, and have been able to examine them from a fresh and unbiased perspective. I have observed first-hand, the dangerous, asbestos-ridden structures in our schools, some of which are prominent and easily accessible.

I have also examined the Queensland Asbestos Register thoroughly. In particular, I have looked at every single item listed for schools in my own region, and I cannot possibly see how the extraordinary number of items in their various states of degradation can be safe. The Asbestos Register seems to be an all-conclusive answer to any concerns raised by parents or staff. Yet anyone but the most gullible can see the limitations of such a document, which is about as reliable and effective as your typical school behaviour management plan. The Register cannot account for unpredictable and spontaneous disruption to any of the enormous range of weak physical structures present in schools. While I will not name any schools, I can say with absolute certainty that in many of the schools I have worked in, risks have been taken.

Even if the immediate work on buildings is done outside of school hours, residual material remains on the school grounds. Disrupted asbestos fibres are about as hard to contain as the air we breathe. Microscopic fibres carried in the breeze can easily collect in the many communal areas that children use. This, combined with the massive amount of human movement that takes place on a typical school day, with children brushing against walls, sitting on floors, bumping into furniture, getting footballs stuck on roofs etc., is cause for real concern. I have witnessed the tearing up of old floor coverings by workers who don't bother to properly barricade the site, or even to wear masks for their own protection. This is corner cutting at its worst.

Add to this the significant amount of re-shuffling of classrooms, libraries and multi-use rooms currently taking place as part of the BER, hastened by government-imposed schedules. Much of the work is being done in a hasty manner. Furniture and resources that have gathered dust for years are being disrupted. Cracks are evident in walls and roofs, the rims of air-conditioning vents are insufficiently sealed, carpet and tiles are beginning to loosen, and are sometimes held down with nothing more than a strip of black tape. Children are being asked to move their desks and other heavy items across the schoolyard to another space while work is being done. This is all unacceptable.

Given the fact that even minimal exposure to asbestos can be dangerous, and even the most cautious handling of the material cannot guarantee complete safety, I fear there will be far-reaching health issues emerging from the current work being done in schools. The children who we are called to educate and protect, may well end up permanently attached to an oxygen tank at some stage in their lives, because of a system that failed them in the worst kind of way. But time will have diminished any chance of government accountability for this issue, and that is the essence of injustice. Parents and teachers should accept nothing less than guaranteed total protection from exposure to asbestos in schools.

Name and address supplied

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Today welcomes education news and announcements for the daily news service and magazine.

Send to minnis@minnisjournals.com.au

NSW and SA teachers save on car costs



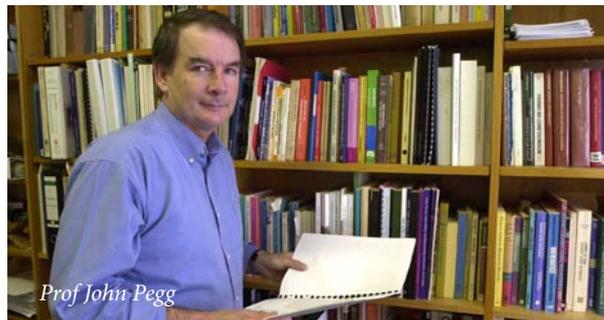
Teachers in NSW and SA can make significant savings on the cost of buying and running a car by taking up a novated car lease with Smartleasing, the Dept of Education's salary packaging provider.

Compared to buying a car outright or using traditional finance, a novated lease offers the potential to reduce car costs by thousands of dollars through tax savings; tax-free fuel and oil; tax-free registration and insurance; tax-free lease payments; tax-free car servicing

tel 1300 117 305

www.smartleasing.com.au

Researchers seek feedback on draft standards for teachers



Prof John Pegg

The first major project funded by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) is to be conducted by a research team based at the University of New England. The team will gather information from teachers across the nation that will help to ensure that the new Professional Standards for Teachers, to be introduced nation-wide during 2011, reflect the views and aspirations of teachers themselves.

The four team members – Prof John Pegg, Dr Greg McPhan, Dr Bruce Mowbray and Mr Trevor Lynch – are from the UNE-based National Centre of Science, ICT and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMERR National Centre).

The validation process to be carried out by the SiMERR team is the next stage in the development of the new Standards, which have now reached draft form. The researchers hope to obtain feedback on the draft Standards from up to 14,000 teachers at about 1,000 schools through online surveys and focus group workshops in each State and Territory before the end of the year.

HUGE OUTDOOR CLOCK

Our 540mm outdoor clocks are designed and manufactured in Australia to stand up to the elements and look great.

\$475.00

incl. GST

540mm Diameter

Features:

- Acrylic safety lense
- Water resistant
- Battery operated
- Stainless steel security screws.



Call (02) 4861 7265 or visit www.sydneyclockco.com.au/school



Sydney Clock Company • Australian Designed and Manufactured Clocks.

P: (02) 4861 7265 | F: (02) 4861 7265 | E: info@sydneyclockco.com.au

A WORKSHOP FOR MANDATED REPORTERS

Learn how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse

For more information and to attend a workshop call 0413 456566

ABC News
Trial for principal accused of not reporting abuse claim
School reluctant to help, say police
RECOMMENDATION
Teachers and principals fail to protect students from sex assaults: Ombudsman
Warnings over sexual abuse at school
THE AUSTRALIAN
Abused turn into abus
School sex attacks soar
Teacher internet warning
PCAA as
Talking to Kids
vivien@pcaa.net.au
WWW.PREVENTCHILDBABUSE.ORG.AU



Travel health risk management for schools

Schools and teachers have a duty to take reasonable care of their students on trips overseas. Essentially, this means assessing and describing what risks might occur on the trip, and what precautions need to be taken to minimise those risks.

Being properly prepared includes making sure that suitable medical precautions have been taken. Brock Cambourne, national manager with The Travel Doctor-TMVC says that making sure everyone has had all of the vaccinations recommended for the destination is vital, but there are other risks that need to be planned for. Somewhere between 35 per cent and 80 per cent of travellers experience gastro-intestinal problems while overseas, for example.

While school trips to Western Europe, Japan, Korea, the US and Canada are low risk in terms of exposure to infections, and high quality health care is available should it be needed, the same can't be said for Latin America, Africa, much of SE Asia, the Indian sub continent and, closer to home Papua New Guinea and the Pacific islands.

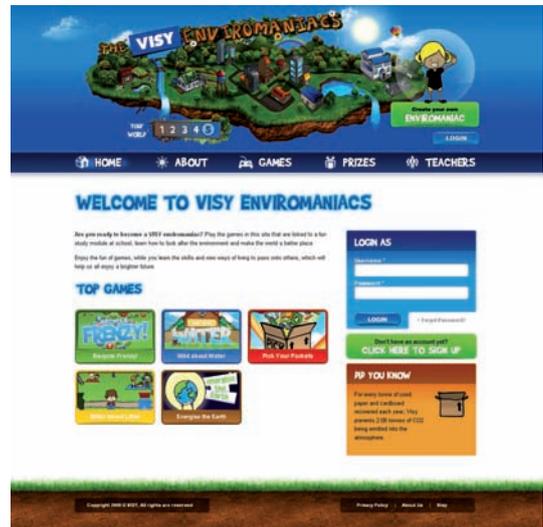
Yet these higher risk countries offering an element of adventure that appeals to students. Coupled with this is the growing popularity of voluntourism – where the group will work on a charity project as part of the tour.

The Travel Doctor-TMVC specialises in assisting schools to get properly prepared. Services offered to schools includes group briefings for students, parents and teachers; recommendation and administration of appropriate vaccinations; medical assessment of an individual's suitability for travel if there are pre-existing medical conditions; support by email and phone while the group is travelling; and management of any travel-related medical problems that have developed during the trip upon return.

As well, specially designed Travellers Medical Kits to treat non-acute common ailments such as gastric upsets can be provided. Each kit includes a manual that describes the symptoms of illnesses that may be encountered and instructions on how to treat.

The Travel Doctor-TMVC
National Schools Liaison
Cath.Pugh@traveldoctor.com.au
www.traveldoctor.com.au

Online environmental lesson plans and games



Visy Enviromaniacs, an education program designed to help primary school teachers make environmental education fun, is available for online at www.visyenviromaniacs.com.au.

The program has been developed for children in years three to six, and supports current Australian and New Zealand curriculum criteria.

The free lesson plans tie in with five online computer games based around recycling, water, energy, packaging and litter. The plans centre on practical initiatives and actions that children can implement to preserve and protect the environment.

Students can create their own enviromaniac character to take them through the five interlinked games. By earning 'enviropoints' and putting into practice what they have learned, students progress through different rankings, including the Green Machine (everything you touch turns to green), Water Watchkeeper (watching out for water wasters) and King Clean Streets (there's no job too dirty).

There are monthly student prizes, an annual teachers' prize and a school yearly prize to be won by participating in the game.

Register and play online at:

www.visyenviromaniacs.com.au



Competition for budding songwriters

Entries close on 24th September for the 2010 ACFM national songwriting competition. There's a special category this year – Peacebeliever, to mark the 30th Anniversary of John Lennon's murder in New York. Other categories include Best Instrumental, Lyrics Only and Categories by age group.



The entry form, terms and conditions and how to enter are on the ACFM website.

www.acmf.com.au

Filling the gap in mandatory reporting teacher education



During the 12 years that social worker Vivien Resofsky worked at the “coal face”, she came to understand the enormity of the problem of child sexual abuse and its terrible impact on a person’s life, when untreated.

She left child protection five years ago, wanting to use her knowledge to prevent abuse from happening. She trained in the programs that are most commonly used in schools – *Protective Behaviours* and *Choose With Care* and explored the requirements of the mandatory reporting training for teachers but concluded “there must be something better.”

Her research led to the Darkness to Light website (<http://www.darkness2light.org/>) and the *Stewards of Children* program.

“It was a website unlike any other,” she told *Education Today*. “It conveyed the message that it was an adult’s job to keep children safe from child sexual abuse.”

Five years on, Resofsky continues to lead *Talking to Kids* workshops in Australia, drawing awareness to the problem and the *Stewards of Children* program.

She says: “In every workshop that I have done it has been rewarding to see the participant’s new awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse. People leave feeling empowered because they have the knowledge and confidence to deal with the abuse.”

“*Stewards of Children* is the best training material for adults that is currently available. It is the only evidenced-based, third party evaluated material that has been proven over time to actually change the protective behaviours of adults. Many education departments and universities in the US and Canada are incorporating it in their training for teachers.”

Resofsky invites school principals and teaching staff to attend a *Talking to Kids* workshop and learn how they can make a difference in their local community.

tel 0413 456 566

email vresofsky@iprimus.com.au

www.preventchildabuse.org.au

DVD for parents of young people living with cancer

Redkite and CanTeen, have come together to produce a free DVD to assist parents and families through their child’s cancer experience.

The result of extensive research by both charities It’s Like This... is a practical and caring support tool to aid parents to cope with the challenges often experienced in the cancer journey.

Available free online, It’s Like This... explores a range of topics from diagnosis, to treatment to dealing with bereavement; providing important tools for honest and open communication.

www.canteen.org.au/parentdvd

Monash using linking, crowdsourcing and analytics to reshape education



Speaking at the ELH & SchoolTech Conference, held in Lorne, Vic., last month Nathan Bailey, associate director of Monash University’s eEducation Centre told delegates that today’s university students are used to exploring global issues in collaborative and integrated ways, supported by the latest Web 2.0 technologies – regardless of physical location.

They find it difficult to connect with conservative educational models delivered in traditionally designed learning spaces. Increasing student numbers, the Digital Education Revolution and the National Broadband Network will exacerbate these trends.

Students participating in Monash’s myLearningSpace program are being integrated into active learning communities that encourage participation, interaction and exploration in the classroom. The approach resonates strongly with students, receiving positive feedback from across a range of disciplines.

Monash has been conducting research to explore why these new approaches are so effective. This research builds on active areas of enquiry across PowerPoint, notetaking, multitasking, learning spaces and ink-based communication.

It is clear that traditional approaches to teaching with PowerPoint are likely to disengage students and lead to passive and ineffective learning experiences. Even the simple act of inking (drawing on a tablet screen) has been shown to have a significant impact on engagement and understanding. When inking is extended into collaborative learning experiences where students can provide feedback to teachers, huge educational opportunities are created.

Currently, unless a student raises their hand and asks a question, they remain stuck – at least until they connect with a teacher after the class. But with Monash’s MeTL software, students can connect with each other to ask and answer questions. MeTL enables a crowdsourced-based approach that allows students who are struggling to find others who have mastered the concept to help them. The end result is a much more dynamic approach to education that allows every student to be an active participant and contributor.

JOIN THE TECHNOLOGY AGE NOW with PICAXE

Developed as a teaching tool, the PICAXE is a low-cost “brain” for almost any project

Easy to use and understand, students & teachers can be productive within minutes.

Free software development system and in-circuit programming.

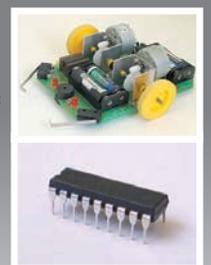
Variety of hardware, project boards, and kits to suit your application.

Digital, analog, RS232, 1-Wire™, SPI, I2C, and UNI/O.

PC connectivity.

Applications include

- Datalogging
- Robotics
- Measurement & instruments
- Motor & lighting control
- Farming & agriculture
- Internet server
- Wireless links
- Colour sensing
- Fun games



TEACHERS

NAPLAN testing and **National Curriculum** both require teachers to have competency in teaching language skills from the basic building blocks of language to the higher order literacy tasks.



Do you feel confident to 'explicitly' teach,

- oral language skills
- written language skills • basic grammar skills

- the 44 phonemes of English • phonemes • graphemes • orthography • common blends
- graphs, digraphs, trigraphs & quadgraphs • syllables • rhyme • onset and rime?

or do you rely on workbooks/sheets?

THRASS[®]
TEACHING HANDWRITING READING AND SPELLING SKILLS

EXPLICIT

ENGAGING

MULTI-SENSORY

Do you have a **whole-school** approach to teaching literacy that provides **consistency** as learners move through the grades?

Is your teaching **explicit and engaging** for both you and your learners?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THRASS training provides teachers with the knowledge needed to 'explicitly' teach literacy from the earliest building blocks to the more advanced tasks. This in depth knowledge and effective practice by individual teachers, is reflected in the outcomes of their learners. THRASS addresses both 'what to teach' and 'how to teach'. THRASS caters for differing learning intelligences and learning styles. THRASS balances the need and the role for both the explicit teacher and the facilitator of learning, that is focused direct instruction with goal directed activities that engage learners in cognitively demanding and intellectually rich work.

To ensure that you have the knowledge, skills, pedagogies and teaching resources to competently teach literacy skills, avoiding the stress related to National Testing, apply to attend the Two Day THRASS ACCREDITED Certificate course, the One Day Follow-Up Course and the THRASS ADVANCED Certificate course.

FREE INTRO SESSION!

FOR A FREE ONE HOUR INTRODUCTORY SESSION FOR YOUR STAFF

Contact Kelly. Email: kelly@thrass.com.au

Telephone: 08 9244 2119

or,

To make your course booking visit our website: www.thrass.com.au

Telephone: 08 9244 2119 Fax: 08 9244 4044

TEACHER EVALUATION

Fantastic! Beyond all my expectations. It has really opened up my eyes and has given me a sense of purpose and direction in my teaching and has INSPIRED and MOTIVATED me to take it all into the classroom.

www.thrass.com.au (evaluations)

GOLD SPONSORS AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2010

Tel. 08 9244 2119 Fax. 08 9244 4044 E-Mail: enquiries@thrass.com.au Web: www.thrass.com.au
THRASS (Australia) Pty Ltd PO Box 1447 Osborne Park DC Western Australia 6916 ABN 15 081 990 490

Schools leaving too many children behind



Schools are leaving too many children behind and are failing to teach skills that are relevant for the future. These are key points criticised by Charles Leadbeater, acknowledged UK education and innovation strategist.

"In a world of information and misinformation on the web, we need people to learn how to search, question and think rather than copy and memorise," he argues. As a result, school curricula will soon become obsolete.

At the largest global e-learning conference, Online Educa Berlin (1st–3rd December), Leadbeater will examine the learning strategies that may be needed to change our approach towards a sustainable knowledge society.

The management thinker and author is an advocate of radical transformation in education systems. His most recent work includes a study into education innovation in slums and other deprived places. One of the lessons learned from education in poor countries is that learning must either be enjoyable, or it must pay-off quickly: "Practical forms of learning which lead to problems being solved or money being earned or products being made is vital," Leadbeater says.

info@online-educa.com

Sick kids struggle at school

Children who have special health care needs in early childhood may encounter learning and social difficulties in their first years of school, a QUT researcher has found.

Master of Education researcher Chrystal Whiteford analysed data from *Growing up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children* for her study, which was the first of its kind in Australia.

Ms Whiteford said children with special health care needs, such as chronic physical, developmental, behavioural or emotional conditions, and who required health and other services beyond those usually required by children, were at risk of a range of negative developmental outcomes. "Children aged four to five years with special health care needs performed lower in social and learning competencies prior to school."

www.news.qut.edu.au

Designing fun for teachers

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) has launched new courses for teachers. There are two courses on offer:

- ◆ **3D Animation for Teachers** A 10-week evening course that introduces teachers to the 3D animation software used in the games, film and visual effects industries.
- ◆ **Game development for teachers** A 10-week evening course that introduces teachers to skills and knowledge used to develop computer games.

Both courses are suitable for teachers of Creative Arts, Information Technology, Design and Technology, and Digital Media.

Statements of attainment against nationally accredited units of competency will be awarded to participants who successfully complete either course.

Courses commence on Tuesday 12th October in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Fee is \$300.00.

Sydney www.aie.edu.au/sydney/index.php

Melbourne www.aie.edu.au/melbourne/index.php

Canberra www.aie.edu.au/canberra/index.php

PRINTiT

Years of experience in producing quality printing for schools.

- Year Books • Booklets • Brochures •
- Reports • Banners • Posters • Signage •

For more information contact ImproMation (02) 9533 9233
www.impromotion.com/printit

