

# Being Literate Being Numerate Newsletter



Issue 4

April 2004

## From The Principal Project Officer Literacy and Numeracy

**W**elcome to the first *Communicate* for 2004. This year we have a new literacy and numeracy team, with members both in District-based and state-wide roles. Our Being Literate and Being Numerate District Leaders support schools within their district to implement the Being Literate and Being Numerate elements of the Essential Learning Framework, with a focus on professional learning. They liaise with schools, staff and centres within Districts and also work within a state-wide network. The team includes three state-wide Essential Learnings Numeracy Officers who coordinate numeracy professional learning opportunities for teachers within the Essential Learnings Framework and produce support materials, including exemplars of effective numeracy practices. Currently, these officers are facilitating professional learning opportunities including 6-day Being Literate Year 5 – 8 and Being Numerate School Leaders programs.

The Being Literate and Being Numerate key elements will be reported against in 2005. To support schools in the transition from reporting using the Tasmanian Literacy Outcomes and the Key Intended Numeracy Outcomes to the Essential Learnings Outcomes, a small working party has been established. This group will examine and develop useful frameworks to support the connections between the TLOS, KINOS and the Essential Learnings Standards. The frameworks developed will be sent to schools for consultation prior to publication with distribution anticipated during second term.

## National Literacy and Numeracy Week Awards 2004

National Literacy and Numeracy Week will be celebrated from August 30 to September 5, 2004.

There are four separate initiatives in which schools can participate.

- The Federal Minister for Education, Brendan Nelson will present up to five \$10,000 awards nationally for individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to literacy and/or numeracy outcomes. Closing date: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004
- National Literacy and Numeracy Awards will be presented during National Literacy and Numeracy Week. Excellence Awards of \$10,000 will be presented at the national level, and Achievement Awards of \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 at the state level. Closing date: 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2004.
- The State initiative of awarding Activity Grants of \$500 will be continued this year. These grants enable schools to conduct literacy and numeracy related projects during National Literacy and Numeracy Week. Further information will be provided early in second term.
- The Commonwealth Bank Foundation offers \$5,000 e-learning grants for Primary Schools to help develop the essential skills of literacy and numeracy through an e-learning initiative. Seventy grants are available to primary schools across Australia. Closing date: 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2004.

The relevant information and application processes are available in the letter to Principals dated 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 and on the following websites: [www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacyweek](http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacyweek)  
<http://www.commbank.com.au/elearninggrants/>

**Want more information?**

Contact

**Mandy Paske** ☎ 6233 7415

Office for Curriculum,  
Leadership and Learning

GPO Box 919  
HOBART TAS 7001

☎ (03) 6233 7281

### Inside this issue:

From the  
Principal Project  
Officer 1

National  
Numeracy and  
Literacy Week  
Awards 1

Being Numerate  
News 2

Stepping Out 2

Reading  
Recovery 3

Bridges Update 3

District Literacy  
Officers &  
Centres 4



**Tasmania**  
DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION

## BEING NUMERATE NEWS: APRIL 2004

### Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years Project

This three year, research-based project is a collaborative project between the Department of Education and RMIT University (Victoria). The project will examine student understanding of key mathematical ideas for middle years (ratio, proportion, fractions, decimals and percentage) and provide teachers with professional learning to enable them to provide learning experiences which challenge and build student understanding. There are two clusters of schools from Victoria (one urban, one rural) and one cluster from Tasmania involved in the research. In each state another cluster will be selected for the important role of control schools.

The Tasmanian schools involved are Kingston High School, Kingston Primary School, Margate Primary School and Blackmans Bay Primary School. Teachers from these schools have participated in a full day professional learning session with Associate Professor Di Siemon who is the chief researcher for the project, and have begun to trial activities in their classrooms. Initial student assessment will begin in May.



Associate Professor Di Siemon works with Blackmans Bay Grade 5/6 students on a



Di working with Grade 5/6 students on number lines at Kingston Primary School

Further information about this project will be shared through professional learning opportunities such as the annual Mathematical Association of Tasmania Conference in May and through newsletters.

#### Want more information?

Contact

Denise Neal

☎ 6233 7033

Paul Tabart

☎ 6233 7922

Markus Bucher - (Cluster contact person)

☎ 6233 5012

## STEPPING OUT

**S**tepping Out is a professional learning program for teachers of adolescent students. It equips participants with approaches, processes and strategies to improve students' literacy and learning outcomes. Modules are presented in writing, reading and viewing, listening, speaking and thinking. The *Stepping Out* literacy support materials are managed by Edith Cowen University Resources for Learning Ltd (ECU RL) on behalf of the Department of Education and Training, Western Australia. They are companion materials to *First Steps*.

Last year, an agreement was signed by our Department with ECU RL to facilitate professional learning for Tasmanian teachers in the approaches for three years 2003 – 2005. During 2003, 13 schools in the State received funding to support training in the writing module of the *Stepping Out* program. This year, a further round of high and district high schools are undertaking *Stepping Out* training in the Writing Module, with those continuing schools participating in professional learning in relation to Reading and Viewing.

#### NEW SCHOOLS

Geeveston District HS	Taroona High School
Clarence High School	Devonport High School
New Norfolk High School	Sheffield District HS
Parklands High School	Huonville High School
Winnaleah District HS	

#### CONTINUING SCHOOLS

Penguin High School	Reece High School
Burnie High School	Wynyard High School
Cressy DHS (Yr 5-10)	Kingston High School
The Oatlands School (Yr 5-10)	Rokeby High School
Rosetta High School	Rose Bay High School
New Town High School	Brooks High School

#### Want more information?

Contact Mandy Paske

☎ 6233 7415

## READING RECOVERY

**R**eading Recovery is a short-term safety net intervention for Year 1 students. *Reading Recovery* helps children make accelerated progress and catch up with their first-grade peers. It is a supplementary opportunity and is not intended to replace classroom instruction.

*Reading Recovery* provides short term individual help that is in addition to the classroom. Each session is 30 minutes per day for approximately 12-20 weeks.

### From the research:

“...An impressive and growing body of authoritative opinion and research evidence suggests that reading failure is preventable for all but a very small percentage of children.” Pikulski, J.J. (1994, September) Preventing reading failure: A review of five effective programs. **The Reading Teacher**, 48:1, 30-39.

“Reading Recovery is a prevention program offering an education system a solution to the incidence of reading problems in the future. Reading Recovery is a planner’s solution not a remedial program for the older child with a reading problem today.” Marie M. Clay: **The Early Detection of Reading Difficulties**.

“Research has demonstrated that young readers having difficulty are mostly of average intelligence, and they have problems resulting from multiple and differing causes. With appropriate intervention, almost all can learn to read, provided instruction is intensive and begins early. It is therefore important that reading interventions be multi – dimensional to meet the diverse needs of learners.” Pinnell, G.S. (2000). **Reading Recovery: An analysis of research-based reading intervention**. Columbus, OH: Reading Recovery Council of North America.

**I**n 2004, the following schools are training a Reading Recovery teacher:

Lauderdale, Gagebrook, Warrane, Claremont, Moonah, New Norfolk, Greenpoint, Illawarra, Riana, Upper Burnie, Acton, Mountain Heights, Deloraine, Invermay, Rocherlea, Longford and Flinders Island District High School.

Currently, grant money is given to schools for the initial training year, with a sliding scale of support for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year implementation.

Statewide, there will be 62 schools and 76 teachers involved in *Reading Recovery*.

During 2004, another teacher is undertaking the tutor training course at the University of Melbourne. In 2005, her position as Teacher Trainer will be based in the north of the state.

### Websites:

<http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacy/flyingstart/readingrecovery.htm>

<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/eyes/rr/>

<http://www.education.qld.gov.au/students/procedure/program/reading-recovery/index.html>

<http://www.readingrecovery.ac.nz/institute/>

### Want more information?

Contact

**Elaine Pedersen or Ann Wise**  
Reading Recovery Teacher Trainers (Tutors)  
☎ 6229 8137



## Bridges Update

**B**ridges is a comprehensive training program and literacy package for students in the first three years of schooling who require additional assistance. Last year approximately 130 students were involved, making strong gains in their literacy development. Teachers, teacher assistants and parent volunteers involved in the trial have commented favourably on gains in both literacy skill and confidence of students who accessed *Bridges* in 2003. The schools involved in the trial are Kingston, Woodbridge, Warrane, Clarendon Vale, Gagebrook, Fairview, Mt Faulkner, St Helens, Mole Creek and Acton.

So far this year approximately 128 teachers, teacher assistants and parent volunteers have been trained in the *Bridges* literacy intervention programme in the North, North West and South of the state. The participants in the sessions have been from both trial and user pays schools.

**T**he Aboriginal Education Unit continues to be committed to training Aboriginal Education workers, ATAS tutors, parents, ancillary staff and teachers in *Bridges*. A second training day for approximately 50 people is taking place in Hobart on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 24 schools throughout Tasmania will have representatives trained to conduct *Bridges* with Indigenous students.

### Want more information?

Contact

**Karen Hay** ☎ 6352 2328

Or

**Shane Frost** ☎ 6352 2328

## Being Literate, Being Numerate Contacts



**Mandy Paske**

Principal Project Officer  
Literacy and Numeracy

☎ 03 6233 7415



**Denise Neal**

State-wide Coordinator  
of Essential Learnings  
Numeracy Support

☎ 03 6233 7033



**Paul Tabart**

Essential Learnings  
Numeracy Support  
Officer

☎ 03 6233 7922



**Toni Popowski**

Essential Learnings  
Numeracy Support  
Officer

☎ 03 6458 3141

## DISTRICT BEING LITERATE, BEING NUMERATE OFFICERS



From left to right:

**Louise Bird, Stephanie Allison, Sheila Bailey, Linda Dally, Christine Topfer, Sabrina Catlin, Julie Pike, Tracey Muir.**

**Linda Dally**  
☎ 6233 8453

**Sabrina Catlin**  
☎ 6431 9819

**Julie Pike & Tracey Muir**  
☎ 6339 4509

**Louise Bird & Chris Topfer**  
☎ 6224 8671

**Sheila Bailey**  
☎ 6427 0570

**Stephanie Allison**  
☎ 6273 6326

## DISTRICT LITERACY CENTRES

Arthur		Bowen		Derwent	
<b>Primary</b>		<b>Primary</b>		<b>Primary</b>	
Brooklyn Primary	☎ 6431 3975	Howrah Primary	☎ 6233 8090	Mt Faulkner Primary	☎ 6249 1173
Burnie Primary	☎ 6433 3655	Sorell School	☎ 6269 1100	Glenorchy Primary	☎ 6272 7574
<b>Secondary</b>		<b>Secondary</b>		<b>Secondary</b>	
All secondary schools	☎ 6431 9819	Geilston Bay High	☎ 6243 8633	Bridgewater High	☎ 6263 7131
		Rokeby High	☎ 6247 7800		
Barrington		Esk		Hartz	
<b>Primary</b>		<b>Primary</b>		<b>Primary</b>	
East Devonport Primary	☎ 6427 8932	Punchbowl Primary	☎ 6344 1382	Albuera Street Primary	☎ 6223 2268
West Ulverstone Primary	☎ 6425 2195	Scottsdale Primary	☎ 6352 2328	Margate Primary	☎ 6267 2238
		Waverley Primary	☎ 6339 1455		
		Exeter Primary	☎ 6394 4700		
<b>Secondary</b>		<b>Secondary</b>		<b>Secondary</b>	
Devonport High	☎ 6424 9461	Queechy High	☎ 6341 4455	New Town High	☎ 6228 0257
		Riverside High	☎ 6327 3969		

Do you need extra copies of the being literate being numerate newsletter *Communicate*?

Download the latest issue from the literacy website:

<http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacy/Newsletter/newsletter.asp>