

# Being Literate Being Numerate Newsletter



School Education  
Division

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Issue 5

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## From The Principal Project Officer Literacy and Numeracy

Three new initiatives are currently being trialed to support improvement in the literacy and numeracy outcomes of students.

### Restart

This two year initiative provides additional funding for an FTE of nine additional teachers to work intensively with identified Year 7 students who would benefit from further support in literacy. The model of intervention is a small group approach with a focus on reading. Restart teachers have been involved in professional learning using the *Making a Difference* resource which emphasises oral, print and visual literacy and is based on a Four Resources approach which underpins the Being Literate Key Element outcome. Participating students and schools were selected from an analysis of information provided by the Office for Educational Review. The schools involved are:

Brooks, Exeter, Kings Meadow, Prospect and Queechy High Schools in the north  
Bridgewater, Rosetta and New Town High Schools in the south and  
Parklands, Wynyard, Reece and Ulverstone High Schools in the north-west.

### Being Numerate in the Middle Years

This two year initiative provides a six day professional learning program aimed at improving teacher skills and student outcomes. The mathematical content focuses on key areas of Mathematics identified as issues in the middle years: fractions, decimals, percentage and mental computation. The design model is being used to inform future professional learning and the findings of the project will be used to develop a set of guiding principles for teaching numeracy in the middle years.

Schools were selected in collaboration with the Office for Educational Review. The schools involved are Wynyard, Devonport, Queechy, Kings Meadows and Bridgewater High Schools and Green Point, Glenorchy, Huonville, Bowen Road and Gagebrook Primary Schools.

### 4LAP

This one-year initiative provides additional resourcing to provide the following benefits for students who did not reach the Year 3 Reading Benchmark in 2003.

- An individual educational plan based on diagnostic assessment of the students literacy capabilities
- An interview between the student's teacher, principal and parent/s to discuss the program and the student's progress
- A Read at Home kit for each parent including suggestions for home reading, recommended texts and a library registration form
- A foundational literacy training program for volunteers, which incorporates elements of successful training programs

Participating students and schools are currently being confirmed with the Office for Educational Review.

### Want more information?

Contact Mandy Paske ☎ 6233 7415 [mandy.paske@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:mandy.paske@education.tas.gov.au)

## NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK AWARDS 2004

NLNW 2004 will be celebrated between  
30 August - 5 September

National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) celebrates and acknowledges the progress Australian schools, teachers, parents, individuals and the community have made towards raising the literacy and numeracy levels of all Australians. NLNW is an Australian Government initiative, run in collaboration with State and Territory Governments, which aims to:

- Showcase the hard work school communities are undertaking in improving literacy and numeracy skills
- Recognise the outstanding results that have been achieved
- Raise community awareness of the importance of all Australian students developing effective literacy and numeracy skills

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## National Literacy and Numeracy Week Awards 2004- Continued from page 1...

- Build on national initiatives to improve literacy and numeracy standards among young Australians

### Key events:

- The Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, will present the National Excellence Awards at a ceremony in Sydney on 27 August. One Tasmanian school will receive an award of \$10,000.
- The Tasmanian National Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Awards and the Commonwealth Bank Foundation \$5,000 e-learning Grants will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday September 2, at the Hobart Town Hall.
- Many schools will be supported by a \$500 Activity Grant to school-based project or activities with a literacy and/or numeracy focus to be conducted during NLNW week. The judging committee faced a difficult task with 132 applications received. The names of successful schools, along with the title of their submission have been posted on the Literacy website.
- *Reach for the Stars* is a national numeracy event organised by the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) supported by the Australian Government and the Commonwealth Bank Foundation. For more information and to register your school go to: <http://www.aamt.edu.au/reachforthestars/>
- *National Simultaneous Storytime*, is an exciting initiative of the Australian Library and Information Association, for young children aged between three and eight years. At 11am AEST on Friday, 3 September, *The Muddled Up Farm* written by Australian author Mike Dumbleton and illustrated by Jodi Murphy, will be read simultaneously across the country.
- The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards, a national poetry competition for school-aged students, will be announced NLNW and presented at an Awards ceremony on 10 September in Gunnadah.

### Want more information?

Contact Mandy Paske ☎ 6233 7415

or go to <http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacyweek/awards> and follow the links.

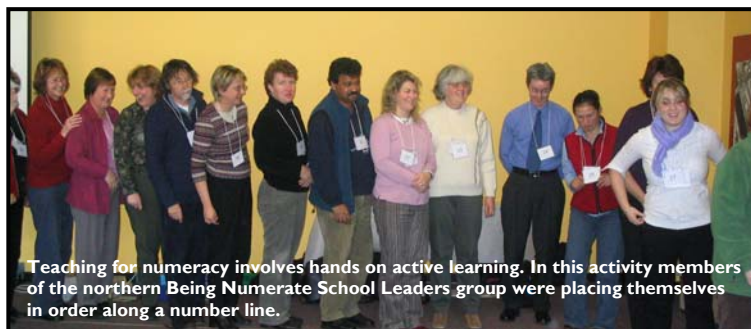
Some outstanding literacy and numeracy websites have been identified and can be accessed at this address.

[http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/2004/funstuff/teachers\\_literacy.htm](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/2004/funstuff/teachers_literacy.htm) (or [numeracy.html](#))

## SCAFFOLDING NUMERACY IN THE MIDDLE YEARS RESEARCH PROJECT

This project, involves schools from the Kingston area who are working in conjunction with RMIT to explore the sequencing of a learning framework from Grades 4-8 based on the concept of multiplicative thinking. That is, the ability to understand the concepts associated with fractions, decimals, percentage and ratio. Schools involved in this project have now completed the first round of assessments and will be developing learning plans for students over the next few weeks. Already teachers have commented on how much they have learned about their students by posing questions which asked them to explain their reasoning and which challenged their thinking about fractions, decimals and multiplicative thinking. A big thank you goes out to the schools which took part in the assessment process as control schools: Geilston Bay High School, Risdon Vale Primary School, Montagu Bay Primary School, Lindisfarne North Primary School and Lindisfarne Primary School. Information about this project will be shared as widely as possible as it progresses over the next eighteen months.

Hayley Atkins of Scottsdale Primary School paces the line to decide where to place her peg during a number line activity at the Being Numerate Workshop.



Teaching for numeracy involves hands on active learning. In this activity members of the northern Being Numerate School Leaders group were placing themselves in order along a number line.

### Want more information?

Contact  
Denise Neal  
or Paul Tabart

☎ 6233 7033

## READING RECOVERY

The Reading Recovery program was developed in New Zealand by Dame Marie Clay, who for many years has been involved in education as a teacher, psychologist, university professor, scholar and researcher. As a major theorist and researcher of child literacy acquisition, Marie Clay's work has influenced international communities of scholars and practitioners across wide-ranging disciplines. Clay's view of accommodating diversity by responding to individual children has permeated all aspects of her work. She is known above all as an advocate for the right of all children to become confident, competent readers.

Reading Recovery arose out of extensive school-based research conducted by Clay and colleagues at the University of Auckland. This research began in 1976 and set out to explore the range and variability of reading and writing behaviours in six year old children having marked difficulty after one year at school. A set of teaching procedures for dealing with these difficulties evolved as a wide variety of techniques were piloted, observed, discussed, modified, recorded and related to theories of literacy learning. Following two years of development and a period of research trials the Reading Recovery program had expanded to full implementation in 1983.

Reading Recovery has achieved international recognition as a successful intervention program in the United States of America, Canada, England, Northern Ireland and Wales, Australia, Antigua and Bermuda.

The New Zealand organisation is recognised as a model for national effectiveness.

Reading Recovery began in Tasmania in 2000 with thirteen schools and thirteen teachers and has grown to involve 55 schools and 65 teachers in 2004.

Dame Marie Clay visited Hobart in July. Her presentation, *Opening and Closing Literacy Doors*, was given at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Hobart campus on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July. 247 participants from across the state attended her session.

### Want more information?

Contact

**Elaine Pedersen or Ann Wise - ☎ 6229 8137**

**Reading Recovery Teacher Trainers (Tutors)**

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION

### Teaching of Literacy

The achievements of the fourteen teachers listed below were recognised and celebrated at Recognition Services' Graduation Ceremony at Parliament House on 21 May 2004. These teachers were presented with their Graduate Certificate in Education (Teaching of Literacy) by the Minister for Education, the Hon. Paula Wriedt MHA.

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Veronica Bramich   | Montello Primary          |
| Donna Brown        | Hobart College            |
| Kelly Cunningham   | Wynyard High              |
| Geoffrey Davis     | Burnie High               |
| Janet Johnson      | Hobart College            |
| Helen Kench        | Risdon Vale Primary       |
| Sue Kremer         | Hobart College            |
| Ingrid Mitchell    | Hobart College            |
| Elizabeth Robinson | Ogilvie High              |
| Majane Speer       | Lindisfarne North Primary |
| Nichole Todd       | Burnie Primary            |
| Susan Tucker       | Arthur Support            |

Hartz District is currently funding a group of teachers to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Education (Teaching of Literacy). Christine Topfer and Lynne Collidge have been providing professional learning to support these teachers through the process.

Also, In Arthur District a group of teachers is being funded to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Education (Teaching of Literacy) and are being mentored by teachers who have already gained the qualification.

### Teaching for Numeracy

Several teachers from across the state are currently undertaking the Graduate Certificate in Education (Teaching for Numeracy). Most of these teachers have been identified through the Being Numerate School Leaders Program and are being supported in their professional learning by Denise Neal.

### Want more information?

Contact Recognition Services,  
Carol Bett or Margaret Kelly ☎ 6233 7171.

### Stepping Out

Stepping Out is a professional learning program for teachers of adolescent students. It equips participants with approaches, processes and strategies to improve student's literacy and learning outcomes. Modules are presented in writing, reading and viewing, listening, speaking and thinking. Stepping Out facilitator and coordinator at Wynyard High school, Alison Beswick wrote the following about their recent professional learning. "The teaching staff really valued meeting as a whole school and working through many approaches to effective teaching and learning. One of the strengths of the program is the forum that it has provided for staff to think through whole school accountability for the teaching of literacy in all classrooms, as well as the opportunity to showcase best practice strategies that can be used to enhance the learning of all students across all years and learning areas. It has been a catalyst for productive dialogue, as well as a lot of fun working alongside colleagues. We're looking forward to completing the second day of the Reading and Viewing module in August."

#### Want more information?

Contact Mandy Paske: ☎ 6233 7415

### Foundational Literacy Centres

There are two Foundational Literacy Centres, one based at Bridgewater Primary School and the other at Exeter Primary School. Originally these centres were funded to facilitate training courses in The Spalding Method and its integration into a broad literacy program.

Over the last eighteen months there have been many changes on a national level in the administration of The Spalding Method. Consequently the role of the Foundational Literacy Centres has broadened and it now focuses on an explicit, sequential, multi-sensory approach to literacy teaching and learning within a Four Resources model (Luke and Freebody).

Early in Term Three, the two centres will be offering Professional Learning, with an emphasis on 'Breaking the Code'. A one day workshop will explore graphophonic cues for print literacy within this ELs context. Participants will have the opportunity to observe teachers modelling best practice.

#### Want more information?

Contact

Bridgewater Primary School—Susie Eade

☎ 6263 7303

Exeter Primary—Maureen Street

☎ 6394 4700

### 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

#### 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><br>Burnie Primary          | ☎ 6433 3655 | <b>Primary</b><br>Howrah Primary      | ☎ 6233 8090 | <b>Primary</b><br>Mt Faulkner Primary    | ☎ 6249 1173 |
|   |             | Sorell School                         | ☎ 6269 1100 | Glenorchy Primary                        | ☎ 6272 7574 |
| <b>Secondary</b><br>All secondary schools | ☎ 6431 9819 | <b>Secondary</b><br>Geilston Bay High | ☎ 6243 8633 | <b>Secondary</b><br>Bridgewater High     | ☎ 6263 7131 |
|   |             | Rokeby High                           | ☎ 6247 7800 |  |             |
| Barrington                                |             | Esk                                   |             | Hartz                                    |             |
| <b>Primary</b><br>East Devonport Primary  | ☎ 6427 8932 | <b>Primary</b><br>Punchbowl Primary   | ☎ 6344 1382 | <b>Primary</b><br>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><br>New Town High        | ☎ 6228 0257 |
| <b>Secondary</b><br>Devonport High        | ☎ 6424 9461 | <b>Secondary</b><br>Queechy High      | ☎ 6341 4455 |  |             |
|   |             | 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>