

Being Literate Being Numerate Newsletter



Issue 1

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Office for Curriculum,
Leadership and Learning

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From The Principal Education Officer Literacy and Numeracy

Welcome to *Communicate* the first Literacy and Numeracy Newsletter for this year. *Communicate* is also the theme for *National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2003*, as reflected in the posters that arrived in your schools last term. I have replaced Doug Bridge, who is now lecturing in Literacy and Inclusive Schooling at the University of Tasmania. Prior to taking the role this year, I have been in leadership positions at Devonport Primary School, the last two years as Curriculum Consultation Project Officer. During this period I was also involved in the development of the *Tasmanian Literacy Outcomes*, the publication of *Work Samples K-6* and the creation of the Graduation Certificate in Education (Teaching of Literacy).

We welcome feedback to the new look newsletter and look forward to receiving any information about literacy and numeracy approaches in your school communities.

Mandy Paske

Look out for *The Tasmanian Literacy and Numeracy Plan 2003-2005* arriving shortly in your schools!!

National Literacy and Numeracy Week Information

The Awards and Ceremony

The *National Literacy and Numeracy Week* Committee met late last term to consider submissions for awards. This year the *National Literacy and Numeracy Week* Awards Presentation Ceremony will be held in Launceston, on Thursday 4th September and attended by the Governor of Tasmania.

School Based Activity Grants

What are the activity grants?

In conjunction with *National Literacy and Numeracy Week*, all schools in Tasmania (both government and non-government) may apply for an Activity Grant of up to \$500 to conduct a school based project or activity with a numeracy and/or literacy focus. The grants are a state initiative designed to support schools to showcase literacy and numeracy activities, with a local emphasis. These grants may be used for a variety of projects, and should be undertaken to coincide with *National Literacy and Numeracy Week* in September. The types of projects that have received funding previously, are listed on the web site.

How does a school apply?

Schools have **until the 30th July** to apply for the Activity Grants. The application form and detailed instructions are available to download from the web site: www.discover.tased.edu.au/literacyweek

When will I know about my submission?

All applications will be judged by the *National Literacy and Numeracy Week* Steering Committee. Names of successful schools, along with the title of their submission, will be posted on the web site in mid August to provide enough time for successful schools to proceed with planning. The \$500 will be automatically lodged in the successful school's resource package, or for non-government schools issued by cheque to the school.

Enquiries should be directed to:

Mandy Paske ☎ 6233 7415

Numeracy Support 2003

Numeracy support for Tasmanian schools in 2003 is focused on connections between *Essential Learnings* and effective teaching for numeracy.

Statewide officers have been appointed to:

- develop resource materials for distribution to schools in on-line and printed format
- support schools in their exploration of mathematics/numeracy teaching approaches
- assist schools in whole school planning for numeracy
- work with school numeracy co-ordinators in considering *Essential Learnings* connections and formulate plans for 2004 and beyond
- work with established groups who have an interest in this area (eg Project Officers)
- provide information and resources regarding numeracy initiatives and projects
- liaise with and support groups of teachers/clusters with an identified numeracy focus.



Thinking & Working Mathematically
students from
Summerdale Primary
School

Want more Information?

Contact

Denise Neal, Statewide Coordinator

☎ 6233 7033

denise.neal@education.tas.gov.au

Toni Popowski, Numeracy Support Officer

☎ 6458 3141

toni.popowski@education.tas.gov.au

Websites worth a visit

<http://www.nzmaths.co.nz/> The very up-to-date and frequently added to New Zealand Mathematics site with a vast array of resources and ideas for teachers.

<http://www.aamt.edu.au/> The home page of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, with lots of links, resources and items of interest. Why not join their free discussion group with the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of mathematics educators across the nation? Just go to <http://www.aamt.edu.au/about/list/index.html> and join up. There is an interesting discussion in progress right now about numeracy.

Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery is a school based intervention program developed in New Zealand by Dame Professor Marie Clay. It targets those Year One students who require assistance to be able to read and write as well as most of the other children in their class.

Children are involved in an individual, 30 minute daily program over a period of up to 20 weeks.

Reading Recovery was first introduced into Tasmania in 2000. A group of 13 teachers were involved in this initial year-long training. They were led by a tutor from Victoria who subsequently trained a second group the following year. During this year, two Tasmanian teachers trained as *Reading Recovery* tutors at Melbourne University and took over the tutoring role in 2002.

There are two centres in Tasmania where in-services are held for *Reading Recovery* teachers.

One is at Waverley Primary School in the north and the other is at Kingston Primary School in the south.

This year there are 20 teachers involved in *Reading Recovery* training (8 in the north and 12 in the south). There are 40 continuing contact teachers working in schools across the state. This comprises 21 teachers working at 19 schools in the north and 19 teachers working at 16 schools in the south (Nixon Street Primary School, Huonville Primary School and Margate Primary School have more than one *Reading Recovery* teacher). This means that a total of 55 schools in Tasmania have *Reading Recovery* operating and 60 teachers are teaching *Reading Recovery*.

Want more Information?

Contact

Elaine Pedersen or Ann Wise ☎ 6229 8137

Reading Recovery Teacher Trainers (Tutors)

Stepping Out

Stepping Out is a professional development program for teachers of the middle and secondary years of schooling. *Stepping Out* workshops a range of practical learning and teaching strategies to cater for the diversity of needs and abilities of adolescent learners. All materials in the program are embedded in the context of the various learning areas and are demonstrated through 'hands-on' approaches. *Stepping Out* links to, and extends the skills and understandings teachers need to help all students make progress in their learning outcomes. The focus 'module' for this year is writing.

Two schools, Rosetta High School and Brooks High School have been resourced as Lighthouse Schools. Teachers who have been trained as facilitators are based at these schools. They provide professional learning and support to their own communities and to teachers in the other 11 high and district high schools around the state, who are working with the *Stepping Out* materials.

Comments from Participants in the Oatlands/Kingston Course:

"A great forum for us to reflect on our present practice, share ideas and learn new strategies."

"Very effective presentation - having us use strategies and evaluate these is both practical and allows for a range of learning styles to be explicit.."

"Very informative and useful information, strategies and processes."

Want more Information?

Contact:

Brooks High:

Jill Burrill or Leigh Bonney ☎ 6326 1033

Rosetta High:

Pam Powell or Carl Gledhill ☎ 6273 1677

Foundation Literacy Sites

There are three Foundation Literacy Sites based at Bridgewater Primary, Exeter Primary and Smithton Primary. The goal of the Foundation Literacy Sites is to model best teacher practice, through the integration of the *Spalding Method* into a broad literacy program, which focuses on improving literacy outcomes for students.

The Foundation Literacy sites are funded under *Learning Together* initiatives, providing opportunities for teachers to train in this total language program. This offers an alternative program for teaching students who have not achieved their appropriate literacy levels.

Managers at the sites and teachers on staff are available to provide examples of key strategies to assist students' literacy development.

The Fifth Edition of *The Writing Road to Reading* has now been published, a clearer and more detailed edition, incorporating valuable information. Teachers who have completed their training may wish to purchase the new copy.

Want more Information?

Contact:

Smithton Primary

Anne Maree Grey ☎ 6452 1955

Bridgewater Primary

Susie Eade ☎ 6263 7303

Exeter Primary

Maureen Street ☎ 6394 4700

Certificates in Education

Recognition Services, (Office for Curriculum, Leadership and Learning), in collaboration with a diversity of key stakeholders, has developed professional teaching standards in literacy and numeracy which have been nationally accredited as postgraduate qualifications. These are the Graduate Certificate in Education (*Teaching of Literacy*) and the Graduate Certificate in Education (*Teaching for Numeracy*). These professional teaching standards explicitly describe what effective literacy/numeracy practitioners know, value and do in their everyday classroom practice. The qualifications are for teachers with several years of experience in literacy or numeracy teaching, and for those teachers gaining one of the qualifications, up to 50% credit transfer towards a Master of Education has been negotiated with the University of Tasmania.

The focus of these qualifications is on the application of skills and knowledge in actual classroom literacy/numeracy teaching practice. Gaining a qualification involves

presenting evidence and having it assessed against the standards. Evidence may include a combination of planning documents, interview, observation, portfolio, completed student work samples, resources, reflections and testimonies. Teachers are supported throughout the process.

The standards can also be used informally to support teachers and schools to audit their expertise, thereby identifying strengths as well as individual and whole school learning needs. They can be used to focus and guide professional learning and, in combination with a variety of workplace strategies, provide flexible, effective professional learning opportunities.

Want more Information?

Contact

Recognition Services:

Carol Bett or Margaret Kelly ☎ 6233 7171

or by visiting the website at

www.education.tas.gov.au/recognition

Bridges Research Update

Bridges is a comprehensive training program and literacy package for students in the first three years of schooling who require additional assistance. The program originated in Victoria and has been implemented at Scottsdale Primary School during the past three years. The Tasmanian Department of Education has supported the trial of the program in 11 schools state-wide for the 2003 school year. The schools participating in the research are Clarendon Vale, Warrane, Gagebrook, Woodbridge, Kingston, Mt Faulkner, Fairview, Mole Creek, Acton and St Helens. Training for these schools (and user pays schools) took place in the Christmas holidays with approximately 120 teachers, aides and parents trained state-wide. The trial schools are currently being visited by the Tasmanian *Bridges* tutor and early data indicates positive results for children on the program.

Want more Information?

Contact:

Shane Frost or Karen Hay, Scottsdale Primary ☎ 6352 2328

District Literacy Officers

District Literacy Officers work with school communities to implement the key elements of *Flying Start*, and investigate literacy within an *Essential Learnings Framework*.

Want more Information?

Contact:

Arthur

Sue Tucker ☎ 6431 9819

Derwent

Corinne Dorsett-Dand
☎ 6271 0507

Barrington

Sheila Bailey ☎ 6427 0570

Esk

Leanne Grimditch ☎ 6339 4509
Alison Taylor ☎ 6339 4509
Di Paine ☎ 6339 4509

Bowen

Di Kinghorn ☎ 6233 6846

Hartz

Louise Bird ☎ 6224 8671
Chris Topfer ☎ 6224 8671

District Literacy Centres

Arthur

Primary

Brooklyn Primary ☎ 6431 3975
Burnie Primary ☎ 6433 3655

Secondary

All secondary schools. ☎ 6431 9819

Barrington

Primary

East Devonport Primary ☎ 6427 8932
West Ulverstone Primary ☎ 6425 2195

Secondary

Devonport High ☎ 6424 9461

Bowen

Primary

Howrah Primary ☎ 6233 8090
Warrane Primary ☎ 6244 1747

Secondary

Geilston Bay High ☎ 6243 8633
Rokeby High ☎ 6247 7800

Derwent

Primary

Mt Faulkner Primary ☎ 6249 1173
Glenorchy Primary ☎ 6272 7574

Secondary

Bridgewater High ☎ 6263 7131

Esk

Primary

Punchbowl Primary ☎ 6344 1382
Scottsdale Primary ☎ 6352 2328
Waverley Primary ☎ 6339 1455
Exeter Primary ☎ 63 944700

Secondary

Queechy High ☎ 6341 4455
Riverside High ☎ 6327 3969

Hartz

Primary

Albuera Street Primary ☎ 6223 2268
Margate Primary ☎ 6267 2238

Secondary

Kingston High ☎ 6229 4388
Taroona High ☎ 6227 8897

We're on the Web!

www.discover.tas.edu.au/literacy

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Numeracy and Literacy

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