

early childhood education council of nsw inc

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This is the second newsletter of 2008 for the Early Childhood Education Council of NSW. Please refer any comments to the Editor, c/- PO Box 418 Leichhardt NSW 2040 editor@ecec.asn.au

Our Vision

The Early Childhood Education Council of NSW Inc. is a professional association promoting child centred practices through advocacy and professional development, informing on current trends in early childhood education and ensuring a high profile for early childhood issues.



Last month ECEC celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gathering of old and new members. There was a presentation of how the organisation came into being and how it developed. It was clear that early childhood is an area requiring expertise and commitment and that continues to be true despite all the other changes educators have experienced in this time.

Our year began with the focus of professional learning on information and communication technology (ICT). The issues for teachers are centred around the need to make best use of those elements of ICT that deliver quality teaching and learning for our students. The interest was so high that a repeat of the Term 1 workshops was held on 1st May.

The first article, however, is a review of an amazing professional development opportunity that one of our members, Robyn Wild, has been able to share. It is refreshing to learn about what teachers across Australia are developing as well as having an update on research trends and implications for our practice.

Check out our term two workshops. We look forward to seeing you there.

Diana Eqbal

Editor

A fly-on-the-wall view of the Summer School at Wollongong University

7th-18th January 2008

Over 1000 experienced teachers from around Australia spent two weeks of their holidays attending one of the inaugural summer schools, held at Wollongong University. The ten day residential summer school aimed to provide high quality professional development in response to a promise by the former Australian government of \$100 million (over four years) to provide teachers with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in one of the five priority areas of literacy and numeracy, English, mathematics, science and Australian history.

A consortium made up of Wollongong University, the University of New England, Edith Cowan University and the Australian Literacy Educators' Association provided the literacy and numeracy summer school, which was held at Wollongong University.

The program was designed around four integrated components:

- leading the way in literacy and numeracy
- current research and emergent issues

- school-based project
- leadership for school change.

National and international scholars, including literacy educators Peter Freebody, Len Unsworth and Rob Tierney, and numeracy educators Mike Askew, Doug Clark and Jane Watson, presented keynote addresses.

Participants attended modules, which included sessions on: *becoming literate; engaging struggling readers; I hate maths; working mathematically; literacy in the middle years; developing a mental and written computation; effective literacy learning environments; numeracy across the curriculum; numeracy as a social practice; new literacies: new practices.*

The School Based Projects component of the summer school focused on addressing the concept of Action Learning. Participants identified and developed a manageable topic to implement at their schools.

After completing the Summer School, teachers will be supported by a facilitated network, web-based environment, which will enable them to continue sharing ideas and materials with each other.



Organisations such as Primary English Teachers Association (PETA), Curriculum Corporation, Learning Federation, Indij Readers, Australian Association of

Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) and the Australian College of Educators, joined the Early Childhood Education Council (ECEC) to showcase publications and professional development opportunities, and to discuss how each can provide teachers with support as they bring about change in their own schools.

For more information go to: www.summerschools.dest.gov.au

Professional Workshops Term 1

Using Interactive technologies in K-3 classrooms

The workshop was a stimulating introduction to the exciting world of interactive technology and its use within the classroom. Over a hundred educators participated, seven participants being from our school. Each presenter provided a broad range of new interactive experiences and some existing projects were revisited.

The three stage workshop included guest speakers from varied backgrounds including Kristy Goodwin who discussed the impact of Interactive Digital Technology in early childhood learning. Sonya Griffith shared practical literacy and numeracy activities using interactive whiteboards. Kate Highfield described some literacy based global connection projects and demonstrated creative writing techniques using **KidPix**, Kidspiration, and TuxPaint incorporating digital photos using a cross curriculum approach.

After the two hour session we were optimistic and enthused despite the fact that we are yet to begin using them in our school.

By Melissa Stock and Themie Trikilis

Please check out our website for resources, presentations and web links about interactive technologies at

www.ecec.asn.au

At ECEC we are always happy to hear from our members about suggestions of topics or presenters for our workshops. There is a link on the workshop page of our website for this purpose.

*****Special Reminder*****

When sending in booking forms and payment it is important to check the address as forms sent to the incorrect address may delay acceptance of your application. We work on the basis of accepting applications when your cheque is received. Please advise your school of the change of address:

**ECEC Inservice
c/- 22/1 Murray Street
PYRMONT 2009**



Science and Technology K - 6 Board of Studies Curriculum Review

The draft writing brief for the new curriculum is available on the Board of Studies website for feedback. In response to the evaluation of the current syllabus, the learning processes of investigating, and designing and making, have been retained with minor name changes. The new names are *Investigating Scientifically* and *Designing and Producing* respectively. There is also a new outcome called *Science and Technology in Practice*. The former content outcomes

have been renamed *Areas of Study*. While the six labels have been retained there have been some significant changes to the descriptors.

ECEC would encourage you to attend one of the consultation meetings currently being held around the state and to participate in discussion about the new document.



Term 2 Professional Development Workshops

Stories from Preschools 20 May

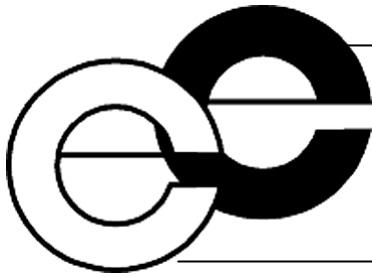
This workshop will be reviewed in our next newsletter for those who missed out.

Talking, Listening and Learning in K - 2 Classrooms Tuesday 17 June

There will be two presentations where presenters will share lots of ways to build a solid foundation for language. **Robyn Wild** is a literacy consultant and will overview oral language development.

Two teachers will talk about a special project called talking to learn which has been highly successful in kindergarten classes in NSW last year. **Jodie Austin** and **Nicole Tekampe** will talk about how they learnt more about preparing students to learn to write.

Note: RSVP by 11 June.



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