



early childhood education council of nsw inc

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This is the fourth newsletter of 2005 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.



This is the second newsletter for 2006, and unfortunately it is very late and the committee apologise for any inconvenience.

A professional teachers' association exists to benefit its members. While ECEC is not a large organisation, we have tried to maintain a consistent membership of individuals and schools for the past 25 years. ECEC has not had a membership increase since 2001 and costs for printing, distribution and administration have increased over that period of time. At the AGM on 28 October a motion will be moved by the Treasurer to increase our fees for 2007. We hope you will continue to support your association. 2007. Membership renewals are due by the end of March 2007

ECEC were successful in applying for an AGQTP grant for our professional development program for 2006. The major activity will be a one day conference on Saturday 28 October. It will be held at the Australian Technology Park at Redfern. Details are included in this newsletter. Application forms were also sent with the notice of meeting for the AGM.

The focus of the program is the innovative use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) across the KLAs. There were to have been a series of other workshops both in the city and two regional centres along the same theme during Terms 2 and 3. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances and in some cases a lack of interest these have not been held.

ECEC website

The ECEC website is currently under redevelopment and the new look website will be launched very soon. As an organisation we are anxious to endeavour to meet the needs of our members and believe that it is now time for us to make greater use of the website for keeping in contact. The website has copies of newsletters, publication details and order form and a current membership form.

The website can be found at www.ecec.asn.au

Publications

Two Current Topics are currently in production and members should receive these before then end of Term 4. They cover meeting the needs of Gifted and Talented students in K-2 and ideas for new teachers for planning, programming and classroom management.

Professional development topics

In Term 1 we have held a workshop for 'New Scheme' teachers to provide them with information about accreditation with the NSW Institute of Teachers. Tom Alegounarias, Chief Executive of the NSW Institute of Teachers presented an overview of the requirements for accreditation for new scheme

teachers and answered a range of questions from the audience. Three teachers each shared their experiences as 'New Scheme' teachers and the positive outcomes and challenges that they had experienced in the first year of this program.

We offered to follow up questions from the workshop with the Institute of teachers and include them here. We hope they will be helpful.

Q. ***If teachers go through the process of accreditation is this for life?***

A. Accreditation is for 5 years and then renewal every 5 years after that. Accreditation can be removed. Renewal is not the same process as accreditation.

Q. ***This seems to be the same as the university process. How does it differ?***

A. There are different standards for graduates at university and those for competence as a new teacher. University is not about practicing teaching skills and there is not enough to make judgments about teaching practice. As a new teacher you get up to three years (maximum) to see how good you are in the classroom.

Q. ***How much does it cost and where does the money go?***

A. \$80.00 for beginning teachers to register. The money goes to the Institute, not to the state government.

Q. ***I have been away from NSW for 5 years teaching in other states of Australia. Do I have to come back as a new scheme teacher?***

A. You will be seen as a returning teacher and that entails a different process.

Q. ***I am a casual teacher who was appointed in January 2005. What do I have to do?***

A. If you haven't taught before this date then you will need to pay the registration fee.

Q. ***What is the process, in terms of what do beginning teachers need to provide for accreditation?***

A. Not a portfolio! People need to be involved in the process in a constructive way. Judgment is made against the seven elements using a proforma. Aligned to each element is a piece of evidence that you are required to show.

Q. ***How will we know whether the judgment is reliable?***

A. External assessors are part of the process of looking at what teachers have sent in, as well as there is a process for teacher complaints.

Q. ***Has accreditation replaced the 'Teaching Certificate' in government schools?***

A. (Not sure-need to check. I'll try and get hold of Judith Page and get an answer)

Q. ***When do you need to be registered as a new scheme teacher?***

A. If you have taught in a school before 1 October 2004 then you are not a new scheme teacher.

Q. ***If you are Early Childhood trained and work in a preschool, do you need to register with the Institute?***

A. No. Preschools are under the registration of DoCS.

Q. ***Are there going to be examples and profomas for new scheme teachers to look at?***

A. Each school system has support for their new scheme teachers. You can go to the website www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au The toll free number is 1300 739 338.

Q. ***New scheme teachers have up to three years to go for accreditation. Has the Institute had any positive feedback from teachers who have been through the process?***

A. It is typically thought that it would take teachers 18 months to go through the process. The three most common responses are
1. it's an enormous amount of work

2. If it wasn't this process what would it have been?
3. Some school requirements are not aligned with the Institute's.

A report can be sent in anytime during the three years based on a reliable decision that the teacher is competent. Steps required:

1. The principal decides where the teacher is competent.
2. They then send the report to the Director (SED/CEO)
3. It then gets sent to the Institute. (Once it is signed by the District Director and sent on to the Institute the teacher can assume that all is OK.)
4. A letter is sent from the Institute of certification to the teacher.

How is your technology vocabulary?

The following article has been included as an introduction to our 2006 conference. Several of our committee found it informative as well as instructive.

A Beginner's Tech glossary Prepared by Marge Hctor

Blog. Short fore weblog. (weblog) An online journal that is frequently updated and is available on line for anyone to read. Blogs frequently represent the views and opinions of the author.

Cyber stalker. A person who uses the Internet to 'stalk' someone. They will attempt to access information and to make contact without the consent of the 'victim'.

Ebook. A book that is accessible over the Internet.

Intellectual property. Intellectual property refers to products or material originated by the creator. The material can be protected by obtaining a copyright.

ipod. Portable digital audio players designed and marketed by apple computers.

MP3. Common file format for music and other audio content. (Short for MPEG layer)

Online chat. Direct real-time communication through the use of chat rooms or an instant message system.

PDA. Person Digital Assistant. A handheld devise can serve one or more of the following functions: organiser, storage of information, computer, telephone, Internet.

Podcast. Distributes audio or video files over the Internet. Allows users to have access on demand.

Read/Write Web. Referred to as Web 2.0, allows people to share, modify information on line. Websites can be updated and modified by the users.

RSS. A format that allows other sites to publish one's web content. Short for RDF Site Summary or Rich Site summary.

SMART Board. Brand name for an Interactive whiteboard. A dry-erase whiteboard writing surface which can capture wiring electronically and can control a computer generated image. Connects to a computer through a USB or serial cable.

Social Bookmarking. Shared online bookmarking. A process whereby the user stores lists of Internet resources and makes that list accessible to others via the internet.

Social networking. Expanding one's social or business contacts by making connections with other individuals. The internet is a valuable tool for social networking.

WebQuest. Short or long term task based on inquiry that can be done by groups of students or individual students. The instructions and resources are obtained from the web.

Wiki. A website that can be edited by its visitors. Allows collaborative discussions.

Wikipedia. Free online encyclopedia that is written collaboratively by the contributors

around the world. Anyone can edit or add to an article.

Glossary resources:

www.bytowninternet.com/glossary

http://www.awardsites.com/articles/oir-cyber_stalkers.htm

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/glossary.html#l>

<http://www.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.phonescoop.com/glossary/term.php?gid=232>

<http://www.answers.com/online%20chat>

<http://isp.webopedia.com/>

http://searchcrm.techtargt.com/gDefinition/0,294236,sid11_g942884,00.html

http://webquest.sdsu.edu/about_webquests.html

<http://www.uccb.ca/library/subject/reference/encyclopedias.html>

<http://computing-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Wiki>

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Innovative Strategies for K-3 Classrooms

Date: Saturday 28 October 2008

Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: Australian Technology Park
Bay 8 locomotive Workshop
Locomotive St Everleigh

Parking: If pre-paid parking is available at a cost of \$10 per day. Parking paid on the day will cost \$15.
Entry to the carpark is via garden St.

Cost: \$137.00 Non member
\$100.00 members

Closing Date 10 October 2006

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2006 Conference

