A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD

PETAA RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED

Writing this newsletter in my position as President of the Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA) and current Chair of the PETAA Board of Directors comes with a great sense of celebration. Throughout the history of PETAA there has always been an aspiration to both cherish this organisation of teachers and at the same time move the PETAA vision forward. In 2012 the Board of Directors drafted and shaped a new Strategic Plan which sought to continue the solid work of PETAA in providing the membership with strong theory into practice-based publications and accessible professional learning. At the same time this Strategic Plan added a new direction born from the idea that the production of resources for teachers could be enhanced if PETAA began funding the research to explore the new pedagogical directions most relevant to members.

As the President of the Primary English Teaching Association Australia, I am proud to announce that the 2015 PETAA Research Grant of $75,000 has been awarded to a research team based at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga Wagga, NSW and led by Dr Christine Edwards-Groves and Dr Christina Davidson. The successful CSU submission is entitled: Researching dialogic pedagogies for literacy learning across the primary years.

This research will explore how classroom teachers’ interaction practices might lead to improved opportunities and experiences for students’ oral language and literacy development. These dialogic pedagogies require a close understanding of classroom talk as pedagogical practice and the research will analyse those elements of teachers’ talk which support further dialogue in the primary classroom. The researchers, when reporting on this research, will produce innovated, accessible and classroom-ready resources that support PETAA members and the education community.

The PETAA Research Grant, offering funding up to $75,000, will be awarded annually to enable researchers to explore different pedagogical approaches to the teaching of English in the primary school setting and will involve teachers and schools as research partners. The researchers will work collaboratively to report their findings in a manner which is relevant to you our PETAA membership, classroom teachers and the broader education community. The decision-making process was highly competitive and PETAA received a strong field of proposals. The PETAA Research Grant Advisory Group, which included internationally acclaimed literacy researchers Professor Peter Freebody and Professor Barbara Comber, engaged in extensive review and debate in selecting the successful submission. PETAA once again is in a leadership position in English literacy education in Australia as the demand for evidence-based practice in the teaching of English literacies emerges. Congratulations to both the successful grant winners and the PETAA community in this research first!

NEW PUBLICATIONS ENCLOSED

- Put It In Writing: Context, text and language
- PETAA Paper 200: Connecting Research and Practice

All members can access digital versions online

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM REVIEW

PETAA welcomes the revision of the Australian Curriculum and supports The Education Council’s move towards addressing the concerns of primary teachers and principals. The Education Council, which is made up of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers for Education, has requested the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to work on the Australian Curriculum to address themes identified as part of the Review of the Australian Curriculum.

www.studentsfirst.gov.au/review-australian-curriculum

These themes are:

- uncrowding the curriculum
- rebalancing the curriculum
- improving accessibility for students with disability
- parental engagement.

If you’d like to know more about what ACARA is working on, visit their website.

www.acara.edu.au/verve/resources/20150508_IMPROVING_AUST_CUR_v_2_2.pdf

Associate Professor Robyn Cox, PETAA President (Pictured Above)
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERVICES

PETAA courses, presented by leading academics, educational consultants and exemplary classroom teachers, have strong links to research and classroom practice while being grounded in the Australian Curriculum: English.

1. PETAA offers various courses throughout the year on all aspects of English.
2. PETAA can work with your school to find presenters and consultants who can tailor workshops to address specific school needs.
3. Organise your scheduled PD days in advance.

See enclosed PL flyer for your staff noticeboard

TEACHER RESOURCES

NEW MEMBER ONLY RESOURCE PETAA PAGES

Quick one-page resources for PETAA members that can also be useful as staff room 'spring boards' or discussion starters with links for additional depth and more learning.

Visit www.petaa.edu.au/teachingresources

UNITS OF WORK: FIND BY YEAR

Did you know that you can now search by year through PETAA’s extensive list of units of work? These include CBCA Teachers’ Guides and the 2015 Lest we Forget Units.

A great favourite to add to your toolbar!

Visit www.petaa.edu.au/teachingresources

SUMMER 2015 PUBLICATIONS

A Closer Look at Spelling in the Primary Classroom
Grace Oakley and Janet Fellowes
This book draws on research and theory, as well as classroom examples, to explain how to teach primary school aged students with diverse needs to use multiple strategies to spell. The work is linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and also includes the assessment of spelling.

PETAA Paper 199 will be available in the Spring mailing in November.

PETAA PAPER 199: Learning Vocabulary in Context by Jennifer Miller
PETEA PAPER 201: Children Writing With New Technologies by Lisa Kervin

Visit www.petaa.edu.au/teachingresources to view our 2015 catalogue and order online

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