



Edition 2
September 2007

Meanjin Update

Dear Meanjin members,

Congratulations to all literacy educators. The last month has been hectic. Below is just a sample of the events held by ALEA and Meanjin recently:

- **National Reading Day**

Teachers across the country accessed the ALEA-produced resources relating to "Diary of a Wombat", "Truck Dogs", "Someone Like Me", "The Red Shoe" and "The Running Man". Podcasts from the authors proved a big hit with students.

- **National Literacy & Numeracy Week – Student Workshop**

While only a small group of students was able to attend on the day, the writing outcomes elicited by Bev Derewianka from the students were exceptional. Who would think that teenage boys would be so enthralled and motivated by a day investigating the benefits of functional grammar in their writing?

- **National Literacy and Numeracy Week – Teacher PD**

Bev Derewianka and a host of teacher presenters demonstrated the worth of functional grammar to the education of students of all ages. Attended by 100 teachers and university students, and complimented by a great range of professional resource displays, the day received rave reviews from most in attendance.

- **International Literacy Day – Books for Babies**

Members of Meanjin delivered books and literature about reading with children to mothers of babies born on International Literacy Day.

Please take the time to contribute to Meanjin Update and share your ideas on the next issue's topic by emailing your thoughts to me for publication. Next month will focus upon ways to make end of year celebrations of learning creative and fun for students and parents.

I look forward to being swamped by suggestions.

Yours in literacy,

David Macknish
President
Brisbane Meanjin Local Council
Australian Literacy Educators' Association

MOTIVATING READERS

Have you ever seen other teachers and wondered how they thought of such creative and motivating approaches to invoke a love of reading? Below are some suggestions of practical ideas currently being used by teachers to foster positive attitudes towards reading.

- **Inter-class Reading Challenge**

Challenge classes to read. Compile a progressive tally of hours spent reading and graph the class progress in public for students to compare. Reward in the same way as for sporting success with a class trophy.

- **Celebrate reading achievement** in exactly the same way as for sporting results using trophies, ribbons and certificates presented at school assemblies. Have a school reading and literature captain who presents messages, reviews and results of inter-house competitions at assemblies.
- **Physically track and graph** the time and type of literature read for home reading and reading for pleasure. Conference with individual students about their reading habits and interests.
- **Complete a class research project** about the reading habits and preferences for each member of the family.
- **Communicate personally with parents** about a student's positive progress. This individual contact for positive purposes is well received.
- **Parent Sharing Evenings**
Students and parents attend with a story to share, either by reading it to the group or discussing it in detail. Parents should bring a story which was their favourite when they were young. Participate together in an Art or craft activity using elements of the stories.
- **Magazine and Comic Day**
Set aside one day of each fortnight devoted to the reading of magazines and comics during all structured and free-reading activities.
- **Share your love of reading** and encourage parents to find time to do the same with their children regularly.

PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

Are you interested in developing a discussion group with peers from your local area? We can help you to make contact with like-minded educators to discuss professional issues, share ideas and develop collaborative relationships.

To express an interest in one of the above:
dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Meanjin Half-day PD**
Date: Saturday 27 October (9.00am – 12.30pm)
Venue: Bremer SHS
Aimed at: All educators. Topics and program released shortly.
- **Meanjin Writers' Camp**
Date: Thursday 8 November (4pm) – Sunday 11 November (9am)
Venue: Qld Camping & Conference Centre, Brookfield
Aimed at: Students Years 6-8 with a keen interest in writing and working alongside like-minded students and authors.

Further information:
www.meanjin.edu.au/event