



Australian National Schools Network

Habits of Mind Hub

Introducing Habits of Mind to the Classroom



Australian National Schools Network

The Australian National Schools Network has established itself as a leader in the way schools work with and infuse Habits of Mind into classrooms, curriculum and the culture of schools. Beginning in 2002/03 the ANSN conducted a National Research Circle with schools from across Australia investigating how the Habits work in an Australian setting. The resulting kit “Habits of Mind: A Resource Kit for Australian Schools” celebrates the work undertaken by these Australian teachers and remains the only locally produced resource for working with Habits of Mind, and is one of only a few resources available to teachers beyond Art Costa’s books. Building on the Research Circle’s work, the ANSN in partnership with the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission (VSIC) worked with over 100 schools across Victoria as part of the Habits of Mind Hub to collaboratively generate new understandings and resources to support schools in their work with Habits of Mind. The learning undertaken by this group has been of international significance as attested to by Art Costa below. The ANSN is very pleased to be able to invite schools from across Australia to work collaboratively and both share in and develop our understanding of the Habits of Mind.

Professor Art Costa talks about the Habits of Mind Hub

The work of James Anderson and the participating Hub schools and educators is truly impressive. Under James’ leadership and coordination, they are pushing the level of complexity and sophistication of the Habits of Mind beyond all previous work. They are making new connections and developing archives of effective practices. They are extending the application and development of the Habits of Mind to new and diverse situations. Not only has James ignited a blaze of enthusiasm for the participants as they link and think together, they are beginning to see payoff for their students at both personal and academic levels. As students are becoming more aware of the Habits of Mind, they are using them as an internal “value-compass” to guide their decisions, their actions and their thoughts.

If you choose to join the Hub, be prepared to make new friends, to have your mind stretched, and to gain new insights about how to foster essential and enduring lifelong learning.

Arthur L. Costa

The Habits of Mind Hub – Introducing Habits of Mind

In 2005 there were more than 100 schools from across Victoria that formed the Habits of Mind Hub. The “Introducing Habits of Mind to the Classroom” membership package draws on the significant new learning and experiences of these schools to provide extensive practical knowledge, skills, resources and ideas for those new to Habits of Mind. Importantly, the Habits of Mind Hub will provide ongoing and collaborative support for all schools working as part of the Hub, including opportunities to learn directly from teachers that were part of the Hub in 2005.

Schools that become part of the Habits of Mind Hub through the “Introducing Habits of Mind to the Classroom” membership will gain benefits that include:

- access to FIVE days of professional learning for a team of THREE teachers as part of the membership package (described below)
- opportunities to work with, and visit, other schools and teachers that have already begun their Habits of Mind journey
- clear connections to support learning and planning in relation to Essential Learnings
- access for the school to extended learning opportunities as they become available, at discounted rates. In the past these have included opportunities to work with Art Costa, Bena Kallick, as well as visits from international schools

to the Classroom

- Art Costa acting as a critical friend to the network. Art takes an active interest in the work of the Hub and has specifically scheduled time to work with the Hub
- access to an email discussion list that comprises all Habits of Mind Hub members nationally. Teachers have found this discussion list to be an enormously valuable way to exchange resources, seek support and share experiences
- Habits of Mind web site that includes copies of resources exchanged on the discussion list as well as resources created specifically for the Hub.
- school contact details of all other Hub members
- access to the second level membership to the Habits of Mind Hub, Building a Thoughtful Learning Community with Habits of Mind. This level of membership is designed for schools that have substantial and effective classroom experience with Habits of Mind.

Purchasing a Membership

The ANSN believes that professional learning is best undertaken in a collaborative way, with a team of teachers over an extended period of time. This is reflected in the Habits of Mind Hub membership that calls for a consistent group of 3 teachers to attend all the professional learning activities described below. The cost for a team to attend all 5 days of PD is \$2000. Cost to ANSN members or schools joining the ANSN is \$1600.

Small schools interested in joining are encouraged to share a membership with other local schools. This enables the establishment of a small supportive team of local teachers who can work together and share experiences, discuss issues and generally support each other.

Schools interested in purchasing a membership to the Hub, or finding out when professional learning may be held in your area should contact James Anderson at the Australian National Schools Network, or via email at james.anderson@habitsofmind.org

About James Anderson

James Anderson leads the Habits of Mind Hub. He began working with Habits of Mind in his role as the Middle School Curriculum Coordinator at The Grange P-12 College in Melbourne in 2001 until 2004. In 2004 and 2005 he established and led the Habits of Mind Hub through the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission. Since then he has worked extensively with Habits of Mind in schools across Australia as part of the Habits of Mind Hub, as well as presenting internationally. Most recently he presented with Art Costa at the International Conference on Thinking. In partnership with schools in the Habits of Mind Hub he has helped build significant new insights into how the Habits of Mind can support student learning in schools. He is committed to working collaboratively with schools, to generate new knowledge and provide high level ongoing support to the educational community working with these innovations.

Introducing Habits of Mind to Your Classroom: Professional Learning Program

This 5 Day program is based on the experience and strong recommendations of more than 100 schools working as part of the Habits of Mind Hub. It is designed to give a small team of teachers a wide range of experiences that they can take back to their schools to share with colleagues. Each session will be conducted in a collaborative way, giving teachers from different schools an opportunity to share ideas, exchange resources and generate new understandings about the Habits of Mind. These 5 days of professional learning will be spread out over at least 6 months, giving teachers a chance to work with the Habits of Mind between sessions.

Day 1 – Discovering and Exploring the Habits of Mind

In this session the 16 Habits of Mind will be explored in depth with a focus on practical activities that can be immediately applied in the classroom. Teachers will be given a wide range of strategies and resources that have been proven to be applicable in a wide variety of classroom settings to raise students' conscious awareness of the Habits of Mind and introduce the Habits to a class. A focus on easily adopted pedagogical approaches designed to engage students in the Habits within subject areas will allow teachers to begin working with the Habits to enhance learning in the core subject areas.

Day 2 – Developing Habits of Mind (Immediately follows day 1)

Ultimately we want students to do more than simply know about and use the Habits of Mind. We want them to develop their Habits of Mind so they become more effective at engaging in them. This session will introduce some of the internationally significant learning undertaken in the Habits of Mind Hub to challenge teachers to build an understanding of what it means to develop the Habits of Mind in students. Through cooperative activities teachers will gain an understanding of the developmental continua with which we recognise student growth in the Habits. Importantly we will look critically at what teachers can do in classrooms and schools to ensure development takes place over time.

Attendance at Professional Learning

It is expected that the SAME team of THREE teachers attend each of the days described above. This is to help provide continuity not only of the learning undertaken, but also for other teachers attending the days that can expect to meet and build professional relationships with colleagues from other schools. Schools may elect to send additional teachers, at a small charge, to any of the days described above, but substitutions are not allowed.

Day 3 – Reflection & Assessment

After teachers have had time to trial work in classrooms, this session will provide teachers with an opportunity to reflect on their work and experiences to date and share their learning and resources with colleagues. Following the initial collaborative sharing session, a range of practical activities and demonstrations will be used to explore assessment strategies related to Habits of Mind. Drawing on our previous work understanding developmental continua, we will explore assessment strategies that lead students towards becoming self directed, self assessing learners. Teachers will leave with many practical strategies as well as meaningful frameworks to help develop assessment related to Habits of Mind.

Day 4 & 5 – Curriculum and Lesson Design

Teachers will be given practical tools and meaningful structures to help them successfully infuse the Habits of Mind into lesson and unit design in a way that supports both the development of the Habits and enhances effective content delivery. A significant amount of time will be given for teachers to engage in collaborative unit planning. Teachers will be expected to share the units developed with their colleagues to add to the growing body of resources available to Hub members.

For more information, contact:

James Anderson
National Coordinator
Habits of Mind Hub
Australian National Schools Network
PO Box 544
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

Email: james.anderson@ansn.edu.au
Tel: (02) 9590-5341
Fax: (02) 9590-3416

Habits of Mind Hub of the Australian National Schools Network. 2008 Membership



1. Some preliminary matters:

- (i) Please complete the details below and return this form via your principals email account to anderson.james.e@edumail.vic.gov.au or james.anderson@ansn.edu.au
- (ii) Alternatively you can fax this form to (02) 9590-3416 with the principals signature (below).
- (iii) Minimum team of 3 teachers. Additional teachers calculated on a pro rata basis
- (iv) Returning this form confirms the school, cluster or organisation's commitment to join the Habits of Mind Hub of ANSN in 2008. An invoice for \$1600 (current ANSN Members) or \$1600 + ANSN membership (Non ANSN members) will follow (gst incl).
- (v) Benefits and costs of ANSN membership can be found at www.ansn.edu.au
(approx \$250 depending on state and system membership)

2. Membership Details:

Number of membership packages being purchased

Main contact person for membership

Email of main contact person

Address for correspondence

State

Phone

Fax Number

3. Billing Details

Name and address for billing

Phone

Fax Number

4. Cluster Details (Where applicable)

If joining as a cluster, please enter the names of all schools that form a part of your cluster.

| School Name | Address |
|-------------|---------|
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5. Please provide details of the core group of teachers attending professional development (If purchasing more than one membership package please include details for all staff attending PD). Where staffing details are not yet known please leave blank and forward in the first week of term 1.

Participant 1

Teacher Name

Role

Email address

School contact details

School phone

Skills / experience working with Habits of Mind to date

Participant 2

Teacher Name

Role

Email address

School contact details

School phone

Skills / experience working with Habits of Mind to date

Continued overleaf

5. Please provide details of the core group of teachers attending professional development (continued)

Participant 3

Teacher Name

Role

Email address

School contact details

School phone

Skills / experience working with Habits of Mind to date

Principal's signature

Date

For more information, contact

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