



Student Learning Newsletters and Teacher Updates

Welcome to the first Student Learning Newsletter for 2007. This year we will be emailing and posting online two regular publications to communicate to principals and teachers about curriculum reform and the support available to assist schools.

The Student Learning Newsletters will be emailed to principals every two to three weeks. Please pass these newsletters on to your staff.

The Student Learning Teacher Updates will be emailed to all school staff once per term. The first of these was sent on February 7, 2007.

Response to Student Learning Survey 2006

Thanks to those Principals and school leaders who completed the 2006 Student Learning Survey in November last year. Responses indicated that all schools are making progress with the implementation of the student learning initiatives although variation exists in the level of implementation. Our aim in 2007 is to provide differentiated support to schools to assist you in your work. Responses also indicated that most schools are finding the student learning resources to be of value however a number of issues were raised, which we will work with regions to address throughout 2007.

A summary of the responses and an outline of the additional online resources and professional learning opportunities that will be available to schools in 2007 were published in the first Student Learning Teacher Update, sent via email to all school staff on 7 February.

A summary of the responses provided by schools can be accessed at:
<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/blueprint/fs1/guidelines/aboutcpq.htm>

Mathematics Online Interview

As outlined in circular [S053-2007](#), the [Mathematics Online Interview](#), previously known as the Early Numeracy Interview, is now available online via the Department of Education website at <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/mathematicsonline/>.

A promotional DVD: *Mathematics Online Interview* has been sent to all primary and secondary schools to familiarise teachers and school administrators with the new online assessment tool and highlight the new features.

To date we have over 16 000 student records in the online system and over 100 schools! That means we are experiencing over 1000 student entries every day, which is great.

Important reminder!

Please read the **School User Guide** to ensure set up is performed correctly and that users understand the nature of the online system.

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/teachlearn/student/mathscontinuum/interviewuserguide.pdf>

Cluster Educator and Reading Recovery Tutors Professional Learning Day

Over 200 Cluster Educators and Reading Recovery Tutors came together for a day of professional learning at the Telstra Dome on 12 February. Cluster Educators and Reading Recovery Tutors share the challenges of leading change in schools and working with a range of staff.

Participants were briefed on the future directions of the Department and the challenges ahead. They reflected on 2006 by examining the results of the 2006 Student Learning Survey. Workshops on literacy, mathematics, science, e-learning, building learning capacity and working effectively in a cluster context were offered. Feedback from participants indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to hear about state and national directions in education and to keep up to date with the latest initiatives. One educator commented that it was “a very valuable, thought provoking and engaging learning day”.

These opportunities for professional learning and the high level discussions that result from these days mean that Cluster Educators and Reading Recovery tutors are a valuable resource for schools.

Standards, assessment maps and progression points

During 2006, the VCAA developed two resources for teachers to support assessment of student achievement against the VELs: *Standards and progression points* and *Assessment maps*. These resources can be accessed online at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/>.

There are also links to the standards, progression points and assessment maps for each domain from the domain pages of the Department of Education’s website.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/preptoyear10.htm>

Standards and progression points

This resource includes:

- standards written for each dimension in each domain
- for each progression point in each dimension, examples of features and qualities of student work typically demonstrated by students as they progress towards each standard and beyond Level 6
- the revised English and Mathematics progression points.

The progression point examples are illustrative of student progress rather than prescriptive and they have not been written for every element of a standard.

Assessment maps

The assessment maps provide a range of samples of annotated student work at the standards and at those progression points relevant to the domain. Additional student work samples are being published progressively on the assessment maps throughout Term 1.

If teachers have questions on any aspect of the VELs please email them to curriculum.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au

The Global Project – expressions of interest for implementing a global project in 2007

2007 will be the tenth year of Victorian teachers developing and participating in Global Classroom Projects. Projects involving email, websites and videoconferencing have connected Victorian classrooms with the rest of the world. Victorian educators are pioneers in online teaching and learning and continue to build upon their expertise through participating in various online curriculum projects to influence and direct student learning. Global, a relaunch of the old Global Classroom project, is now located at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/teacher/Global/default.htm>

Communicating, collaborating and connecting are vital requirements of the project and the Victorian Education Channel is keen to have as many people as possible join each school's project. The new Global site will quickly become a hub of information and will be a vibrant space where global projects are promoted.

All technologies are welcome but the Victorian Education Channel is happy to offer web/ blog space at www.globalteacher.org.au to support teachers with self-publishing and connecting with other schools. Once the joining tasks have been completed, teachers can set up their own blogging space and/or get involved in any of the learning projects that have already been established on the site. There is also an online mentor to help. In this web space teachers can create their own web logs (blogs) using specially designed, free blogger software. Teachers can use the space to share resources or publish class work, without necessarily having specialist technical skills.

Government schools that have not previously been funded for their project are invited to submit expressions of interest for implementing a global project in 2007. Grants of up to \$1,000 per proposal are available. Expressions of Interest close at 5 pm on Friday 2 March 2007. Fax the completed proforma (link below) to Ms Sandy Phillips, Victorian Education Channel on 9637 2600.

[Global Project – Expression of Interest 2007](#)

SPLASH! A world-class curriculum resource

The 12th World Swimming Championships will be held in Melbourne from March 17 to April 1, 2007. The Championships, hosted by FINA (international Swimming Federation), are one of the biggest international sporting events, featuring an estimated 2000 athletes from as many as 175 countries. Athletes will compete in five aquatic disciplines: swimming, open water swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming.

To assist teachers and school communities to use the Championships to create engaging and innovative learning opportunities for students, the Department of

Education has produced *SPLASH!* – The 12th FINA World Championships Classroom Resource CD-ROM. All materials are linked to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and contain activities for both primary and secondary levels.

SPLASH! will be distributed to all Victorian schools in mid-February and is also available online at www.melbourne2007.com.au/schools

Cross curricula learning – Curriculum Support Kits for Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

A number of curriculum support kits have been developed by the LOTE team in collaboration with a range of other education services such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Sovereign Hill Museum, Ballarat. Activities in the kits have been designed to provide cross-curricular learning opportunities.

Supplements aligning these language kits to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards are now available for a range of languages including Chinese, French, German and Indonesian. Supplements for other languages kits will be published progressively during 2007. These supplements reflect the integrated learning approach central to the Standards.

The kits provide teachers with the opportunity to learn about other domains and how different domains treat the same topic. Teachers can also strengthen the currency and depth of their learning area pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Supplements may be read on the Languages other than English (LOTE) domain page: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/lotte/support.htm>

John Sullivan
Acting Deputy Secretary
Office of Learning and Teaching

John Firth
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

GLOBAL CLASSROOM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Introductory Notes:

Schools may apply for funding their proposals singly, or in partnership with other schools. The global project should provide the opportunity for participation by other schools – in Victoria, interstate or internationally.

The Department of Education provides up to \$1,000 per proposal. Schools shall be responsible for allocating grants for the most appropriate use at the local level, including meeting reasonable costs.

The funds are designed to support the set up costs for the project. It is hoped that the project will have a long and fruitful life ☺

Support for the collaboration space (a blog) – including the set up and support for teachers to involve other teachers is freely available. Please email any questions to Ms Sandy Phillips, Victorian Education Channel phillips.sandra.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

GLOBAL CLASSROOM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROFORMA

**FAX COMPLETED PROFORMA WITH PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE TO 9637 2600
BY 5 PM, FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2007**

1. School No. & Name:
2. Postal Address:
.....Postcode:
3. Contact Person:
4. Phone: Fax:
5. Email: (please print clearly)
6. Title of Proposal: (no more than eight words).....
7. Name of Principal:
8. Brief Description of School Setting:

9. Brief description of the school's proposal for a global classroom project, indicating if this is an entirely new proposal, or building on previous related work in the school. Include intended activities that relate to students, and could involve community members:

10. School aims for the program:

11. Names of staff who would be involved in the program:

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.....

12. Give an indication of the year levels that will be involved, including the numbers of students involved:

.....

13. Preferred Date of commencement:

.....

14. Expected Date of Conclusion:
(Only if there is one)

.....

15. Nature of Time Commitment: *(e.g. block of activities in short period; set time weekly for longer period; etc.)*

16. How will the program activities relate to your normal school curriculum - e.g. Will they be in addition to the usual curriculum or replace another aspect of the curriculum?

17. What do you see as the short term benefits of the program?

18. What do you see as the long term benefits of the program?

19. Please itemise the nature of all costs of the proposal, giving estimates for each item:

20. Please let us know how we can help?

CONCLUDING COMMENTS:

Signature of Applicant:Date:

Principal's Endorsement of Expression of Interest: