New Student Report Cards

Regional briefings on the use of New Student Report Cards in 2006 are currently underway. Copies of the slides from the briefings can be downloaded from http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/studentreports/support/index.htm Click on Slideshow presentations.

Advice on developing, recording and monitoring student learning goals can now be downloaded from http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/studentreports/support/index.htm

Schools electing to use the DE&T software to implement the New Student Report Cards this year will be advised in a circular in the first week of Term 2 of the dates and venues for training in the use of the software. Details about how to download the software will also be provided in this circular.

All schools are reminded that they must plan curriculum and assess students using the Victorian Essential Learning Standards for English and Mathematics in 2006.

For more information on any of these matters, please email assessment.reporting@edumail.vic.gov.au

Student Learning February 2006 DVD

The second edition of the Student Learning DVD is currently being distributed to all Prep to Year 10 schools in Victoria. The Student Learning February 2006 DVD replaces the April 2005 edition and contains materials from:

- the Victorian Essential Learning Standards website http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au including the revised standards
- the Student Learning section of the Blueprint for Government Schools' website www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/blueprint/fs1/default.asp which includes the Curriculum Planning Guidelines, Principles of Learning and Teaching P–12, Assessment and Reporting advice and a link to Knowledge Bank.

It also includes:

- a new stand-alone resource, Design Awareness in Schools, which aims to develop teacher and student understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of design elements and principles and how these can be used across all domains in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. This resource can be accessed from the DVD Welcome page or from the Standards home page
**NEW on the Curriculum Planning Guidelines - Familiarisation tools for the Progression Points**

Three new familiarisation tools to help teachers make use of the English and Mathematics progression points are now live on the Curriculum Planning Guidelines. The tools consist of familiarisation and moderation activities. They are designed to be used in sequence to help teachers get to know the standards and the progression points leading to the standards first, and then work with them in making judgements about their students' work.


**Integrating LOTE at Heathmont East Primary School**

**“Turning Japanese” at Heathmont East Primary School**

Heathmont East Primary School has approximately 250 students and is located in Melbourne’s outer eastern suburbs.

LOTE teacher, Sue Fraser, takes an integrated approach to the school’s LOTE program, making links where possible with what the children are studying with their class teacher. For example, when Level 3 students study housing in Humanities, Japanese language learning is based around the topic ‘Visiting a Japanese Home’. Students learn language appropriate for that situation and cultural awareness about Japanese homes is an integral part of that unit of work. Sue also works together with the ICT specialist teacher to plan learning experiences for the children that will address the ICT domain in LOTE classes. The Communication and Personal Learning domains are integrated into the LOTE program.

As you read the ‘Turning Japanese’ story, you will recognise that all of the Principles of Learning and Teaching underpin Sue’s design of the Heathmont East PS LOTE program. Principles 3 Students' needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program and 6 learning connects strongly with the communities and practice beyond the classroom are particularly evident.

Heathmont East Primary School’s story may be read in full on the Curriculum Planning Guidelines

FS1: Student Learning Professional Learning Package

As advised in the last newsletter, Curriculum Planning Modules, Assessment Professional Learning Modules and the PoLT Online Resource will be available online to help schools plan the professional learning to best meet their needs. The three day training program for school curriculum/professional learning leaders will be conducted in regions in Term 2, 2006.

Regions will advise their schools of the dates and other information about the training.

Thanks to the teachers from Bayswater North P.S., Diamond Creek East P.S., Eaglehawk S.C., Lavers Hill P-12, Mentone Girls S.C., Riddells Creek P.S. and Rollins P.S. who came together to trial the Curriculum Planning Modules last month. They provided valuable feedback on the day and are continuing to provide feedback as they use the modules with their staff. This work will result in completed online samples of the various templates to accompany the modules.

Assessment Professional Learning Modules

The Assessment Professional Learning Modules focus on enhancing professional knowledge, skills and understandings around assessment. Each module comprises a series of learning activities (see example activity below), background reading and facilitator’s notes. The modules include strategies to:

- use assessment to drive teaching and learning
- assess student achievement using the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

The modules were trialled last year and will go online next term.

Julie Collins, a leading teacher at Glen Katherine Primary School, shares her thoughts on the DE&T Assessment Professional Learning Modules, which she trialled in Term 4 2005.

Glen Katherine Primary School’s direction of setting and tracking student learning goals, student portfolios and three way conferences across the school was reaffirmed by the research and professional readings provided in the assessment modules. The resources, activities, samples and stories were extremely informative and helpful for strengthening and clarifying our school direction in assessment and reporting strategies and policy.

The flexible design of the modules enabled us to select activities from the modules to suit the needs of our school and staff. We were able to cover some areas in great detail and modify and/or combine other activities depending upon the needs of our staff.

The learning and discussions staff experienced while completing the modules revolved around sharing assessment strategies, consideration of our own context and incorporating ‘for, as and of’ assessment throughout the year. Staff developed a deeper understanding of these assessment terms, how timing of assessment can have a positive or a negative effect on the purpose of assessment and the importance of child self assessment and reflection. Since completing the modules staff have tried some of the assessment strategies in their classrooms and have continued to talk about assessment in their classroom.
Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12 (PoLT) update

Development of updated electronic PoLT Teacher and Student Survey Tools
A number of survey tools to support data collection and analysis are made available to schools undertaking the PoLT training program. These tools will be provided in an electronic format to schools undertaking training in 2006. These tools are designed to be time efficient and will streamline the data collection and analysis process.

Please note: Regional forums for schools that participated in PoLT training in 2005 are being planned for Term 2, 2006. Updated PoLT training materials, including the electronic teacher and student survey tools will be distributed at these forums.

PoLT online Professional Learning Resource
The online Professional Learning Resource builds on the existing Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12 resources to support individual teachers, professional learning teams, whole school groups or clusters of schools to further develop their knowledge of the Principles, their components and current research about learning.

The Resource may be used by schools that have already done PoLT training, for further exploration, or by schools that wish to familiarise themselves with the Principles. It includes theory, practical suggestions, vignettes, opportunities for reflection, access to further information and glossaries.

The PoLT online Professional Learning Resource will be available online from the beginning of Term 2 at: http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/blueprint/fs1/polt/prof_learn_res.asp

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