



Your Place - Your Pace

Enhancing Literacy and Numeracy online



Contact: This article is available online at www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace email: learningplace@qed.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3421 6656

Focus on: Literary Events Online

Online Literature Festival 2006

"Last year, after an online chat session with an author, a Year 10 boy said to me, 'That was cool.' I knew we'd got it right. Because that's a high level enthusiastic response for a Year 10 boy!" says Darlene Hill, teacher-librarian at North Bundaberg State High School and Learning Place Mentor for Wide Bay North.

In 2005, Mrs Hill coordinated the state wide Online Literature Festival for the Bundaberg region. Along with 5595 other primary and secondary students in Queensland and interstate, Bundaberg students chatted with authors and illustrators, took part in book launches and book discussions and role-played some of their favourite characters from books. And they did it all online.

"We had over 22 chats and events with different authors, including Jackie French, Andy Grif-

fiths, James Moloney and Pat Flynn," Mrs Hill said.

"Pat Flynn was especially popular with a group of boys who were into skateboarding! With our Jackie French chat, there were five schools and over 150 students sharing the experience, and they were all totally involved."

Mrs Hill said there had been positive feedback throughout the whole community, and the students were motivated afterwards to find out more about the writers, look for more of their books, and even to write books themselves.

Year 11 student Rachel Gallaway took part in a chat with author Hazel Edwards.

"The best thing about it was the first-hand experience of talking to an author," Rachel said. "Bundaberg's a bit remote, you don't meet many writers. It really motivated me to write."

Since her online chat, Rachel has created her own children's book.

One of the authors who took part

in the 2005 Online Literature Festival was Pamela Rushby.

"I chatted with three schools - Theodore, Anakie and St Peters," Ms Rushby said. "We talked about my young adult novel, *Circles of Stone*, and a picture book, *Dancing Pants*. I had a great time. The questions came in thick and fast, and the moderator did a fantastic job, even putting up photographs. I was very impressed with the students. They'd obviously read widely beforehand and thought deeply about the books, because they had some very interesting questions."

Ms Rushby said this was a great way to meet students she would not normally have had the opportunity to talk to.

The Online Literature Festival for 2005 ran over two weeks. This year it will be on again, bigger and better than ever, in Term 3 2006.

For further Online Literature Festival information, visit the OLF website at: www.learningplace.com.au/sc/ipswich/olf



North Bundaberg State High School Year 11 student Rachel Gallaway with teacher-librarian Darlene Hill. Rachel is gaining first hand writing tips online from author Hazel Edwards.

State Library of Qld Travel Buddies

What do you treasure within your community? Would you like to share and learn about what other people cherish at the same time?

State Library of Qld in partnership with the Learning Place is developing three adventurous Travel Buddies who will soon be touring the state searching for 'treasures'. The three Travel Buddies: Muncha, Cka and VeUR, will be looking for schools to partner in their adventures from Term 2 onwards. Each Travel Buddy will have an individual mission and an education resource kit to support learning.

To participate in this fun educational project see our Travel Buddy site: www.learningplace.com.au/cop/travelbuddies

Online student and staff courses

Contextual learning in numeracy and maths

This program has, as its underlying philosophy, the principles of Effective Learning and Teaching and a premise that Indigenous students learn most effectively by doing in context. This course aims to equip participants with strategies that help develop learning experiences that are relevant and authentic and promote problem-solving for Indigenous students, particularly those in remote Indigenous communities.

Learning Place courses relevant to developing Mathematics include:

Interactive fractions

Students manipulate and use interactive learning objects to scaffold and support key concepts about fractions, decimals and percentages.

www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/onlinelearning/courses/courses-inf.html

Senior Accounting (Year 11)

This two-year course is organised around five areas of study: Foundation Studies, Recording & Controls, Personal Financing & Investing, Reporting & Decision making and the investigation of an Accounting Package.

www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/onlinelearning/courses/courses-sa11.html

How to... a class "Big Book"

This Learning Place course is an exciting literacy experience for teachers. It is a self-paced ICTs for Learning program to help teachers and their students produce an interactive Big Book.

www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/onlinelearning/courses/courses-htbb.html



Curriculum Exchange resources

Use learning objects from the Curriculum Exchange (CX) resource centre to develop literacy and numeracy skills.



Journey planner 1

This learning object challenges students to find the quickest way to get from one place to another. Both literacy and numeracy skills are developed as students enjoy working at their own pace with colourful, well-designed material.



Choose from 1400 digital resources in the CX resource centre:

Guardians of a flock of sheep is a video clip from a 1929 silent movie. This valuable multi-literacy resource, includes a full description of its origin along with notes giving ideas for use in the classroom.

www.learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/access/index.jsp

Curriculum gateways

The gateways, *Literacy, Numeracy, Mathematics and Consumer and*

Financial Literacy offer information, professional development material, and teaching and learning resources in key learning areas and departmental initiatives. Each gateway includes a search facility on topics within a main subject, with some available on pre-selected topics. The Numeracy gateway includes statistics; graphs, charts and tables; understanding population growth; town planning; travel planning; preparing a budget; enterprise; sailing - reading charts; weather; and construction.

Find gateways on the Curriculum Exchange at: www.education.qld.gov.au/tal/curriculum_exchange/

EduSites Numeracy resources:



Figure This! Math Challenges for Families

This series of mathematical challenges for middle-school students is ideal for demonstrating problem-solving strategies and real world connectedness.

EduSites Literacy resources:



Reading online is a site recommended for P-12 teachers looking

for literacy information and research on traditional print literacies as well as multi-literacies.

Some other great literacy and numeracy websites:

- *Online Literacy 1*
- *Spendwell*
- *Numeracy in the news*
- *The National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2000-2004*

Search for these and other numeracy resources on: www.learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/access/index.jsp

TIPS: (Teaching Ideas and Practices)

Travel buddies at Morningside State School

Describes a unit of work using travel buddies with a Year 2 class to explore a variety of local groups and later to organise the overseas exchange of the travel buddies to investigate a different culture.

Collaborative Online Projects 2005

Project outlines, journals and some planned units of work are provided in this TIP about projects undertaken by classroom teachers in collaboration with Learning Place mentors and colleagues.

Enter titles in the search facility on the TIPS homepage: www.education.qld.gov.au/tal/curriculum_exchange/

Or visit the Collaborative Online Project area to participate or coordinate your own student project. www.learningplace.com.au/cop

Use our Learning Place unit planner when writing your next literacy and numeracy plans. www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/docs/lp-unit-plan-proforma.doc

The Learning Place is Education Queensland's e-learning environment www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace