

LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2022

*“As partners in Catholic education and open to God’s presence,
we pursue fullness of life for all.” (John 10:10)*



LET’S CELEBRATE 2022!!

Let’s celebrate the work some of our schools have been involved in this year.

Community of Practice



Throughout 2022, St Mary’s Clarke Hill, St Brendan’s Dunnstown, St Brigid’s Ballan and St Patrick’s Gordon have formed a Community of Practice. This group comes together regularly to build collegial relationships, share resources, build knowledge of best practice and work towards common shared goals. It provides an opportunity for teachers working in our smaller schools to be part of a wider community of educators.



Testimonial

It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Community of Practice between these schools in 2022. Staff have enjoyed having conversations around common challenges, sharing processes and protocols and building a trusted collegial network. I look forward to seeing how this COP continues to evolve into the future.

- Julie Cooper Education Officer CEB

If you and/or your school team are interested in forming a Community of Practice in 2023 please contact your CEB Education Officer.

Foundations of Learning 2022



An enthusiastic group of educators from St James' Sebastopol, St Alipius Ballarat East, St Michael's Daylesford, Lumen Christi Delacombe and members of CEB have come together this year to form a **Community of Practice** around the **Foundations of Learning**. The group meets with a common purpose to collectively understand the learning process in relation to neuroscience, cognitive psychology and sociology. Foundations of Learning recognises the modern mainstream school as a complex organisation. It also recognises that learning is a highly complex process.



The group meets fortnightly on a rotational basis at the participating schools, providing an opportunity to witness the impact of this learning in real time.

The current Foundations of Learning group will continue to learn alongside one another next year and also have an opportunity to be a part of the **Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Research**, a pilot course being run by The University of Melbourne in 2023.

"Foundations of Learning, in conjunction with Agile Systems Design, enables educators to form deep understandings about the brain and the neural processes involved in learning; equipping practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to establish rich and dynamic learning environments. A practical and comprehensive approach to education that is transferable to all aspects of the curriculum and focuses primarily on the science of learning. Foundations of Learning supports educators to love what they do and to do it well."

Kathryn Lynn - St Alipius, Ballarat East

"The Foundations of Learning has been an experience of developing clarity of mental models of learning - linking the concepts from multiple researchers to inform designs for learning. It has been valuable co-learning in making connections between theory and experiences to transform understanding about learning."

Samantha Meerbach - Senior Education Officer - Learning and Teaching - CEB

Foundations of Learning 2023

- To commence Term 2, 2023
- FOL will be run at participant host schools on a rotational basis
- 2 full days per term (6 contact days per year) plus asynchronous contact via FOL site
- Further information to follow in 2023

Expressions of interest for Foundations of Learning in 2023 can be addressed to
pfahey@sjsebastopol.catholic.edu.au

Learner Agency 2022

This year a group of four schools:

- OLHC, Murtoa
- St Thomas More, Alfredton
- Siena, Lucas
- St Mary's, Warracknabeal



gathered together for 5 full days of Professional

Development in Ararat with Dr Jayne-Louise Collins from Ed Partnerships. This professional learning invited all to understand learner agency as a living ecology and to go beyond the confines of our current contexts, structures and mindsets.

On Monday November 7, each of the schools were invited to share their individual inquiry journey and the difference teacher agency is making in enabling students to be truly agentic in their own learning and the impact of exploring the enacted curriculum. Jayne-Louise is looking forward to working with a new group of schools in 2023.

2023 Professional Learning OPPORTUNITIES

If you and/or your school team are interested in any of the Professional Learning Opportunities for 2023 please speak to your CEB Education Officer.

Primary Mathematics Diocesan Leaders' Network

2023 dates:

- Term 1: Wednesday March 1 (VC) - 4-5pm
- Term 2: Thursday May 11 - 9:30am - 3:30pm
- Term 3: Tuesday July 25 - 9:30am - 3:30pm
- Term 4: Thursday October 19 (VC) - 4-5pm



MTLC conferences are back in 2023!

The Mathematics Teaching and Learning Centre (MTLC) at ACU is hosting the 6th National Conference for School Leaders in Primary Mathematics Education on 18 March 2023.

This year's mathematics leadership conference offers an array of presenters who work in mathematics education and work closely with people responsible for leading mathematics and numeracy in primary school settings. The workshops focus specifically on issues and topics that are important to leaders who work with teachers in and around mathematics.

It would be great to see you at ACU in 2023!

6th National Conference for School Leaders in Primary Mathematics Education

ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023

ACU Melbourne Campus
115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy

www.acu.edu.au/mathskonference

- Book online
- Download the Conference Program

Co-creating an Educational Landscape – Dr Jayne-Louise Collins

Strengthening our approaches to curriculum, assessment, and pedagogy through the engagement with research informed guiding principles.

This professional learning inquiry will be co-designed with interested school communities who are ready to explore the use of one or more sets of the guiding principles; Curriculum, Assessment and Pedagogy, in the context of their school improvement plan. A cycle of professional inquiry will guide the learning which will start with participants bringing evidence from in-school investigations that invite young people and colleagues to share their experiences and perceptions of curriculum, assessment and/or pedagogy.

Please register your interest [here](#).

Learner Agency – Dr Jayne-Louise Collins

Learner Agency has been identified as a priority area for attention within our Catholic school communities and this has generated considerable interest in how we might create the conditions where all young people and adults have a strong sense of agency. This professional learning invites us to understand learner agency as a living ecology and to go beyond the confines of our current contexts, structures and mindsets. Our Catholic school contexts, along with contemporary agency research, offer some powerful and alternative perspectives that strengthen the possibilities of realising agency as human endeavour for all people.

Focus:

1. Shifting & Shaping Identities
2. Developing Assessment Capable Learners
3. Co-designing Learning Pathways Together
4. Learning & Leading for change

Please register your interest [here](#).

Data Literacy and Storytelling – Dr Selena Fisk

Dr Selena Fisk will be presenting **Data Literacy and Data Storytelling workshops** across the **Diocese** on the following dates next year:

- Mildura - **March 20**
- Horsham - **March 21**
- Warrnambool - **March 22**
- Ballarat - **March 24**

The learning will focus on developing strategic approaches, including school data plans, to the data that schools collect, collate and use, and equipping school staff at all levels to have highly effective conversations about that data so that all decisions being made can be informed by actual evidence.

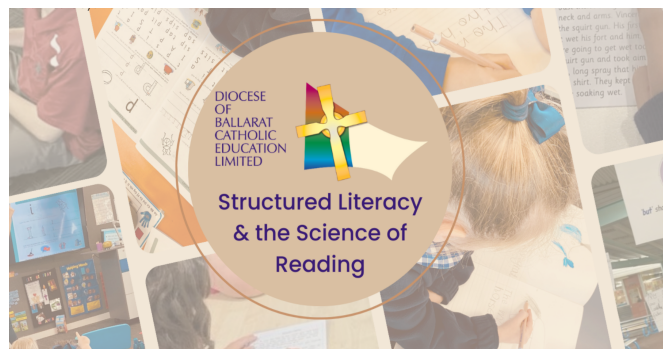
Term 1 days will be face to face with **Selena Fisk** and will be followed up by **webinars in Terms 2 & 3**, facilitated by **CEB teams**, and a presentation of action research learning at the end of **Term 3**. This professional learning will be applicable for both primary and secondary teams.

Please register your interest [here](#).



DOBCEL Structured Literacy & The Science of Reading Project 2023

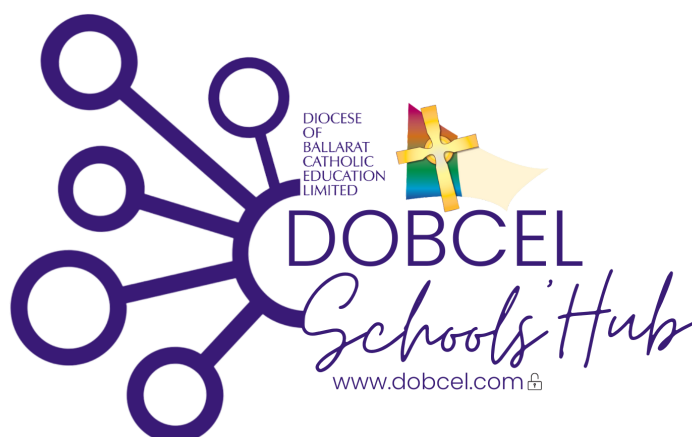
We eagerly await the 2023 launch of the Structured Literacy & Science of Reading Project, working with schools who have opted in at various levels. All information, including key dates, level-specific individualised websites, and recommended reading and viewing can be found on the newsletter sent to the principals of participating schools. Emma Rutherford, the project lead, and Breeana Wade, her 0.4 partner on this project, look forward to 2023's Term One meetings, where implementation plans and road mapping will begin for this very exciting venture.



DOBCEL Schools' Hub

The DOBCEL Schools' Hub, currently in its infancy after its creation in 2022, aims to provide a one-stop-shop for key school improvement tools. Here, on their own password-protected, school-specific section, schools will currently find access to the following tools and documentation:

- ECSI Reports (Centralised Storage)
- Insight SRC Reports (Centralised Storage)
- CHECS Online (NEW)
- Student Wellbeing Health Check (NEW)
- PLC Health Check (Updated)
- Inclusive Practices Self-Assessment Tool
- NAPLAN data (NEW)
- PAT Faces on the Data Tools (NEW)
- PAT School & System Comparative Data (NEW)
- CFAT Data Collection Tool (Updated)
- Staff & Student Portal Requests (NEW)



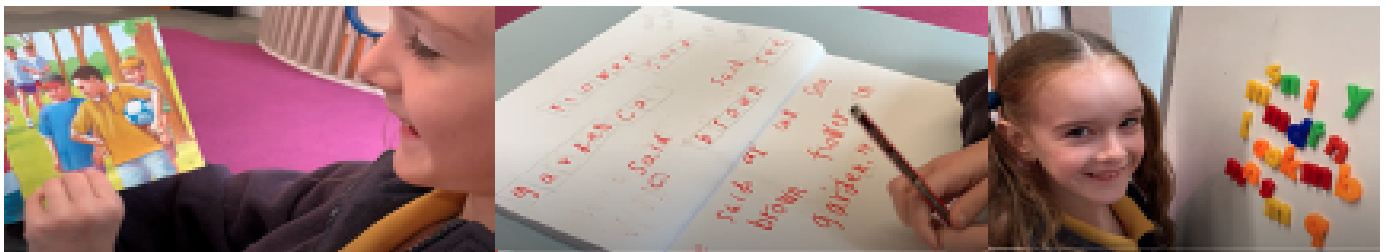
This Hub will evolve over time, and we encourage school input into any additions that will make the task of School Review and the monitoring of School Improvement Initiatives more streamlined and time-efficient. Any suggestions can be made by [completing this form](#), or by emailing Breeana Wade at bwade@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Log in details for your school's page can be obtained from your Ed Consultant, Learning & Teaching Ed Officers, or by emailing Breeana Wade on the above email address.

Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery is a series of lessons individually designed for the lowest achieving students in their second year of schooling, that enables them to reach age-expected levels within 20 weeks.

Reading Recovery involves a short series of daily one-to-one lessons for 30 minutes with a specially trained teacher. Reading Recovery is different for every child, starting from what the student knows and what he/she needs to learn next. The focus of each lesson is to comprehend messages in reading and construct messages in writing, learning how to use letter and word detail fluently, whilst maintaining focus on meaning and comprehension.



Within a Reading Recovery lesson, a student reads four to six books, sorts letters to encourage visual discrimination, works with letters and words in isolation and on text, writes their own stories whilst attending to phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling strategies and handwriting, and reconstructs a sentence from their own stories.

Reading Recovery Professional Learning is available for new and experienced teachers in 2023. The initial training for new Reading Recovery teachers includes attending fortnightly online professional learning sessions across the school year and regular onsite school visits including observations of teaching and coaching. Experienced teachers implementing Reading Recovery attend a minimum of six online Professional Learning sessions and participate in onsite school visits.

Reading Recovery has been widely researched internationally. There is evidence to support the effectiveness of the intervention, its capacity to 'close the gap' between learners, the cost-effectiveness of the intervention and the continued progress of students over time.

Contact Helen Bettes: hbettes@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au for further information about Reading Recovery or visit the [Reading Recovery Council of North America](#) for additional resources and information.

EMU Training 2023



Have you started the conversation in your school in relation to training a teacher in the EMU Year 1 or Years 3 – 6 Specialist Teacher course for 2023?

The Monash University team is currently planning the professional learning courses for 2023. Once this information has been compiled, we will forward it to you. If there are sufficient numbers a course may be offered in Ballarat.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Teresa Hadden.

Mob. 0408 652128

thadden@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Primary Whole School Mathematics Professional Learning

The CEB Mathematics team has developed a series of professional learning modules tailored for whole school teams targeted around PLC Q.5 – *How can we increase our instructional competence?*

EMU PRINCIPLES FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Principles For Classroom Teachers is designed to provide a practical approach to focusing on enhancing classroom practices and pedagogical knowledge at Tier 1. The learning is structured around 5 Professional Learning Modules spaced throughout the year.

The content will include:

- Unpacking the learning trajectory of key mathematical concepts e.g. Place value, the 4 processes
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Planning for engaging and challenging instruction and differentiation
- Strategies for choosing appropriate learning experiences

LIFT THE MATHEMATICAL LEARNING

The program is structured around 3 Professional Learning Modules spaced throughout the year. The Modules will be up to 90 minute sessions after school.

The content will include:

- Develop a shared understanding around a range of data sets
- Identify students' Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) with a particular focus on those highly capable in mathematics through triangulation of data
- Differentiating Instruction
- Develop rich mathematical questions with enabling and extending prompts that cater for ALL students at their ZPD

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY MODULES

The Academic Vocabulary Modules are designed for whole school teams to develop an understanding of Tier 3 subject specific vocabulary which is an essential element for problem solving which is core to NAPLAN and PAT. You will also learn how to teach the vocabulary using a structured 6 step process and be provided with the Diocesan Scope and Sequence of Vocabulary from f - 6 for Mathematics and English

This professional learning is presented through 2 after school PLTS of approximate 60 mins each.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Significant Dates – 2023



The following are just a few ways in which we can observe and celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. More information relating to themes and updated resources will be promoted in CEB's Weekly Newsletter closer to specific events.

Cultural Diversity Week

In 2023, [Cultural Diversity Week](#) will take place from 11 - 21 March with the theme *Our Past. Our Future: Celebrating and reflecting on the contributions of Victoria's multicultural communities*. All Victorians are invited to reflect on the richness of multicultural Victoria's history and to celebrate its contemporary scene and future opportunities. The week will culminate with the [United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#).

Closing/Close the Gap Day

The Closing the Gap campaign was launched to highlight the discrepancy in health statistics between Australia's First Peoples and other Australians. Closing the Gap Day is held on the third Thursday of March each year (16 March 2023) and is a chance for Australians to recognise the work already completed and to reflect on targets yet to be achieved. Information relating to the campaign can be found at [Close the Gap Campaign](#), [Joint Council on Closing the Gap](#) and [ANTAR Close the Gap](#).

National Sorry Day

This day was first held on 26 May 1998 to commemorate the first anniversary of the release of the *Bringing Them Home* report. Please visit [Australian Human Rights Commission National Sorry Day](#) and [Reconciliation Australia National Sorry Day](#) for information relating to the history and importance of recognising this day.

National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June

Next year Australia will celebrate its 30th National Reconciliation Week, an important week that first began in 1993 as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, changing to its more familiar name in 1996. Information on the 2023 theme and national/local events can be found closer to the time at [National Reconciliation Week](#).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

This day is held on the first Sunday in July (2 July 2023) with many schools and parishes now celebrating it as a regular part of their community life. This year's theme is yet to be announced but when it is, resources can be found at [NATSICC](#).

National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee

The 2023 NAIDOC theme is "For Our Elders", a way in which the importance of Elders is recognised and their contributions celebrated. Next year the week begins on 2 July and ends on 9 July. More information can be sourced at [NAIDOC](#).

National Aboriginal Islander Children's Day

This wonderful day is celebrated on 4 August each year, with the theme yet to be announced. A great website is [National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day](#).

Learning & Teaching Staff Farewells



Sue Paulka

Leader: Learning and Teaching

Sue has been an amazing servant of Catholic education for 40 years, with 26 years of that service within the Diocese of Ballarat. She has worked faithfully to positively influence the lives of young people, families and colleagues in the spirit of the Gospel, and her professionalism and care are widely recognized and greatly valued.

Sue has worked as a Classroom Teacher, Specialist Teacher, Curriculum Leader, Deputy Principal, Principal, Education Officer, and for the past 3 years, Learning and Teaching Team Leader. We congratulate Sue on her decision to retire and thank her for her significant commitment.



Marg McDonald

Senior Education officer: Learning and Teaching

Marg has announced her retirement at the end of the year after 13 years at Catholic Education Ballarat. Marg was instrumental in the introduction and development of Professional Learning Communities in our Diocese and has contributed significantly to the development of leaders in our school communities through her work as part of the Leading for Learning team. Many of us have benefited in a variety of ways from Marg's exceptional coaching skills and her expertise, skills and knowledge will certainly be missed. Marg's contribution to Catholic Education over the past 13 years has been invaluable and she goes with our appreciation on behalf of all those she has worked, learned, and partnered with during this time.



Felicity Lane

Education Officer- Learning and Teaching

Felicity has served Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese for 42 years, the last 15 years as an Education Officer for Catholic Education Ballarat. Felicity has worked across all zones within the Diocese, in both primary and secondary settings, and before moving to her role at CEB, taught at **St Mary's Clarkes Hill, St Columba's Ballarat, St Brendan's Dunnstown, Lumen Christi and St Paul's Mildura**. Felicity worked in various roles across her career including **Classroom Teacher, Assistant Principal, REL and Education Officer - Learning & Teaching**. Felicity noted that she was grateful for the many and varied opportunities she has been given, for those who have guided her journey as an educator, for the colleagues and the friendships formed, for the welcomes received and the laughs along the way. Felicity has always been passionate about education and every child's right to learn and should be justifiably proud of her achievements.



Casey Stoetzer

Education Officer- Learning and Teaching (Northern Zone)

Casey joined CEB in 2022, on secondment from his Deputy Principal role at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Merbein. In his year at CEB, Casey has been instrumental in bringing data literacy and effective data practices to the fore, working with teachers and leadership teams, and facilitating professional learning across the diocese.

Casey leaves Catholic education at the end of 2022 for a Deputy Principal role at a local government school, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on his new and exciting role. We are hopeful of Casey's return to Catholic education in the future.