



A Newsletter from the DOBCEL Structured Literacy & Science of Reading Project

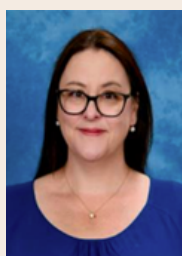
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resource



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Reflections & Celebrations

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

There is so much happening in the Structured Literacy Project that we decided to whip up a mid-term newsletter, although it is very hard to believe that we are already nearly half way through Term Two! There are two very special events coming up – Come and See Week and Level 2&3 Face to Face Network Day – that are now open for registration. Please read the information on page two for details.

At the end of last term, we were fortunate enough to attend the Teaching Matters Science of Learning Summit in beautiful Hobart, Tasmania. This was an extraordinary event that celebrated the Structured Literacy initiatives being undertaken by the Diocese of Canberra–Goulburn ([Catalyst Project](#)) and Catholic Education Tasmania ([Insight Project](#)) and truly affirmed the work of the DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project. It was incredible to hear Jeremy Rockliff, Tasmanian Premier, announce that in 2024 ALL Tasmanian schools will be using a Structured Literacy methodology. Here are just a few snippets from the copious notes we took over the two days in Hobart:

"The teacher is the most important learner in the room" (Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Ed. CG)

"Many teaching practices do result in learning, but not all of these do so consistently, efficiently nor effectively."
(Jenny Donovan, AERO)

"The best way to increase motivation is to teach well. Effective teaching produces a high success rate and success breeds motivation." (Peps McCrea)

"Be very careful about 'choice and voice'. Most research in this area is conducted on adult cohorts. Children are not well placed to make decisions about their own learning. We build student buy-in by explaining the *why* of what we're doing." (Peps McCrea)

"Your job as a teacher is to interrupt the forgetting process." (Lorraine Hammond)

You may have noticed that Peps McCrea got a couple of mentions! His presentation about student motivation was really inspiring. Peps has a great website and you can sign up for a weekly email 'snack' that takes a key aspect of current research and condenses it into a five-minute easy read. Follow this [link](#) to sign up.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Tuesday 6th June at our next Level 2&3 Network VC. This event will run from 9am to 3pm and we will take a deep dive into the principles, elements and characteristics of Structured Literacy. As far as possible, we encourage you to buddy up with another person or a group of people for this event, as there will be lots of opportunities for reflective conversation. Join us through the Zoom Link on the [SL website](#).

Please remember to keep a close eye on the Structured Literacy Project website and calendar as these are updated on a regular basis.

Emma and Breeana



Day 1 PL at St Mary's Ararat

Come and See Week

Monday 24th July - Friday 28th July 2023

All schools of the DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project (Levels 1-3) are invited to send teachers and leaders to observe Structured Literacy in action at one of our founding Level 0 SunLit Schools; St Paul's, Mildura.

As an open plan school, St Paul's is well-placed to host observation sessions for multiple visitors. However, there has been such a high level of interest in this opportunity that we are limiting numbers in order not to overwhelm the teachers and learners in their classrooms. We know you'll all appreciate what a demand this places on St Paul's, and we need to keep things manageable for them.

As you know, we usually strive to include LSOs, tutors and CRTs in all Professional Learning but on this occasion, with finite availability, we will need to limit these visits to teachers and leaders only.

The link below will take you to a booking sheet. There are two tabs on the sheet. The first explains the booking process and the second enables you to make your bookings.

REGISTER HERE

Level 2 & 3 Face to Face Network

Our Term Two Level 2 & 3 Video Conference Network will take place on Tuesday 6th June from 9am - 3pm. This VC can be accessed via the Zoom link on the SL Website.

In Term Three, we will have the chance to get together in person! On Tuesday 22nd August, from 10am - 3pm, we will gather at St Patrick's, Koroit. We are so grateful to Nick and the team for offering to host this event.

This day will follow on from the learning undertaken in the Term One and Two VCs. We have had lots of questions about what Structured Literacy looks like in the middle and senior grades, so this will certainly be addressed on the day, as will many of the practicalities of shifting to an evidence-based approach to Literacy instruction. Please register for the day via the link below. We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTER HERE

Term 2 Key Dates



[Click here for calendar](#)

Please note that L0 and L1 schools are welcome to access and attend L2&3 Network events.

How do we know who to trust when it comes to Educational Research and Evidence?

The Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) is Australia's independent education evidence body.

AERO's standards of evidence establish our view on what constitutes rigorous and relevant evidence. When evidence is rigorous and relevant, it provides confidence that a particular approach is effective in a particular context.

Click on the image below to access the AERO website and it's reams of wonderful information about what constitutes evidence-based instructional practice.



Science of Reading Global Community

Have you connected with the wider SoR community yet? There are many educators and organisations in Australia and around the world, working to embed evidence-based literacy instruction in schools. The following Facebook Groups are invaluable sources of information and inspiration:

[The SunLit Project](#)

[Read Ballarat](#)

[Sharing Best Practice](#)

[The Reading League Teacher Group](#)

[Reading Science in Schools](#)

[On the Structured Literacy Bus](#)



Do you prefer **Twitter**?

Follow suggestions:

- Pamela Snow @PamelaSnow2
- Sue Knight @Knight2Susan
- Nathaniel Swain @NathanielRSwain
- Lyn Stone @lifelonglit
- Tanya Anne Serry @tserry2504
- Stephen Parker @ParkerPhonics
- Troy Verey @TVtheTeacher

Access the Structured
Literacy & Science of
Reading Project
Website

[here](#)



It is important to keep your parent community informed about your Structured Literacy work. Ask Emma & Breeana for support with writing a newsletter item if you need to.