Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller is the teacher of a Year 4/5 class at Orange Grove Primary School in Western Australia. While still fairly new to teaching, Paul has quickly discovered the power of technology to inspire, engage and motivate his students. Paul uses digital movie-making, blogs, podcasts and interactive whiteboards to provide a truly 21st century learning environment.

Paul’s flagship project is Podkids Australia, one of the first school-based podcasts in Australia. The podcast, which provides an authentic worldwide audience for students’ writing, has subscribers in over 50 countries worldwide.

He is also the driving force behind Orange Grove Primary’s one-to-one laptop program. This program, which is a first for a West Australian public school, involves equipping every student at the school from Year 4 upwards with a laptop computer that is theirs to use at any time. While still in its early stages, this program is already having a profound impact on the way that students learn at the school.

Paul is an Apple Distinguished Educator, winner of the Teacher’s Innovative On-line Learning award and a finalist in the 2006 Premier’s Teacher of the Year award.

Technological change necessitates changes in pedagogy because technology now allows us to be better informed about the world around us and about ourselves in ways that draw on our minds and imaginations in the dreams of people long ago.

We live in the age of miniaturisation: from movie screens to DVD players in motor vehicles, from Alexander Bell’s telephone to the latest in mobile phone technology. The Web gives us almost instant access to information originating in the remotest corners of the world – and even from space.

These changes have been so rapid that not even the most savvy of our students really understand how to use technology in a critical way, so it falls to us – and most of us were educated in a largely pre-Web world – to teach the young how to use these gifts well. Our pedagogy must embrace the technology that fills the lives of our students so that what we teach is not divorced from the reality of the world in which we live.

But first, we must learn enough to be able to lean back so that we can go forward with our students.

TRANBY - KOLBE
STAFF CONFERENCE
JULY 21 and 22, 2008
Welcome from the Principals

Education in a Digital World

Dynamic, information rich and continuously changing is how UNESCO describes the world that we are preparing our students to enter. What skills and understandings do our students need to participate effectively in this world and how do we facilitate their development?

In fact, these questions really aren’t new but what is new is the remarkably different set of skills that our students are now bringing into school. They really are growing up digital and there is an increasing disconnection between the way in which they are learning at home and the way in which they are learning in school.

Hugh Mackay believes that students, especially those in secondary schools, are becoming outraged and angry at what they perceive they have to go through at school. They see school as boring and preventing them from learning in the relational, technology rich way they prefer and which they chose to use outside of school.

This is the background to our conference. The digital world is requiring teachers and administrators to develop new skills and understandings; to build on our knowledge and experience to engage with our students and school communities in new ways.

Kolbe and Tranby are both successful schools and the Conference is an opportunity to build on that success for the future. We hope that this will be an opportunity for us all to develop further insights into the nature of the world that we are all operating in, and for teachers and administrators alike to develop new skills to augment what we are already doing in our offices and classrooms.

With a mixture of keynote speakers and a range of workshops to choose from there should be the opportunity for every participant to learn something new. Furthermore, the daily worship, conference dinner and coffee, tea and lunch breaks should help us all to develop richer collegial relationships both within and between our schools.

Best wishes for an engaging, stimulating and rewarding two days.

Caroline Payne  Jo Bednall
Principal  Principal
Kolbe Catholic College  Tranby College

Introducing the Keynote Speakers.....

Daniel Ingvarson

Daniel has been part of the formation of digital education in Australia. Daniel did his thesis on the social and policy aspects of the Internet in 1992. He built the first educational Internet Service Provider in Australia (1993). He designed and built the first school specific Internet gateway (1995) and built the first Internet portal that linked logins to Internet activity for educational use (1998). This changed the way Internet was managed in schools in Australia. At one stage his software was used by over 50% of Australian students. Daniel went on (2001) to research, design, manage and develop an e-learning platform that includes a Personal Portal and Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This software called myclasses won the National Australian Internet Industry Association software innovation award in 2004.

Daniel built the business called myinternet for 74 staff, and took the business to the UK, US, Hong Kong, NZ and South Africa. Now over 1 million school children in over 3000 schools in 5 countries rely on innovations made by Daniel to use the Internet for digital education. Daniel sold the business in 2005.

In 2007, Daniel led a $500,000 research project into the future direction of e-learning and e-learning infrastructure from a federal government grant, which looked specifically at how to provide a long term digital infrastructure when the digital world is changing so fast. Daniel wrote a chapter on e-learning for “Leading the Digital School” soon to be published by ACER press.

In January 2008 Daniel led two sessions at the peak global summit on digital-education “Moving Young Minds” in London. In attendance were 60 Ministers of Education, 180 senior government staff and 70 countries were represented. This is the peak conference where Ministers of Education attend to understand long term issues surrounding digital education. Daniel was the only Australian to attend. http://mym2008.org

Peter Murray

Peter Murray commenced his teaching career in 1988 with the Western Australian Education Department, he spent a number of years working in regional education districts developing IT strategies for schools. In 1996, Peter commenced as an IT Mentor at Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS) in Perth, WA. In 1999, he was appointed Director of Studies at CCGS, managing the day to day operation of the school’s academic program and driving curriculum change within the school.

In 2003, Peter was appointed to a newly formed position at CCGS as Director of Information & Communication Services. His focus was implementing change across three core areas: staff professional development, IT technical staff and IT infrastructure.

Peter’s experience across both academic domains and technology-based environments has enabled him to bridge the gap between technical personnel and teaching staff. This experience has become an enabler to teaching and learning. His practical experience in implementing change and building reliable IT environments has been well recognised by industry. Peter now works for Apple and is responsible for K-12 Apple education across Western Australia.

Leaning back to go forward....