



## 2016 Semester 1 Newsletter

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### President's Report Semester 1 2016

The holidays are almost over and I hope everyone's had time to relax, reflect and rejuvenate! Before you get caught up in the Term 3 rush, please remember to bookmark the date of the CLTASA state conference in your diaries: Saturday 27 August. The conference theme is 'Connecting with the Modern World in the Chinese classroom'. More information to come very soon!

The CLTASA Term Two PD 'Exploring options for strengthening primary Chinese programs' was a great success. Main speakers were Angela Scarino from the University of South Australia who gave a theoretical overview of different teaching approaches and Jieqi Zhang from Oberthur Primary School in Perth who gave a most interesting and thought provoking presentation on her school's journey in delivering a CLIL (content and language integrated learning) and immersion program. Erik Ma from William Light School gave a short presentation on the development of the bilingual program at that school and I gave a brief overview of teaching approaches used at Chinese for Families classes. More details can be read in the article written by Kathy Purvis in this newsletter. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive: out of 21 responses 14 rated the PD afternoon with 5, 7 with 4 (with 5 being the highest rating). Individual presenters overwhelmingly rated 5. Participants also wrote many positive comments such as "Excellent PD program, very impressed" and "Great learning opportunity".

In Term Two we also distributed the \$200 DECD grants to successful state school applicants. Funds were provided for schools to buy resources (textbooks, calligraphy materials, cooking materials and Lion Dance equipment), subsidise national conference attendance and contribute to website development. In addition we provided TRT subsidies for DECD teachers to attend the Term 2 PD and a \$100 subsidy for our members who are attending the national conference.

To me, the projects we worked on in Term Two - a high quality PD including an interstate presenter whose visit was paid for by CLTASA and the grants we have given

out to DECD teachers and our members - represent exactly the kinds of ways in CLTASA can most help our members. Our membership numbers are currently a very healthy 68 and we look forward to welcoming more teachers to our association once registrations for the state conference open. I attended the national conference in Brisbane these holidays and I look forward to finding ways to bring some of the best ideas showcased there to Adelaide at a future date.

On a personal note, this is my last president's report as I will be stepping down as CLTASA president when our AGM is held at the state conference on 27 August. It has been an honour to have this role for three years and to work with such a great committee. Many interstate visitors have commented on the professionalism and positive energy of our hard working committee members. In these changing times, an inclusive professional association with a clear vision of offering practical support to teachers remains as important as ever. Thanks to all for their support and I look forward to connecting with our Chinese language teaching community again soon!

Belinda



## Term 2 Professional Development

### Exploring Options for Strengthening Primary Language Programs

There has been growing interest in CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) over the last 5-10 years nationally and more recently in South Australia, and William Light R-12 School has recently been chosen as the first DECD school in South Australia to implement CLIL with DECD funding.



At the workshop held on Friday, 3 June, participants had the opportunity to learn more about CLIL from 4 excellent presenters:

- Eric Ma, Chinese teacher at William Light
- Angela Scarino from the University of SA
- Jieqi Zhang, who has developed a CLIL program at her primary school in Western Australia
- Belinda Dello-Iacovo, president of CLTASA

Eric Ma spoke first and presented details of the CLIL project at his school. It is a 10-year plan which begins with Year 3 students next year with the goal that 50 percent of teaching will be in Chinese and 50 percent in English as the program develops. Initially English, HASS, Arts and Technology will be taught in English, while Maths, Health and PE, and Science will be taught in Chinese.

Angela Scarino spoke about approaches to Chinese language learning at primary level. She made it clear that we need to develop bilingual literacies across languages and referred to Jane Orton's recent report into Chinese language learning in Australia. She noted that retention remains a big problem and that there is a need for more

intensive learning opportunities. She stressed the value of having a lesson of language learning every day.

Jieqi Zhang provided the workshop with a valuable and practical example of how her primary school has developed its CLIL program. She stressed the importance of having clear objectives in both content and language for each lesson and the need for the teacher to have a clear belief that students will be successful in an immersion situation. She also said that it was important for the school to establish and maintain strong and open lines of communication with parents and the wider school communities. She showed videos of students learning Maths and Science using Chinese and examples of worksheets for the students which gave participants a real insight into what CLIL teaching looks like in the classroom.

Finally, Belinda shared with the workshop participants her very powerful and positive beliefs about students' ability to learn:

- Children can learn so much more than we realise.
- As educators our beliefs about children's learning ability are fundamental.
- Education is a learning journey for the teacher as well as the students.

For the many teachers who came away from the workshop inspired to consider the possibility of introducing a CLIL program at their own school, Belinda's comments are really important to keep in mind.

Kathy Purvis







Eric Ma, Chinese teacher at William Light



Angela Scarino from the University of SA



Jieqi Zhang, who has developed a CLIL program at her primary school in Western Australia



Belinda Dello-lacovo, president of CLTASA

