

# IACESA NEWS UPDATE



International Association for Cognitive Education in Southern Africa

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*This newsletter carries news of local and international events of interest to our members.*

November 2012

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELSEFIE WRANZ**

**Dear IACESA Member**

Our 2013 IACESA International Conference (14-16 February) is very fast becoming a reality. Our Conference theme: Thinking...Language...Diversity-Essential Tools for Learning and Life is rooted in the two previous IACESA conferences. In 2009 IACESA invited Prof Bob Burden who introduced our delegates to the concept of a Thinking School. He brought with him enthusiastic teachers who explained the process of becoming a Thinking School and introduced us to the ethos and approaches followed within a Thinking School. The idea of becoming a Thinking School was planted and in 2011 our Conference theme "Thinking Schools – The Journey" focused on well researched cognitive approaches used during the active teaching of thinking: Thinking Maps and Habits of Mind. Delegates were impressed by local schools reporting on their successes in employing these approaches. The process of becoming a Thinking School was also thoroughly covered.

At our 2013 Conference we hope to expand on our repertoire of cognitive approaches with keynote addresses from Kathy Greenberg, the author and creator of Cognitive Enrichment Advantage (previously Cognet) and Belle Wallace, originator of Thinking Actively in a Social Context (TASC). Additional presentations will focus on some of the challenges that have emerged as schools in South Africa have embarked on the road of becoming a Thinking School.

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“Language” was chosen as a specific focus for this conference as language is the “vehicle” or “code” through which learning takes place. Professor Heila Jordaan of WITS will emphasise the significance of Language in Education in South Africa and what Teachers need to know about Language and the teaching of language. The “Diversity” strand of our Conference theme signifies our varied contexts, learners and learning styles, since inclusive education, intentionally or by default, is a reality in the South African context. Much attention will be focused, during other presentations, on equipping teachers with appropriate teaching skills, the required knowledge to create a suitable classroom climate to foster critical thinking skills as well as how to employ the Mediated Learning Experience approach in the classroom to unleash cognitive capacity. The IACESA conference committee invites you to register as soon as possible.

The IACESA Board and I wish you a blessed Festive Season and a joyous 2013. We hope to see you all at our conference.

**Elsefie Wranz**

**IACESA: President 2011 - 2013**

### **COG ED SEMINAR:**

Professor Heila Jordaan, Speech-Language Therapist and Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, was the presenter at the Cog Ed seminar on 3 September. She started her presentation with a clever play on words, “**Language in Education Matters**” and “**Language Matters.**”

During her presentation the audience was reminded of the importance of language in education and that language development continues throughout the school years. **Children learn to talk** and Professor Jordaan mentioned various important factors that play a role in language development, such as working memory. Many children do not have sound language development and if they have to learn in a language that is not their mother tongue, it can hamper their learning of content. Learning of a first language is often implicit but second language learning must be more explicit and requires metalinguistic abilities.

**Children also need to talk to learn.** The role of academic language – the language that helps you think and learn – was highlighted by Prof Jordaan. Teaching learners the academic language of a subject is often neglected and plays a role in their academic performance. The nature and quality of learning furthermore depends on the language competency and subject knowledge of the teacher.

This seminar, which was held at Diocesan College (Bishops) Preparatory School in Cape Town, attracted approximately 70 teachers and therapists and generated considerable interest.

**Language as a key aspect in learning, teaching and thinking has to be understood and addressed.** Teachers, therapists and learning support specialists can help learners to learn language in a more explicit way and Prof Jordaan has a wealth of theoretical and practical information to share. She has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the IACESA Conference in February 2013 to unpack the topic of **Language-In-Education** further.

**Estelle Brettenny**

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# IACESA International Conference

## 14 – 16 February 2013

### Cape Town

***Language... Thinking... Diversity...***

***Essential tools for learning and life***

The Thinking Schools journey has started in many schools in South Africa. The 2013 IACESA Conference expands on the possible repertoire of approaches to the active teaching of thinking, with keynote addresses and presentation on the Cognitive Enrichment Advantage (CEA/Cognet) and Thinking Actively in a Social Context (TASC). Other presentations begin to address some of the challenges that have emerged as schools in South Africa begin the Thinking Schools journey, with a specific focus on language and diversity.

***Register now!***

<http://www.icesa.co.za/conference-2013.html>

## **Some Keynote Speakers at the Conference... a taste of things to come:**

*\*Information as provided to date by the speakers:*

### **Maryanne Wolf:**

***How insights from the Evolving Brain inform Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

### **Belle Wallace:**

***TASC Framework: Thinking Actively in a Social Context***

How does the brain work? How do students learn? Knowing this, how should teachers teach? The session will look in a very practical way at the latest neuro-science of the brain, and how teachers can maximise thinking and problem-solving in all students. The session will introduce the TASC Framework: Thinking Actively in a Social Context.

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**Workshop:**

The practical workshop will guide participants through the TASC Framework (Thinking Actively in a Social Context) and will demonstrate some practical strategies for Creative and Logical thinking that can be applied immediately in the classroom. The TASC Framework is used internationally with great success with regard to improving students' motivation, self-confidence, problem-solving and thinking skills, thus increasing their ability to learn effectively.

**Dr. Kobus Neethling:*****Creativity: Evolution or Revolution***

This presentation will focus on the following aspects:

- Understanding the different levels of creativity
- Why do we remain in our safe houses while Rome is burning
- Leadership and creativity gaps
- Moving from ordinary to beyondness
- Creativity: from do to be
- What has courage got to do with creativity
- Anchoring above the breakthrough line

**Prof. Heila Jordaan*****What teachers need to know about language:***

This paper will provide practical suggestions on what teachers need to know about language in order to facilitate the development of academic language and literacy skills at all stages of education. Language, academic language and literacy will be defined and the approaches and strategies that can be used to develop the linguistic proficiency underlying classroom success will be discussed. Real lessons will be analysed for language content and cognitive demand. Teaching materials and techniques to address these issues will be presented. The aim of the presentation will be to underline the importance and relevance of educational linguistics for the teaching profession.

**Prof. Katherine H. Greenberg*****Meeting the Hidden Needs of Marginalized Learners: The Cognitive Enrichment Advantage Approach in a Globalized World***

Globalization is creating challenges in education beyond any experienced in the past world. While many educational approaches strive to address these challenges, few focus on the

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hidden needs of individual learners, particularly those who are marginalized due to underachievement, disabilities, and/or ethnic difference. Even fewer approaches emphasize a “bottom-up” method of listening to teachers and their learners. The *Cognitive Enrichment Advantage* (CEA) approach is a comprehensive method that integrates effective practices based on wide ranging research and theories of learning. At the same time, CEA varies from other approaches due to our efforts to adapt the approach by listening carefully to the experiences shared by teachers and students who participate in our research. An overview of the CEA approach will be shared and illustrated through comparisons to other cognitive education approaches such as *Thinking Maps* and *Habits of Mind* as well as making recommendations from research on learning. Findings from a phenomenological study of South African teachers of underachieving students will be used to illustrate the importance of listening to teachers’ interpretation of theory when planning professional development activities. In addition, a case study in which teaching and learning was viewed through the lens of Feuerstein’s theory of mediated learning experience will be shared. Findings will be reported and recommendations for improving learning environments will be made.

### ***News from Thinking Schools:***



**tssa**  
Thinking Schools South Africa  
*Investing in a thinking generation*

In association with



Thinking Schools  
INTERNATIONAL



IACESA  
International Association for Cognitive Education in Southern Africa

Authorised local accreditation for



UNIVERSITY OF  
EXETER

## ***HOW TO GROW A THINKING SCHOOL***

### ***CONFERENCES IN JOHANNESBURG***

### ***28 FEB AND DURBAN 7 MARCH 2013***

**If you are a Head or a Teacher interested in joining the global trend to more explicit teaching of thinking skills and strategies, this conference is for you. Learn about the whole school approach for better academic performance from Grades 0 – 12 that prepares learners for the 21st century.**

GROWING THINKING SKILLS IN YOUR SCHOOL  
THINKING MAPS FOR VISUAL LEARNING  
ENGAGING SUCCESSFUL HABITS OF MIND  
DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT THINKERS

For more details, Ctrl + CLICK [HERE](#)  
or email [thinkingschools@xsinet.co.za](mailto:thinkingschools@xsinet.co.za)

***International Association for Cognitive Education & Psychology  
(IACEP):***

**IVX<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference of IACEP**

24 – 27 June 2013, Leiden

*Unfolding potential: assessment, strategies, change and  
intervention*

<http://www.ia-cep.org/international-conference>

**What children have thought about their thinking...**

I like thinking because it is good for your brain.  
When you think your brain gets exercise and then  
your brain grows. This is good for your life.

In class we are thinking all the time, because we  
are thinking how to write and we are thinking how  
to do the work on the board. So we are thinking all  
the time.

Sometimes your brain can get tired and then you  
can feel restless because you are thinking all the  
time. You also need to rest your brain.

*If there are events that you think will be of interest to members, please send the details to  
us and we will include them in the News Update.*

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## Terminology Quiz:

Are you sure you know what these acronyms stand for?

1. MLE
  - a. *Multisensory Language Experience*
  - b. *Mediated Learning Experience*
  - c. *Muddled Learning Experience*
  
2. P4C
  - a. *Professionals 4 Cognition*
  - b. *Prizes 4 Creativity*
  - c. *Philosophy for Children*
  
3. CEA
  - a. *Cognitive Enrichment Advantage*
  - b. *Constant Educational Amazement*
  - c. *Creative Energetic Activity*

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**Twitter: @iacesa**

<http://www.twitter.com/#!/iacesa>

**Quiz answers:** 1 b, 2 c, 3 a

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