The West Australian Association of Teacher Assistants Inc.

Conference 2015

July 31st, August 1st and 2nd
Rendezvous Grand Hotel
The Esplanade, Scarborough

Registration: Friday 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Saturday 7:30am – 8:00am

Sip ‘n’ Chat: Friday 31st July 6.30pm-8.00pm Mentelle Room

Conference Dinner: Saturday 1st August 7.00 pm Grand Ballroom
Doors open at 6.40pm. Please be seated by 6.50pm
8.30am - 10.00am — SESSION 1

**Mental Thinking F-6**

Richard Korbosky

Mental mathematics is the main form of calculation used by most adults in society. It has been shown that in daily life at least 70-80% of all calculations are done mentally by adults. It is also the simplest way of doing many calculations. However, unfortunately due to the emphasis on written computations in many classrooms, many children believe that the correct way to calculate a simple subtraction fact is to do it in the written form. This written form often complicates the mathematics. When students are taught a range of mental mathematical strategies they can choose different ways to solve any given strategies.

**Life Skills**

Bev Dainton & Kareen Mobilia

The term ‘Life Skills’ refers to the skills you need to make the most out of your life. They help us to accomplish our ambitions and live to our full potential. Between them Bev Dainton and Kareen Mobilia have over 34 years of experience working with mainstream and special needs students. They have run successful Life Skills and Community Access programs within their schools. In this workshop they will share their knowledge with you, explain what life skills are and why we need to teach them.

**Fast and Fun-Synthetic Phonics**

Shirley Houston

This workshop introduces participants to features of synthetic phonics instruction which is identified as best practice for the early stages of reading and spelling in national reviews of literacy education in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Participants will be given the opportunity to discuss differences between traditional and synthetic phonics instruction and program design, evaluate resources from one synthetic phonics program and enjoy multisensory synthetic phonics activities they can use as part of a balanced literacy program.

**Supporting students with working memory difficulties**

Annette Southall

This workshop explores the relationship between executive function, working memory and oral reasoning. Education Assistants are often assigned to work with students who ‘get lost’ in tasks that require the efficient retrieval and processing of information. We will explore the indicators of working memory breakdown and explicit strategies that can be used in any setting to support students to access their learning experience and to reflect on, and communicate, what they have learnt.

**MORNING TEA**

10.30am – 12.00pm — SESSION 2

**Food for thought: the science of cooking and eating.**

Emma Donnelly

Food shouldn’t be intimidating and neither should science. This belief has led scientist and season 3 ‘My Kitchen Rules’ contestants Emma Donnelly and her husband Andrew to start Culinary Science to help demystify science. In this hands-on session you’ll explore how you can easily use food to teach science in your classroom. You’ll get to taste some science, experience neurogastronomy and you’ll leave with a range of cross-curricular resources and hopefully a new passion for food and science.

**Nurturing imaginations**

Rebecca Flanagan

Nurturing imaginations” - fostering creativity, and encouraging a love of learning in the early years through music, movement and storytelling. This workshop will give you practical hands on ideas for bringing magical experiences to children in your everyday routines. You will learn simple and engaging ways to live in the moment and capture those sparks of spontaneity by developing a repertoire of skills and songs, without needing to use a CD of rhymes and songs. You will be using the very best resource of all – YOURSELF!

**Building Self-Esteem and Resilience**

Peta Collins

Research indicates that for a child with a learning difficulty or disability, their self-esteem and ability to “bounce back” from challenges is just as important (if not more important) to their future success as the remediation they receive. This workshop focuses on giving strategies to build up the self esteem and develop the resilience of students.

**Students with no English-What do I need to know?**

Jan West

This interactive and hands on session will provide participants with an understanding of how newly arrived students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, with limited English may feel in the classroom. The workshop will focus on the differences between first and second language learning and factors which may affect language learning. A key message of this session will be emphasising how education assistants play a valuable role in assisting students to settle in to their new environment and engage in learning and play.
12.00pm – 1.00pm — LUNCH

1.00 pm - 2.30pm — SESSION 3

Building better brains- the chiropractic way
Olivia Gleeson
This interactive presentation will:
*Teach you easy, quick and fun classroom and home care exercises that can make the world of difference in firing up or calming down the brains of the children in your care.
*Reveal how a child’s day to day experiences affect the structural and functional development of their brain, including personality, emotional regulation and IQ.
*Help you protect and support your own brain and spine when working in the world of little people and little furniture.

Freshwater Fauna: Protecting Our Frogs, Fish and Mussels
Amy Krupa
Do you know what frog and fish species live in our waterways? Do you know about the freshwater mussel’s unique life cycle? Attendees will participate in hands on activities to learn about the frogs, fish and mussels that inhabit our freshwater rivers, creeks and lakes. The issues affecting these animals and our waterways will also be discussed along with solutions. The Freshwater Fauna Teacher Guides will be showcased as a tool to incorporate this learning into the classroom.

Engaging Young Writers~ Lighting the Spark
Keryl Caird
This workshop will be a practical workshop of ideas to turn students into Young Authors. It only takes a spark to get the fire going!! Tap into imagination; create an environment where it is difficult NOT to love writing. Some students have writer’s block out. There are ways around this…. How can you help students to overcome writers’ anxiety, support early literacy and build a bridge for reluctant writers?

Strategies for deescalating students exhibiting serious behaviours
David Knight
Team-Teach provides training in positive handling strategies (including physical restraint) for responding to and managing challenging behaviours, focussing on nonphysical interventions to deescalate situations involving students with extremely challenging behaviours. By using a holistic, whole setting approach to behaviour management and working with leadership and management, our strategies are actively committed to minimising risk and reducing restraint. Team-Teach also provides training for groups of parents and offers a consultancy service.

2.30pm - 3.00pm – AFTERNOON TEA

3.00-4.00 pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keryl Caird
Bullies Beware- Keeping Peace in our Work Place

In every workplace lies hidden a Work Place Bully! Do you know who they are? How do you recognise the bully? Very often they don’t even know themselves. Anyone who has suffered the agonising ongoing discomfort of being subject to workplace bullying, will testify its impact on well being and work productivity. There are 4 R’s to help prevent and recover from Work Place Bullying- Relationships, Respect, Resilience and Recovery. This key note address will outline key ideas, strategies and resources for coping with Bullying in the Work Place!

4.00 -5.00 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Grand Ballroom
The West Australian Association of Teacher Assistants Inc. AGM and presentation of 5, 10, 15 and 20 Year Badges and Certificates.

7.00 pm – 11.00 pm — Conference Dinner in the Grand Ballroom
(Doors open at 6.40pm. Please be seated by 6.50pm)

Pre dinner Speaker
Tony Morley CEO Kids’ Camp Inc
Our Association's objectives are:

- To enhance the professional development of Teacher Assistants for the advancement of Education in all areas of education in Western Australia.
- To create a network of Teacher Assistants which will foster educational thought and practice and set before itself and the community the ethics of high professional responsibility and peer support.
- To organise and conduct regular meetings, workshops and conferences for the professional development of Teacher Assistants.

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9:00am-10:30am — SESSION 4

**Exploring with your Senses**  
Leanne Sharp and Sue Charlick  
Learn to create and explore with your senses. Imagine a sensory room where you can immerse yourself in a sensory experience while learning with your colleagues, a room that can be used by students across the school to help them engage all their senses and to create a calming effect in a busy environment. This session will inspire you in very practical, hands on workshop to implement our ideas. Everyone will go home with the skills and knowledge to use straight away. This workshop will refresh and inspire you to springboard from the entree presented.

**SH'BAM**  
Wendy Bell  
SH'BAM is a fun-loving, insanely addictive dance workout, no dance experience required. All you need is a playful attitude and a cheeky smile so forget being a wallflower – even if you walk in thinking you can’t, you’ll walk out knowing you can! SH'BAM is simple but seriously hot dance moves, the perfect way to shape up and let out your inner star - even if you're dance challenged. SH'BAM is the ultimate fun and sociable way to exercise.

**Being creative with recycled art**  
Chloe Kyriakacis  
Join us to explore multiples possibilities using recycled materials to create engaging art projects for students. You will create two art projects, which can be taught to a variety of age groups. Assist students with the appreciation of recycling old materials and transforming them into amazing pieces of art. Participants will need to bring a 2L milk bottle and roughly 25 milk or soft drink bottle caps.

**Communicating with the Child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
Siobhan Clery  
This workshop provides an overview of communication within Autism Spectrum Disorders. It explores the characteristics that children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder experience resulting in their individualised communication and learning profiles. This enables the development of practical strategies and working solutions that can be implemented to address behaviours that may occur as a result of a communication breakdown. The workshop will be practical with an emphasis on how (ideas and tools that can be made) to communicate with children with an ASD.

10:30am – 10.50am — MORNING TEA

10.50am – 11.20am  
Todd Campbell – Bridges Finance  
Your financial journey... what’s your destination and how to get there

An insight on: Retirement Planning, Understanding GESB and your options, Centrelink Entitlements

11:20am – 12.50pm  
CLOSING PLENARY

**The Importance of Calmness, Silence and Stillness in Children’s Lives**  
Maggie Dent  
Today’s world is full of the immediacy of a busy life and it is impacting on children. This seminar explores the what, the why and most importantly the how of calming our children. You will learn about self-regulation, how to calm hyperactive children and all about stress in children’s lives. You will discover the cognitive, social and emotional benefits of silence and stillness and how it will bring you immediate benefits in your classroom and school. Maggie also explores building mindfulness in young children, which will help with their ability to interpret and interact more positively with their world.

12.50pm — CONFERENCE CLOSURE

*Endorsed by the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia*