

# TA TALK

Issue 14, December 2016



Leaders in  
Professional  
Learning  
For  
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

## Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

As we wind down after a fabulous and whirlwind twelve months, we have reflected on the year that was. Did you know that in our first twelve months we created and uploaded 7 professional learning programs, hosted 17 webinars, created hundreds of MyPLC and Facebook posts, published 4 blogs (oops, room for improvement) and wrote twelve newsletters!

During this time, we welcomed over 200 members in addition to 29 schools and training organisations, some with teams of up to 20 staff.

We would also like to warmly welcome the 156 teacher aides and coordinators, from the following schools that recently joined us during our November special anniversary offer:

Bayview State School (QLD), Dysart State High School (QLD), Gin Gin State School (QLD), James Nash State High School (QLD), Longreach State School (QLD), North Arm State School (QLD), Salisbury High School (SA), Springfield Central State School (QLD), St. Laurence's Parish School (NSW), Bowral Public School (NSW), Gawlor and District College (SA), Peachester State School (QLD), Oxley Christian College (VIC) and St Patrick's College (TAS).

Last week, we squeezed in a visit to Mooloolaba State School, and met with the wonderful teachers and teacher aides who are collaborating to make literacy learning more successful for their students. We will be back in the New Year, to share their story with you.

We wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe and wonderful holiday.

Warm regards

*Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell*

# ATA Monogrammed Polo Shirts Now Available



If you are planning to buy work wear for next year, we have our fabulous polo shirt offer ready just in time for the 2017 school year.

The ATA monogrammed polo shirts are available for purchase in two styles and in a variety of colours.

To ensure there are no “add-ons” and you get the best possible price, ATA has arranged for member orders to be made directly with the supplier, Coast ImageWear. The link to order has been posted on MyPLC and for those of you who aren't on Facebook, we will be sending the order link in an email, as well.

We are pictured wearing our shirts (the Miami Polo) for the first time on a recent visit to Mooloolaba State School. Aren't the colours gorgeous?

## ATA Order Form

Welcome Australian Teacher Aide members.

Please see below options for polo shirts with the ATA logo embroidered.

You can contact Coast Imagewear with any questions via email [sales@coastimagewear.com.au](mailto:sales@coastimagewear.com.au) or call us on 07 5494 7741.

Default sorting products per page



**Connection – Ladies**

\$20.30

[SELECT OPTIONS](#)



**Connection – Mens**

\$20.30

[SELECT OPTIONS](#)



**Miami Polo – Ladies**

\$23.95

[SELECT OPTIONS](#)



**Miami Polo – Mens**

\$23.95

[SELECT OPTIONS](#)

## DECEMBER WEBINAR

### ACKNOWLEDGING CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS AS YOU REFRAME FOR 2017

We ended this year's webinar series with an awesome coaching session by Beth Berghan, who is a national and international coach and trainer. Beth believes we all need to find our passion, wisdom and joy in life, and from this perspective she went on to give us practical strategies to identify and manage our personal and work challenges, the obstacles we face, and how to celebrate our achievements. There were lots of opportunities to ask questions and give feedback. Beth provided everyone with an excellent workbook for recording ideas and thoughts along the way, and to use for future planning.

#### CHALLENGES

Beth described six effective strategies that we can use to minimise the impact of challenges that test our patience, push our buttons or undermine our confidence, at work, or at home.

She talked about how we can manage our expectations, and learn and grow from them. She also suggested that we remember that *'Done is 100% better than perfect!'*

#### OBSTACLES

Next we tackled the obstacles that block our progress and stand in the way of us being the best that we can be. Beth again provided six more practical strategies that we can use to avoid being overwhelmed, and to learn to accept obstacles and find solutions.



#### ACHIEVEMENTS

Lastly we all celebrated our achievements with a loud cheer. Beth reminded us that we should remember all the little things we do, that are worth celebrating.

At ATA, we acknowledge that through your passion, wisdom and joy, you make a real difference in the lives of the teachers and students you support - and we celebrate you!



#### WINNER OF COACHING SESSION

The lucky winner of the 2 x 1 hour personal coaching sessions with Beth is Leanne McDonald from Traralgon in Victoria. Congratulations, Leanne.

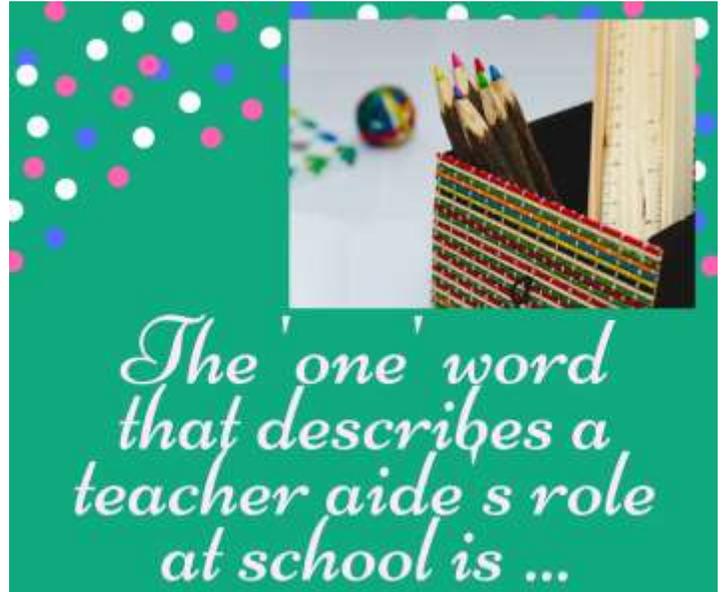
## WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK? December 2016 Fans: 4,139

**Top Post:** And your word is ...?

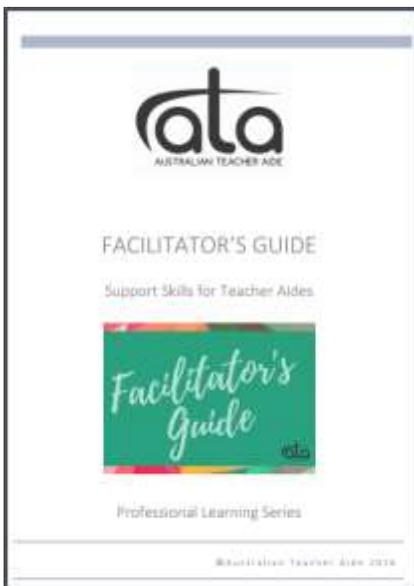
7,393 Views 255 Reactions, Comments and Shares

We asked you to give us one word that describes a teacher aide's role at school and we got plenty of suggestions, including: Patient, Flexible, Guide, Everything, Valuable, Amazing, Invaluable, Supportive, Indispensable, Compassion, Fun, Important, Angel, Infinite, Necessary, Versatile, Diverse, Rewarding, Special, Priceless, Irreplaceable, Awesome, Awe-inspiring, Communicator, Saint, Superwoman, Precious, Care, Dedicated, Lifesavers, Flamin' legends plus more!! Have you added your word?

Thank you for continuing to share the [ATA Facebook page](#) with others 😊



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE MEMBERS' PORTAL – FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



In readiness for 2017, we have updated all of our Support Skills for Teacher Aides workbooks, and included a learning record that will help you track your PD.

We know that there are some amazing TA Coordinators at member schools, who will be facilitating ATA PD sessions with their teacher aide teams during next year's pupil free days. To make preparation for this a little easier, we have added a Facilitator's Guide to use with the Support Skills for Teacher Aides series of programs.

## CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

With the year drawing to a close, we wanted to share with you some festive ideas for Christmas, as well as holiday activities to keep the kids entertained for free.

### ABC ME APP FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Once more the ABC has produced an outstanding App just for kids. [ABC ME](#) is a free app for primary school aged children that works on all devices and has 'on demand' shows free from advertisements and in-app purchases.

### VIRTUAL VISIT TO NEW YORK CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

Wander down Fifth Avenue, New York and visit their [Winter Wonderlands](#) virtual displays with Google.

### CREATIVE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Do you enjoy making your own Christmas decorations? These creative and inexpensive ideas from [Brightside](#) show you how to make creative and inexpensive decorations.



## SHARE YOUR STORIES FROM AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- **Make a difference:** Acknowledge someone who is making a difference in the lives of students
- **What's new?** Are you using a new App, literacy program, STEM activity?
- **What have you been learning?** Have you attended an awesome workshop? Share it with your paraprofessional colleagues here

## SEND US YOUR NEWS STORIES: CONTACT US

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