

TA TALK

Issue 17, March 2017



Leaders in
Professional
Learning
For
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

As another action packed month draws to a close, we firstly want to offer a very warm welcome to all our new TA members, schools and training organisations.

Schools joining ATA this term from Queensland are Wamuran State School, Deception Bay State High School, and the small and remote state schools of Lundavra, Kioma and Aramac.

From New South Wales, we welcome Fisher Road School and from Victoria, we welcome both campuses of Waverley Christian College, Wantirna South and Narre Warren South.

Thank you to all our individual subscribers, schools and registered training organisations such as TAFE SA, TAFE Brisbane and Traxion Training, who have renewed their membership. We are thrilled to know that you continue to value the service we provide.

As you will see from this month's edition of TA Talk, there are lots of new resources up on our website for members, and some outstanding events to come.

Our focus for March has been literacy and numeracy skills, and you can read our latest blog on Apps and Books for Adolescent Readers [here](#).

Warm regards

Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell

ATA PD CALENDAR

Top Tips For Helping Students With Anxiety

Free Community Webinar - Tuesday 28 March

By popular demand, our next community webinar is all about supporting students with anxiety. ATA guest presenter, Amanda Abel, paediatric psychologist and founder of the Northern Centre for Child Development, will present *Top Tips For Helping Students With Anxiety*.

Amanda will explain the signs of anxiety, typical triggers, the impact of anxiety on learning and give you lots of useful strategies you can use with students straight away.



If you haven't registered yet, you can do so [here](#).

Using the Distributive Property of Mathematics to Help Students Solve Problems

Member Only Webinar - Tuesday 11 April

Continuing on from our March webinar, *Using the Language of Mathematics with Confidence*, this interactive webinar will explore the distributive property of mathematics, and again focus on how teacher aides can use this rule to talk with students about math, gain a deeper understanding of how students are thinking about math, and use this to provide specific feedback to teachers.

Strategies for Adding & Subtracting

Use your fingers: $3 + 2 = 5$

Count with tallies: $4 + 3 = 7$

Draw a picture: $5 + 3 = 8$

Use the number line: $8 + 3 = 11$

Use the number grid: $8 + 3 = 11$

Mental math: $6 + 2 = 8$

Write a number sentence: $4 + 3 = 7$, $14 - 5 = 9$, $9 - 2 = 7$, $10 + 8 = 18$

NEWS

We recently attended the Visible Learning Plus seminar, How Students Learn, presented by, none other than, John Hattie himself. In six hands-on sessions, we explored how students learn, and analysed the strategies that are effective at different stages of the learning process. John explained the three inputs that influence learning:

- Skill - prior learning and culture
- Will - disposition to learning and resilience
- Thrill - motivation, knowing what success looks like



NEW RESOURCES

How to teach children and adolescents to read and spell with confidence

This resource is a 'must see' for teacher aides who support students with literacy, at any year level.



Frances Brennan, Principal Speech Pathologist from the Speech Tree, presents a highly interactive session titled *How to teach children and adolescents to read and spell with confidence*.

Frances explains the importance of understanding the student experience, and the many strands that are woven into reading. She stresses that first we need to identify the problems that students are having with reading and spelling, so we can help them succeed. We can do this by having goals that are specific, measurable, and attainable, and by make learning explicit to show students what success looks like.

Frances outlines the synthetic approach to phonological awareness, and provides lots of useful strategies to support struggling readers.

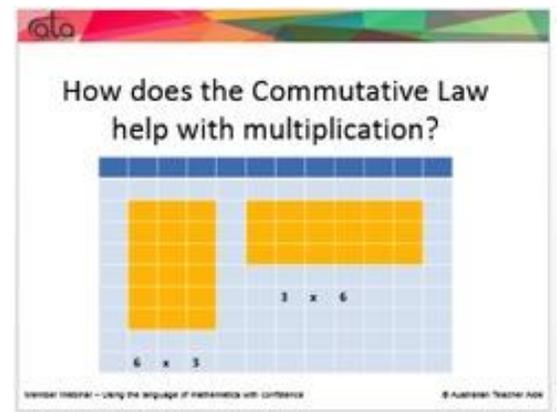
The live webinar was attended by a record number of TAs and other educators, and question time was a highlight, as Frances answered a range of questions about individual students, books and other resources used to help struggling readers develop confidence.

This fabulous webinar is now uploaded to the member portal. Lots of member schools have scheduled this program as a teacher aide PD. If you want to read more about suggested resources, you can also go to our blog, [Apps and Books to Support Adolescent Readers](#).

Using the Language of Mathematics with Confidence

In this highly interactive webinar, Stella takes participants through a series of exercises that explore mathematics vocabulary, and the associative and commutative properties of mathematics. The activities demonstrate how an understanding of math rules, help teacher aides to:

- talk with students about math
- gain a better understanding of how students are thinking about math
- provide effective feedback to the teacher about a student's math skills.



This is the first part of a two-part series on the language of mathematics. It includes a worksheet and is an excellent resource for school PD on mathematics. It is now available in the webinar library.



SNAPSHOT

You are a modest lot and therefore we have to work hard to get you to talk about yourselves and what you do in your education support roles. We did, however, manage to get Jim Anderson to agree to talk about his volunteer work in a number of small and remote schools in Far North Queensland. You will find his inspiring story in the [Snapshots](#) area of the member portal. And remember, whilst you may think your story and your role at school is ordinary, others don't, so please share with us what you do. It is very interesting for our community to see how the roles differ from school to school and from state to state. So, do [Contact Us](#). We

would love to hear from you.

WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK?

March 2017 Fans: 5,644

Top Post:

I am ~~just~~ a Teacher Aide

63,442 Views

4,455 Reactions, Comments and Shares

How many of you have been guilty of saying this? Yes, thought so. Stop it! You are a key contributor to effective student learning and success. Many teachers and students would be struggling in the absence of teacher aides and the skilled learning support you artfully provide. Be proud of what you do!



Also trending well:

Take heed, teacher aides

8,197 Views

253 Reactions, Comments and Shares

This was a very recent post and therefore hasn't grabbed the attention of so many of you, just yet. But the message is important. You can't help others when you are 'pouring from an empty cup'. So take some time for yourselves, regularly! You will be able to give so much more, when you do.

CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

The focus this month is on literacy resources to support struggling readers. All resource links are uploaded into the TA Toolbox, so you don't have to search through newsletters to find something you need from past issues.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE BOOKLISTS

The annual Premier's Reading Challenge is now open in all States. This challenge encourages the love of reading by all ability groups, and the booklist includes [Easy Reads](#) for years 3-6.

THE READING CENTRE - QUEENSLAND

[The Reading Centre](#) provides advice as well as free and low cost professional development resources, to parents and educators, on strategies to support readers including children with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia.

SPELD SA

[SPELD SA](#) is a non-profit organisation that supports children and adults with specific learning difficulties. They have an outstanding list of free literacy resources such as oral language cards, phonics books, and a program for older struggling readers called SOS - Spelling for Older Students.

AITSL ILLUSTRATIONS OF PRACTICE

[Illustrations of Practice](#) is a series of school based video clips, by AITSL, that provide both background knowledge and practical understanding of an extensive range of teaching and learning topics, including literacy.

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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