

# TA TALK

Issue 18, April 2017



Leaders in  
Professional  
Learning  
For  
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

## Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

Term 2 is up and running for most, and it's shaping up to be a big one for the team at ATA, with some exciting member news that we can't wait to tell you about - very soon!

There's a bit of controversy in the air this month, and our blog, [\*Inclusive Practices In Schools - Who Is Responsible?\*](#) is likely to cause quite a stir. We decided it was time to put on our advocacy hat and tackle the nonsense notion that teacher aides are to blame for non-inclusive practices! Make sure you read it. We really want to hear your feedback.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, we have published our Member Webinar date claimers for Term 2 and 3, so you can mark them in your diary. Members will be the first to get a look at our Student Success Support Framework, a new professional development series for schools. Make sure your school knows about it and has a [membership plan](#) that allows you direct access to the series.

Our last Community Webinar, [\*Top Tips for Helping Students with Anxiety\*](#) has now been uploaded to our member site. It was our most popular live professional development program yet, with a 'sell out' crowd of enthusiastic teacher aides and other educators. Read more about it on page three.

Did you know that almost a quarter of all boys and girls suffer from anxiety? On page five, we have provided you with links to more information about students with anxiety.

Warm regards

*Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell*

## ATA PD CALENDAR

Member Webinars (Second Tuesday of the month @ 4:15pm AEST)

### Tuesday 9 May: Introduction to the Student Support Success Framework for Schools

Be the first to get a sneak peek at the Student Success Framework for Schools. We will explain why there is a need for this program, who it is for, and show you a preview of each module. We will also be asking for your feedback. This session is interactive with handouts, activities and Q&A.

### Tuesday 13 June: Module 1: How to plan for student learning.

How can teachers and teacher aides work together in the learning support process? Participate in this interactive workshop activity where we explore the role of both the teacher and teacher aide. This session includes handouts, a worksheet and a Q&A session.

### Tuesday 11 July: Module 2: Scaffold student learning

What is scaffolding? Participate in this interactive workshop activity where we explore practical strategies teacher aides can use to scaffold students in the learning process. This session includes handouts, a worksheet and a Q&A session.

### Tuesday 8 August: Module 3: Give effective feedback to students

Why do students need formative feedback? Participate in this interactive workshop activity where we explore the type of feedback that is effective and how you can use it to help students become better learners. This session includes handouts, a worksheet and a Q&A session.

### Tuesday 12 September: Module 4: Give effective feedback to the teacher

What kind of feedback about learning, by the teacher aide, helps teachers plan better learning experiences for students? Participate in this interactive workshop activity where we explore different types of feedback, and how it can be used to plan better learning experiences for students. This session includes handouts, a worksheet and a Q&A session.

## Community Webinar

Tuesday 30 May: Keep an eye on your mailbox. We will announce our next topic very soon

## NEWS

### ARE CASUAL AND PART TIME SUPPORT STAFF AT YOUR SCHOOL MISSING OUT?

We know that school budgets often don't stretch far enough to include paid professional development for casual and part time teacher aides, which means they miss out. Of course, they shouldn't have to! We have solved this problem with our corporate membership package. Schools can now nominate all support staff for membership, and get unlimited access to all ATA professional development resources, at the one low price. Make sure you ask your school about [membership](#) today!

## NEW RESOURCES

### Top Tips for Helping Students with Anxiety

It is normal for children of all ages to have fears; that is, until they interfere with the child's daily life. In this webinar, [\*Top Tips For Helping Students With Anxiety\*](#), Amanda Abel, paediatric psychologist and founder of the Northern Centre for Child Development, gives us some great strategies for the classroom.

This one hour professional development program is packed with practical school based strategies, tips and tools for helping students with anxiety. You will learn:

- to identify verbal and non-verbal signs of anxiety for children of different ages and abilities
- to identify typical triggers in the school setting, including tasks, routines and the environment
- about the reciprocal relationship between school performance and anxiety, and how this impacts on learning
- proactive strategies and tools to teach children the skills they need to cope with anxiety, and ways to imbed these strategies into the student's day
- reactive strategies and tools to respond to behaviour that occurs as a result of anxiety

Amanda adds further value at the conclusion of the session as she responds to specific audience questions. A downloadable worksheet is included.

### Using the Language of Mathematics with Confidence Part 2

In [\*Part 2 Using the Language of Mathematics with Confidence\*](#), you will learn about the distributive property of multiplication over addition and subtraction. Over 60% of our members said they learned some new things about math that they can use to support students. You will learn how:

- to simplify multiplication
- to multiply large numbers more easily
- the distributive property works for both addition and subtraction
- to identify some common error patterns students make when applying the distributive property.

This webinar runs for 45 minutes, and has a downloadable worksheet with practice exercises and answers.



## WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK?

April 2017 Fans: 5,824

### Top Post:

Does your brain do this when you get into bed at night?

34,185 Views

1,347 Reactions, Comments and Shares

We thought so! As we predicted, many of you have a very busy headspace! Perhaps time to revisit our webinar on mindfulness? ☺ [Mindfulness In The School Workplace](#) is in the webinar library in our member portal.

 Australian Teacher Aide  
Published by Mandy Bell [?] · 23 March · ✨

Does your brain do this when you get into bed at night?

### A Teacher Aide's Brain at Night:

Why wasn't Ella at school today? Or yesterday? Actually, she hasn't been to school all week! I hope she is ok. She really needs more time in reading support.

Must get up at 5:30 in the morning to take Josh to swimming training. No! I haven't ironed his school shirt. I think he has some clean shorts. Better get up at 5:20. I'll reset the alarm. Better put a load of washing on before I go.

Did I complete Sarah's session report? Where did I even put it?? I don't remember putting it in Hilary's pigeonhole. Must check in the morning.

I wonder what the meeting is about tomorrow afternoon. I hope my hours aren't going to be cut.

It's my birthday tomorrow. Hope they don't make a fuss at school. Just a cake, maybe. That would be nice. I must not forget to register for the ATA webinar tomorrow. They have been filling up quickly, lately, and I don't want to miss this one on anxiety. I would really like to be able to help poor Harry more. His anxiety is really interfering with his ability to learn. I really should get more exercise. Perhaps I should swim while Josh trains.

What time was I meeting Marie on Saturday? Oh, can't remember. I'll give her a call tomorrow. Did I cancel Amy's dental appointment? Must check. I'll write myself a note.

Go to sleep!! Big day tomorrow. Can't remember why, but I'm sure it is.

A more recent post, also trending well:

 Australian Teacher Aide  
Published by Mandy Bell [?] · 17 hrs · ✨

How would you react if someone told you that the teacher aide role is redundant? Well, that is exactly what happened very recently. Read on ... <http://www.australianteacheraide.com.au/teacher-aides-are-r...>



How would you react if someone told you that the teacher aide role is redundant?

9,343 Views

208 Reactions, Comments and Shares

This was a very recent post and we expect it will take the attention of many more of our Facebook community in the days to come. It is probably one of the most controversial topics we have published yet, fuelled by a comment by an Australian university lecturer (the university shall remain nameless for the moment). You can read more about it in our latest blog post. It begs the question every school should be asking - how are we ensuring our teaching teams are best equipped to create and nurture an inclusive learning environment for all students. **Hint:** Is your school an ATA member?

## CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

The focus this month is on strategies to support students who experience anxiety. 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.

### 10 WAYS SCHOOLS CAN REDUCE ANXIETY

In [10 Ways schools can reduce anxiety](#), Andrew Fuller outlines some whole school strategies to respond to anxiety. Andrew is a clinical psychologist who works with schools and communities in Australia and worldwide. He specialises in the well-being of young people and their families, and is an inspiring presenter. On his website you can access many useful and free resource on topics such as resilience, cyber relationships and understanding the adolescent.

### KIDSMATTER - ANXIETY

We have previously recommended the [KidsMatter](#) site for information about social and emotional well-being. You will find some excellent free resources that address topics such as what anxiety looks like and strategies for children, parents, schools and teachers.



### BREAKING THE VISCIOS CYCLE

In [Breaking the Vicious Cycle](#) Kathy Casale, a psychologist working in secondary schools, tells us about the story of three high school students who were caught up in a cycle of failure at school. She explains how her four part plan can disrupt this cycle and get students back on track.

## 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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