



Early Childhood Newsletter



Association of Independent Schools
of Western Australia

Photo: Frederick Irwin Anglican School

2020 Term 1 | Issue 1





Welcome Back for Term 1

Photo: Hensman St Elementary

The AISWA Early Childhood team wishes you a wonderful start to the 2020 school year. By now we know that your classrooms will look sparkling; your plans for the year are no longer rattling around in your head but instead are taking shape; and most importantly you will have offered a very warm welcome to the children and families who will become your classroom community for the year.

Should any of those plans go slightly astray, or you need some help make the plans happen in the best way possible then the early childhood team are here to help. Don't hesitate to contact us. We offer support, advice and encouragement via email, phone and most important face to face.

Joining our team this year is Rebekah Garwood and Fiona Shand. We welcome them to our team and know that their wealth of early childhood expertise will complement the team.

We look forward to working with you in 2020!

Wendy, Deb, Barb, Bek, Fiona and Janelle.

Contents:

- P3 - Welcome Back
- P4 - EC Team
- P6 - Focus for 2020
- P7 - Upcoming Professional Learning
- P11 - On Entry 2020



Photo: South Coast Baptist College

The EC Team



Wendy Gorman – wgorman@ais.wa.edu.au

Wendy Gorman leads the Early Childhood team at AISWA. Wendy has extensive experience working as an early childhood teacher in the Independent School sector in WA. In 2019 Wendy was made a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders in recognition of her leadership in Early Childhood. The highlight of Wendy's week is spending time playing and learning with her grandson Leo.

Wendy's key responsibilities: Sector representation, Universal Access, National Quality Standards, Little Scientist STEM program.

Work days - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Deb Martin – dmartin@ais.wa.edu.au

Deb Martin is an Early Childhood Consultant with AISWA with over 14 years classroom experience in AISWA schools. Her area of expertise and school support is in the area of Play-based Pedagogies, Early Years Writing and the On-entry Assessment. Her work also includes supporting leaders and their educators, in pedagogical change and embedding evidence based appropriate pedagogies including play-based and inquiry pedagogies and Reggio Emilia inspired practice. Due to Deb's recent experience in the classroom, her practical experiences and rich stories help educators see the possibilities of high-quality practice, including a guidance approach to managing behaviour and supporting self-regulation. When Deb is not working at AISWA, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Andrew and three beautiful children Ellie (6), Emma and Sadie (3 ½).

Deb's key responsibilities: Play based learning, On Entry Assessment and early literacy - writing.

Regional support to Great Southern

Work Days - Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Rebekah Garwood – rgarwood@ais.wa.edu.au

Rebekah Garwood joins our team as a full time Early Childhood Consultant. She is an early childhood educator and leader experienced in creating child-centred indoor and outdoor learning environments where children feel safe, secure and supported. Rebekah is a strong advocate for the needs and the rights of our youngest students and is passionate about play pedagogies, emergent literacy, inquiry and nature-based learning.

Rebekah's key responsibilities: Nature Pedagogy, Documentation of learning including Floorbooks, Play Schema, Early literacy - reading

Regional support to South West

Work days - Monday to Friday

Barbara Bosich – bbosich@ais.wa.edu.au

Barbara Bosich is an Early Consultant with AISWA with extensive experience working in schools and University. Barbara uses her knowledge gained as an early childhood leader and specialist to support schools with early education, literacy and pedagogy. Barbara enjoys working with teachers and schools to clarify their philosophies of early learning and to assist them in achieving change within their setting.

Barb's key responsibilities: Australian Early Development Census, Philosophy development

Regional support to Geraldton and Carnarvon

Work days – Monday and Tuesday

Fiona Shand – fshand@ais.wa.edu.au

Fiona has recently joined AISWA and is looking forward to sharing her passion for the early years with teachers and schools. She has over 25 years experience both in the classroom and in leadership roles. Fiona has completed training in Positive Education and strongly believes in the importance of the development of the whole child, providing students with the social, emotional and cognitive skills to help them flourish and develop as life long learners. When not at work, you can find Fiona reading books and planning her next holiday, as she loves to travel!

Fiona's key responsibilities: Support for Year One and Two teachers, reporting, leadership

Regional support to Goldfields and Esperance

Work days - Monday and Tuesday

Janelle Dickinson – jdickinson@ais.wa.edu.au

Janelle is the administration assistant for the Early Childhood Consultants. Helping with setup of professional learning, on entry, travel and much more.

Work days - Monday to Friday



Focus for 2020

Photo: Moerlina School

Our 2020 priorities are:

- Literacy in the Early Years - Interstate presenters Andrea Hillbrick and Lisa Burnham
- Early Childhood Pedagogical Leadership - Come and join our Socratic Circle where we discuss current research - Lead by Dr Dee O'Connor
- Two new workshops - We have a series focussing on art techniques and a series supporting nature pedagogy educators
- STEM - We now offer 8 Little Scientist modules
- Regional support - Make sure you inquire about travel assistance
- Shoulder to shoulder support at schools
- Study Tours



Professional Learning



Photo: Lisa Burman

I am a Writer! Introduction to the Bookmaking Approach to Literacy Learning

Join us for a 2-day Mini Course on The Bookmaking Approach with Lisa Burman, from Consulting in Pedagogical Growth.

The Bookmaking Approach to literacy values and honours children's prior learning, their cultural competence and their dispositions for learning. It uses these to drive learning deeper and to create a culture of thinking, talking and noticing about picture books. It values the intellectual quality of mark-making as an essential component of being a writer and offers a place for every child to feel successful.

A Bookmaking Approach not only sees children from this competent lens, it empowers children to see themselves as competent writers and supports them to build strong identities as writers and communicators.

This rich pedagogy engages children in language and literacy, motivates them to become deeply involved in their learning and also excites educators when they see children learning to their potential.

[Click here for more information.](#)





Powerful Strategies for Teaching Readers: Andrea Hillbrick

Andrea Hillbrick is renowned for supporting and empowering educators and Professional Learning Teams across many different school settings and AISWA is excited to be working with Andrea again in 2020.

We invite you to join us for an ongoing project where Andrea will support you to implement a purposeful Inquiry in your classroom with a focus of teaching engaged readers.

Andrea will be available throughout the project for mentoring and support, sharing with you a host of practical strategies that will provide our students with the will and skill to engage in reading and become *meaning makers*. During the project you will have the opportunity to investigate:

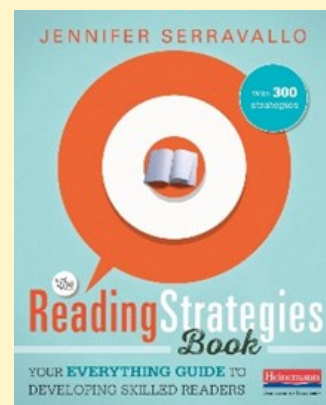
- Hooks to engage readers
- Teaching Approaches that enable and extend readers
- Independent reading
- Reading Conferences
- Comprehension Strategies
- Learning experiences that motivate readers
- Effective use of mentor texts

Each participant will receive a copy of The Reading Strategies Book by Jennifer Serravallo.

Throughout the project the teams will be supported by:

- Collecting and analysing data
- Accessing current research
- Exploring quality texts
- Identifying key features of effective classrooms
- Examining powerful teaching strategies
- Reflecting on current classroom practice
- Planning action for success

[Click here for more information.](#)





Unlocking the Potential of all Mathematicians - K-6: Andrea Hillbrick

Be prepared to view, discuss, solve, think, participate, differentiate, collaborate, record and reflect during this professional learning opportunity.

‘Jam-packed’ with challenging mathematical tasks this professional learning will focus on:

- Identifying the key features of challenging tasks
- Engaging in examples of challenging tasks
- Investigating prompts and strategies to enable and extend all mathematicians
- Exploring the proficiencies – understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning

Considering strategies to build a community of mathematicians who persist, cooperate and demonstrate flexible thinking.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Photo: Lance Holt School

100 Languages of Art

In 2020 we are excited to offer a series of after school workshops developed around 'The Language of Arts'. Each workshop will support educators in providing multiple ways for children to develop, expand and express their conceptual knowledge and understandings.

We will be running four 'hands on' workshops throughout the year and you will have the opportunity to engage with local artists who will support you in developing the skills necessary to introduce the materials and experiences into your classroom.

This year we will be working with 2 highly respected local artists, Karen Blair (award winning children's book illustrator) and Sam Hughes (artist/sculpture from Inkling Arts) and will be exploring water colours, sculpture, collage and clay.

The workshops will be held after school from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. More details providing dates and venues will be sent to schools shortly.

'Each child has a hundred languages, a hundred hands, a hundred ways of thinking of playing, a hundred joys for singing and understanding, a hundred worlds to discover, a hundred worlds to invent and a hundred worlds to dream (Excerpt from 'The Hundred Languages of Children' by Loris Malaguzzi).

We look forward to exploring language of the arts with you throughout the year.



Photo: Moerlina School



Photo: Christ Church Grammar School

Nature Pedagogy & Practice

Nature Play Week 2020 occurs between 25 March – April 5. To celebrate, AISWA will be commencing the first of four Nature Pedagogy professional learning workshops aimed at providing educators with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make nature pedagogy a sustainable and ongoing part of their early childhood classroom practice.

Workshops will be run by educators and nature pedagogues who have a recognised expertise in nature play.

In Workshop 1 - Sensory Risk Taking: More Than Just the Five Senses Daniel and Trudi from Educated by Nature will discuss the importance of multi-sensory experiences for healthy brain development and the science behind developing multi-sensory integration. During the workshop you will experience a range of activities designed to challenge both children and adults.

Coming soon.



Photo: Christ Church Grammar School



Photo: All Saints' College

Little Scientist Workshops

Little Scientists is a not-for-profit, professional development program, offering STEM workshops for early childhood educators and teachers, Australia wide.

The workshops aim to promote confidence in recognising STEM learning opportunities and implementing playful, inquiry-based learning experiences in children's daily lives.

Our workshops are designed with you, the teacher in mind and **previous STEM knowledge is not required**. They connect theory and practice in an engaging way, whilst also providing you with professional planning materials you can use the very next day.

Develop your confidence in planning and implementing STEM learning in your service.

Here are our upcoming dates:

[09/03 - Air \(Geraldton\)](#)

[31/03 - Chemical Reactions](#)

[01/04 - Acoustics](#)

[26/05 - Water](#)

[27/05 - Air](#)

[24/06 - Technology](#)

[20/07 - Optics](#)

[26/08 - Human Body](#)

[16/09 - Computing](#)

This year we have modules running on consecutive days to encourage regional teachers attendance.





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