

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

ISSUE 1
December 2012

RESEARCH BULLETIN

Updating our 12 Victorian partner schools



UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL VISITS

December 10 Ruskin Park Primary 1.30

December 11 Essendon Primary 9.00

December 11 Lyndale Secondary 10.00

December 11 Flemington Primary 11.30

December 11 St Kevin's Primary 1.30

December 12 Templestowe Sec 10.30

December 12 Baden Powell P-9 12.00

December 12 Mentone Girls 1.30

December 12 Mt Hira 3.30

December 13 Debney Meadows 10.00

December 14 Gleneagles Sec 10.30

December 14 Doncaster Gardens 2.00

Website

For further information about the project go to:

www.interculturalunderstanding.org

WELCOME TO OUR PROJECT

Intercultural Understanding in primary and secondary schools

This 3-year project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and is led by Professor Chris Halse of Deakin University (DU), School of Education in collaboration with our partners and a large team of Chief and Associate Investigators. Our periodic bulletin will keep you up to date on the project, key dates and milestones.

The 4 Key Research Questions:

- What facilitates/impedes Intercultural Understanding in children and adolescents?
- What facilitates/impedes Intercultural Understanding in schools?
- How can this be addressed?
- How can we know what makes a difference?

Team Members

Prof. Christine Halse (DU)
Prof. Fethi Mansouri (DU)
A/Prof. Colin Arrowsmith (RMIT)
A/Prof. Julianne Moss (DU)
A/Prof. Yin Paradies (DU)
Dr Ruth Arber (DU)
Dr Claire Charles (DU)
Dr Anne Cloonan (DU)
Dr Nida Denson (UWS)
Dr Sarah Ohi (DU)
Dr Jo O'Mara (DU)
Dr Naomi Priest (Melbourne)

Industry Partners:
Together for Humanity (TFH)
Victorian DEECD
Victoria Curriculum & Assessment Authority (VCAA)
Pukunui Technology (Moodle)

SAVE THE DATE

Term 1, 2013

18-22 February: Intercultural Understanding quiz for principals and teachers opens

1 March: Professional learning for principals, ICU coordinators and leadership team
2-14 March: Online ICU professional learning for principals and teachers



SCHOOLS AND RESEARCH MENTORS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Debney Meadows Primary School: Gary Shaw
Doncaster Gardens Primary School: Jo O'Mara

Essendon Primary School: Anne Cloonan
Flemington Primary School: Anne Cloonan

Ruskin Park Primary School: Claire Charles
St Kevin's Catholic Primary School: Sarah Ohi

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Baden Powell P-9 College: Julianne Moss
Gleneagles Secondary College: Claire Charles

Lyndale Secondary College: Sarah Ohi
Mentone Girls Grammar: Ruth Arber

Mt Hira College: Ruth Arber
Templestowe Secondary College: Jo O'Mara

WHAT WILL SCHOOLS DO?

A school Intercultural Understanding leadership team will lead the project in each school for two years.

This team will usually comprise of the principal and two senior staff members, one of whom will undertake a Leadership/Coordination role in the project as the Intercultural Understanding Coordinator.

As well as school-based professional learning and activities, teachers will be invited to participate in some focus group interviews and quizzes related to the research. They will also work with the research mentor in the curriculum redesign and the pedagogical architecture of the school. Each of our 12 redesign schools will receive funding of \$4000 per year for 2 years to support their contributions to the project.

Professional Learning Benefits for Teachers

Your participation in the Intercultural Understanding Project is professional learning. You can document your learning to have it recognised in the following ways:

1. Credit points towards a Deakin Master of Education

Teachers from partner schools in the Intercultural Understanding project have the option to join a cohort of teachers who will receive up to 2 academic credit points towards the 8 credit point MEd at Deakin University. Following your successful application for credit for prior learning and if you meet our other entry requirements, you will be eligible to apply for Deakin University's E700 MASTER OF EDUCATION.

2. Professional Learning hours for VIT re-registration

As teaching staff at your school, you will be involved in professional learning on Intercultural Understanding throughout the duration of your school's involvement in the project.

3. Referees and Evidence towards future AITSL certification

As the project coordinator or a member of your school's Intercultural Understanding leadership team, you might consider to make your involvement in the project count towards certification as a Highly Accomplished or Lead teacher.

Evidence based practice is key to improving schooling in the 21st century.

It is stating the obvious, but to draw on evidence we need to both gather and analyse the evidence!

The University mentors and other members of the project team such as PhD students will be working alongside each school over 2 years to:

1. Complete the student and teacher Intercultural Understanding quizzes to assist schools in knowing where they are at and how they are improving over time.
2. Support teacher professional learning and guide teachers in the completion of 3 online Intercultural Understanding modules developed by our partner TFH.
3. Gather teacher and student opinions and reflections through individual interviews and focus groups.
4. Collaborate and partner with schools in their school redesign for improving intercultural understanding and curriculum.

2013 CALENDAR

NB. The calendar will be updated. Dates are confirmed as at December 10, 2012 but may be subject to change.

Term 1 and 2

January 29: Term 1 starts for teachers

February 1: Schools begin ICU school redesign

February 18-22: Principal & teachers Intercultural Understanding quiz

March 1: Intercultural Understanding Professional Learning Day for principals, ICU coordinators and leadership team - Venue Deakin City Centre, 550 Bourke St, all day meeting

March 2-14: Online Intercultural Understanding professional learning for principals and ICU coordinators.

March 11-22: ICU quiz for students conducted

March 28: Term 1 ends

April 15: Term 2 starts

May 13: Teacher Professional Learning Day 1 – Venue Deakin City Centre, 550 Bourke St, all day meeting

May 20-24: Teacher focus groups

Term 3

July 15: Term 3 starts

July 22-26: Teacher focus groups

July 22: PhD students begin student interviews

July 31: Teacher Professional Learning Day 2 – Venue Deakin City Centre, 550 Bourke St, all day meeting

August 19-23: Student focus groups

September 20: Term 3 ends

Term 4

October 7: Term 4 starts

November 12-22: Preparation for School & Teacher Showcase Day

December: School & Teacher Showcase Day organised by DEECD (TBA)

December: Follow-up ICU quiz for students

December 20: Term 4 ends



MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Deakin University, the DEECD, the Together for Humanity (TFH), the VCAA and Pukunui Technology are partners in an Australian Research Council (ARC) funded, school based project commencing in 2013.

The Australian curriculum argues that intercultural understanding is an essential part of living with others in the 21st century (ACARA, 2012). Students develop Intercultural Understanding as they learn to value their own cultures, languages and beliefs and those of others. The Melbourne Declaration recognises the fundamental role that education plays in building a society that is cohesive and culturally diverse (MCEETYA, 2008, p.4).

The Deakin University research mentors will work closely with schools, their Intercultural Understanding leadership team and teachers to collect evidence, support teachers to become teacher experts in Intercultural Understanding, analyse the school's individual architecture and assist in the school's redesign towards a new curriculum, in which Intercultural Understanding is purposefully integrated and strongly evidenced.

This project provides a unique opportunity to collaboratively redesign the school architecture and curriculum towards learning and teaching that is highly inclusive of Intercultural Understanding.