

Asia Literacy Teacher PD Brisbane & Hunter Valley

Primary, secondary and pre-service teachers from all curriculum areas are invited to register for a new workshop on **'Teaching Inter-cultural Understandings'**. Developed and delivered by Mrs Maureen Noakes of Brisbane, these workshops address teaching practice directly related to the Australian Curriculum in relation to:

- General capabilities, inter-cultural understandings, and
- Cross-curriculum perspectives, Asia literacy & indigenous studies.

The Hunter Valley workshop will be held at the University of Newcastle on 26 Sep, and the Brisbane workshop will be held at the Australian Institute of Management (Qld) in Spring Hill on 29 Sep. A brochure and registration form can be downloaded directly from:

http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Asia_Literacy_PD.php

Teaching in China

"...a truly rewarding, enriching and wonderful experience..."

By Calvin & Kaye

In May this year we decided to depart from our usual travel routine and find somewhere to teach for a few weeks. Having decided on China, our aim was to stay in one place and develop a meaningful dialogue with the local Chinese. With the help of Asia Literacy Teachers Association of Australia – www.AsiaLiteracy.org.au, we went to Jincheng College, Chengdu, Sichuan Province and taught Australian Studies and Oral English to mostly 1st and 2nd year English major students for one month.

Jincheng College is a private college affiliated with Sichuan University in Chengdu. Unlike Australian universities, most students and staff live on campus. The college and grounds are not large by Chinese standards but while we were there about 5 huge new accommodation blocks were being

built in anticipation of an ever increasing student population in 2012.



Jincheng College Library

Students and staff are well served by five huge modern cafeterias, there are also other campus shops and services, including a post office. The range and quality of food available is truly awe inspiring and cheap. A large meal of rice or noodles and vegetables with meat would cost less than AUD\$1. Like many other Chinese universities, there is also a campus hotel, which is where we stayed. No cooking and housework for a whole month – bliss!

Jincheng College does not appear on any maps of Chengdu because it is just outside the metropolitan area. It takes about one and a half hours by public bus to get from the college to the centre of Chengdu at a huge cost of about \$0.30 Australian. The college is located in an area classified as a high tech zone and there are several other colleges within walking distance.

The college's location is unique in that behind it is rural Chinese countryside and villages, whilst in front is the high tech zone with its quiet, well planned multi-laned roads. Xipu a nearby town, a 10 minute 3 wheeled "taxi" drive away. Xipu has vibrant day and night markets and an incredible range of eateries and restaurants, as well as a full range of shopping opportunities and not a western face in sight! Definitely not on any tourist maps!

Our introduction to Jincheng College started when we were personally picked up and driven to the college by two of its teachers, a husband and wife team both of whom teach and speak excellent English. They, as were all the staff, extremely friendly and helpful. We were initially given 14 by 50 minute classes which we were to team teach. After a few days we requested and received an increase in class contact. The students are all very personable and keen to interact with us. Our aim while at the college was to have maximum exposure with the students. This was not only because the college was providing our hotel accommodation free, but also because many of the students have had little opportunity to meet and talk with “foreigners” and especially native speakers of English. We also found it very enjoyable and enlightening to chat with them.



Kaye's Class

We found the students at Jincheng College extremely caring, some regarded us as their grandparents – our age obviously showing! Unlike their Australian counterparts, they are not ageist in their attitude to the older generation. The students demonstrated a deep understanding of world affairs and national issues, they are able to intelligently and freely discuss controversial topics. They are above all very hard working, studious and fun loving. The relative isolation of the college means they do not have to contend with the many distractions that a modern city like Chengdu offers.

We loved every minute of our stay at Jincheng College. The hospitality of students and staff alike was simply amazing. Like the special English Corner when about 200 students and teachers turned up to meet and greet us, to the delicious “Thank you” dinners given to us by the Dean of the Language Department. Our stay at Jincheng College was truly memorable, not the least for the experiences we had, but also for the great friends we made.

Thank you to the team at Asia Literacy Teachers Association of Australia. This proved to be a truly rewarding, enriching and wonderful experience which we hope to do again.

For more information about volunteer teaching programs in China or Vietnam, please contact Info@AsiaLiteracy.org.au



Calvin's English Corner

From the second week we started an English Corner which met Monday to Friday from 6.00 pm onwards and also on Saturdays from 10.00 am. This gave students from non-English majors an opportunity to meet and chat with us. English Corner was a great chance to talk individually with the students on a broad range of international, national and personal issues. Some of the students hardly missed any of our meetings and their confidence and ability to speak English improved noticeably.

Upcoming In-country Teacher PD Register Now

*All programs have participants registered
Guaranteed to depart
Limited places available*



Indonesia: Cross Curriculum Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Borobudur, Semarang, Surabaya	26 Sep – 8 Oct	China History Program Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai	3 – 16 Jan
China Cross Curriculum Beijing, Xi'an, Lhasa, Shanghai	26 Sep – 8 Oct	Indonesia Cross Curriculum Yogyakarta, Borobudur, Semarang, Surabaya	3 - 14 Jan
China Cross Curriculum Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai	20 Nov – 2 Dec	Laos Cross Curriculum Vientiane, Vang Vieng, Xieng Khouang, Luang Prabang, Pak Ou Cave	11 – 20 Jan
Laos: Cross Curriculum Vientiane, Vang Vieng, Xieng Khouang, Luang Prabang, Pak Ou Cave	9 – 17 Dec	China Cross Curriculum Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai	23 June – 5 July
Malaysia SOSE, Geography, Science Sabah, Malaysia	9 – 22 Dec	<i>All Programs are Tailored to Specific Participant Needs</i>	
China Arts Program Beijing & Shanghai (Xi'an Optional)	10-22 Dec	<i>High Quality & Affordable</i>	
Indo-China Cross Curriculum Hanoi, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh, Siem Reap	2 - 13 Jan	<i>Certificate - 30 Hours Teacher CPD</i>	
Indo-China Cross Curriculum Hanoi, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh, Siem Reap, Vientiane, Vang Vieng, Xieng Khouang, Luang Prabang, Pak Ou Cave	2 - 20 Jan	<i>Member Sponsorship \$1,500 pp</i>	
Malaysia SOSE, Geography, Science Sabah, Malaysia	2 -14 Jan	<i>Quality 4-5 Star Accommodation</i>	

[Download Brochures Here](http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Asia_Literacy_PD.php)
http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Asia_Literacy_PD.php

Info@AsiaLiteracy.org.au

Telephone
07 3161 9800 or 07 3102 6515

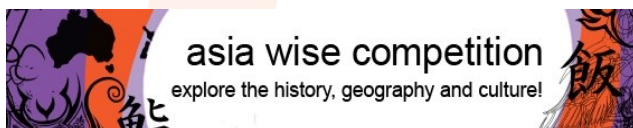
Mobile
0415 977 325

**Early Reminder
Asia Literacy Week
28 Nov – 2 Dec**

This year we will be celebrating Asia Literacy Week from 28 November to 2 December. We aim to have some great incentives available for schools to participate this year. In addition in some regions, schools will be able access Community Leaders to talk with students on the importance of Asia literacy and the opportunities Asia literacy can offer.

Start planning your school activities by visiting us [at this web link:](http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Asia_Literacy_Week.php)

http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Asia_Literacy_Week.php



[Sponsors of Asia Literacy Week 2011](#)



Orangutan's in Sabah, Malaysia

**Sustainable Asia Project For Students
Malaysia • Thailand
Start Planning Now**

[Walking with Elephants](#)

[Turning Turtle](#)

[Wild Oranqutan
Adventure](#)

[Wild Rainforest Works](#)

[Biology Research
Projects](#)

Best Dates for 2012

31 Mar – 9 Apr 2012

6 Apr – 22 Apr 2012

25 Jun – 8 Jul 2012

30 Jun – 15 Jul 2012

22 Sep – 27 Oct 2012

Download Brochures Here

http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Sustainable_Asia.php

Teachers of Science, Biology, SOSE and Geography, we can now offer you some innovative and exciting, low cost international programs to support classroom teaching. These programs are designed and managed by teachers with a passion for environmental conservation, and operate across South-East Asia.

The programs are well structured and teach conservation and ecology from a social perspective, showing students how communities in Asia are modifying economic practices for the benefit of the environment. Students will engage with diverse cultures, endangered species, world heritage rainforests and parts of Asia where Australians have had many decades of interaction.



School Visit in Malaysia

Current programs include:

- Walking with Elephants; Thailand.
- Turning Turtle; Terengganu, Malaysia
- Wild Orangutan Adventure; Sabah, Malaysia
- Wild Rainforest Works; Sabah, Malaysia
- Biology Research Projects; Sabah, Malaysia

Minimum group sizes range from 8-12 students and program prices start from \$595 per student.

Visit this link to find out more:

http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Sustainable_Asia.php

Planning a Sister School Link

The emphasis on inter-cultural understandings and cross curriculum approaches to Asia literacy in the Australian curriculum now mean that sister schools are not just a way for promoting and teaching languages. All teachers across primary and secondary levels should be considering the use of an international sister school in their teaching approaches.

In China, sister school links with the USA and Europe are now so popular that Australian schools are finding it increasingly difficult to link with schools in the first tier cities of China. We are constantly liaising with schools and local officials across China, and able to provide quality school links in both first and second tier cities. Schools

we seek out have strong foreign language programs, excellent ICT assets, and teachers committed to inter-cultural education.

We believe that Asian sister schools are so important for young Australians, that we offer access to this program as a membership entitlement to corporate (school) members. To start planning your sister school link, visit our online resources and download a membership application today.

Sister Schools

http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/Sister_Schools.php

Membership

<http://www.asialiteracy.org.au/page9.php>

New Sister School Opportunities

New opportunities for sister schools are now available in Tianjin, China. Tianjin is a short distance south of Beijing, it has a colourful history and a vibrant local culture. Its proximity to Beijing makes it accessible for school visits. We have regular scheduled visits planned for Tianjin over coming months, and this will be an opportune time for schools to develop new links. Contact James Davis, on 0415 977 325 or James@AsiaLiteracy.org.au to discuss sister school opportunities in China.

Our recent venture into Indonesia has opened new opportunities for sister school and teacher links. For schools interested in developing links into Indonesia contact James Davis, on 0415 977 325 or James@AsiaLiteracy.org.au



teacherspd.com.au