Celebrating Learning Newsletter

Introduction

Hello and welcome to the first Celebrating Learning Newsletter from Brimbank’s Community Learning Strategy. We hope to share information about lifelong learning and building Brimbank as a learning community through this regular newsletter.

We have prepared a local scholarships listing for those in Brimbank needing some support to continue their educational journey. Please contact Deb Chapman if you would like a copy.

If you have any other queries, would like to meet to learn more about Brimbank’s Community Learning Strategy or if you have any items to share through this newsletter please contact

Deb Chapman, Learning Coordinator at debc@brimbank.vic.gov.au or learning@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Tel: 9249 4177 or 0409 207 741.

I usually work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Forthcoming events

Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL) conference
will be hosted by Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC) at Victoria University, City Campus, September 26-28, 2011.

Adult Learners Australia (ALA) conference
https://ala.asn.au/conference/
will be held at CAE, Melbourne, September 26-27, 2011.
Later Life Learning

Brimbank City Council’s Learning Coordinator has been involved in a new network in Melbourne, initiated and hosted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence to support learning and wellbeing in later life. The purpose of establishing this interest group, which emerged out of a very compelling seminar held earlier this year on Later Life Learning, is:

*For the ongoing exchange of information and ideas about the sorts of learning people need for wellbeing in later life, how such learning can best take place, current policy settings and strategies for the future.*

A working group has been established and further details are available from Dr Helen Kimberley, Principal Researcher/Retirement & Ageing/Research & Policy Centre/Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, 3065. Tel: 03 9483 1306  email: hkimberley@bsl.org.au

Ideas That Work seminar series

The second Ideas That Work seminar was held at VU Sunshine convention centre on Wednesday 3 August. (Our first one was held in April and showcased the engaging talents of Visiting Professor Jim Diers who talked about community engagement) This seminar was entitled “Delving Deeper into Diversity: issues in lifelong learning and education.” A very diverse group of about 30 people heard moving, informative and challenging presentations by Pauline Vetuna (writer for DiVine website) and Prof Barry Golding (academic from University of Ballarat) about a range of issues in diversity with particular reference to education and lifelong learning. Pauline has posted her talk on her blog, called Just the Messenger, http://paulinevetuna.wordpress.com/2011/08/06/challenging-mainstream-perceptions-of-disability/

There has been some great feedback about the seminar, including
“an informative, educational and deeply inspiring morning”, and
“the seminar was really good. (We) thought the presentations were very interesting, prompting discussion in our team about the merits of Men’s Sheds”.

The Ideas That Work seminar series addresses one of the action plans in the Brimbank Community Learning Strategy:
"develop and deliver programs that engage adults and address the removal of barriers to learning services."

We aim to host quarterly seminars to build and promote interest in the lifelong learning sector in Brimbank, celebrate inspiration and share great “Ideas That Work”. We are planning our next seminar in October 2011.

If you have any ideas that work that you would like to share or learn more about, please contact Deb Chapman, Learning Coordinator at Debc@brimbank.vic.gov.au or on 9249 4177, Mondays to Wednesdays.

Congratulations to our neighbours at Melton Shire who recently launched their new Community Learning Plan 2011-2014; their very impressive fifth plan since the first Community Learning Board first met in 1998. For further details and copies of the Melton Plan contact Peter Blunden, peterrb@melton.vic.gov.au
Australian Learning Communities Network

Along with our immediate neighbours at Melton and Hume, we were recently involved in a strategic planning meeting with the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN). The network has an honorary chair, Jim Saleeba from the Albury Wodonga network of Learning Communities.

ALCN will host a conference in Melton in September 2012 for which planning is well underway. For further details please contact Peter Blunden of Melton Community Learning: peterrb@melton.vic.gov.au

A very fond farewell to one of Brimbank’s Learning Champions, Alan Dash, Principal of Sunshine Harvester Primary School. Alan’s passion and innovation will be sorely missed by the education sector and many children and their families in this area. Best wishes for the future Alan and we trust your marvellous mathematics will grow and spread with your retirement energy!

Congratulations to Ardoch’s evaluation and event they held recently celebrating their Western lincs work. For research report see their website. www.ardoch.asn.au

DISABILITY AND EDUCATION:

Do you or someone you know have a disability and are interested in post secondary education options? There will be an educational event at VU Sunshine Convention Centre on Tuesday 6 September from 6.30 pm. For further information see the flyer attached.

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

September activities around Brimbank for Adult Learners week....

- See what’s happening at Brimbank libraries, flyer attached
- See the program for “Spring Into Learning” with Brimbank’s network of neighbourhood houses showcasing many adult learning activities and work at West Sunshine Community Centre on Friday 7 September, flyer attached.

Resources

A few interesting resources and websites that have come to our notice recently.

If you have 11 minutes to share and want to join an audience of over 5 million people, have a look at the inspired animation of a Ken Robinson talk: (or just google Ken Robinson RSA animate)
There is also a good graphical illustration of the state of digital education in the US at the link below:

http://www.knewton.com/digital-education/


The key findings that came through in this publication include:

- The importance and value the Indigenous young people place on Indigenous culture in the curriculum
- The key role of family in this cultural aspect of their education
- The importance of family with regard to their participation in education
- The importance and value to them of Indigenous community leaders and professionals and
- The importance of cultural safety and visual identification of Aboriginal symbolism in school environments

(Thanks to Daryl Nayler, Koorie Transition Officer at DEECD’s Western Metropolitan Region for this and other interesting and relevant information)

Great article in The Age recently about the importance of oral language skills.

Prof Munro says a fifth of children start primary school with weak verbal skills, putting them at higher risk of poor performance. Yet little attention has been paid to the oral language skills of young students. Speaking and listening have not been accorded the same significance as reading, writing, spelling and counting.

“Millions of dollars has gone into literacy programs, but if we don’t have an essential oral base then the literacy results are not going to be achieved,” Professor Munro says. “I could make exactly the same statement for numeracy.”


Did you know...

2012 is International Year of Reading.
Visit www.love2read.org.au to find out more.

If you would like to be removed or know someone else who would like to be added to this mailing list please send an email reply to learning@brimbank.vic.gov.au