

CLTAQ Term 2 Newsletter 2015

CLTAQ Executive Members 2015

President- Hui Richards

Treasurer- Yu Li Pan

Secretary- Teresa McKay

PD Coordinator- Kay Bence

CLTAQ Speech Competition

By Hui Richards, President of the CLTAQ

The CLTAQ in collaboration with The Confucius Institute, QUT held their Annual Speech Competition in Brisbane on Saturday 30th May at QUT, Kelvin Grove Campus. The event was a great success with over 200 students from 45 schools across Queensland attending.

In collaboration with Confucius Institute QUT, four regional speech competitions were held in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Hervey Bay. This led to the accumulated, statewide competition, which was held at the Kelvin Grove Campus of QUT in Brisbane. In total, 473 students took part in the 2015 speaking competitions.

Thank you to all the teachers and students who participated to make the competition a successful event.



By Megan Cleyne, St Andrew's Anglican College



I have been teaching Mandarin since 1996 and never have I come across such a fantastic program as the AIM gesture based approach. For years I have naturally taught with a feel for this style of approach, however not in a succinct way that took on the continuity of AIM with a culmination like this. We are seemingly forever stuck, wanting more time with our students, yet with little change in sight within an already crowded curriculum. AIM picks up the slack of our all too short sessions in a way I have tried to mimic for years. I cannot rave highly enough about the progress I have seen in my students through these language lessons, from the first day to the mid-year mark they are at now. I realise this may not suit everyone's style, but it certainly suits the active Australian learning trend. I follow up vocab lists with heaps of interactive games and songs.

I also decided to saturate the entire Primary school in the same language (based around AIM Little Chicken). Although I adapted levels of interaction and followed up activities according to age level, they were primarily the same. The most wonderful outcome was hearing about siblings interacting together through parent reports. Parents marvelled at the level of conversations they could not understand at home! My students have now managed to build their skill set to understanding an entire story in Mandarin and we are pushing towards 85%+ language use in all classroom interactions. I am loving it! By the end of this year, my senior Primary students will be performing a pantomime for the younger students and because the entire primary school has learnt the same content, they will all comprehend.

I attribute all of this to the AIM gestured approach program. If you have not yet managed to check it out I recommend it. I am not earning endorsements here; just a really excited language teacher sharing a win!!! Happy teaching and learning! Feel free to email me for any more info or questions. Website: <http://www.aimlanguagelearning.com/>

Chinese Extension

By Wendy Yuan, Coomera Anglican College

Year 12 Chinese Extension students at Coomera Anglican College welcomed Mrs Vila Ng, a local successful business woman, as a guest speaker on Tuesday 22th July. The Year 12 class has ten students who are all devoted to Chinese language and culture. This semester they are studying Business Relations between Australia and China. Mrs Ng, speaking in Chinese Mandarin, shared her and her husband's experience in investment and farm businesses on the Gold Coast, as well as future business plans in ESL (English as a Second



Language) education. She also introduced her view point of the present Chinese economy, Australia's economic relationship with China and the future of the China-Australia relationship. The students learned so much from Mrs Ng, including about current events such as Ms Julia Gillard announcing Australia in the Asian Century in 2012, the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2015 and the signing of the Free Trading Agreement between Australia and China in June 2015, after 10 years of negotiation. The Chinese teacher Ms Yuan said, "This activity not only inspired our students' interests in learning the fascinating Chinese language and rich Chinese culture, but also influenced our students' future career choices."

CLTFA Conference

By Ashni Murray, Coomera Anglican College

The National Chinese Teachers Conference was held from July 4th- 5th in Adelaide. This conference included many outstanding keynote speakers such as Dr Jane Orton, Dr Mark Shum and Mr Andrew Scrimgeour. Teachers had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops; all geared to improving our teaching. These included, emphasising the use of technology, how to cater for learning styles and using storytelling to engage younger students.

Queensland was well represented with ten teachers attending the conference. Three of our teachers shared their teaching ideas by presenting workshops, namely Maureen Noakes (Bring it All Together), Ashni Murray (Online ICT Tools within the Language Classroom) and Hui Richards (Interactive and Collaborate Online Learning).

Many thanks to CLTASA for organizing a successful conference, which inspired many teachers to further improve their teaching by facilitating educators to collaborate and learn from each other. Congratulations also to Hui Richards, who has been elected as the vice president of CLTFA (Chinese Language Teachers' Federation of Australia).

