

# EDUCATED TEACHING

ISSUE 1

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### A MISGUIDED POLITICAL PATH?

The Australian government is grasping at straws by getting us to focus on ambiguous international educational statistics.

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Yes we have three brains to nourish and educate, but how? ...

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## ✧ Best wishes for 2013 ✧

*Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.* **Albert Einstein**

### A MISGUIDED POLITICAL PATH?

Following the wrong leader can lead to disaster. Julia Gillard (*pictured*) and education minister Peter Garrett are leading us up the wrong path when it comes to educational goals by pushing to get Australia into the top 5 performing countries in Maths, Science and Reading by 2025. Sounds good? Well, actually no! If we overlook some fundamentals of an ideal education - eg we should educate children to be free thinkers with creative minds, divergent and not convergent thinkers - then competing in a league or culture that does not fully honour such ideals would be a poor choice. I, for one, would rather my child not be

educated in a country where rote learning predominates over

independent thinking and creativity. Here's why. Most of the countries that lead the "league tables" (many of which have significant restriction on free speech and free expression) do not rank well in a creativity index. In fact they rank at the bottom! Dr Yong Zhao (Presidential Chair, Associate Dean for Global Education, Department of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership, University of Oregon) compares the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor *continued page 2 ...*



## Workshops term 1 2013

**Brisbane and Noosa**  
(see page 4 for dates)

Book online at [www.qtpd.com.au](http://www.qtpd.com.au)

- Teaching English in the primary school
- Teaching Mathematics in the primary school
- Educating Three Brains: Considerations for primary teaching
- Catering for multiple intelligences and multiple temperaments in the primary school



## A MISGUIDED POLITICAL PATH? ... *continued from page 1*

(GEM) against PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) and TIMMS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) results. Comparing data between PISA and GEM is extremely



revealing. *Top in PISA - Bottom in GEM.* He says, "Countries with higher PISA scores have fewer people who are confident in their entrepreneurial capabilities. Out of the innovation-driven economies, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan are among the best PISA performers but their scores on the measure of perceived capabilities or confidence in their ability to start a new business are the lowest."

Australia does well in both the PISA and GEM scores! The article can be seen here: <http://zhaolarning.com/2012/06/06/test-scores-vs-entrepreneurship-pisa-timss-and-confidence/> Politicians need a barrow to push, but the wheels need to fall

off this one. It's a smoke screen! A successful leader in international tests worth following would be Finland. They achieve great PISA results from the least face-to-face teaching hours. ***It is how they approach primary education*** that I believe is the hidden key. You know! Good foundations! Watch a video about Finland's educational success at [http://www.qtpd.com.au/Food\\_for\\_educational\\_thought.html](http://www.qtpd.com.au/Food_for_educational_thought.html)

Jonathan Anstock

## THREE BRAINS

*How do we educate them all?*

Yes we have three brains - head, heart and gut. But how do we educate them all? This will be the focus of a Brisbane and Noosa workshop in term 1



2013. A new book, *mBraining* by Marvin Oka and Grant Soosalu, links modern neuroscience with ancient wisdom. Supporting the

wisdom of how the human being naturally develops is the backbone of QTPD workshops. By learning to support the development of the three brains may lead us to question, and possibly discard, some of the precocious expectations imbedded in the national curriculum. See page 4 for workshop dates.



## HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

*Supporting play, combating too much screen time and challenging high stakes testing*

It takes courage to speak out about unpopular issues. Children need a voice which supports their healthy development, love of learning and joy in living. Many educational professionals are now collaborating to support the value of play, challenge inappropriate technology use



and counter high stakes testing. QTPD is pleased to support the work of the Alliance for Childhood. The Alliance has been a leading voice on childhood issues since 1999. Like QTPD they have boldly tackled issues that may be unpopular and have respectfully



challenged the status quo, such as play, overuse of technology and high stakes testing. They co-authored and published a ground-breaking guide on the use of screen technology with young children - *Facing the Screen Dilemma: Young Children, Technology and Early Education*. It can be downloaded free at [www.allianceforchildhood.org](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org) Influencing policy and decision makers is as important as educating teachers about the wisdom of child development. Ideally, there needs to be a strong synergy between policy and practice.

## TEACH THE CHILDREN WELL

*Our spiritual investment*

This book, by Jonathan Anstock, provides information about educational processes and pathways which ideally will lead to the liberation of the individual human spirit. This, according to many educational commentators, is what true education should be. Traditionally, state education was designed to bond human beings to build strong nationhood. Children were seen as budding contributors to a country's security and economy.



This, sadly, still underlies much educational policy and curricula. Some religious education streams have endeavoured to indoctrinate children with the spirit.

This book challenges the error of such underlying philosophies, pointing to other needs of our

times. Liberating the individual spirit is best supported by the education of three centres of intelligence - the body, the heart and the head.

Education has a critical mission to play on the planet. We are at



a junction in our human development; the world has major challenges. We need to aspire to the best in humanity.

If you want to learn about some of the fundamentals of a more ideal education for the 21st century, then this book will provide much nourishment.

*It is a timely piece of work from the heart and head and should be read far and wide - by teachers, would-be teachers, politicians and especially parents.*

The book can be purchased online at

[www.teachthechildrenwell.com.au](http://www.teachthechildrenwell.com.au)



## QUEENSLAND TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS TERM 1 2013

DATE	VENUE	WORKSHOP
WED 20 FEB	NOOSA	• Teaching English in the primary school
FRI 22 FEB	UQ BRISBANE	• Teaching English in the primary school
MON 25 FEB	NOOSA	• Teaching Mathematics in the primary school
WED 27 FEB	UQ BRISBANE	• Teaching Mathematics in the primary school
FRI 1 MARCH	NOOSA	• Educating Three Brains: Considerations for primary teaching
MON 4 MARCH	UQ BRISBANE	• Educating Three Brains: Considerations for primary teaching
MON 18 MARCH	NOOSA	• Catering for multiple intelligences and multiple temperaments in the primary school
WED 20 MARCH	UQ BRISBANE	• Catering for multiple intelligences and multiple temperaments in the primary school

**Note:** All workshops 9.30am - 3.00pm (5hrs professional development)

Book online [www.qtpd.com.au](http://www.qtpd.com.au)

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