

**Welcome to the November edition of the In2science newsletter.** Placements have now finished and our Mentors are busy with their end of year exams at university.

This is our last newsletter for the year and we look forward to resuming them in 2009.

**In2science** has been busy interviewing prospective Mentors for 2009 and we have been really impressed by the young people we have spoken with. At this stage we have over 130 students keen to be placed in schools in Term one next year.

Many of our current Mentors will be finishing university this year. It is always sad to see them leave, but we wish them all the best and hope they will keep in touch.

We wish to thank our funding partners, the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** and the **George Alexander Foundation**. Without their generous support In2science would not be able to continue. We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2009.



### **In2nanotech Roadshow**

This year we will be heading off to northern Victoria with the Nanotechnology roadshow. Kindly funded by Nanotechnology Victoria Ltd, the roadshow is now in its third year. We will be visiting the following schools in late November:

**Shepparton High School**  
**McGuire College**  
**Numurkah Secondary College**  
**Rochester Secondary College**

**Echuca College**  
**Cohuna College**  
**Kerang Technical High School**

These roadshows are a great way for **In2science** to access more regional areas of Victoria which would otherwise not have access to the mentoring program.

### **Mentoring in Action**

Semester 2 placements have finished on a positive note with many Mentor being involved in activities at the schools or excursions to the Zoo and Imax. Several Mentors arranged for classes to come onto their university campus to experience university life. Here are a few examples of how the placements ended:

At **Northcote HS**, Mentor Sam took on the roll or referee as the students learnt about forces whilst playing blow football. Well done Sam.



*Mentor Sam keeps score at Northcote HS*

Mentor Vita has been helping students at **Balwyn HS** get to grips with probability and statistics by playing 'Greedy Pig'. The students were having a great time.



*Mentor Daniela helps out at Coburg SHS*

At **Coburg SHS** Mentors Philippa and Daniela have both been working with the same Y11 Chemistry class though on different days. The students are now really used to having the Mentors support and value the additional help they receive.

Mentor Zoe had a great time accompanying students from **Collingwood College** to Melbourne Zoo this term. Field visits are a great way for the Mentors and students to interact.

At **Montmorency SC**, Mentor Erin has been helping out in both maths and science. She is working with a teacher new to the profession who has valued the support that Erin can bring to the classes.

At **Bendigo South East SC** (formerly Flora Hill SC) Mentor Sarah has been having a great time helping students in Y10 get to grips with forensic investigations. Analysing blood splatter patterns was a recent activity which the students enjoyed.

At **Preston Girls SC**, Mentor Emma was having a great time recently helping students understand simple electrical circuits. Despite this not being her field of study, Emma proved herself to be a real asset in the class.

Mentor Shari has been having a fun time at **Melbourne Girls College**, taking in resources to help the students understand aspects of immunology. Shari is one of several Mentors applying to do graduate studies in Education next year. They have found that participation in the **In2science** program has fuelled their interest in becoming teachers.



*Macleod Coll students and staff*



*Dr Johnson presents on complex structures and amino acids*

Mentor Yagmur organised for students she was working with from **Macleod College** to visit La Trobe's Bundoora campus for a day of science activities. They started off by investigating the world of microbiology, making up Agar plates to grow microbes. They then spent time learning about the properties of materials in the Physics department's surface analysis facility. Mentor Yagmur was able to take the Agar plates into the school a week later to help the students identify what bacteria had grown. Well done Yagmur and thanks to all the Uni staff who helped out on the day.

Also visiting the University were science teachers from **Eltham HS** who spent time in the Biochemistry to learn more about biochemistry and its applications. Many thanks to Dr Liz Johnson and Professor Nick Hoogenraad for facilitating this.

### Information for Schools

Many thanks for all your hard work this year. **In2science** hopes that teachers and students have gained from the experience. Many teachers comment that they were able to learn from the Mentor about a particular aspect of science and that the support in the classroom has been invaluable for their students.

Please try to get the **In2science Evaluations returned by November 30<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the annual report**. It is only by undertaking evaluations that we can determine how successful the program is and the benefits being achieved. It is also a way in which we can learn about issues regarding the program and then endeavour to put them right.

In October we sent out letters to the principals and Link Teachers of all the schools associated with the program to thank staff for involvement. Letters also included some best practice examples of how teachers had ensured the program had a high profile in the school:

1. The Link Teacher keeps in regular contact with the program.
2. Departmental/faculty meetings allocate some time to discuss the **In2science** program and teachers share their experiences.
3. Students and teachers include articles in the school newsletter about the classes with the **In2science** Mentors.
4. Senior management within the school are kept informed via the Link Teacher.

5. Teachers are encouraged to participate in the program and to experiment with new pedagogy whilst supported by the Mentors in the classroom.

**We look forward to working with the schools to help maximise the achievable benefits of the program in 2009.**

### **2009 Placements**

We will be contacting schools in early February with details of the Mentors we have available. If schools have preferences for Mentors with a particular discipline background then do let us know so we can do our best to meet your needs.

### **Information for Mentors**

Thank you for all your hard work this semester. It has been fantastic working with you all and seeing you in action in the schools.

Make sure you have completed the [evaluation form](#) - your feedback is extremely valuable whether this is your first or fifth placement.

If you have not let John or Jacinta know your interest in mentoring again next year then please do so. You may be finishing uni this year so again keep us informed.

Don't forget to submit your travel expenses for reimbursement of up to \$10.00 per week. Travel claim forms are located at the back of your Peer Mentor's pack or on the [website](#).

**- Best wishes for the exams -**

### **Websites to try**

Here are a few sites that may be of interest:

**ABPI** - These resources have been developed by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry and many link topics studied in school to their application in industry and in research

<http://www.abpischools.org.uk/page/index.cfm>

### **Nanotechnology sites:**

Nanotechnology Victoria - Great starter site with lots of useful information and resources. Check out the education pages and the podcasts on the Nanotech & Society pages. <http://www.nanovic.com.au>

Azonano - A great site with lots of information about nanotechnology. A type of A to Z of nanotechnology <http://www.azonano.com/>

ImagiNations - introduction to nanotechnology - Site by Lehigh University, USA. Good simple intro to nanotechnology with some animations to explain things

<http://www.lehigh.edu/%7Einimagin/intronano.html>

Institute of Nanotechnology - UK site with lots of good information and links

<http://www.nano.org.uk/>

Nanoshop - Good site for latest products using nanotechnology

<http://www.nanoshop.com/>

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