

Welcome to the October edition of the In2science newsletter. As we come to the end of our placements for this year we are able to reflect with pride on what we have achieved this year. Here are some statistics on the year's success to date:

- 133 Mentor placements
- 158 teachers involved
- Over 4500 students having access to a Mentor.

The success of the program comes down to two groups of people:

1. Our diligent university students who volunteer their time to help engage the next generation of scientists.

2. The teachers willing to have the Mentors in their classes and maximise the benefits they bring.

- Thank you -

As we start Term 4, there are now just **three weeks of placements** left for this semester. Some Mentors have indicated they will carry on for a couple of weeks to support activities etc.

In2science could never have got off the ground had it not been for the generous funding support from the **William Buckland Foundation**. The end of 2007 will see the end of our current funding allocation from the Foundation. We would like to thank them for their support and commitment to helping engage students in science and mathematics through the use of role models in the classroom.

The **In2science Board** is currently discussing ongoing funding for the program and **In2science** would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment over the last three and a half years.

The Board comprises:

Chair: Dr Barry Jones AO,

Prof David Finlay, Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology & Engineering, La Trobe University.

Prof Peter Rathjen, Dean, Faculty of Science, the University of Melbourne.

Prof Robert (Rob) Norris, Dean, Faculty of Science, Monash University.

Prof Bob Officer, Trustee, the William Buckland Foundation.

Dr Les Trudzik, Director, The Allen Consulting Group.

Mr Tony Cook, General Manager, Education Policy and Research, Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Ms Soula Bennett, Head of Middle Years, Northcote High School, Melbourne.

Mentoring get-together – during the mid semester break **In2science** ran two lunchtime sessions to allow Mentors to meet each other and talk about their experiences. It was great to hear the discussions and the Mentors appreciated the opportunity to talk about their role in the classroom and the benefits they had gained.



Current Peer Mentors. From right – Steve, Oliver, Elyse & Grace with Mentoring Coordinator John McDonald

Many thanks to all the students who were able to attend at what is a busy time of year.

Mentoring in Action

We have almost completed our visits out to see the Mentors at the schools and continue to be impressed by the effort our Mentors put into their placements.

Mentor Peta at **Northcote HS** has been organising for students to

2007 – International Polar Year

<http://www.ipy.org/>

undertake a microbiology session at La Trobe's Bundoora campus. Also at the school, Mentor Gemma has been helping Yr7 students come to grips with food webs and plant propagation.

At **Mac. Robertson Girls' HS**, Mentor Oliver has been working with maths students helping them undertake problem solving activities and other group work. Also at the school Mentor Stephanie has been helping students understand magnetism and also to investigate rates of reaction in chemistry.

At **Lalor North SC**, Mentor and past student Pramana did an excellent job putting together a presentation to introduce physics. Both the students and the class teacher were very impressed and inspired by this.

At **Kangaroo Flat SC** in Bendigo, Mentor Kimberley has been helping students investigate earth science and crustal activity.

Mentor Caitlin has been actively involved with classes at **McKinnon SC**, helping students learn about science and has also been able to talk to students about her own Honours research into Alzheimers.

At new school to **In2science; Eumemmerring College, Gleneagles Campus**, Mentor Louisa has been a big hit with both staff and students in maths offering her support and knowledge. Well done Louisa.

Mentor Emma was seen judging homemade sound generating devises at **Kew HS**. The sounds were interesting and the enthusiasm of the students was great to see.

At **Princes Hill SC**, Mentor Alisa brought a DNA extraction activity for the Yr8 students to try. Thanks go to the Genetics Dept. at the University of Melbourne for helping with this.



Mentor Alisa instructs students about DNA.

At **Pascoe Vale Girls' Coll**, Mentor Simon has been a big hit with the students helping them develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematics. Well done.

Mentor Blaire has been making activities for the students she has been working with at **Glen Waverley SC**. She was using role play to show food webs and took the Antarctica theme from National Science Week to get the students to recreate a food web in that ecosystem. Great work Blaire.



Blaire instructs students about the food web.

Information for Schools

Please ensure that the classes the Mentors are working with know when the Mentor's last week will be. It is amazing how attached the students get to the Mentors and it is important that they are aware of when the Mentors last lesson with them is.

In2science Evaluation documents have been sent out to the schools over the vacation and it would be fantastic if these simple

documents could be completed. The program aims to meet with each Link Teacher before the end of the year to discuss the program from their school's point of view and to outline any changes for 2008. 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.

Placement end week of the 22nd October.

Information for Mentors

Congratulations for all the hard work you have put in during this placement. **Certificates** of involvement will be available towards the end of semester.

We will be inviting those Mentors who completed their third or more round of placement in 2007 to meet the Dean of Science from their university and receive a **letter of commendation** for their contribution to the program.

Make sure you have kept a **log** of all your travel expenses and submit them on the appropriate forms. These can be found on our website:

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/scitech/mentoring/info_for_mentors.html

Please submit these to John directly or via **Janelle Turner** at the University of Melbourne (drop off at the Science Faculty office).

Make sure you have told us if you are going to be available to **Mentor in 2008** so we can update our records.

We are currently recruiting for next year. Feel free to **promote** the program to your classmates and friends. We find that word of mouth is the best way of encouraging people to become Mentors. Ask your lecturers if you can give a brief talk in one of your classes.

During the last few weeks of placement **don't forget** to use praise and encouragement as much as you can and use the **stickers** and **bookmarks** (contact us if you need more).

If this is your last semester at university please keep **In2science** informed of what you are going on to do. We are always keen to know who has carried on with their studies, gone into teaching or other employment.

Website to try

This site has some engaging activities related to chemistry:
<http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/>

This year marks 50 years since one of the most significant events in history when the **Sputnik** launched us into the space age. The following BBC site has links to the background of the program:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7027199.stm>

John McDonald

Peer Mentoring Coordinator

In2science Website

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/scitech/mentoring/index.html>