Devon Primary Conference

Creativity and Maths

Date: 14th March 2008        Venue: Sandy Park Conference Centre, Exeter

Calling all classroom teachers, subject leaders and head teachers

This conference brings together renowned national and local speakers in an event set up to engage, stimulate and challenge teachers through activity, discussion and reflection. The morning will involve sessions by two keynote speakers, Mike Askew, King’s College, and Rob Eastaway, creative problem solver and cricket enthusiast. They will be followed by a choice of afternoon workshops. The conference will also provide the opportunity for teachers to view materials and resources, with an exhibition provided by NCETM, ATM, BEAM and DES. Displays and stalls selling maths resources will be available throughout the day.

Keynote speaker 1: Rob Eastaway

Maths, creativity and the imagination

When people talk about creativity and creative thinking, they are usually referring to the Arts. But beauty, creativity and imagination are fundamental parts of mathematics too. Indeed, maths can teach as much about creative thinking as it can about logical thinking. In this talk, Rob Eastaway will share some of his favourite mathematics ideas, with puzzles, curiosities and even mathematical humour along the way. It’s a side of maths you may never have seen before.

Keynote speaker 2: Mike Askew

The intersection between mathematics and creativity: an empty set?

Although ‘right answers’ do play an important role in mathematics, that does not mean that as a discipline mathematics is not creative. In fact, without creative thinking mathematics would not have developed the importance it now holds. In this talk Mike will look at how teaching mathematics can both draw on and develop children’s creativity as well as their mathematical understandings.

Afternoon workshops:
1. Barbara and Derek Ball: Using shared images to promote mathematical discussion
2. Ruth Merttens: Creative Teaching in Early Years Maths
3. Mike Askew: Number and creativity in KS2
4. Paul Godding: Using mathematical board games to extend thinking

If you would like to attend the above course please apply online at: www.deseducation.org/cpd

If you book this course on-line at www.deseducation.org/cpd and receive email communication, the cost of the course will be as indicated above. If you do not have an email address or would prefer to receive hardcopy information, we are happy to provide this but must make an additional charge of £10 to cover our administration. Please note the full fee will be charged if a place is cancelled within 12 working days of the course/conference date. If you are unable to attend we recommend that you consider asking a colleague to attend in your place.

For any queries or further information please contact:
Sally Watts, Devon Education Services Tel: 01392 386549 Fax: 01392 386462
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Programme:

9:15 Introduction
9:30 Key note speaker 1: Rob Eastaway
10:45 Break
11:15 Key note speaker 2: Mike Askew
12:30 Lunch
2:00 Workshops
   1. Barbara and Derek Ball: Using shared images to promote mathematical
discussion
      In this workshop you will work on a number of different mathematical activities
suitable for KS2 which use a shared image (for example, from a computer program)
to promote mathematical discussion with the whole class as a starting point for further
work.
   2. Ruth Merttens: Creative Teaching in Early Years Maths
      This workshop, aimed at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, will:
      o Encourage the use of descriptive language in learning mathematics.
      o Look at modelling mathematical operations.
      o Provide stimulating on-the-rug activities.
      o Provide an agenda for encouraging children’s talk and creative work in
mathematics.
   3. Mike Askew: Number and creativity in KS2
      Often the geometrical aspects of mathematics are seen to be vehicles for creative
work, but can number facts and operations be approached creatively? In this
workshop we will explore ways of ‘opening up’ the number curriculum to encompass
creative ways of working.
   4. Paul Godding: Using mathematical board games to extend thinking
      The session will focus on a selection of excellent board games which have been
proven to give children confidence when utilised in the classroom. They are suitable
for children at Key Stage 2, but can be adapted for all ages and abilities. Rule
changes can be introduced in many cases, creating new ways of playing a
game. During the workshop, teachers can see for themselves, first-hand, the
strengths of each game as they have the opportunity to play individually and in
teams, thus placing them in the position of the children. From previous experiences,
all participants come away from the event invigorated, having been given many ideas
to take back to school.

3:15 Closing remarks
3:30 Conference ends

Displays and stalls selling maths resources will be available throughout the day.

When you have booked your place a confirmation email will be sent from the website,
attached to this will be details of the afternoon workshops. Please indicate a first and
second preference and email the form back to sally.watts@devon.gov.uk. All efforts
will be made to accommodate first choices, however places will be allocated on a first
come first served basis. Confirmation of the session allocated will be sent to you
before the conference.
Biographies

Rob Eastaway is an author, broadcaster and freelance lecturer. He is best known for his books, including the bestselling Why Do Buses Come In Threes? (which is about maths) and What Is A Googly? (which isn't). He is director of Maths Inspiration, a programme of inspirational lectures for teenagers, and he appears regularly on radio to talk about the maths of everyday life. He is currently President of the Mathematical Association. He lives in London with his wife and two young children, one of whom just started school.

Mike Askew is Professor of Mathematics Education at King's College, University of London and Director of BEAM Education. Mike qualified as a teacher in 1977 and taught in primary schools in Bexley and Inner London before moving to teacher education at the Universities of Greenwich and Kingston. In 1990 he was appointed to King’s College London, researching teaching and learning primary mathematics. Research directed there by Mike includes 'Effective Teachers of Numeracy in Primary Schools' (TTA) 'Raising Attainment in Numeracy' and ‘Mental Calculations: Interpretations and Implementation’ (both Nuffield). He was deputy director of the five-year Leverhulme Numeracy Research Programme. Mike has been involved with BEAM Education for over 15 years, writing, offering a range of consultancy and being involved in publishing teaching materials. Mike has written and contributed to many publications on mathematics education, including substantial resources for Heinemann and Rigby, and articles for the professional and academic press. He was part of the advisory group for the National Numeracy Project, and has advised government education departments internationally, including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Chile and Jamaica.

Professor Ruth Merttens is seconded from the University college of St Mark and St John in Plymouth as Education Director of Hamilton Trust, an educational charity producing adaptable resources for primary teachers – and a few for parents! The site: www.hamilton_trust.org.uk is now used by more than 20,000 teachers on a weekly basis – representing between one third and half the primary teachers in England and a similar proportion of schools. Ruth spends most of her time developing these resources but also travels the country giving practical, hands-on in-service training on creative teaching, the teaching of mathematics and English and development in the Early Years. Ruth contributes regularly to professional journals, educational magazines and newspapers. She has written many of the training materials for the DfES Strategies, including the DfES Planning Guidance in the Primary Strategy and the Foundation materials for Mathematics. She is also the co-author of both Abacus Maths Schemes. Ruth also wrote Code-Breakers, one of the major phonics schemes used in primary schools. Ruth still teaches regularly each week in school and is a school governor. She also works with the International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), CAFOD and others to use the Hamilton resources as a way of developing the educational aspects of SOFIA’s work, to promote awareness of HIV and related issues across primary schools in the UK.

Barbara Ball was the Professional Officer for the Association of Teachers of Mathematics between 2002 and 2005. Prior to that, Barbara taught mathematics for 37 years in comprehensive schools.

Derek Ball has for many years worked in initial and in-service teacher training. He has been particularly interested in the use of computers in the mathematics classroom for over 25 years. Barbara and Derek edited Mathematics Teaching together and have written a number of interactive software packages for ATM.

Paul Godding travels throughout the country delivering exciting mathematical programmes that utilise a wide range of educational games and puzzles. He is a qualified and experienced mathematician who has taught at all levels of educations since the mid-1980’s.