

SPELD SA e-newsletter

3rd Edition October 2014



Sandy Russo appointed as Director

Sandy Russo's appointment as the new Director of SPELD SA was announced at our AGM on 18th September.

Sandy took two weeks leave shortly after the appointment and now she has returned she looks forward to working with you all as she continues to ensure SPELD SA stays true to its mission and vision of advancing the education and general welfare of children and adults who are disadvantaged by specific learning difficulties.

As well as managing SPELD SA, Sandy will continue to provide consultations and to give talks on dyslexia and how people with learning difficulties can get the best from being taught to work independently through a range of strategies, computer software and assistive technologies.

Review of the National Curriculum

At SPELD SA, we are heartened to read that the review of the Australian National Curriculum recognises

- that the curriculum is overcrowded, especially in the primary school years
- that the English curriculum mistakenly adopts a model made up of 'a little bit of phonics and a little bit of whole language'. The review recommends that 'English should be revised to place greater emphasis on more structured and systematic phonics'. We couldn't agree more! We are pleased that many sectors and states are giving the review "careful consideration" and look forward to seeing changes within the schooling system in South Australia and nationally should the review changes

be adopted. Read more:

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/education-review-overhaul-of-bloated-national-curriculum-widely-supported-20141012-114zkz.html#ixzz3FzYU8yig>

SPELD SA website

1. The Free SPELD SA Phonic Books and Worksheets



The countdown for the 500,000th user of the Free SPELD SA Phonic Books and worksheets is getting closer. With just 4,500 visitors to go, we are indebted to all our volunteer authors, illustrators and those who have donated money to the creation of the books, especially the Thyne Reid Foundation.

There are currently 136 books and 108 worksheets. We encourage all those who teach people to read to have a look at the books, they currently go up to set 15 with many high interest books being added to the range. In the New Year we expect an extra 50 books to be completed.

You can download the books in 3 different formats through this URL http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=182

2. Upgrade for the SPELD SA Website

SPELD SA is excited to announce that the website is going to be upgraded over the next few months thanks to a grant from the M E Whiting Estate 'Douglas Whiting Estate' managed by Australian Executor Trustees.

Volunteers

Due to the upgrade, we are looking for some volunteers to assist us with the massive task of ensuring all the links on the website are working. If you are interested in helping check a page or two, please email info@speld-sa.org.au or phone 8431 1655 and we will designate a task for you.

Expression of interest

Shortly SPELD SA will be publishing 'a content publishing assistant' position. Keep watching our home page as details of the position will be advertised on our home page.

www.speld-sa.org.au

Workshops

Due to Jolly Grammar now being available for years 1 – 5 the Jolly Grammar Training has been modified starting in Term 4. See details below.

Full day Jolly Grammar/Spelling workshop

Morning: Spelling Focus

Afternoon: Grammar Focus

Spelling Focus

Covers spelling content in the Jolly Grammar Handbooks 1-5.

Prerequisite: Jolly Phonics Session 1 and 2 or an in depth knowledge of synthetic phonics.

As the teaching of spelling moves towards systematic teaching of conventions and generalisations enabling students to apply knowledge to an ever increasing number of words, it should be an exercise in logic and problem solving where students take risks and have a go. This is a practical workshop focussing on: what to teach, how to teach it, programming, assessment, grouping, how to add variety and interaction and keep students engaged and on task.

Grammar Focus

Covers grammar content in the Jolly Grammar Handbooks 1 - 5.

Good grammar teaching should be systematic and sequential. This workshop explores ways to put excitement and activity into the more complex aspects of *Jolly Grammar*. Take away practical activities you can apply in your classroom tomorrow.

For teachers, SSOs, paraprofessionals, tutors, students, parents Yrs 1-7

(Please bring your lunch)

Venue: The Aldgate Village Well

Cost: \$70 tutors/ft student, \$140 member, \$180 non-member

Venue: The Village Well, Aldgate

Term 4 Ref 011114 Saturday 1 November 9.30am-3.30pm

To book in click on the link <http://www.speld-sa.org.au/regform.doc>

Is your Teacher Registration due?

On November 19th SPELD SA is running a half day Mandatory Notification Training refresher course. At the completion of the course, participants will receive a Mandatory Notification Training certificate which is sufficient to allow renewal of their teacher registration.

Cost: Member \$55, Non-member \$65
Ref 191114

To book in click on the link <http://www.speld-sa.org.au/regform.doc>

New Product

Fitzroy Readers have introduced a new set of readers. Set 11x-20x lets students reinforce each new sound (oo, er, sh, all, ing, ar, ay, etc) in a longer story before moving on.

The books are available through the SPELD SA shop for \$60 a set.



The Inner Wheel Ladies



On Monday 13th October, Sandy attended a meeting of the Inner-wheel ladies volunteer group to present a certificate of appreciation for the support they have given SPELD SA over many years. These amazing ladies have tirelessly helped us pack, ready for posting, up to 2000 newsletters twice a year for over 37 years. Thank you from all our members, we really appreciate your help.

Tutors Needed



SPELD SA Needs registered teachers who wish to become tutors. *Selection criteria apply

- Are you a registered teacher?
- Do you have an hour or two that you could spare each week?

If you are interested in finding out more go to

http://www.speld-sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=207

Next week is Dyslexia Empowerment week

It is amazing how many people still haven't seen all the free resources and information SPELD SA provides on our website.

Every day we talk to teachers, SSOs, parents and friends. We encourage you to mention SPELD SA and refer someone to look at our site www.speld-sa.org.au

The Dyslexia SA Gala Dinner

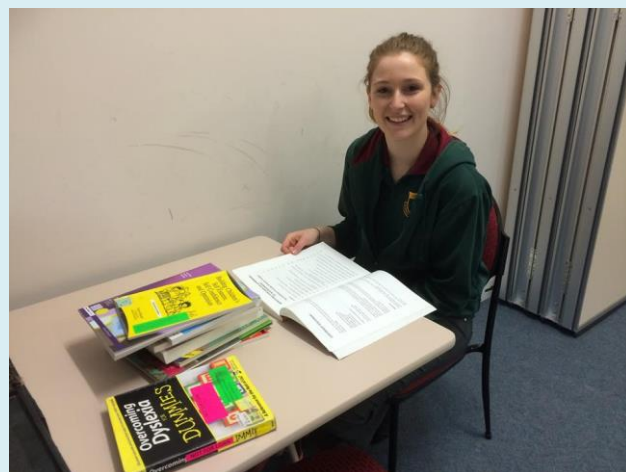
The Dyslexia SA Gala Dinner aims to raise community awareness of dyslexia.

The Gala dinner will be held at the National Wine Centre of Australia, Corner of Botanic & Hackney Roads, Adelaide on Friday, 21 November, 2014
6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

To find out more follow the link.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/dyslexia-sa-gala-dinner/event-summary-8372fc7a015f438eaf846d451b9edfb8.aspx>

SPELD SA Library



Holly Watkins from Urbrae Agricultural High School visited SPELD to do some research for her year 12 research project.

People can use our conference room to go through our specialist library and journals. We have a number of areas set up for people who would like to work quietly. People who are not members can use our library in this way.