

# winner of the 2003 ICTEV educator of the year:

**MARK HENNESSY, ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAST KEW**

Mark Hennessy, ICT Integration Teacher at St Anne's Primary School, East Kew and St Dominic's Primary School, East Camberwell is the 2003 ICTEV Victorian Educator of the Year.

## TEACHING & OTHER DUTIES

Mark Hennessy has been a significant member of the staff of St Anne's School since May 2000 and at St Dominic's School since May 2002. He has influenced and inspired students, staff and parent communities to embrace technology as a tool for learning and teaching and for presenting material to an audience. Mark is passionate about the use of ICT as a tool for learning and is recognised and respected by these communities as an innovator. In recent years, he has gained repute and respect in the education community for the innovative use of ICT in Numeracy / Mathematics teaching and learning.

## WORK WITH STUDENTS

Mark's teaching role at St Anne's and St Dominic's is described as ICT Integration. Mark supports existing teaching and learning program in Literacy, Mathematics and Integrated Curriculum, developing short and long term projects involving the utilisation of computers in creative and innovative ways. He authors and designs rich learning tasks for students in open ended applications (Microsoft applications, multimedia software). Students have had learning experiences that involve the use of specific computer applications, internet and email and all experiences are tuned closely to the curriculum focus. Curriculum drives the use of the technology. In recent years Mark has developed IT learning plans aligned with Mathematics / Numeracy learning and teaching.

## WORK WITH COLLEAGUES

Mark is employed as an ICT Integration teacher to assist teachers and students with the integration of the computer as a learning and teaching tool across all curriculum areas. Mark works with class teachers to plan learning and teaching foci for the integration of ICT across the curriculum. He models and demonstrates use of the school's network and the internet to students and teachers. Mark challenges colleagues and they have developed confidence, motivation and new knowledge. The skills and attitudes

of teachers and school officers have advanced with such a powerful form of professional learning within their own workplace.

Mark also manages the SINA (School's Internet Network Administrator) access in conjunction with the Principal.

He has designed and continues to maintain the St Anne's School intranet pages and internet homepage. <http://www.sannkewe.melb.catholic.edu.au/>

Mark has often been called to be involved with the staff of schools in professional development program. His experience as leader (Project Coordinator) of the LaTTiCE (Learning and Teaching Technology in Catholic Education) project at St Ignatius' Primary School, Richmond has made him well equipped for his service to the St Anne's and St Dominic's community in this arena.

Mark has facilitated professional development activities related to utilising ICT and tailors this according to teacher / school priorities in view of the School Development Plans.

On average Mark has been asked to plan professional development programs for staff at staff meetings twice a term and once a year at a school closure day.

Agendas of programs have covered some of the following:

- Internet mathematics
- Developing PowerPoint skills for teaching and learning
- Introduction to the school's intranet and how to utilise it for teaching and learning
- Digital portfolios
- File management for busy teachers
- Creating a shared curriculum directories and documentation
- CSFII Mathematics Resource Directory.

## WORK WITH PARENTS

Parent information sessions:  
- ICT integration info sessions  
- ICT integration showcase sessions (student participation)  
- Introduction of the school's intranet.

Creation of multimedia photographic display of school events:

- Italian day
- Book week day
- Twilight sports
- School camp
- School open days.

## CAREER JOURNEY

Mark began his professional journey with computers in learning and teaching in 1994, when he was invited to take on a part-time teaching role (3 days per week) in a newly established computer learning centre at St Ignatius' Primary School in Richmond. It was here that he developed a simple repertoire focusing on driving curriculum delivery and enrichment using computers. Mark continues to hold firm to this basic repertoire today. At St Ignatius, Mark focused upon developing learning tasks for students in open ended applications (word processors, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software and multimedia software) linked to the curriculum focus in individual classrooms and over the years has built up an extensive electronic library of rich learning tasks crossing all curriculum areas and learning and teaching disciplines.

While at St Ignatius, Mark began his own professional development journey with ICTs in teaching and learning. His drive to improve learning and teaching experiences of the students in his care drove him to improve his own learning and teaching repertoire in this realm. In the ensuing years he completed numerous short courses with the CEGV / ICTEV and the SERCT Centre, Monash University, Catholic Education Office Sale, Kodak Education Australia and Apple Computer Australia (some of these courses: Computers & Literacy, Multimedia, Advanced Photoshop), he became a qualified CAPC (Computers Across the Primary Curriculum) facilitator and an ACAM (Arts, Computing and Multimedia) facilitator.

## LEADERSHIP

It was during this time that Mark began to take on positions of leadership and responsibility in his role. In 1996, he began coordinating a Computer Education support group in the South Central zone of the Catholic Education Office and organised and facilitated many successful and focused programs for teachers within the zone. (Some of the focused programs were: Computers and Early Literacy, Computers in the Arts, Early Years Multimedia).

In 1997, St Ignatius was selected to become a LaTTiCE school (Learning and Teaching Technologies in Catholic Education). In this first phase of the project the school was selected as one of six Victorian Catholic schools for a three year funded program of intense professional development, mentoring, skilling and hardware and software provision. Mark was invited to take on the role of project manager of LaTTiCE at St Ignatius. St Ignatius opened its doors to many other schools during this period and

was viewed as an exemplary school, showcasing ICT use, driven by curriculum. In this same year he began a Post Graduate Diploma in IT Education at Deakin University where he began to formalise his qualifications as an ICT Educator.

At the end of 1999, Mark took a risk and began a new phase of work as an ICT educator. He has continued to work part-time as a teacher, while working on creative and innovative projects with publishers, subject associations and other education bodies. During this time he has written his first book *Computer Enriched Mathematics (P-4)*. He has also developed a professional development program (ICT and Numeracy) and associated resource CD (CSFII referenced Electronic Mathematics Resource Directory) and has consulted to many schools throughout Victoria with the program.

## **PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

- Eight years of presenting at Computing and Mathematics Education Conferences
- B.Ed (Melb) 1992
- Grad Dip IT Education (Deakin) 1998
- Completing an MEd IT Education (Deakin) 2003
- Councillor Mathematical Association of Victoria (1998-2002)
- Middle Years Numeracy researcher 2001-2003
- 2001, July - August - Presented workshop, poster display and paper (Mouse Mathematics) at WCCE World Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Early Years Numeracy Trainer (DE&T) 2002
- Coordinator South Central Zone Computer Network 1996-1999
- CAPC (Computing Across the Primary Curriculum) Presenter / Facilitator 1997
- LaTTICE (Learning and Teaching Technology in Catholic Education) Coordinator at St Ignatius Primary School, Richmond 1997-2000
- ACAM (Arts Computing and Multimedia) Leader / Presenter / Facilitator
- Member: Board of Studies CSFII Committee for Maths, 1999
- Developed a short course for CEGV / ICTEV, Mouse Mathematics - computer a Mathematics tool, 1999

## **PUBLICATIONS AND WRITING CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Computer Enriched Mathematics (P-4) December 2001 published by Mathematical Association of Victoria (Book and CD) website reference: <http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/pubs/reviews/cem.html>
- Developed website for St Anne's Primary School, East Kew, 2002 <http://www.sannkewe.melb.catholic.edu.au>
- Developed intranet for St Anne's Primary School, East Kew, 2002
- SINE Writer (Success in Numeracy Education) Chance and Data Resource Kit for CECV (Catholic Education commission of Victoria) published July 2001 (book and data disk)
- Developed a professional development program (ICT and Numeracy) and associated resource CD (CSFII reference Electronic Mathematics Resource Directory) 2001
- Contribution to various Mathematics Education Resources at Mimosa Publications 2000-2001
- CSFII Chance and Data re-write (Levels 1-4) 1999 Board of Studies, Victoria 1999
- Contribution to click CD Computer Learning in Classrooms K-6 Melbourne University Press 1998
- Co-author of booklet (Computer: A Literacy Tool) co-written with Margaret Mitchell and Veronica Price endorsed and distributed throughout the South Central Zone of the Catholic Education Office - booklet and disk files for classroom teachers wishing to integrate computer use into their Primary Classroom English Program 1996.