

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 21 September 2015

Education Provocations: What does it mean to be literate and numerate in contemporary society?

An interactive public symposium in Hobart tomorrow night (**Tuesday 22 September**) will attempt to unsettle a number of common assumptions about literacy and numeracy.

Professor John Williamson, Dean of the University's Faculty of Education, warmly invites educators, teachers and parents/carers to Education Provocations. Each provocateur will share key findings from their research and engage the audience in lively discussion.

The Provocations:

NAPLAN, Acronym Presented by Dr Damon Thomas

The annual assessment program that strikes fear into the hearts of many. But is the NAPLAN friend or foe to the teachers and students who encounter it each May? This provocation will bait, niggle and vex you with what's really at stake in this high-stakes testing regime.

Is numeracy enough? Presented by Associate Professor Helen Chick

At a time when there is widespread concern about numeracy standards and calls for changes to this, that, and the other in order to lift those standards, there has not been a close examination of what numeracy is, and whether numeracy is all that we want. The frequent cries of "If only they knew their times tables" may well reflect a legitimate desire, but also suggests a naiveté about the nature of numeracy and, taken to an extreme, would lead to an impoverished education. Are we doing our students a disservice by not thinking more carefully about the mathematical learning we want occurring in our classrooms?

Cultural Literacy and the Late-Modern Self Presented by Dr Joanne Jones

It is a truth universally acknowledged that functional literacy is vitally important. Yet other truths about the broader social, ideological and imaginative role of literacy often go unrecognised in media-driven discussions of literacy testing and generating statistics. Many of the benefits experienced by literate and linguistically engaged individuals are much harder to measure but are just as vital, such as engaging culturally and critically with an immeasurably complex society. This presentation will discuss the imperative of cultivating cultural literacies in twenty-first century classrooms.

Event details

Who: All are welcome to attend.

What: "Education Provocations: What does it mean to be literate and numerate in contemporary society?"

When: Tuesday 22 September, 4.15pm

Where: University Club, Dobson Road, Sandy Bay

RSVP: This is a free event, however registration is essential as places are limited.

Please register [online](#)

Information released by:

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