

Thinking

IN
EDUCATION

Thinking Outside The Box

Professional education services provided by
Penny Willoughby



Penny's vision is to help gifted children find their place in the world.

Inspired by excellence, Penny believes that:

- Every *child* should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential
- Every *parent* should have the information they need to best encourage and support their child
- Every *educator* should have the specialised guidance they need to enable them and their school succeed



Founded by Penny in 2006, Thinking Outside The Box professional education services gives life to her beliefs by providing quality, personalised services to parents, schools, educators and, of course, to children!

Penny's reflections

Now you've identified your gifted students, what next?

It's a very reaffirming experience for me to witness the sense of control teachers express once they've clarified which of their students are gifted. (Please refer to my March 2014 Newsletter for the article about identification). They no longer have to wonder if there are any students who are gifted but underachieving and hidden.

Even more exciting for me is when teachers begin exploratory conversations about how to support those identified students. They ask questions such as, How can I help Kyle be more **motivated**? How do I

get Josie to **show** me what she's capable of? What can I do about Lucy's **argumentative and disruptive** behaviour? How much should I be **challenging** Emma? How do I get Peta to **complete her work**? How do I support Susie to **stop being a perfectionist**? What do I do about Jack's low **self-confidence**?

Of course there are many parts to answering each of these questions and not enough space here to answer all of them. However I will share one important key to this process: go back to basics and reflect on everything you know about the particular high ability student. Firstly compile and

analyse all the information you have on them such as aptitude by subject, assessment performance (formal and informal), learning preferences, personal interests, behavioural characteristics, social development, attention span and so on. This personal information about a high ability learner is the foundation for answering your questions and building your strategy for supporting them.

If you would like to know more about working out what's best for a high ability learner, please contact me on 0418 520 023 or penny.willoughby@mac.com

April

2014

*Better than a thousand days
of diligent study is one day
with a great teacher.*



Information evenings

It's not too late to book in for this week's double seminar:

Thursday, 1 May

Venue: Southern Community Church of Christ
Cnr Chesterville Rd & Pine St, Cheltenham 3192
(Melways ref 86 J1)

Two different sessions will be held on this evening - parents and teachers are welcome to come to one or both sessions. A light dinner will be served for those staying for the second one.

This evening is being co-hosted by the Gifted Support Network Inc. Penny Willoughby and Christine Ireland will be presenting.

5:30pm to 7:00pm: First Session:

Perspectives on parenting and educating gifted children

7:30pm to 9:00pm: Second Session:

Understanding and supporting social and emotional development in gifted children

For a detailed description of the seminars go to:
<http://www.thinkingoutsidethebox.com.au/for-parents/parent-information-evenings.html>

This evening is free when you book through Penny and is filling up fast. Bookings can be made by calling 0418 520 023 or emailing penny.willoughby@mac.com

All Day program



*Two outstanding teachers of gifted children,
One small class of like-minded students,
Four days of learning excitement!*

This program is uniquely designed to develop children's passions and self confidence. The program will build learners' problem solving, conceptual thinking, resilience and positive self-perception.

The next program is for Grade 3 & 4 children and starts on Monday, 16 June.

Early bird registrations with a 10% discount close on Monday, 5 May.

www.thinkingoutsidethebox.com.au

Term 2 programs

Thinking Outside The Box programs for Term 2 are open for registrations. For more information, visit my website.

If you want to know what's coming up, you can subscribe to this newsletter by emailing penny.willoughby@mac.com

Holiday programs

New!

If you are looking for engaging activities to keep active young minds busy, have a look at the holiday programs planned for July!

We are thrilled to announce the first ever Thinking Outside The Box holiday programs running this July. These hands-on programs will run for 3 or 6 hours in the Brighton area. Here is a glimpse of what we're planning:

Grades 1 & 2

- Who Killed Rufous Bristlebird? An Environmental Mystery and Cherry Farm - Use logic and hands-on science to learn about endangered species.
- The Incredible Science Behind 'That Sinking Feeling' - Hands-on discovery of the science of buoyancy.

Grades 3 & 4

- Cold Cases - Uncover the historic truths behind well-known songs, nursery rhymes and stories.
- Maths Gymnastics - Fun and games with unusual maths activities.
- In or Out of A Watery World - Discover the amazing evolution of well known animals.

Grades 5 & 6

- How to Write a Mystery Novel in One Day - Be amazed and have fun writing a mystery novel in a day.
- How can Science Turn you into a Super Hero? - Experiment and learn about the physics of having superpowers.
- Loads of Codes - Be fascinated and learn to write and solve codes.

Registrations will be open on **Monday, 19 May** and an Early Bird discount of 10% will close on **Monday, 2 June**.

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