



P4C.COM News

New resources on P4C.COM

WE ARE BEGINNING a long and exciting process of updating and improving the P4C.COM website. Recently we have added new material that you can see listed on the front page as you log in. For example, there is an enjoyable new story from Jason Buckley called 'The Good Twin' that could stimulate exploration of the distinctions between *doing good*, *being good* and *being good at something*.

There are lesson plans from Roger Sutcliffe on the Disney cartoon 'The Ugly Duckling'. The full version of the cartoon is available on YouTube so you can start using the plans with your children straight away.

We have devised new concept-stretching exercises built around common expressions such as: 'It just happened!' (exploring the concepts: *causation*, *chance* and *intention*) and 'It's a matter of opinion!' (exploring concepts such as *truth*, *belief* and *knowledge*). There are twelve new (or old) games, submitted by Michelle Whitworth, to focus attention and develop cordiality in a group.

Steve Williams has submitted, in script format, two different versions of the well-known bible story: 'The workers in the Vineyard'. One version is an alternative to the original, and is written to stimulate children to think about concepts such as *fairness*, *agreement* and *judgement*.

In the coming term and throughout the summer we will be putting many more resources onto P4C.COM to give you access to new ideas and materials in addition to the wealth of resources that is already available.

Upgrades to the website

In the near future the website will undergo a major upgrade in order to enable new possibilities for subscribers. This may require the site to be locked for a week. Resources will still be available but new subscriptions and additions will not be possible during that period. We will let you know when to expect this to happen.

Applications invited for £1,000 donation to a p4c-related project

P4C.COM donates 10% of net income to charitable projects in kind or in cash. This year, we donated free P4C.COM logins to Nepal Schools Aid. <http://nepalschoolsaid.blogspot.com/2010/09/p4ccom-supports-nepal-schools-aid.html>

We are now donating £1,000 to a p4c-related project. We invite applications for these funds. We will give priority to projects that work directly with children or teenagers, that are well managed (preferably by charitable or not-for-profit organisations) and that do not attract substantial funding from other sources. If you wish to apply, please send us an outline of your project, the reasons why you could use an extra £1,000, and appropriate details of your management structures. Please reply to: Steve Williams (steve@p4c.com)

Events and courses

Advance notice

SAPERE Conference: 'Building Communities through Philosophical Enquiry'. This event explores approaches to philosophy in communities with contributions that span school and youth work as well as philosophy in localities. For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/sapcom>

P4C and Global Learning Conference. This conference will give participants the opportunity to hear about the benefits of P4C for global learning from Roger Sutcliffe, one of the most experienced and respected P4C practitioners in the UK and a director of P4C.COM. There will also be opportunities to learn from other teachers who are successfully implementing P4C in schools and to hear about P4C first hand from pupils themselves. Be inspired to take P4C forward in your school! For a PDF leaflet, see: <http://tinyurl.com/sapdescy>

Third Advanced Philosophy for Children Seminar. A regular event that is held this year in Winchester and turns its attention to issues of P4C and pedagogy. The presenters will include Eugenio Echeverria (Latin American Centre for Philosophy for Children, Mexico) Joanna Haynes (Plymouth University), Jan Derry (Institute of Education, London). For more information contact Pat Hannam: thinkingworlds@yahoo.co.uk

15th International Conference on Thinking. This conference will bring together leading thinkers, researchers and practitioners for dialogue about the nature of high-quality thinking. Philosophy for Children has been represented at each of the last fourteen conferences in this series, and this one will be no different. There have been many highlights in previous events and with David Perkins, Guy Claxton, Lane Clark and Karin Morrison booked for this one, it is sure to be worth attending. The conference runs from 20 - 24 June 2011 at Queen's University in Belfast, and will be hosted by Prof Carol McGuinness. More details from www.qub.ac.uk/sites/ICOT2011

Visible Learning Conferences. Following the successful Carol Dweck conferences held in June 2010, there will be a series of conferences in Sweden and the UK this year featuring Debra



Events and courses

Advance notice

P4C.COM to become a not-for-profit co-operative

The directors of P4C.COM have decided to develop the enterprise to become a not-for-profit co-operative venture. We are already, in effect, a not-for-profit company because we have never paid company profits to directors in the form of dividends. That will be formalised in a new company structure. Also, other individuals or organisations that provide a certain level of services to P4C.COM (for example by writing materials) will be able to become members of the co-operative, have a say in the running of the project and gain other benefits from collaboration. Together, members will apply co-operative principles to provide the best possible resources and advice to subscribers while at the same time being self-reliant and free of dependence on government approval or support from charitable donations.

We will keep everyone informed about developments in the coming weeks and months.

Ideas for practice: dialogues as 'gatherings'

The initial discussion with children in response to a question about an artefact such as a story or picture sometimes has the feeling of a gathering of ideas rather than a rigorous enquiry. That is because, in the time available, the best that can be achieved is often a sharing of ideas along with an attempt to relate them to each other – to draw map of the territory so to speak.

If we accept these discussions as gatherings of ideas, then we might make a selection from any of the examples, definitions, criteria, consequences or arguments that arise and bring some of them back to the class for further, and deeper, consideration either in orally or in writing.

The work of selection and summary could be done by the teacher, by teacher and pupils in negotiation, or by a group of pupils working on their own. There is a value in passing more responsibility to pupils because the practice of making the selections will encourage them to recognise contributions of significance.

Another advantage of selection and re-presentation is that the illustrative examples, arguments or definitions will need to be concisely expressed. Clear starting points will, in turn, enable focused and rigorous dialogue.

In discussions of questions where consequences are a relevant consideration, I sometimes ask pupils to work on a freeze frame or tableau to represent the consequence and have a member of the group explain it. If photographs of the tableaux are taken and the explanations written up, they can be added to the collections.

When pupils are motivated by a particular theme and a cluster of questions that surround it, then the practices described above could build on that motivation and enhance the quality, depth and appeal of philosophy in the classroom.

Masters, associate director of the Visible Learning Lab. Working alongside John Hattie, Masters provides a fascinating benchmark for comparing the many innovations in teaching and learning. The conferences will be held in Varberg, Sweden from 1st to 3rd November, in London on the 7th, and in northern England on the 8th November 2011. They will all be co-hosted by Dr Barry Hymer, author of the G&T Pocketbook, and by James Nottingham, one of the directors of p4c.com. Further details and online booking will appear soon at www.carol-dweck.co.uk.

Courses run by SAPERE. Further information and more courses at www.sapere.org.uk



P4C in Nursery update from James Nottingham.

I am pleased to say I now have some good video clips of 3 and 4 year-olds from Goosehill Nursery engaging in P4C. These will be uploaded to the members-only part of p4c.com in the summer term. Interestingly, the children from this project are now all in the same reception class at school and have been noted for being attentive and articulate. I have five sessions of P4C booked for after half-term to work with this class, so I will have some more to report by the end of term.

Thinking Schools Network. Worth checking out is the Thinking Schools Network website (www.thinkingschools.org) The site was started as a way to share the materials presented at the 13th International Conference on Thinking and has since developed into a forum for understanding and contributing to learning processes. The site is available in English and Swedish.

Philosophical Enquiry through the Curriculum. This SAPERE conference will investigate the connections between P4C and other areas of the curriculum including science, humanities, English, mathematics, PSHE, religious studies, art and music. There will also be a focus on concepts across the curriculum and enquiry-based learning. The keynote speaker: Mick Waters, Professor of Education at the University of Wolverhampton and previously Director of Curriculum at QCA. For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/sapcurriculum>