



“You are not thinking, you are just being logical”: creativity, executive functions and NAPLAN results

Date: Tuesday 17th November

Time: 4.30 - 5.30pm with refreshments from 4pm

Venue: Level 7 Seminar Room, Queensland Brain Institute (Building #79) The University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus

Speaker: Professor Martin Westwell

Title: “You are not thinking, you are just being logical”: creativity, executive functions and NAPLAN results

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About the speaker: Martin Westwell is a Strategic Professor in the science of learning at Flinders University and Director of the Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century. In collaboration with teachers, schools and systems his team supports quality teaching and innovation and undertakes research in the science of learning.

Abstract

When Nobel Prize winner Neils Bohr said “No, no, you are not thinking, you are just being logical” he was frustrated with his colleagues' inability to think effectively in complex, unfamiliar and non-routine situations. He might as well have been talking about the second half of every NAPLAN numeracy test! To be an effective learner in history, art, science, English, mathematics or almost any other domain, the extent and nature of the cognitive demand has changed and we are starting to understand the implications for teachers and their practice. The idea of “best practice” in education has long gone (if it ever really existed). With a number of examples of low-floor, high-ceiling activities that can provide challenge for almost all children, we will look at the principles behind the activities. We will see some of the changes in thinking (and NAPLAN results) that have occurred when teachers have thoughtfully and intentionally put these principles into practice.

Please share this invitation with other interested colleagues.

Please note, there is no parking within the immediate vicinity. There is pay parking along Sir William MacGregor Drive, in the top level of the Conifer Knoll Carpark off Thyne Road (10 minute walk) and Oval 6 Parking Station off Sir William MacGregor Drive (10 minute walk).

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