

"Shambles" Newsletter: March 2003

Designed to support International Schools in S.E.Asia

This paper copy of the termly Shambles newsletter contains similar information to the original online version at <http://www.shambles.net/newsletter/March2003> the order and design is different to facilitate easier reading and, if you are reading this on paper - then, of course, the links are not active.

The newsletter extends to six pages which is possibly too long— (please print back to back)

feedback is always appreciated.

Chris Smith csmith@IESF.net

To subscribe to future newsletters send a blank email to newsletter-subscribe@shambles.net

War and Peace – Advice for Schools & Families

Terrorism and the threat of war has caused many international schools to increase their security and to make contingency plans should war break out or terrorists strike.

Websites to help with this task include the 'Travel Advice Unit - UK' www.fco.gov.uk/travel/ set up by the *British Foreign Office*, you can check out the current safety status in many countries ... and be advised what to do if it all goes wrong. The *US Bureau of Consular Affairs* has an equivalent site at <http://travel.state.gov/>.

Both these sites will be of help to schools if asked for advice by parents or other school community members on what to do in the case of war or terrorist acts.

I do have a third site on my list called 'Be Ready' www.ready.gov/ (*US Dept. of Homeland Security*) which also gives advice on what to do in the case of a terrorist attack - there are some useful teaching/learning materials about the different types of threats - but when reading the advice I cannot help but think back to the stories from my grandparents about the bomb shelters they built in their back gardens many years ago.

Incidentally - if you are doing projects on Iraq then a great starting point is the Librarians' Index to the Internet - go to <http://lii.org/search/iraq> but note - "*The lii.org database includes numerous other resources on topics such as peace, war, the Mid-East, nuclear weapons and disarmament, the United Nations, and specific countries and issues.*"

Chinese Painting

www.cleo.net.uk/content/gfx/chinapaint/chinapaint.swf

From a very heavy subject to one a little more relaxing, Chinese Painting. It's often said that the best things in life are free and the best presents are the smallest ones, well this online offering meets both of those criteria.

CLEO'S "Four Treasures" is a unique online Chinese paintbox; you are able to make your paintings with only a web browser, your mouse, an internet connection and your talents. There are seven brushes to choose from, you can control the thickness of the brush; the expected controls of reset, undo and print are all available.

One additional luxury is a 'recording' option so once the painting is complete the drawing and order of the brush strokes can be replayed and seen again.

There are some wonderful opportunities here, for all ages, not only for Art & Design but also Chinese Studies, Multicultural Activities, Language Work.... and special educational needs.

With thanks to CLEO - '[Cumbria Lancashire Education Online](http://www.cumbria-lancashire-education-online.com)' - for providing this for free and to [Liz Hankin](mailto:Liz.Hankin@shambles.net) for bringing my attention to it and it even worked well on my slow modem internet connection.

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English Language Teaching Software<http://www.clarity.com.hk/>

Clarity is a UK- and Hong Kong-based company that started operations in Asia over ten years ago and has become a leading publisher of software for teaching English.

Tense Buster, Clarity's most successful title, has been adopted by the British Council and by Ministries of Education across the world, and is now running on more than 1m computers in over 100 countries.

Clarity's most recent publication, STUDY SKILLS Success, is aimed both at [IELTS](#) candidates, and at helping students make the adjustment from studying at school to moving into the more independent environment of higher education.

A visit to their website will introduce you to their projects, achievements and involvement with the education community across S.E.Asia ... I've watched the company develop, from a distance, since the early days and consider their products and particularly their support to be "teacher friendly" and "student focused".

Clarity publish a newsletter by regular mail and email - the current edition can be downloaded from www.clarity.com.hk/pdf_newsletter/issue10.pdf and you can subscribe (free) to future issues at www.clarity.com.hk/loudandclear.htm

If you are involved in ELT (also ESL, EAL, TEFL) work with students then you and your students could well benefit from investigating Clarity in more detail.

**Will the Real 'Earth Day' Stand Up?**

What is the date of this year's 'Earth Day'? Well, there is some controversy on this issue; the "official" website www.earthday.net/ says it's on 22nd April 2003 but at www.earthsite.org/ it is clearly written "Earth Day is not April 22' with 20th March being their day.

This could turn into a great assembly topic or even a task where students are evaluating the authenticity of information on websites

United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-12<http://www.unesco.org/education/litdecade>

"While societies enter into the information and knowledge society, and modern technologies develop and spread at rapid speed, 860 million adults are illiterate, over 100 million children have no access to school, and countless children, youth and adults who attend school or other education programmes fall short of the required level to be considered literate in today's complex world."

The U.N. has passed a resolution proclaiming the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade

..... a poster for display on noticeboards can be downloaded from www.unesco.org/education/litdecade/poster.html

Looking for Material for a School Assembly<http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/Assembly/>

I mentioned 'websites to help when planning a school assembly' in the first newsletter but felt that an additional recommendation made to me after publication should not be missed.

"TRE", Teacher Resource Exchange, <http://tre.ngfl.gov.uk/> has some wonderful ideas .. just set the search parameters to your particular needs and wait for the materials to appear.

Shambles Tour 2004<http://www.shambles.net/profdev/2004tour/>

(INSET & Professional Course)

The tour / INSET planned for Feb. 2003 has been postponed until Feb. 2004 "Training course for ICT Coordinators and for "Aspiring" ICT Coordinators" with full details available at the link above.

The course will start with a face-to-face session in Bangkok. It will consist of a 3-day event run by UK facilitators followed by assignments to be done in school but with online help from the facilitators. The course is accredited by the Nottingham Trent University (UK).

Other professional development *opportunities (not just run by Shambles)* can be seen on our online calendar at www.shambles.net:88/default



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Qualifications and Exam Boards

<http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/ExamBrds>

Are you being asked, by parents, for more information about external qualifications other than that already displayed on your school website?

Probably the best source of information about UK exams is www.dfes.gov.uk/qualifications/ "the Department for Education and Skills' Qualifications Website.

The site contains everything you need to know about qualifications for (UK) schools and colleges" GCSEs, GCE 'A' levels, entry level qualifications, GNVQ, work-related learning.

I had hoped to also give equally useful sites for USA, Canada and Australia.

A request for help from one of my favorite listservs, LM_NET, produced the following responses about the USA:

"In the US there are many different qualifications depending on which of the 50 states. Or maybe it is actually one qualification called "the high school diploma" that means different things in different places."

"As for exams - the different authorities all set their own exams for their qualifications. but for university entrance - the nationally administered SAT from Princeton is pretty much a universal requirement."

"You should know that there are no national standards for Education in either the US or Canada. Education in the elementary and high school levels is a state/provincial responsibility and standards vary widely."

"Even within the state college/university systems there are different admissions standards. There are two different long standing sets of college admissions exams (SAT and ACT) that are owned by private companies and administered on Saturdays (or Sundays for those with religious exemptions) outside normal school hours, by teachers hired for that purpose."

Lisa Oldham (Overseas School of Colombo) & Dorothy Tissair Library Media Specialist, Old Saybrook, CT

Australia seems to be almost as diverse as the USA although the Education Network Australia (EdNA) offers some guidance at www.edna.edu.au/

'Qualifications' and 'Curriculum Frameworks' often appear in the same paragraph ... 'Shambles' has a page dedicated to 'Frameworks' at <http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/CurrFrame/> and the moral here is ... If you want to know anything - **ASK A LIBRARIAN**

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The National Numeracy Strategy (UK)

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/numeracy/publications

Primary teachers (UK Curriculum) will be very familiar with the numeracy initiative but what you may have missed is this wonderful page of relevant materials and publications.

In particular some wonderful offerings come under the heading of "Interactive Teaching Programs" ... software that can be freely downloaded and is especially suited to whole-class work using an interactive whiteboard (IWB), projector or large monitor.



Teachers Websites

It's always welcome news to be told about websites that international school teachers have set up to support teaching and learning with their students .. and I continue to include them as links on the 'Shambles' website.

Some I'd like to mention this time, science and Maths related all well worth a visit.

[Dr Carl Doige](http://www.rism.ac.th/class/hs/doiqec/index/index1.htm) at Ruamrudee International School in Bangkok has built a website to support Chemistry and in particular that related to I.B. at www.rism.ac.th/class/hs/doiqec/index/index1.htm

[Chad Evan's](http://www.chadevans.co.uk/abase.htm) at Tanglin Trust School in Singapore has built a site to support his teaching of GCE (A1/A2) Biology & Genetics at www.chadevans.co.uk/abase.htm and also supporting GCSE Biology and Maths www.chadevans.co.uk/gcsebase.htm

I asked [David Elliott](http://www.dragonnet.hkis.edu.hk/hs/math), long time IT guru at Hong Kong International School, for some recommendations and he responded with "What is important is the decision of an entire department to maintain a web presence providing students with resources and materials." with a suggestion to look at the schools Maths (sorry 'Math') and Science areas at <http://www.dragonnet.hkis.edu.hk/hs/math> and <http://www.dragonnet.hkis.edu.hk/hs/science>

Please let [me](#) know of any staff / student websites you would recommend for showcasing here in the future.

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Schools Advertising on Shambles

<http://www.shambles.net/advertising/>

I am contacted regularly by surfers, who have found 'Shambles' by using the search engines, who ask me if I will recommend a school in the area they are moving to in one of the 17 countries in S.E.Asia.

The policy on this is that I will not recommend individual schools but will point the enquirer to the relevant page(s) that contains the lists of schools and contact details

Schools do, though, have the option to raise your own profile on those pages by taking up the advertising opportunities maximum of five advertising spots on any page.

Education Statistics and Targets

<http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/EdStats/>

Did you know that in the USA - *Public School Trends 2002-2003 - 752 New schools opened due to enrolment growth, 847 Schools closed or merged into another school, 6,500 Schools experienced a shift in their grade range (i.e., a K-8 school is now a K-6 school), 3,135 Schools operate year-round, up 6% from the prior year, 22,545 Schools offer before- and after-school programs, 78,451 (90%) Are site-based managed schools, 10,569 Alternative education schools/programs serve at-risk students?*

MDR - www.schooldata.com

.. and ... did you know that in the UK DfES has set 2004 targets for average computer:pupil ratios of 1:8 in primary schools and 1:5 in secondary schools. This target includes pupils in secondary school 6th forms

DfES

www.dfes.gov.uk/standardsfund/grant601.htm

.. and ... did you know that there is a real time world population clock at

www.census.gov/ipc/www/clock.html and for the China population at www.cpirc.org.cn/eindex.htm

All these above are examples of links in the Shambles "Education Statistics" area.

School Calendars 2003-2004

Schools are already compiling their calendars for next year and the draft dates are probably just now waiting for the government public holidays to be announced before going to the printers.

There is a section dedicated to calendars on 'Shambles' at www.shambles.net/calendar/ but I cannot resist highlighting one URL www.printablecalendar.ca/ where you can, very easily, create free printable calendars that are formatted for Microsoft Word.

Summer Courses and Camps

It's coming up to that time of the year when families will be asking for advice about summer camps and courses overseas as well as in your own school.

You might like just to pass on these URLs and recommend they do a little directed browsing.

for the UK see

www.shambles.net/pages/Countries/uksummer

for the USA see

www.shambles.net/pages/Countries/usasummer/

If you find any new links then please add them or email them to me directly.

Shanghai Presentation - Professional Development Materials

In Shanghai there is a presentation of online professional development materials from the UK company Fieldwork Education.

24 courses are available covering aspects of 'personal effectiveness', 'teaching & learning', 'school leadership, management and governance' and 'supporting non-teaching staff', a full list is at www.fieldworkonlinetraining.com/currenttitles.php

Details are- Thur. 20th March 4:30pm (end 6:00) | Silver Court, 98 Shou Ning Rd., (Tibet Rd South), Shanghai (*room will be signposted*) | **Topic:** Online Professional Development (PD) Materials and Opportunities from Fieldwork Education (UK)

This session is designed to support staff in International Schools who have an interest or a responsibility for PD in their schools

Presenters: [Mike Forster](mailto:Mike.Forster@fieldworkonline.com) (Director, Fieldwork Online Training) and [Trevor Higginbottom](mailto:Trevor.Higginbottom@fieldworkonline.com) (Shanghai representative and consultant)

For more details telephone Trevor in Shanghai at +86) 13 66 144 5323



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Teacher Recruitment Online - It's Here NOW!

It's beginning to happen for real ... schools are not only advertising vacancies online ... but also only accepting applications online ... which is one sure way to check the applicant has a certain level of ICT capability (*or that they at least have a friend who does*)

If (when) you are looking for teaching jobs yourself I would strongly advise joining The Times Educational Supplement (UK) www.tes.co.uk/ free notification list ... mailed out every Monday - a two day delay as they really want you to buy the paper copy on the previous Friday.

The notification list, which they call "**my alerts**" is very configurable, e.g. "international school, primary, japan" would only give you adverts with vacancies matching those criteria. Most International School throughout the world advertise here ... so it is a **MUST** to join.

Other websites are offering similar services- it is difficult, but not impossible, for them to compete with the TES ... you can see a list of sites at www.shambles.net/pages/staff/#recruit

The following are two examples of schools that insisted, this year, that only applications would be accepted online (*unless you were the new CEO*)

The **English Schools Foundation (Hong Kong)** www.esf.edu.hk had sixteen international schools and only accepted application online through its website www.ESFrecruit.net.

The site was built and is managed by one of the ICT coordinators Nick Villeperieux nickvp@nuri-hijau.com and even though the deadlines for this year are past you can still add your name to a mailing list to be informed of future vacancies.

The first year of such a large project results in a certain amount of 'pain' from the applicants as well as the schools, some comments from Nick, who used a package called 'liquid office' as part of the ESF solution, include:

"A very big step to take, which will invariably have teething problems that can only be addressed through actual deployment - as a whole I was very pleased with the general success of the operation, it is the way ahead"

"Make sure your application form is user friendly as far as the web is concerned, the ability for potential applicants to save their application on the fly is a real plus. Typically forms that have been designed for hand written completion do not work too well online"

"Plan, plan and then plan again - make sure you thoroughly think through the deployment and have fail safe measures built in ... just in case!"

Bangkok Patana School www.patana.ac.th/ is another example of an organisation leading the way with their online recruitment page at www.patana.ac.th/Recruitment/ although one of the differences is that they designed their software completely in-house.

Jackie Houghton jaho@patana.ac.th, Director of Staff Development at Pattana is the contact person and, when we met, she highlighted the advantages of having all the applicants' information in a searchable database and the eventual 'time saving' that resulted in



Free Apple Mac OSX for Teachers in Asia Pacific

Apple is planning to roll out the 'Free Mac OSX for Teachers' and the 'iLife and Keynote' special offer to teachers in the Asia Pacific region (as shown at www.apple.com/education).

International Schools teachers are invited to take advantage of this offer – for more information please send an email directly to the Apple Asia HQ at international_schools@asia.apple.com

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e-learning course on e-learning

Adelaideglobal, an elearning specialist unit at Adelaide Institute of TAFE in Australia, offer a post-graduate qualification - the **Graduate Certificate in eLearning**.

Catriona Ward, elearning consultant and Coordinator of the course, says *"We discovered that although many teachers receive Professional Development within their school environment, this PD tends to focus on the technology - how to click the buttons rather than how to incorporate elearning into the existing teaching environment"*

The Graduate Certificate in eLearning is a Nationally (Australia) accredited one year part time course of study aimed at complementing participants' previous specialist education and training experience and to enhance knowledge and skills necessary to implement quality elearning educational programs. It is specifically designed for teachers, lecturers, trainers and educators.

This course is available totally online, reflecting the nature of the learning outcomes and the needs of the course participants. All course subjects will be delivered via a secure elearning environment accessed via the Internet and available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the duration of the subject.

But to get **full details**, without any obligation, then email **Catriona** directly ... ["CLICK HERE"](#) ellearn@adel.tafe.sa.edu.au ... quoting 'Shambles Newsletter'

... and if you were wondering what TAFE stands for - it is "Technical and Further Education"

That's IT

I hope you have found something here again that can be of help when working with your students, colleagues and parents ... and also something of personal interest as well. Also good luck to all those staff who have now resigned and are on the journey looking for a new school.

The next newsletter will be in May 2003

Feedback

www.shambles.net/feedback/

Any feedback you can give about this newsletter would be appreciated.... especially ideas or contributions for future editions.

If you know of any new international schools opening in the region - [Brunei](#) [Burma](#)/[Myanmar](#) [Cambodia](#) [China](#) [Hong Kong](#) (HKSAR) [India](#) [Indonesia](#) [Japan](#) [Laos](#) [Macau](#) [Malaysia](#) [Philippines](#) [Singapore](#) [South Korea](#) [Taiwan](#) [Thailand](#) [Vietnam](#) - the please let me know csmith@IESF.net

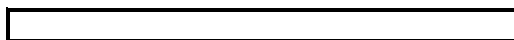
STOP PRESS

Computers are being replaced

There is a rumour circulating around S.E.Asia that some schools have decided that computers are just not living up to their original promise and these schools are considering replacing them with more cost effective technology.

I've managed to track down the details of this initiative which is not being publicly discussed for some reason ... for details [CLICK HERE](#)

(only works on the online version)



and I almost forgot the musical aspect
with apologies to
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
and the Salvation Army Band
but echoing the Shambles message
[CLICK HERE](#)

(can you identify the singer?)

(only works on the online version)

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