

schoolzone *newsletter*

educational intelligence

message from the editor..

Moving towards a post COL landscape...

After six years, and around 500 million pounds worth of ring-fenced eLC funding, Curriculum Online finally ceases to exist at the end of August 2008. As publishers and suppliers remove the familiar logo from their products and websites, it seems timely to reflect on what the impact will be on the digital resource market.

At Schoolzone, we've seen a huge decline in the production of standalone CD-ROMs, and it is likely that the trend will continue. We know, from speaking to teachers, that too many CD-ROMs languish unused on bookshelves in schools across the UK; undoubtedly teachers are becoming far more discerning about how they spend their money. With ever more importance being placed on interoperability, and a growing demand for high-quality, disaggregated content, we suspect that our product evaluation service will need at least some rethinking.

Schoolzone is already working with suppliers of hardware and peripherals to find out what they want and need from the evaluation service. We're now inviting you, our teacher community, to say what you think is required to support your purchasing decisions.

To have your say over how the post eLC evaluation model should work, please visit:

<http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/surveys/2008/evalsurvey/>
to download the survey.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent survey about teachers' awareness of Dyspraxia; we had a fantastic response with over 1000 teachers 'doing their bit' for the Dyspraxia Foundation, the small charity on whose behalf we were running this research.

You might be interested to know that three quarters of you said that at no point during your teaching career had you been offered specific training with regards to recognising, understanding or supporting children with dyspraxia, and only 58% of you said you could recognise the symptoms of dyspraxia, compared with 82% who could recognise the symptoms of ADHD; 81% - general behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, and 76% - autism spectrum disorder.

Following the ongoing controversy over SATs, our vote for this month is 'Is it time to scrap SATs?', so please log onto <http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/news.asp?Action=search> to take part.

If you would like to comment on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter, or comment more widely on educational issues, please email me at: melissa@schoolzone.co.uk.

free trial...

Schoolzone is currently developing a series of tools that will enable schools to collect data from staff, pupils and parents which will support their SEF, School improvement plan and even individual teachers' performance management.

Unlike other survey services, the data will be analysed instantly, giving you immediate feedback that will be benchmarked against other, similar schools. Other potential benefits include:

- Monitoring/ measuring the impact of new initiatives and CPD training.
- Head teachers can identify what kind of leadership qualities motivate members of staff, and then seek to recruit/ develop managers with these qualities.

- By understanding staff 'dissatisfiers', pre-emptive action can be taken before this has a major impact on teachers' working lives, with the inevitable consequences such as high stress levels, absenteeism, low morale and ultimately poor performance/ high staff turnover.

Because the survey is hosted on the Schoolzone server and automated, schools can rerun the survey as often as they wish. This would enable them to monitor the impact of a specific initiative, change in leadership, or wave of training over a short period of time.

Please contact me at melissa@schoolzone.co.uk if you would like to find out more about this tool. If you would like to take part in trialling this service, and benefit from a year's free subscription, please email lynn@schoolzone.co.uk

free resources & opportunities

Add your own comments to the UK's best educational search engine

Make the best even better. Our webguide of 50,000 education websites is now open to registered users to add your own comments about each entry. Just follow the link in the results then click on the 'Add a Review' link at the top of the page.

Schoolzone's Teaching Recruitment Site!

This is an exciting opportunity for schools to advertise teaching jobs by registering with AllTeachingJobs.co.uk.

For just £40 per year plus VAT, schools can instantly add, edit and manage all school vacancies for an entire year.

Alternatively, if you are seeking employment, see our listing of current jobs, which are delineated by region, subject or sector.

In addition, Schoolzone is offering a job alert service. All you need to do is register an email address and your job search preferences to receive this updated information every day.

Take a look at Schoolzone jobs today:
<http://www.schoolzone.allteachingjobs.co.uk/>

Contact Carmen Frowd,
carmen@schoolzone.co.uk or call 01242 262906
for more Information.

interact schoolzone interact

Schoolzone Interact currently has 3032 schools as registered users. The service allows full access to publishers' educational content on a 'try before you buy' basis. There is a 'new to Interact' section for those who would like an introduction to what is on offer and there is no commitment to buy at the end of the trial period.

To access this free digital content please go to:
www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact/login.asp

Schoolzone has recently changed the criteria for inclusion into Interact which means a wealth of new resources will be available through the system over the autumn term. Keep your eyes peeled and take advantage of this great 'try before you buy' feature.

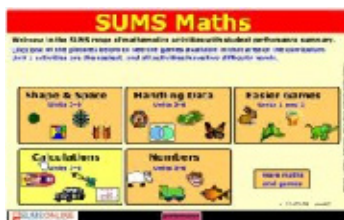
Interact feedback:

In a pre-launch Interact focus group teachers stated:

"This is a way to interface with bits of software that I am interested in and cut out the dross, I can find directly what I want."

Have you accessed the Schoolzone Virtual Tours yet?

Virtual Tours are interactive demonstrations of educational content together with independent teacher voiceovers. This month's example is a maths resource:



Sums Online - Sums Maths

The 80+ maths activities are grouped into familiar sections: shape and space, handling data, calculations, numbers and a section entitled 'easier games'.

Check out the Virtual Tour area for further examples covering all subjects and key stages.

<http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/virtualtours.asp>

Don't forget ... to have your say

Last month we asked our website users the following question...



Do you think your school provides a high quality work experience programme?

Of the respondents, 101 voted YES and 57 said NO.

This month we ask:

Is it time to scrap SAT's?

Please go to our News pages at <http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/news.asp?Action=search> to cast your vote or email your comments to the Editor: melissa@schoolzone.co.uk.

Each month the Schoolzone website brings you details of events of interest to the education community:
www.schoolzone.co.uk/eventsandtraining/index.asp

For example:

Making a Difference with Research
Dates: 7 September 2008 to 7 September 2008
09:45 -16:00

This one day conference gives delegates the chance to relate the findings of educational research to their own practice, explains different methods of research and lends encouragement to those doing their own research, or about to embark on a project. More details are available here: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/index.cfm>

Email: book.sales@nfer.ac.uk
Telephone: 01763 637002

Further details on the website.