



NZ ASSOCIATION FOR PHILOSOPHY TEACHERS

ST CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE

Meeting of Minds - TIDBITS

Philosophy as a set of tools for making your way through temporary existence

Queensland curriculum - philosophy and indigenous people research/initiatives.

Interschool teacher exchange.

On the problem of over-scaffolding student work. NCEA checklists; fragmented writing.

Woods fund – use it or lose it. Who wants \$30K! (funding for relief teachers, travel) + Professional Development fund mooted: subject/content/resource development + how to use guide for resource.



Serious bookshops

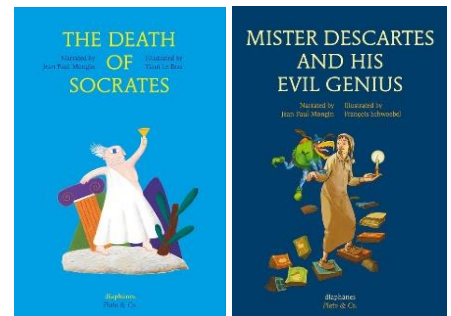
Adrian Macey

Philosophy education is about learning to use your judgment

Cultivating a philosophical culture; a critical conscience and reasoned judgment. (Cf. Literary TV show *Apostrophes*)

Philosophy education as informed by other disciplines and experience – literary, historical and scientific.

French text of Plato and Co. books - collaboration between philosophy and a languages class.



Order From:

<http://www.diaphanes.com/reihe/plato-co-40>

How to make brains fit-for-purpose in a global age.

Richard Tweedie

Graham Mundy 1935- 2017: Richards *maker* as a philosophy/psychology teacher (and indirectly, many of us too).

The Psychology experience –change relies on political levers. Difficult working with the Ministry of Education 'Skinner boxes'.

Brain development and the challenge of becoming a global/cosmopolitan citizen. How can we expand student circles of empathy, given most of our ancestors evolved in small tribes (intimates 15-20; clan 45-50; tribe 150, close friends 5)

Reward centers of the brain are hyper excited in adolescents – can Philosophy education help with regulating this sort of excitation?

Philosophy as a way of remodeling the brain. Philosophy education seems to offer a developmental opportunity; training students for adulthood.

Eudaimonic- be good animals

Evolutionary influence likened to turning off an electric fan – the residual air flow is

metaphorically like instinct. E.g. spot the happy face in amongst the angry faces. Our brains are attuned to anger and fear (cf. election, \$11b hole – fear factor effects us more than positivity; amygdala)

Students must learn face-to-face communication before expanding into a global focus – ethics.

Intelligence comes from *soft skills* – Herman et.al. (2007) comparing 2year old with Chimpanzee and Orangutan intelligence – same ability, except for social intelligence – *collaboration and communication*

Curriculum coherence = non-isolatable, every subject begins with a philosophical position

Keep an eye out online for the 'State of the Education' advice for the new Minister of Education

MoE: 2017-2018 looking to increase the number of standards with literacy credits – explicitly note the written component in the assessment (i.e. essay) advice to students.



WHAT IS A THING? DAVID LEGG

Eugene T. Gendlin article:
Heidegger: what is a thing?

https://www.focusing.org/gendlin/docs/gol_2041.html

Aquinas – *humility* = accurate knowledge of yourself (cf. Socratic wisdom, knowing one's limits)



"we need to be good animals"



philosophy underpins civilization

Angela Bell, Theory of Knowledge (the IB approach)

NZ education tops the world in terms of future skills NZ education 'top in world' for future skills, says British report

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11926720

Wisdom is being open to learning

Andrew Pinsent (associated with Julie Arliss of Academy conferences, Kings College.

"philosophy underpins civilization",

"A mind brought to life is essential",

"I want to find the truth of things",

"an ability to understand of unique to humans, yet we don't even know how we do it"

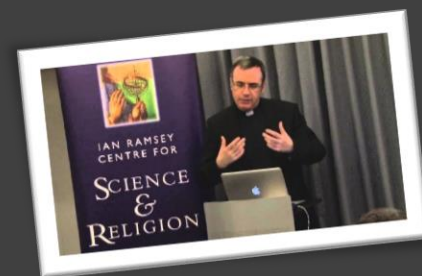
"a teacher's role is to accelerate insight and be disruptive",

"A.I. is impossible - machine do not get bored and step outside their code."

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MATHEW FLANAGAN

Reviewing Religious Studies (90826) standard over summer break – e.g. what does 'analyse' actually mean?'

Plans to work on logic and critical thinking standards.



ACTION:

Political levers – Tracey Martin (NZ First) – looking to develop IT standards – what about Human Cognitive Technology?

Role model what philosophy is.

Provide examples of L1-3 standards – ethics, reason (logic, premises, fallacies), theory of knowledge. + examples of student work to MoE and NZQA – 3-4 standards, 16 credits for the year. Standards should be written such that they can be offered by other subject areas

RNZ – John Gerritsen, education correspondent – Lucy?

Andrea – Newsroom, press release. (viz new communications team)

PHIL CLUB: tips, tricks and topics

Student voice:

Ruby: "interest based issues rather than assessment based issues.", "respect and valuing other opinions"

Cybella: "opportunity to grow"

Grace: "useful with friends; multiple perspectives, open discussion"

Topics: personality politics, can thinking and emotion be separated? What gives one the right to call themselves a philosopher? Where did the idea of scheduled time come from? Philosophy and Mathematics. Is philosophy still relevant in the age of science? (Dawkins, Krauss, Hawking – naysayers), Autonomous car ethics (deontology vs. consequentialism).

Stimulus: TED talk, newspaper articles, guest speakers.

Student to take minutes from each club meeting; create a compendium of discussion over the year.

Possible contact with other clubs, via. Skype – cf. Ethics Olympiad.

BOOKS:

101 philosophy discussions for kids

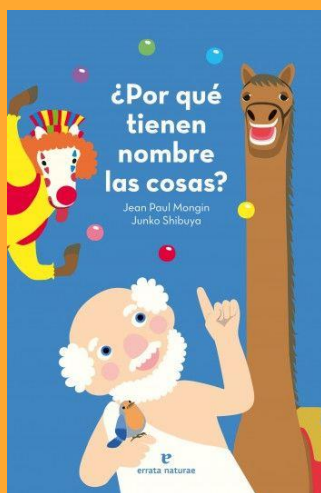
Plato and co.net

Diaphanes.com

Little Plato book shop – Diogenes the dog man

Phil for 4 yr. old's – Jean Paul Mongin and Junko Shibuya why do things have a name?

Michael Young – 'Powerful learning' What is powerful knowledge? - <https://eddieplayfair.com/2015/08/19/what-is-powerful-knowledge/>
The Brain – Rita Carter (see Google Drive)

**The Wandering Scholars
NZ Centre for Science and Citizenship**

Lynne Bowyer & Deborah Stevens



Literature review of the value of Philosophy education - Deb and Lynne. Identify holes in research, source further materials to be used with the Ministry of Education.

Disciplinary thinking.
Michael Young - 'Powerful learning' What is powerful knowledge? - <https://eddieplayfair.com/2015/08/19/what-is-powerful-knowledge/>

Issues of epistemic access to a body of knowledge; privilege; social justice

Philosophy and the danger of problematizing things.

Re-humanising Education Conference

Resources

NEW to Google drive - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB8VRAikVOZD7OTFtLUJrbiSZUU> -- Philosophy grading rubric; Philosophy on film 2016-2017; Philosophy and Well Being; e-book; Philosophy and Well-Being; ethics modules, God and the Meaning of life units.

Micah T. Lewin, Philosophy Paper Grading Rubric, May 2017. (See Google Drive resources)

Philosophy and Well-being (see Google Drive)

Footnotes to Plato blog <https://platofootnote.wordpress.com/>

How to be a Stoic <https://howtobeastocic.wordpress.com/>

ISSR - international society for science and research
<https://www.issr.org.uk>

Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion -
<http://www.ianramseycentre.info/>

History of philosophy without gaps podcast <https://historyofphilosophy.net/all-episodes>

Philosophy Paper Grading Rubric			
In her paper, the author...	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
<p>(1) Thesis Statement (5 points) <i>Please note: Though the thesis counts for relatively few points itself, having an unsatisfactory thesis statement has negative consequences that will ripple out and detrimentally affect your paper's argument and organization.</i></p>	... articulates a clear and precise thesis statement that is easily identifiable, placed in the introduction. (4.5 - 5 points)	... articulates a relatively clear, precise, and identifiable thesis statement early on in the paper. (4 - 4.4 points)	... articulates an identifiable thesis statement, but it may suffer from some vagueness, ambiguity or imprecision. (3.5 - 3.9 points)

WAYS FOR PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS

Scholarship sessions – English, Art History

Woods fund – who wants \$30K – travel, relief teachers

Philosophy and Well-being (see Google Drive)

Conferences

Positive Education conference (April 2018)

Re-Humanising Education Conference

NZAPT 2018 Wellington, Themes: Philosophy & Science

NZ Centre for Global Studies (2018) St Andrews, Christchurch

Special thanks to NZAPT President, Libby Giles for an excellent NZAPT 2017.



