FRACTIONS & DECIMALS

Understanding, Assessing & Teaching these Difficult Topics in an Effective & Enjoyable Way

(Years 5 - 8)

Professor Doug Clarke & Anne Roche - Australian Catholic University

Banksia Room, Balyana Function Centre
46 Strathcona Avenue, Clapham
18th and 19th October and 9 November 2007
9am to 3.30pm

Fractions and decimals can be difficult to teach and to learn. In a practical, research-based, three-day professional development program, we will explore the “big ideas” with fractions and decimals, discuss how to assess student understanding, and try out some enjoyable and effective approaches to these important middle years topics.

Proposed Content:

Days 1 & 2 (18 & 19 October)
- What makes fractions and decimals so difficult for children?
- Assessment tasks that elicit children’s thinking and understanding in these two areas
- Research insights on fractions and decimals
- Fractions and decimals: big ideas, key models and representations
- Some different approaches to teaching these topics
- Tasks and activities to try before next time.

Before Day 3, teachers will be encouraged to try a sample of the assessment tasks that have been provided, and a sample of the classroom activities. They are requested to bring back completed interview record sheets and samples of children’s work from both the assessment interviews and classroom activities.

Day 3 (9 November)
- Sharing of work samples and record sheets: what did we learn about our students?
- How does our data compare with others that the researchers have collected?
- Useful manipulative materials with fractions and decimals
- Further activities for classroom use that focus on big ideas.

To Register
Complete the Return Fax Registration & forward to Heather Puckridge
C/- AISSA Fax No. 8373 2574 or email puckridgeh@ais.sa.edu.au
by Monday 8th October 2007
Please accept your registration as confirmation of attendance
Morning tea & lunch will be provided