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FOR ENGLISH TEACHING PROFESSIONALS IN FRANCE

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TESOL

FRANCE

All Set For 2012?

If I were to give a list of key words for this issue, it would probably run as follows: *tennis*, *blogging*, *reflection* and *community*.

Stephen Brewer urges us to encourage our learners to delve into their inner self and find the necessary will to develop their language skills, not unlike a tennis coach preparing a player for Wimbledon. Phil Wade, along with a host of celeb-

rity ELT bloggers, advocates the blog as a means not only of linking up with like-minded and even not-so liked minded trainers, but also of maintaining a record of one's own professional development. Reflective practice – a skill we might all like to try and incorporate into our own teacher training and teaching programmes -

has traditions in the social sciences. Dale Coulter sets about to present a series of models that he hopes will inspire us to adopt a more

reflective approach.

Despite trying times for teachers in our field, or maybe because of it, a strong sense of community prevails. And like our newly re-elected President, Bethany Cagnol, I wonder if 'looking out for others' shouldn't become an automatic part of our mantra.

So, are you all set for 2012? Your *Teaching Times* Editorial Team: Ros, Eric, Phil and Joseph, wish you all your most sustainable teaching year to date!!



Venez nombreux!!

au
'Spring Day'
à Strasbourg,

samedi, le 21 avril 2012

See the TESOL France website for details



In This Issue ...

- Listen out for Mike Harrison and his sound theory
- Karen Whites's dyslexic-friendly approach for the classroom
- Roslyn Young advocates a 'listen 'n' repeat ban' for effective pronunciation
- Promoting sustainability in ELT with Colleen Brown
- Roy Bicknell offers a 'Wordling' experience
- Preparing your poster presentation for the 2012 Annual Colloquium

Disabled Access Friendly Campaign's Newly Launched Website Helps Teachers Shape the World



'The best schools have always done more than just prepare students for tests. They raise awareness of the world in which we live and try to make it a better place.'

Dr. Luke Prodromou. **Katie Quartano** follows up on Marisa Constantinides' announcement during the Annual Colloquium and outlines the campaign's aims and how you and your learners can help put something back.

Even if there are no children with mobility disability at the foreign language centre or school where you teach, you can still do a lot to help them. Even if you rarely see people with mobility disability going about their daily business in the streets or shops, or in places of business or entertainment, you can still make their lives better. And all this without ever having to set foot outside your classroom. Plus it always feels good to put something back into the world.

By raising your students' awareness of the society in which they live and by providing them with the information necessary to allow them to put themselves in other people's shoes, to understand others and to feel what others feel, you can help pave the way for future generations to want and make changes. Let's not forget that people with mobility disability are disabled more by inaccessible infrastructure and other people's attitudes and behaviour than they are by their own physical situation. It is largely through omission and ignorance that they are isolated, disempowered and excluded from actively participating in everyday activities. So if you can show your students that people with disabilities do not have to be an invisible minority, but vibrant and valued members of society, you will be playing a part in making the future more enlightened.



The Disabled Access Friendly campaign is here to help you be the kind of teacher that makes a difference for tomorrow. The

newly launched website www.disabled-accessfriendly.com provides EFL teaching material which can be used in class for skills building, projects or examination practice, but which at the same time stimulates students to put themselves in the shoes of someone with a mobility disability, for a better understanding of their needs and feelings. You can find worksheets, graded reading texts and a gallery of photos and video clips, all of which will open your students' eyes and maybe yours too! The material has no expiry date and can be used over and over again for new classes of students. It is relevant to ELT teachers worldwide as it is not culturally bound. Much more than just grammar and vocabulary are learned in the classroom. Social skills, empathy, understanding and critical thinking also play a huge role in the education process. By using the Disabled Access Friendly campaign's free online teaching material, you can help demystify the issue of disability, break down the barriers that exclude people with mobility disability from many areas of life (and these are not just physical barriers) and address society's sometimes patronising and negative attitudes towards people with physical disabilities.

The website also provides foreign language centres and schools with information explaining how they can make small changes to their premises to facilitate people with mobility disability, as well as a forum to share experiences.

Anne Frank said *'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world'*. You need only a few seconds to click on www.disabled-accessfriendly.com and start doing just that.

~ *Katie Quartano*

(first submitted for publication to *EFL News*, Greece)

Katie is a qualified teacher of EFL and has worked as an oral examiner for Cambridge ESOL and the Hellenic American Union for many years. She has been involved in the Disabled Access Friendly campaign since its early days.



WANTED!



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