

Thinking and Learning in Today's Classrooms

Michael Pohl

August 27-28, 2011

East Asia Regional Council of Schools—Weekend Workshop
Hosted by International Christian School, Hong Kong



Workshop Description

Day 1 Learning to Think / Thinking to Learn

Session 1: **Developing a Classroom Culture of Thinking**

In a world of rapid change the next generation will need, more than ever, to be well schooled in thinking skills. Programmes that take them beyond basic acquisition and application of existing knowledge into the realms of creative and caring thinking will ensure that today's young will become the free-thinking adults of the twenty-first century — adults with the ability to create the knowledge required to take us beyond the information age.

Few people concerned with the education of young minds would argue that one of the primary objectives of schooling should involve the teaching of tools for life-long learning. When asked to list important tools for life-long learning, many educators would place a high priority on empowering students with thinking skills such as the ability to reason; to make informed judgments; to critically evaluate information and to think both creatively and caringly.

As a consultant visiting a diverse range of schools and talking with hundreds of teachers, it became increasingly obvious that whilst schools had clearly articulated guidelines and policies for just about everything remotely connected to student learning - the teaching of thinking skills across the school was a common exception. It became clear that teachers need a manageable framework for the explicit teaching of thinking skills that will equip students with thinking tools to use throughout their schooling and in the years beyond. More specifically, schools would benefit from having a framework for **a whole school approach** to the explicit teaching of thinking skills. Such an approach will create the potential for all students within the school population to be engaging in higher order thinking, every day in every lesson.

This session looks at the rationale, possible content and a range of strategies that may typify such an approach.

Sessions 2 & 3: **Teachers as Questioners, Students as Questioners**

Questions and questioning may well be the most powerful tool we have for teaching and learning. Teachers ask good questions – they are well trained to do just that. But when left to their own devices, do they ask a good range of questions and do they develop learning activities that will see students engaging in a balanced range of thinking tasks?

As McKenzie (2000) suggests, “smart questions are essential technology for those who venture onto the information highway. Without strong questioning skills, you are just a passenger on someone else's tour bus. You may be on the highway, but someone else is doing the driving.”

These sessions will look at the two sides of the questioning coin as they:

- challenge teachers at all levels of schooling to examine their questioning skills
- demonstrate the need for structures to provide a balanced range of questions and activities that will evoke qualitatively different forms of thinking.
- introduce the recently revised Bloom's Taxonomy and Question Mapping – a simple tool that sees students themselves developing questions that will evoke different forms of thinking
- suggest other strategies that will enhance the ability of all students in developing their own questions for worthwhile investigations.

Day 2 “Lift-off to Learning!” Student Engagement and Inquiry Based Learning

When teaching for deeper understanding, most teachers are aware of a range of thinking skills and strategies that may assist students in developing their knowledge and embedding the new learning in both short and long term memory. But where do such strategies best fit within the usual sequence of developing Inquiry topics in constructivist classrooms?

Teachers will examine more closely, the sequence we work through in planning for deeper understanding and high levels of student engagement within Inquiry-based Learning. They will come away with many practical ideas to enhance their next Inquiry and better understanding where the application of various thinking models and strategies may be most effective in the Inquiry-based Learning process.

This weekend workshop is suitable for teachers at all levels of schooling.

Workshop Presenter:

Michael Pohl

Dip.T., Adv.Dip T., B.Ed., M.Ed.(Gifted Ed),
Adv Cert. - H.R.M. (Adult Training)



With more than twenty years classroom teaching experience behind him, Michael now runs training and development sessions for classroom teachers in thinking skills and also in how to best meet the learning needs of gifted students in inclusive classrooms. He has run more than 1500 workshops on the teaching of thinking for teachers and Principals in China, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Vienna, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and across both New Zealand and Australia.

A former member of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Michael regularly presents at local, national and international conferences on issues concerning giftedness, creativity and thinking.

With a Masters Degree in Gifted Education and formal qualifications in Adult training, Michael is the Director of Thinking Education, currently working with many schools in diverse contexts on an on-going basis, returning many times to work with teachers as they create a culture of thinking in their classrooms. He has worked in complex secondary settings in inner Melbourne and Perth, with clusters of schools in New Zealand, to remote schools in outback Australia to International schools in Asia and Europe.

Amongst his recent publications are books on linking thinking and Information Literacy; the teaching of complex thinking; models and strategies for teaching and learning; another on a whole-school approach to the explicit teaching of thinking skills, as well as some resources for the middle years of schooling and others for teachers concerning the education of gifted students. He has also contributed numerous articles for national and international journals concerned with Gifted Education and Thinking.

Workshop Schedule:

Saturday: Learning to Think / Thinking to Learn	
8:00-8:30	Workshop payment, Breakfast—cafeteria 2/F
8:30-10:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Developing a Classroom Culture of Thinking</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction - On the nature of thinking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Classroom Culture of Thinking</p> <p>What teachers do to develop a culture of thinking What students do within a culture of thinking A Whole School approach to the explicit teaching of thinking Some examples of approaches What might it look like at your school?</p>
10:30-11:00	Tea Break—5/F
11:00-1:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Better Questioning – Teachers as Questioners</i></p> <p>Questioning – our most powerful technology Tools for High Order Questions including- Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy Divergent Questioning Model Pohl’s Infusion Matrix</p>
1:00-2:00	Lunch—cafeteria
2:00-4:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Better Questioning – Students as Questioners</i></p> <p>Students as questioners Tools for formulating questions, including Question Chaining Question Mapping Ryan’s (Revised) Thinkers Keys Metacognition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary, questions and close</p>
4:00-4:15	Tea Break—5/F
Sunday: “Lift-off to Learning!” Student Engagement and Inquiry Based Learning	
8:00-8:30	Breakfast—cafeteria 2/F
8:30-10:30	Session 1
10:30-11:00	Tea Break—5/F
11:00-12:30	Session 2
12:30-1:30	Lunch—cafeteria
1:30-3:00	Session 3
3:00 – 3:15	Tea Break—5/F

Fee:

US\$ 50 or HK \$400—

Please make payments in **CASH** on the morning of Saturday, August 27, 2011.

Registration:

Complete the online registration form at: <http://goo.gl/ApFLj>

Registration deadline: **August 11, 2011**

If you teach in China and are having trouble with the link, please e-mail me at pd@ics.edu.hk

Items you may want to bring:

- Water bottle
- Laptop, plug adaptor if needed

University Credit:

Participants have the opportunity to obtain one semester graduate credit from Buffalo State, State University of New York (SUNY). Information will be e-mailed to registered participants.

Accommodation:

Participants are responsible for booking his/her own accommodation. There are many hotels in Hong Kong that offer very good service. Take note that our school is located in the Sha Tin, New Territories area when making your booking.

Royal Park Hotel is attached to a large shopping mall and on the main public transport routes for trains and buses. Cost is ~US \$110 for a room. www.royalpark.com.hk

Regal Riverside is closer to the school but requires a taxi or bus ride to get to most locations. Cost is ~\$US 110 for a room. www.regalriverside.com

Hotel reservation form for **Royal Park Hotel** is included with this information packet. Please note breakfast is provided at school before the workshop so you can choose just the room option if you prefer.

School Address:

1 On Muk Lane
Shek Mun, Sha Tin, N.T.
Hong Kong

Directions to ICS can be found at www.ics.edu.hk

A taxi from Royal Park Hotel is approximately HK\$40 and around 10 minutes.

**Contact:**

Salome Tam
Professional Development Coordinator
pd@ics.edu.hk

Hotel Reservation Form (26 - 29 August 2011)

International Christian School EARCOS Weekend Workshop

Perched by New Town Plaza, one of Hong Kong's largest shopping and entertainment complexes with over 300 shops and a 10-screen cinema, Royal Park Hotel overlooks Shing Mun River by the lush greenery as a haven adjacent to the Shatin station at the MTR's East Rail Line which allows a swift passage to Tsimshatsui (15 minutes) and a direct rail link to HK-China border (30 minutes), boasting 443 luxuriously stylish guestrooms and suites with superb dining facilities that please discerning travelers.

Guest Name:		<input type="checkbox"/> Prof	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms
Guest Name (Sharing Room):		<input type="checkbox"/> Prof	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms
Arrival Date:			Departure Date:			
Flight:		ETA:		Flight:		ETD:
Standard Room	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$780.00 per room per night (Room only)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$840.00 per room per night with one buffet breakfast daily					
	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$900.00 per room per night with one buffet breakfast and in-room broadband/WiFi service					
<i>*The above rates are subject to 10% service charge and prevailing government tax (if applicable)</i>						
Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Queen Size Bed		<input type="checkbox"/> Twin Bed		<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking Room	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking Room

Privileges:

- *Welcome fruit
- *Daily newspaper
- *50% discount for mini-bar consumption in guest room
- *Free use of Health Club facilities including gymnasium, swimming pool and steam room
- *Complimentary shuttle bus service to / from Hotel and Tsimshatsui (subject to hotel schedule and availability, reservation is required)

Transportation Services:

Limousine: Arrival Departure
 *HK\$480 per car per trip (maximum 3 persons) / HK\$650 per car (7 seats) per trip (maximum 5 persons)
 *HK\$150 supplement will be applied for pick-up time during 00:30hrs - 05:30hrs

Airport Shuttle: Arrival Departure
 *HK\$140 per person per trip (The Hotel Airport shuttle bus service is provided by a fleet of 7-seater deluxe limousines)
 *Please refer to the attached hotel airport shuttle bus schedule for reference

All expenses on guest's own account

Payment 3rd party credit card **(please provide authorization letter and both sides of credit card copies)*

Room only Room and breakfast All expenses Others _____

Booking Guaranteed By: Amex Visa Master Card Diners

Print Name as it Appears on Card (Capital Letter):

Card No		Expiry Date	
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Reservation(s) requested by (Capital Letter):

Contact No		Fax No	
Email		Signature	

Terms and Conditions:

- * All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card upon submitting this reservation form.
- * Cancellation must be made prior to **21 August 2011** or a 1-night applicable room charge will be levied as cancellation charge.
- * Daily rate may be subject to change if staying period is outside of the mentioned above (subject to hotel availability).
- * Confirmation of reservation will be subject to hotel availability.

Please fill out the reservation form and send to Ms Kennis Kwong (Sales & Marketing Administrator) on or before **26 July 2011** by fax at (852) 2695 9291 or email: kenniskwong@royalpark.com.hk Official confirmation letter from the Hotel will be sent via fax or email accordingly.

Tel: (852) 2601 2111 / 2694 3808 Fax: (852) 2601 3666 / 2695 9291 Email: kenniskwong@royalpark.com.hk http://www.royalpark.com.hk
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