The IBSC Action Research Program

Di Laycock – Barker College: Sydney, Australia
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IBSC Mission Statement

"The International Boys' Schools Coalition is dedicated to the education and development of boys world–wide, the professional growth of those who work with them, and the advocacy and the advancement of institutions – primarily schools for boys – that serve them".
**Action research in the school environment**

“Action research is any systematic inquiry conducted by teacher researchers...in the teaching/learning environment...to gather information about how their particular schools operate, how they teach, and how well their students learn.”


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**Why action research?**

- site-specific
- collaborative
- reflective

- participatory
- emancipatory
- empowering

= good teaching

Going global...

IBSC Action Research Projects

- Does the use of pre-designed graphic organisers in reading instruction increase boys' engagement and level of comprehension? (2005/2006)


- How can we improve our teaching of boys by identifying and using specific aspects of digital technology to engage boys in learning? (2006/2007)
- How can programs that promote safe, inclusive, and just classroom and school environments improve the learning experience for boys? (2007/2008)

- How can literature in the English/Language Arts curriculum enhance and broaden boys' understandings of masculinity? (2008/2009)

- How can we help boys become prolific, powerful and confident writers? (2009/2010)
The bully's seat

How I felt when I bullied someone

How I felt when I saw someone bullied

How I felt when I was bullied
Action research – making a difference
Boosts & barriers

- Where will I find the time?
  - Professional learning component
  - Class release
- How will I do this?
  - Professional reading, conferences
  - Communities of practice
- Who will help me?
  - Co-researchers
  - Critical friend/s
  - Professional associations (IBSC)
- What will I do with my findings?
  - Disseminate – present, publish

Action researchers...explorers in the cause of understanding

“God be with those who explore in the cause of understanding; Whose search takes them from what is familiar and comfortable And leads them into danger or terrifying loneliness. Let us try to understand their sometimes strange or difficult ways; Their confronting or unusual language; the uncommon life of their emotions, For they have been affected and shaped and changed by their struggle at the frontiers of a wild darkness, just as we may be affected, shaped and changed by the insights they bring back to us. Bless them with strength and peace.”

(Michael Leunig)


2008–2009 Action Research Team

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