2021 School of Education Webinar – Hub Schools as sites of transition to the teaching profession

Bios

Speakers

Professor Mary Ryan
Dean, School of Education
Macquarie University

Mary Ryan is Professor and Dean of Education at Macquarie University. She is a Principal Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and is the recipient of a national citation for outstanding contributions to student learning. She is currently leading Australian Research Council funded projects in classroom writing and preparing reflexive teachers for diverse classrooms. Her research is in the areas of writing pedagogy and assessment, reflective writing, teachers’ work and professional learning, the enabling and constraining conditions for graduating students to manage the demands of their profession, and reflexive learning and practice.

Ms. Stephanie McConnell
Principal
Lindfield Learning Village

In her role as Principal of Lindfield Learning Village, Stephanie McConnell is developing the new educational model for NSW Public Education and leading a school of the future. Stephanie is a Macquarie University alumna (BA/DipEd 1991) and has been a secondary school teacher since 1991, with 28 years of experience with teenagers. The first fifteen years of her teaching career were spent as an English teacher at Merrylands High school. She moved to a Head Teacher English position just prior to moving to Killara High School. After four years at Killara, she moved on to the Deputy Principal role at Turramurra High School and was appointed to the role of Principal a year later. Her passion is to shift the “default position” of education from a 19th century model to one which not only meets but excels in meeting the needs of the young people of today as they head out into a future which requires them to be agile, flexible and adaptable learners.
Mr. Andrew Williamson  
Principal  
Carlingford West Public School

Andrew has had a varied career working as a teacher in different settings in both the Government and Non-Government settings including both special education and mainstream settings. Andrew has worked as an Assistant Principal at Waitara Public School, Deputy Principal at Chatswood Public School and Principal at Narraweena Public School and now Carlingford West Public School.

Since starting at Carlingford West Public School in 2015 the school has grown from 809 students to a current enrolment of 1677 students. This has ensured there are many challenges and opportunities created from such a change in student numbers. Carlingford West is an Apple Distinguished School and a Professional Experience Hub School for Macquarie University.

Dr. Luke Touhill  
Director, Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre  
Macquarie University

Luke is the Director of Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre at Macquarie University. Mia Mia is the demonstration early childhood program for the School of Education and has an international reputation as a centre for outstanding early childhood practice.

Luke has over 25 years’ experience working in early childhood education as a teacher, manager and academic. His professional interests include early childhood curriculum, the history of early childhood education and the design of early childhood learning environments.