

BEPSUS Project Update

Greetings All.

This is just a short note to give you an update on our exciting global project.

The students have been working very hard on their research and there have been some very interesting philosophy sessions (from both sides of the globe).

As you might imagine with a new project like this, we are constantly making course corrections and improvements in the way we work through the tasks. The students are collecting lots of survey data from their classmates and doing research to answer their research questions. There have also been lots of questions about the homework.

In class the students have chosen one or two focus areas that they've decided to research. The topics and questions vary from group to group but overall there are 2 tasks for the students to complete as part of their homework:

1. Visit the library and borrow a book that has to do with their group's topic. The students have chosen areas they'd like to find more about, such as Australian sport, Australian animals, Australian artists, musicians etc. Their task is to find a book about one of these topics so they can use it as part of their group research. **The students are not required to take copious notes from their research material. They must simply bring the book to school and they will be assisted in their research at school. Any extra research they choose to do at home is encouraged, but not essential.**
2. Visit a place that is related to their group research (with family or friends). This is so they can get a close-up look at things that are relevant to their interest area (eg. the National Gallery, the MCG museum etc.)

Details for accessing the project webpage (and listening to the podcasts)...

The BEPSUS webpage can be found by doing the following:

1. Go to www.beps.vic.edu.au
2. Click on the "Global and Online Projects" tab
3. Click on the "BEPSUS Project" link

The BEPSUS Project webpage hosts the following:

- ✓ Information about the BEPSUS Project
- ✓ A link that allows students to log-in to the project and contribute to the online discussion activities (these can be accessed at home if the children feel motivated)
- ✓ A link to the philosophy podcasts. A podcast is an audio file that you can listen to over the internet. We have been collecting audio from some of our philosophy discussions (at BEPS and in the US) and posting them on the podcast site. **This is a private site and requires the following username and password:**
 - **Username: beps**
 - **Password: 27dacba**

The BEPSUS Team:

- ✓ Phill Cristofaro: Project Manager (BEPS) and 3 / 4 teacher
- ✓ Julie Maclure: 3 / 4 teacher (BEPS)
- ✓ Tess Haycox: 3 / 4 teacher (BEPS)
- ✓ Karen Hitchen: Teacher Librarian / Information Specialist (BEPS)
- ✓ Tony Iannone: grade 4 teacher and Project Manager (NAES - America)
- ✓ Marcie Beard: grade 4 teacher (NAES - America)

I strongly urge you to visit the site listen to the podcast. Be sure to sign the BEPSUS Project guestbook (found on the BEPSUS project page).