

EDITORIAL

Of all the variances that may make a difference to student achievement, the greatest source of variance is the teacher. Put simply, good teachers enable good learning. Here at *Teacher*, we're sure that you already knew this – after all, that's why you're reading this magazine. On 30 October it's World Teachers' Day, and we want to honour you and your colleagues for your work. We're sure you'll be glad to accept the acknowledgement by students, parents and community members of your work as a teacher, and glad to acknowledge the work of your colleagues.

As debate about national league tables continues, the argy-bargy Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said at the National Press Club in August last year that we have to have is getting, well, argier and bargier. In these pages, Ken Boston nails his colours to the mast, explaining why he supports national testing, but not the use of test results for purposes for which they are not fit. Boston, who was most recently the chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in England, and Director General of Education in New South Wales before that, spoke on the publication of nationally comparable school performance data at forums hosted by the Australian Primary Principals' Association in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne in August. Also in these pages, John Nelson observes that the issue is not whether there will be national disclosure of achievement data, but what sort of data might be more relevant. **1**

CORRECTION

The School Resources Expo listed in the September edition of the Diary was incorrectly dated 12-13 May, 2010. The correct dates are 12-13 March, 2010.

FAST FACTS

Percentage of males participating in full-time paid work five years after graduation: 84 per cent.

Percentage of females: 69 per cent.

Salary range for the middle 50 per cent of graduates five years after graduation: \$47,726 to \$78,000 a year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate of average earnings for all workers: \$46,332.

Difference between earnings of male and female graduates five years after graduation: about \$7,800 a year.

Percentage of education graduates in full-time paid work in both the first and fifth year after graduation: 90 per cent.

Percentage of science graduates in full-time paid work in the first and fifth year after graduation: 67 per cent and 85 per cent respectively.

Percentage of education graduates undertaking further study the first year after graduation: 21 per cent.

Source: Coates, C. & Edwards, D. (2009). 2008 Graduate Pathways Survey: Graduates' education and employment outcomes five years after completion of a bachelor degree at an Australian university – ACER report for DEEWR.

Answers: 1. between Cumberland and Gloucester Streets in The Rocks, Sydney; 2. AD79; 3. nationally consistent information about school results, workforce, financial resources and student population – aka league tables; 4. never, according to Parker Bourke, from ABC Audience and Consumer Affairs, although the ABC Shop stocks it; 5. Ambassador for Musica Viva In Schools, tenor, composer and famous all-round good guy, David Hobson; 6. 99.6 per cent; 7. no, according to Glen Sedel, and, what's more, you need to accept that students aren't your friends and you are not theirs; 8. Stephen Dinham; 9. parents who are also teachers; 10. 30 October.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Where is 'The Big Dig'?
2. In what year did the eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroy Pompeii?
3. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, speaking at the National Press Club last year, said, 'The argy-bargy on this is going to be significant with the states.' What was he talking about?
4. When will ABC Television screen *The Genius of Charles Darwin*?
5. Who said it's vital that music is included in the national curriculum?
6. According to Dan Riley, Deirdre Duncan and John Edwards's *Staff Bullying in Australian Schools* survey, how many teachers have been bullied in the workplace?
7. As a teacher, should you give your students access to your Facebook account?
8. Who said the 'guide by the side' versus the 'sage on the stage' is a false dichotomy?
9. What makes highly-trained teachers break into a cold sweat in parent-teacher interviews?
10. When is World Teachers' Day?

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