



“I’ve been teaching for 5 years – mainly upper primary.

Basically, I see having the computers in the classroom as just another tool for the kids – like having dictionaries and protractors on the shelf – they just use them when they need them. Our school’s lucky, I guess, in that we’ve got 10 computers to share between 2 classes and they’re right there – we don’t have to book into a lab, which would really

restrict me ‘cos that’s not how I teach with computers. One of the best, and simplest things we do is integrate using spreadsheets with our PE and Maths. We do a fitness circuit 3 mornings a week and the kids record the number of reps they do on a sheet – we also calculate our heart rates. Then they add it to a spreadsheet, and use the chart wizard to see how their fitness has improved over each term.

We also do Reading Assignments each term – they do it all in soft-copy and submit it to me using the dropbox. It’s a bit of running around to get them portal access at the start of the year but it’s worth it ‘cos they get all their homework assignments in that way too. I teach them how to create a database of all the books they’ve read over the year – they get a real buzz out of seeing how many they’ve read.

I do a lot of Internet surfing for good ideas in my own time – I found a great site for creating online rubrics that way and we use them a lot – I often have the kids create their own for self-assessment purposes. I’m always picking other teachers’ brains for more ideas. I think I’m still learning heaps about different programs but a lot of the teachers come to me now for help with computers.”