

# CAPABILITY SQUADS



Reading, Writing and Numeracy for your staff

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## BIG IDEA:

Our *Capability Squads* help your school get more out of your investment. The squads help you engage your class teachers in the student program and provide them with access to some digital resources.

The squads ensure that class teachers:

- understand the skills and strategies their students are learning via *Mind Reader*, *Just Write* or *Solve IT*;
- plan how they can support the transfer of these skills and strategies to general classroom learning;
- encourage participating students to act as peer tutors for other students who are not part of the program;
- are able to access teaching and learning resources created by our team that can be used with any student;
- build their technology skills via participation in the squad's online sessions and activities;
- connect with our online teaching team and teachers from other participating schools.



**NB:** Your web conference supervisor and project coordinator as well as school coaches and leaders are encouraged to participate. A nominated person will need to coordinate staff participation. Squad members will receive PD certificates that align to the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (AITSL)* and recognise the number of hours involved.

READING SQUAD	WRITING SQUAD	NUMERACY SQUAD
<p><b>READING SQUAD</b> is for class teachers of <i>Mind Reader</i> students and associated staff. They learn more about the teaching of higher-order comprehension skills including a range of simple, but highly effective, cognitive tools that help students identify the purpose and main idea of a text.</p>	<p><b>WRITING SQUAD</b> is for class teachers of <i>Just Write</i> students and associated staff. They learn useful classroom strategies for the teaching of writing. These strategies include how to effectively plan a short narrative; how to connect ideas, paragraphs and sentences to make a cohesive text; and how to successfully establish a meaningful theme.</p>	<p><b>NUMERACY SQUAD</b> is for class teachers of <i>Solve IT</i> students and associated staff. They learn more about the teaching of numeracy including the use of a range of problem solving strategies such as Polya's four step approach. The sessions also focus on the literacy skills that are needed to interpret questions correctly.</p>

HOW IT WORKS	SUGGESTED PATHWAYS		
	ROUND 1 Jan-May	ROUND 2 May-Aug	ROUND 3 Aug-Nov
<p>Members of the capability squads log in to five web conferences during the relevant round.</p> <p>Round 1 will work as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Session 1: Induction</b> – log in to a one hour session on either Thursday 19 January or Friday 20 January (Student Free Days). A number of time options will be offered for staff to choose from.</li> <li>• <b>Sessions 2-5</b> – log in once per fortnight from 3:20pm to 3:50pm in Weeks 3-5-7-9 or Weeks 4-6-8-10 of Term 1, 2017. Choose either a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon session.</li> </ul> <p>Rounds 2-3 will work in a similar way. Schedule to be advised.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> There is <b>no additional charge</b> for staff involvement in the <i>Capability Squads</i>. It is included as part of your investment in the student program.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Year 3 → Year 2 → Year 2</p> <p>Year 5 → Year 4 → Year 4</p> <p><b>NB:</b> You may want to include Year 3 and Year 5 students and staff in Round 1, then Year 2 and Year 4 students and staff in Rounds 2-3.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

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