

**PRESIDENT REPORT – Term 3 2008**  
**OSASA: Orff Schulwerk Assn, South Australia**

*Excerpt:*

Our Term 3 State Conference was sensational! Janet Channon from New Zealand was our invited guest to present. Janet is an Early Childhood specialist and along with Wendy Jensen has published the “Kids Music Company” resources. Janet was full of energy and enthusiasm and her passion for educating young children was contagious as we all immersed ourselves in her sessions. Janet used a wide variety of resources from “Kids Music Company” sharing with us different ways to teach concepts to children.

Janet encouraged us all to reflect about how we teach and how we could do things differently or in a more interesting and creative way. Janet demonstrated a developmental approach using the Orff Methodology and always gave examples of personal experiences and used research examples to back up her developmental approaches. The following quote comes from (Janet’s notes in) the conference booklet:

***The Orff way of thinking makes so much sense for the teaching of young children. Children learn through doing, through imitation and through having fun. The young child is primarily right brained where experience means more than explanation. The Orff pedagogy echoes these principals. Young children need to learn through multisensory, whole body experiences. Through these they develop musicality, as well as coordination, listening skills, language, eye strength and cross brain integration which is necessary for abstract thinking. All of these skills are necessary for a child to function in the classroom and have a fulfilling life; and are possible through active music participation.***

Janet showed us different ideas about body percussion and movement and teaching children to develop their coordination and ability to stop and start. Janet took simple concepts and made them so much fun to learn with the activities that she showed us. Highlights included playing with parachutes, listening to how Janet integrates story books and learning how to spin the New Zealand Maori poi. We had a good try but us Aussies will need a bit of practice before demonstrating to the children at school. I have received lots of fantastic feedback from people attending the conference about how practical Janet’s ideas were and how they felt that they could go straight back to their schools and implement what they had learnt.





