**Presentation Title:** Assessing the Whole Child; A Journey from Portfolios to Student Led Conferences

**Presentation Type:**
1. First Preference: Whole Session 1 ½ hours
2. Second Preference: Interactive Workshop

**Format:** An interactive presentation which encourages active participation, whilst promoting practical ideas to support the development of deeper levels of thinking in the classroom.

**Presenters / Organisation:**

1. Jane Satchwell – Professional Learning Leader – The Mordialloc Cluster of Schools (Department of Education, Victoria, Australia)
2. Gavin Grift - Professional Learning Leader – The Mulberry Hill Cluster of Schools (Department of Education, Victoria, Australia)
“My reading is like a virus. It has infected all of my learning”
   Tom, Grade 6 student, 2003

How do I get my students to talk about their learning like this?

This interactive workshop demonstrates how portfolios and student led conferences support the authentic assessment of the ‘whole child’. A step by step approach is used to understand the context, develop the content and celebrate the results of the use of portfolios and their integral role within powerful student led conferences.

The underlying principle of this process is the use of metacognition in the classroom; which enables students to take genuine responsibility for their learning.

The workshop outlines an overview of a successful step by step process developed and utilised by the presenters, which enables every classroom teacher to embark on the portfolio to student led conference journey based on their own individual needs and those of their students and school community.

Through the use of multimedia presentations of actual students, this workshop demonstrates clearly to educators at all levels, how the portfolio to student led conference process enables our students to:

 ✓ take genuine responsibility for their own learning
 ✓ authentically involve themselves in the learning process

WITHIN THIS PROCESS OUR STUDENTS ....

don’t perceive learning as something that is just ‘done to them’.

The student’s role in their learning journey is investigated keeping in mind the following statement:

You get what you assess.

So:
Assess what’s of value!
Participants in this workshop will experience how the portfolio to student led conference supports …

- Critical Thinking
- Metacognitive Reflection
- Cognitive Thinking
- Creative Thinking
- Analytical Thinking

The underpinning belief of the presenters is summarised in the following diagram:

Participants in this workshop will be challenged to think outside the square in relation to the role of formative assessment within education.

The portfolio to student led conference process, suspends the notion of ‘wrong’ or ‘right’, ‘smart’ or ‘dumb’ and more intelligently highlights where the whole child fits within the context of their own educational setting.

In essence it fosters an authentic partnership between school and the home. The result is an opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in a dialogue which centres on learning.