



TLF Connects

Empowering Educators, Elevating Student Success Executive Coaching & Professional Learning



Deborah Dunstone, CEO of The Learner First, recently joined Principal Timothy Barraud on Chalk Talk, Balmoral State High School's podcast in Queensland, Australia, for a compelling discussion on Authentic Mixed-Method Assessment. Together, they explore why assessment matters, what meaningful practice looks like, and how it can transform student engagement.

As Principal Barraud puts it:

“If you’re passionate about pushing education forward and ensuring assessment works for students — not just on them — this one’s for you.”



Why Meaningful Learning Still Matters... 30 years later



What does meaningful learning really look like—30 years later? In this reflective piece, TLF Executive Director, Beth Hamilton, looks back on decades in education to explore why meaningful learning still matters, and why putting learners first remains both urgent and transformative today.

Reflection Questions

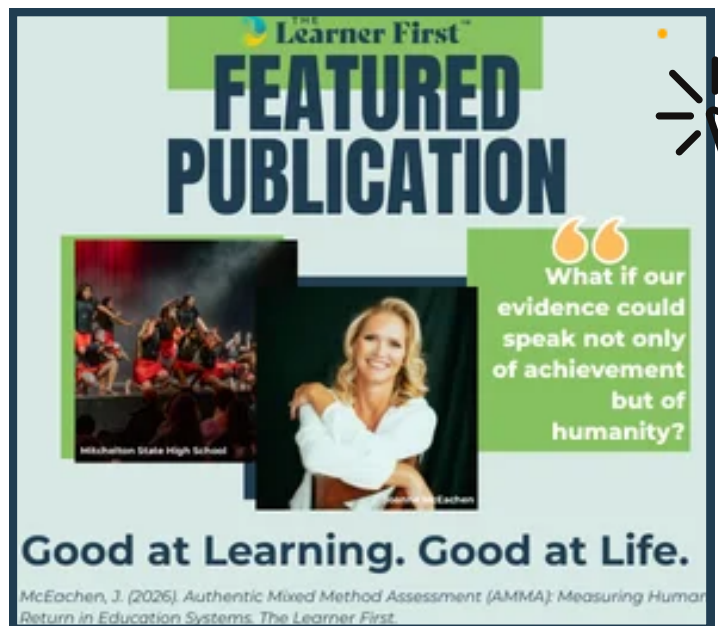
After reading the blog, here are three reflection questions to spark your thinking, surface underlying beliefs and challenge your thinking about learning.

- How do I personally define “learning,” and does my definition prioritize meaning or performance?
- Where in my current practice or mindset might I be unintentionally valuing efficiency over understanding?
- What assumptions do I hold about learners’ capacity to make meaning, and how do those assumptions show up in my decisions?

HOD (Head of Department) Collaborative

Over 50 senior leadership team members from multiple schools in Queensland, Australia, came together in February to begin their co-learning journey for 2026.

To anchor their work, the collaborative read “**Good at Learning. Good at Life**” Joanne McEachen’s last publication which outlines the origins of AMMA, its theoretical lineage from Deep Learning and Contributive Learning, its methodological framework, and emerging findings from implementation. **The central message is simple: when we measure what adds to life, we see the full value of education.**



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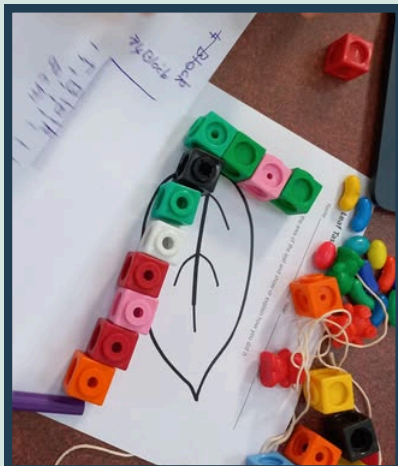
Teacher Only Workshop day with a new cohort of schools in New Zealand

Teachers engage during a workshop focusing on using a routine to gather information on what students know before they teach a unit of study.



WE'RE ALL MATHEMATICIANS. Game Night at Cheney Middle School in partnership with TLF. *Photo courtesy of Cheney Public Schools*

An example of a student's work on a quick diagnostic showing the depth of their understanding of area.



TLF Mathematics

TLF Contributive Learning through Mathematics hit the ground running in 2026, with work underway across the globe. Team members launched the 2026 school year with workshops in **New Zealand** and **Australia**, while in **Hong Kong** and the **United States** the second half of their 2025-26 school year focused on deepening practice through data reflection, collaborative planning, classroom modeling and observation, and family math nights!

Learn more about our TLF Mathematics Workshops by visiting our website!

[Contributive Learning Through Mathematics](#)





New!

TLF Inspirational Merchandise



We have a merchandise store on our website where you can purchase some inspirational and useful items! This is a growing space, so check back often for new and improved items!

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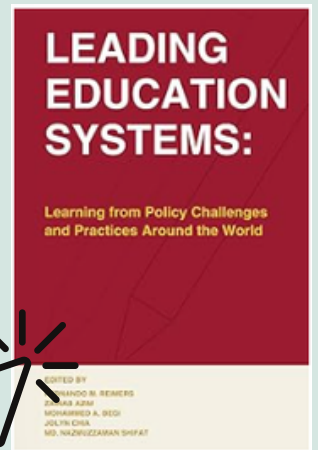
“*At 59, I’m returning to university not for a degree I need, but for a conversation I’m ready to be part of. A global conversation about how we lead, how we learn, and how we build systems that serve everyone, not just the few.*”

McEachen, J. 2025, July 29). Harvard at 59: Returning to Learn, Ready to Contribute. LinkedIn.



Jojo, TLF Founder, is currently a student at Harvard as part of the first cohort of Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Ed.M. in Education Leadership, International Education Policy and Management (IEPM) pathway.

Education systems are shaped by ideals, but improved through decisions made under constraints. This book, containing the work of the cohort through their client based projects, brings readers inside those decisions by showcasing applied, evidence-informed policy analyses produced for real clients by a remarkable global cohort of mid-career education leaders.



Making the Important Measurable

To truly measure learning, we must measure belonging, trust, and contribution with the same rigor as reading, writing, and numeracy.

When learning thrives, relationships strengthen—and achievement follows.

We would love to partner with you!

- Executive Coaching
- Professional Learning
- Global Eviden-Based Tools & Resources

**Together, we’ll
make what
matters most
measurable and
achievable.**



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