DESIGNING SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS AS LEARNING ORGANISATIONS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

Presented by Professor Paul Cobb, Peabody Chair in Teaching and Learning, Professor of Education, Vanderbilt University

Wednesday 5 November 2008
6.00pm – 7.00 pm
Theatre A
Elisabeth Murdoch Building
The University of Melbourne
Parkville Campus
This presentation focuses on improving mathematics teaching and learning at scale — adopting innovations that have proven effective in a small number of classrooms and reproducing them in a large number of classrooms. Professor Cobb argues that research should view maths teachers’ instructional practices in their schools and jurisdictions; and details structures that might support the ongoing improvement of teachers’ classroom practices. The lecture describes an improvement plan for maths instruction being implemented by a large US school, its performance and future considerations. Professor Cobb concludes by discussing the value of research collaborations that bridge classroom instructional processes and the broader policy environment.

Free Public Lecture – All welcome.

For further information, contact Levina Cridge:
T: +61 3 8344 8412
E: education-events@unimelb.edu.au

Professor Paul Cobb, recipient of the 2006 Hans Freudenthal Medal of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction. His research spans more than 100 journal articles and book chapters, as well as several authored or co-edited books. Professor Cobb’s work “is a rare combination of theoretical developments, empirical research and practical applications. His work has had a major influence on the mathematics education community and beyond.” Professor Cobb is today regarded as one of the leading sociocultural theorists in the field of mathematics education and beyond, and his work provides new insight on issues such as equity and students’ identities.