

A culinary tour with ALM over 16 years - poster session

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I arranged my poster session with a nostalgic reflection on all the places where ALM has held its conferences over the last 16 years and attempted to link my passion for mathematics / numeracy with my passion for cooking in a light-hearted manner.

The intention was to compile a short recipe booklet with examples of a favourite dish from each venue of ALM conference. However this also provided reflection on some of my previous work as a numeracy teacher in the 1990's in a school and in a further education college where I taught numeracy to groups of learners. The students were initially not interested in learning basic numeracy (and this was before prescriptive curriculum, assessment and target setting was in vogue), so I organised sessions which enabled students to use numeracy for real by providing cookery sessions. Students costed, (were given time to shop) and prepared specific dishes during their numeracy sessions, and finally evaluated the experience.

The amount of numeracy involved was incredible, covering many aspects of the present curriculum from the basic four rules, fractions, weighing, estimating, timing, planning, money, conversion – the list goes on.

As I prepared this poster session I was surprised to see in how many different ways recipes were presented (most came from the internet but some from my store of cookery books). For instance the listing of actual weights of ingredients varied from imperial ounces to metric grammes and cups. Very few of the recipes provided equivalent measures but it is interesting to work it out for oneself! Temperatures for cooking also varied with gas modulo, Fahrenheit, Centigrade and Celsius – this needs to be accurate to avoid disaster!

Although a light-hearted presentation (maybe we could add to the archive each year), it highlights the value of everyday activities in teaching and learning numeracy as well as the amount of numeracy involved in everyday activities.

References

- Jaffrey, M. (2003), *Ultimate Curry Bible*, Ebury Press
Martin, J. (2008), *The Collection*, Beazley