

## EDITORIAL

Didactics is the theme of this new issue of *Sensos*. *Sensos* tries to demonstrate the diversity of research in didactics, particularly regarding different contexts (education levels, institutions, and countries), approaches, themes and contents. Fourteen proposals were submitted for publication from several national and international communities for innovation and research in education. In the sequence of a double blind peer review, seven articles were accepted for publication.

The first article *Education through theater: Equal opportunity project Being a Girl Being a Boy* by Marisa Vaz, Gabriel Sala and Joaquim Coimbra is about a case study in a public school in Verona, Italy, supported by dramatic narrative, in order to analyze how boys and girls see themselves and each other and the way they view equal opportunities between genders.

Then we have the article by Cristina Pinto and Helena Soares *Using children's literature in ELT: A story-based approach*, which explores the use of stories in the teaching of English and suggests practical ways to use them.

The following article is also about literature but now in different contexts and meanings. In *Literature in Portuguese language teaching - critical analysis of 9th grade programmes and textbooks*, Maria Adriana Gonçalves, reflects on the problem of teaching literature in Basic education trying to understand the way the 9<sup>th</sup> grade curricula and textbooks promote autonomous and critical readers.

Then we have the article proposed by José Alberto Rodrigues and António Moreira *How to integrate ICT in teaching Arts exploring EVTux within animation cinema*. In this article the authors aiming at the integration of ICT in curriculum development in Arts propose and discuss the interest of EVTux, a free Linux distribution, that enables the production of animation projects in an educational context.

In the article *Mathematics and storytelling* Carolina Dias, Diana Pereira, Serranheira Liliana, Mariana Mota, Sandra Leigo and Inês Sarmento try to link literature and maths. This article aims to show that through connections between literature and mathematics it is possible to create a context in which children deal with mathematical concepts in a meaningful way allowing the joint development of mathematical and language skills.

Still within the construction of mathematical knowledge, the following article, *Playing with geometric forms and colours: One foot on the triangle ... One hand on the pentagon ...* by Sofia Santos, Diana Gomes and João Sampaio Maia presents and discusses a kindergarten experience in Porto where geometric shapes and Carroll's diagrams were approached through the use of games.

In *From the Concrete to the Abstract Through the Use of Senses and Sensors: A Case Study on the Tide Pools Ecosystem*, Maria João Silva, Luísa Gonçalves and João Sampaio Maia report a case study with students of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, centred on the ecosystem of tide pools, about the potential of the joint use of human senses and electronic sensors to develop abstract thinking in children.

The last article in this issue of *Sensos*, *Productively engage students in physics and chemistry classes by the use of computer simulations: two teachers with different mediations and distinct use of simulations* by J. Bernardino Lopes, Ana Edite Cunha, Carla A. Santos, Elisa Saraiva, J. Paulo Cravino and Fernanda Dinis, results from a special invitation. This article, supported on classes taught by two teachers of physics and chemistry, tries to identify and describe the characteristics of teacher mediation and how these promote the students' productive engagement during the use of computer simulations.

This selection of articles focusses on a variety of knowledge areas which shows *per se* the intrinsic value of didactics as a knowledge area. It was a privilege for us, as organizing committee, to work on an issue of *Sensos* devoted to such a theme.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and interesting reading especially by the "disarray" it may bring.

The next issue is dedicated to **Quarrels of Taste**.