

These national newsletters are produced by the **Secondary Student Achievement** national facilitation team, as part of supplementary PLD support for schools, from the University of Auckland and Mau ki te Ako project partners (University of Canterbury, University of Otago and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu).

National Newsletter: Secondary Literacy

Information and resources for middle leaders in secondary schools | Term 1 2016

Greetings to you all, Kia ora, Kia orana, Faka'alofa lahi atu, Mālō e lelei, Tālofa lava, Talofa ni.

We hope you have had a relaxing summer break and look forward to our ongoing contact with you in 2016. In this edition we outline the national literacy workshops, explore the role of Literacy Leader/Co-ordinator in a secondary school, and provide links to NCEA updates and resource material.

Denise, Irene and Mal.

National workshops in 2016

In 2015 we ran a series of national workshops focused on collaborative partnerships between Literacy Leaders and middle leaders of Social Studies. These workshops were successful in bringing together expertise in both Social Studies and Literacy, and focused on a small inquiry around a group of students.

In 2016 the literacy national workshop will focus on literacy learning for NCEA Level 1. The workshop will be open to Literacy Leaders and middle leaders who work at NCEA Level 1. Once again we are encouraging collaborative partnerships between Literacy and the learning areas. We have found that these partnerships are very effective in terms of following up from the workshop back in school, maintaining support, and focusing on a particular group of students.

The workshop will focus on:

- Developing awareness of the reading and writing skills that students require in order to meet the requirements of identified NCEA standards.
- Developing a collaborative inquiry for a group of students.
- Engaging with a range of strategies to support literacy development at Level 1.

'Literacy Learning for NCEA Level 1' will be offered in the following locations: (*enrolment links on page 3*)

Whangarei	April 6
Auckland	April 5
Hamilton	April 4
Whakatane	April 1
Napier	March 30
Gisborne	March 31
New Plymouth	April 7
Palmerston North	April 5
Wellington	April 12
Nelson	May 10
Greymouth	April 6
Christchurch	April 7
Dunedin	April 13
Invercargill	April 11

Contact details

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Literacy Leaders/Co-ordinators

The role of 'Literacy Leader' is interpreted in many different ways in secondary schools. In some instances, 'Literacy Leader' may be a well-defined role with specific duties, established over time. In other instances the role of literacy co-ordination and/or leadership may be less formal. There are variations in terms of time allocation (if any), responsibilities, and expected outcomes. In this newsletter we explore some of the ways in which the role is interpreted, and offer support and encouragement for those who undertake a literacy role in their school.

Profiling literacy leadership in low decile schools

Tania Linley-Richardson, a facilitator with the Starpath Project at the University of Auckland, conducted research on the perceptions of literacy leadership in three low decile schools in 2015, as part of her Master's studies. She interviewed three literacy leaders and three senior leaders from decile 1-3 schools about their perceptions of the role. Preliminary findings indicated the following:

What do literacy leaders actually do?

- Supporting student achievement
- Data and inquiry
- Action plans
- Supporting and upskilling teachers, including coaching and providing resources
- Providing and participating in PLD

What is important about the role?

- Attributes such as knowledge, relationships and leadership
- Measuring the effectiveness of the literacy leader
- It is a changing role
- Vision – alignment between the literacy leader and senior leaders

What gets in the way?

- Time and workload – "This is a big job with a limited amount of time"
- Teacher attitudes and capabilities, including teachers' own literacy levels
- Low literacy entry levels at year 9 and the need for acceleration
- The needs of ELLs
- Siloed subjects

What helps leaders in this role?

- Support from within their schools – teaching colleagues and SLT
- Support from external sources such as PLD providers and online forums

Conclusions

- Schools appointed a designated literacy leader for different reasons, to suit their context
- Literacy leadership from this small sample of schools is complex
- A 'one size fits all' model does not suit literacy leadership
- Literacy leaders are a "Jack of all trades"

Tania found that the literacy leaders in her study needed support. They operated at a middle management level, juggled other major school-wide responsibilities and had their time and workload stretched in different directions. One out of the three had a formal written job description.

Literacy Leaders also worked within considerable constraints and were responsible for effecting institutional change. The role was seen as multi-faceted and sophisticated.



Useful links and resources on literacy leadership

Secondary Literacy Online

This offers supporting material for Literacy Leaders via this link:

[Leading Literacy in your school](#)

The site includes a link to five professional learning modules entitled:

[Leading professional learning about adolescent literacy](#)

The modules are designed to help secondary school leaders and Literacy Leaders to engage teachers in literacy learning across the curriculum.

A middle school U.S. Literacy Leader outlines a cross-curricular initiative:

<http://teachtolead.org/literacy-leadership-across-curriculum/>

Resources from primary literacy

Primary Literacy Leaders are supported by a range of material via this link:

[Literacy Leadership](#)

Some of the resources on this site are relevant for Secondary Literacy Leaders as well, including outlining the qualities of a Literacy Leader:

[Qualities of the Literacy Leader](#)

NZQA: Literacy unit standards

The annotated exemplars for 26624 have been updated and are available from the Literacy and Numeracy subject page. Further exemplars will be available in the near future.

Version of standards

The Literacy unit standards are now version 3 for 26622 and 26624, and version 4 for US26625.

There have been no changes to the requirements of the standards with the change of versions. Updated documentation for versions 3/4 is now available on the Literacy and Numeracy subject page of the NZQA website.

NZQA subject pages

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/>

National workshops

Auckland, Northland and Central North workshops

Click below to enrol.

Napier

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS16>

Gisborne

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS17>

Whakatane

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS18>

Hamilton

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS19>

Auckland

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS14>

Whangarei

<https://intranet.teamsolutions.ac.nz/forms/index.php/forms/workshop-enrolment/KVTS15>

Central South and Southern workshops

For workshops in Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill click [here to enrol](#)

Enquiries to essadmin@otago.ac.nz

2016 conferences to consider

NZ Literacy Association conference 2016



25 – 28 September
Waitangi, Bay of Islands

See the website for further details:
<http://www.nzla.org.nz/249/pages/144-conference-home>

IBBY Conference



IBBY is the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), a non-profit organisation representing an international network of countries and people, mainly volunteers, dedicated to bringing books and children together. Speakers include: NZ writers and inspirational people like Witi Ihimaera, Sir Richard Taylor, Joy Cowley and Kate de Goldi, plus many from overseas.

The Congress has three sub-themes: Global, local and indigenous literature, Diverse literary forms and formats, Engaging readers.

To be held at the Aotea Centre, Auckland from Wednesday 17– Sunday 21 August 2016.

For more details go to the website:

<http://www.ibbycongress2016.org/new-zealand/>