

Secondary Social Science Newsletter

Information and resources for leaders of Social Science in secondary schools | Term 2 | April 2012

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you have all had a restful break and feel refreshed for the start of the new school term.

This newsletter is for all middle leaders (and teachers) within the Social Science learning area. Which includes:

- Accounting
- Business Studies
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Education for Sustainability
- Geography
- History
- Legal Studies
- Media Studies
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Senior Social Studies

Could teachers who receive this letter please forward it to other teachers of the Social Sciences within their school.

Changes in PLD for 2012 and 2013

There are changes to PLD (Professional Learning and Development) for this year. Your school will have already received material from both the Ministry of Education and from the University of Auckland. The Faculty of Education, University of Auckland has the Secondary Student Achievement Contract for PLD provision for secondary schools in the Ministry's northern and central north regions.

So what are the key changes?

A new focus for PLD

PLD will be targeted to middle leaders and teachers-in-charge.

It will support middle leaders to:

- Design effective teaching and learning programmes.
- Develop teachers' literacy, language knowledge and skills to attend to the language demands of each learning area.
- Use assessment practices that are consistent with *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- Embed the new NCEA achievement standards with in these programmes.

The key focus is on raising achievement for all students and particularly for Māori and Pasifika students, and those with special learning needs.

A new way of working

It will not be 'business as usual'. Whenever we work in schools we will need to:

- Be focusing on one of our goals.
- Measure the improvement in student achievement and engagement.

Useful links and resources

TKI secondary education portal

<http://secondary.tki.org.nz>

Education Gazette Secondary Focus

<http://www.edgazette.govt.nz/Articles/Article.aspx?ArticleId=8582>

NZQA

<http://nzqa.govt.nz>

Social Sciences Online

<http://ssol.tki.org.nz>

Literacy

<http://www.literacyonline.tki.org.nz>

E learning

<http://www.elearning.tki.org.nz>

New Zealand Curriculum Online

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz>

New Resource:

Leading from the Middle is the Ministry's latest publication. It describes the qualities, practices and activities middle and senior leaders need in order to lead in ways that enhance learner outcomes. The interactive online versions can be found on Educational Leaders:
<http://www.educationalleaders.govt.nz>

Down the Back of the Chair

0800 660 662

customer.services@wickliffe.co.nz

www.wickliffe.co.nz

Many websites have an RSS feed or a subscription or alert feature. I would encourage you to make use of these to keep up to date.

- Measure the impact on middle leader practice.
- Be observing teaching in the classroom.

We will need to measure the impact of workshops or clusters on middle leader/TiC practice.

How you will be supported?

Support will be through workshops, clusters, focus schools or clusters and in-depth schools and will be both face-to-face and online. I will not be at all of the clusters and it is expected that eventually lead teachers will co-ordinate and lead these. Teachers are also encouraged to join subject associations for subject specific information. In-depth school support will be provided to schools referred by the local Ministry of Education office. This is a change this year in that schools must approach their local office of the Ministry of Education and request in-depth support, rather than just arrange it directly with the PLD provider. These schools are being negotiated at present and this is where over 50% of my time will be spent.

PLD focus for Term 2

Workshops will be subject specific and focused on curriculum level 7 and NCEA Level 2 and cover:

- The requirements of *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- The realigned Level 2 achievement standards and their links to *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- Effective pedagogy for all students with a focus on Māori, Pasifika and those with special learning needs.
- The development of teachers' literacy, language knowledge and skills to attend to the language demands of each learning area.

These are targeted for middle leaders, TIC and sole teachers of level 2 in their school who have been unable to attend a cluster and/or need more in depth PLD.

Clusters will focus on:

- The requirements of *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- The realigned Level 2 achievement standards and their links to *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- Starting to look at the draft Level 3 achievement standards where possible.

Focused clusters will use a teaching as inquiry approach to focus on the particular literacy and language demands of the learning area throughout a learning unit and inquire into the impact of their own teaching on their students.

Online support will be by email to subject and project specific contact lists and by phone and email to individual queries.

Workshop Programme planning for Year 9-10 Social Studies

This workshop builds middle leaders and (teachers) understanding of programme planning for Years 9-10 social studies and building conceptual understanding through social inquiry. KPSSS 1

Friday 25th May, Kohia Teachers Centre

Registrations: www.edcentres.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/

I wish you all a successful term.

Nga mihi,

Shirley Beazley

Regional Social Science facilitator – Auckland/Northland Region

Secondary Student Achievement Contract

Team Solutions

Faculty of Education

The University of Auckland.

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PLD opportunities

Workshops

Geography

Tuesday 19th June

9.00am to 3.15pm National Library, Beach Road, Parnell

Tuesday 26th June

9.00am to 3.15pm, Whangarei

History

Wednesday 20th June

9.00am to 3.15pm National Library, Beach Road, Parnell

Wednesday 20th June

9.00am to 3.15pm, Whangarei

Flyers will follow and

registrations for the above to

s.beazley@auckland.ac.nz

Senior Social Studies

Tuesday 12th June, 2.00pm to

5.30pm, Team Solutions

Clusters

Commerce

Wednesday 8th May, after school at Westlake Girls' High School

South Auckland Business Studies to be advised through the South

Auckland Business Studies contact

list

Geography

Team Solutions, Tuesday 22nd May, 4.00pm

Westlake Boys' High School

Wednesday 16th May, 4.00pm

Botany Downs Secondary College

4.00pm Thursday 24th May, 4.00pm

Classical Studies

Through NZACT and led by lead

teacher and meet each term at

Epsom Girls' Grammar.

Focus clusters

South Auckland Geography

Southern Cross Campus, Thursday 3rd May, 4.00pm

South Auckland History

Date to be advised

Email database

Most communications from me will be by email. Please ensure I have your correct email address. If others in your school are not receiving this newsletter please encourage them to send me their email details.