

Secondary Science newsletter- Central North region

Leaders and teachers of science in secondary schools in the central North Island Newsletter 3 | Term 3 | September 2012

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Tena koutou, Talofa lava, greetings to you in Term 3,

Regional cluster meetings and focused support meetings with middle leaders are being held around the central region in this term. Middle leaders are defined as HOD sciences, Ass HOD sciences, Deans, TiC of senior sciences and Specialist Classroom Teachers.

The focus of this professional development is at NCEA Level 3, particularly Year 13 Senior sciences programme design with the use of the draft standards, Literacy strategies and models for students at levels 2/3 and the Nature of Science strand- Validity and reliability in investigations. Another area of interest with the focused support groups is the emphasis on raising Maori and Pasifika achievement, this has led to thought provoking discussions and the development of a committed team of science leaders.

The Waikato Science Teachers Association is pleased to announce the **Science Symposium at St Peters' School**, Cambridge. Science teachers not just in the central North Island but throughout New Zealand are cordially invited. It looks to be a very exciting day with thought provoking presentations and workshops. The cost has been kept as low as possible as we are aware of PD budgets running low at the end of the year. It will run as a small conference and we are very keen to hear from you if you are interested in presenting. Please contact Sarah Hay HOD Science at St Peters' School. There will be 20min, 30min, 60min presentation sessions.

With kind regards,
Nga mihi,
Simon

NCEA Level 3 Science middle leader 12.30pm-3.30pm workshops, no charge.

- BoP Friday 7th September 11, 2012, Mt Surf Club
- Waikato, Friday 14th September, Hamilton Rose Gardens
- Volcanics Friday 14th September, Reap Center, Taupo

To register email:

sp.taylor@auckland.ac.nz

Science Symposium for NZ Secondary Science Teachers and Educators. Cost \$45 before Nov 2, \$80 late fee includes Mt/Lunch. Free for presenters. Friday 16th November at St Peters' School, Cambridge. 9.30-3.30pm.

For registration

sp.taylor@auckland.ac.nz.

For interest in presentation or facilitating a workshop

sarahh@stpeters.school.nz

Payment to: WSTA, St Peters', Private Bag 884, Cambridge.

Central North Island Physics Workshop 9am-1pm. No cost- shared morning tea. Physics dept, University of Waikato, Hamilton. Room 2.03. Wednesday 14th November. Practical demonstrations and experiments.

For registration

Sp.taylor@auckland.ac.nz

And co-organiser

Dr Teresa Fernandez

teresafz@waikato.ac.nz

Exams4 U

Spectroscopy Notes and worksheets designed for the new 3.2 Chemistry are planned for purchase.

NZQA moderators Newsletters

Please be aware of these newsletters, there are some significant notes on moderation responses to grade boundaries, explanations of the intent of Achievement standards, interpretation and further clarification of internal assessment using the Achievement standards. Example link below for Biology.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/biology/moderator-s-newsletter/june-2012/>

Example link for Chemistry.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/chemistry/moderator-s-newsletter/july-2012/>

Example link for Physics

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/physics/moderator-s-newsletter/august-2012/>

Vocational Pathways

Implications for Science education

<http://youthguarantee.net.nz/>

Youth Guarantee is the New Zealand Government's flagship policy programme for improving educational opportunities and achievement for 16 and 17 year-olds.

The goal of Youth Guarantee is:

- that all students will achieve at least NCEA level 2 or an equivalent tertiary qualification
- create partnership between senior secondary school and lower level tertiary systems
- improve overall achievement for Maori, Pasifika, and students with special education needs
- reduce the numbers of young people not in employment, education or training

Our science wiki

This is our very own science website for the central North island, there are some fabulous resources and current 2012 NCEA material. Please use it and download what ever you want.

- Raising Māori and Pasifika achievement
- Literacy documents
- All the senior science NCEA current matrices and standards
- Learning environment research

<http://bop-waikato-gisborne-science-teachers.wikispaces.com>

Upd8

Fabulous Nature of science links and resources- UK based. All free.

www.upd8.org.uk

No brain too small

Fabulous exam questions, subject booklets and literacy resources, NZ based. All free.

www.nobraintoosmall.co.nz