Dear colleagues,

Welcome to term 2 2016. Term 2 is always a busy term with some solid teaching and half yearly reports underway.

The next NSW HSIE State-wide Staff Meeting, held via Adobe Connect, is scheduled for Tuesday 14 June 2016, 3:30-4:00pm. These meetings are a quick point in time snapshot of the support being provided by Primary Education HSIE, an update from BOSTES, and a chance to ask us questions related to HSIE (that we may answer live or research and get back to you). The web link will be same log in address that we have always used, but we will send you the link for this closer to the date.

www.hsiensw.com is a website for teachers which summarises the support available to you. It is an interim measure whilst the Departments website is being redeveloped. Previous eNewsletters, and new support materials are added as they become available.

A note when forwarding this eNewsletter to colleagues – please forward the pdf version. The large number of forwards is resulting in this email losing its formatting.
If you have been forwarded this eNewsletter you are encouraged to subscribe to the HSIE K-6 email network by emailing me below to receive future newsletters and very occasional alerts.

Kind regards

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How we know we are working with great syllabuses?

I thought it was timely to reflect on the quality of the NSW BOSTES history and geography syllabuses.

Let’s start with the statement that the Australian curriculum is world class. How do we know this? Australia is considered internationally to be one of the leaders in education, and as a sort after partner in international educational collaborations, inclusive of leading academics. This is reflected in the curriculum itself which was developed through a process of extensive consultation, referencing international research with feedback provided by international, national and state subject experts. Time was taken to develop rigorous and appropriate content, which can be referenced to the criteria described as ten principles developed by The Curriculum Foundation for a world class curriculum.

NSW has taken this Australian Curriculum and developed syllabus documents for our schools. For NSW this legislative responsibility has added value and state specific content elaborations to support NSW teachers. The BOSTES processes are again rigorous with an inbuilt consultation process. The development of both the Australian Curriculum and the resulting NSW syllabuses has had generous and often passionate input by you or your colleagues, nationally, regionally and locally.

The time and thoughtfulness that has gone into the development of the K-10 history and geography syllabuses supports teachers to take on board and have complete certainty in the quality of the learning descriptions provided in these syllabus documents. Teachers can, and should, talk about the content described in these syllabuses with the assurance that they are backed by world class curriculum standards. Teaching from these syllabuses can be undertaken with confidence and the knowledge that the work you undertake will provide a quality education for all of our children. As every one of you has been involved in syllabus renewal in some capacity, stand proud that you are delivering a world class curriculum in a professional and innovative way. This knowledge and self-assurance is something that teachers have earnt the right to display, regardless. Trust yourselves that you are delivering quality learning with a world class curriculum as its foundation.

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Using HSIE syllabuses through Quality Teaching organisers

The two tables below organise the syllabus elements of both the Geography and History K-10 syllabus using the Quality Teaching questions. These questions support teachers to access the eSyllabus for a specific purpose, as defined by the questions. All elements of each syllabus have been referenced. Attached as a separate PP – note, to access the hyperlinks you will need to view in slideshow.
We are getting a large number of questions about how to report on history and geography K-6. This seems to be a result of the confusion created by the HSIE Key Learning Area being the only primary KLA with more than one subject syllabus.

HSIE as a KLA K-6 is retained but as of this year it is the only primary KLA to have two syllabuses ie History K-10 and either HSIE K-6 or Geography K-10. Which two depends on where you are at with the implementation of geography as per the BOSTES timeline. BOSTES provides the definitive advice regarding the implementation of history and geography. The BOSTES advice about HSIE K-6 is here.

Reports: First and foremost is that a student report in primary will continue to use the Key Learning Area of HSIE as the only report ‘organiser’. This means that student achievement will be given a single grade scale (A-E) or equivalent word description for students in years 1 to 6 inclusive of their learning referenced to both syllabuses. A KLA comment is also provided for all students K-6. The syllabuses referenced for this
achievement grade and student comment are the HSIE KLA syllabuses being taught. This will depend on the school based decision to implement Geography K-10 this year or next year.

All HSIE syllabuses describe a ‘standard’ to measure students’ achievement against. This means that student learning in each stage which cannot be referenced to the HSIE syllabuses stage statements, stage outcomes and the related syllabus content descriptions cannot and should not be reported as HSIE for that stage.

The stage statements are very useful when preparing students report comments. Key phrases in the relevant stage statements can easily be adapted to describe student achievement.

Civics and citizenship K-10

Another area where we are getting a number of queries is about is civics and citizenship. This is now a Learning Across the Curriculum content area, which is technically referenced in most new syllabuses, however the HSIE KLA, through the history and geography syllabuses still provides the ‘home’ for this important learning.

How is this learning organised? Can it still be taught the way it was taught for the HSIE K-6 (1998) syllabus?

The history and geography Civics and Citizenship Learning Across the Curriculum content descriptions show this pattern of learning in each stage. This learning will support the specific history or geography focus that Civics and Citizenship aligns with. The organisation and descriptions are different to those of the past; this will work best as smaller units of learning that do not take up a full term.

Use the eSyllabus ‘filter content’ function located down the bottom of the left hand side to quickly and simply locate the specific syllabus Civics and Citizenship content references. You will need to use an alternative internet browser to Internet Explorer.
Tick the boxes as required to pick up the syllabus content that has been tagged for Civics and Citizenship for your selected stage. This now identifies the tagged syllabus content as the starting point to develop learning which supports Civics and citizenship within these syllabuses. Additional learning opportunities can often be identified, which support local contexts, and align to syllabus content which has not been tagged.

Civics and citizenship now needs to be organised and done differently K-10.

Implementation support materials for Geography

The three registered online professional development courses to support the implementation of the Geography K-10 syllabus (2015).

1. Your school and the geography syllabus K-10 (3 hours)
2. Planning to teach geography K-10 (3 hours)
3. Programming for geographical inquiry (3 hours) this course has an additional 1 hour module on geographical tools, which will also be published as a stand-alone resource.

These have been written and are now being published into the online format. I will let you know as soon as these are live.

K-10 Teaching and Learning Framework – for all focus areas K-10. A PDF version can be downloaded or single topics as Word documents. They serve to give teachers a great starting point when programming geography K-10. They have been developed by teachers with the view that other
Geography in a Billabong – includes a downloadable PP file

Additional geography support materials being finalised:

Learning across the curriculum K-10 – three separate pdf documents for

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures;
- Sustainability;
- Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia.

These documents provide substantial reference for these three Learning Across the Curriculum content areas as referenced to the Geography K-10 syllabus content. These resources are days away from being published live on www.hsiensw.com for you to download.

AND

A two hour K-10 registered course ‘Teaching geography through studies of Asia’ is scheduled to be available during Term 3.

Geography: What are spatial technologies?

Spatial technologies are now one of the geographical tools specifically included in the geography syllabus K-10: one that many teachers are a little nervous about teaching, but you don’t need to be because probably without even knowing it, you are familiar with spatial technologies. These are crucial technologies for our modern world and the spatial industry is booming. Spatial tools are now more likely to be found on a smartphone or personal computer being used by someone like you, than in a specialist laboratory being used by a technician.

Spatial literacy and spatial technologies:

Definitions:

- Spatial information is the digital connection between location, people and activities. This information can graphically illustrate what is happening (where, how and why) to show the insight and impact of the past, the present and the (likely) future. The knowledge produced by spatial information is fundamental to the lives of every Australian.
- To be considered ‘spatially literate’, an individual must have the ability to capture and communicate knowledge in the form of a map, to
understand and recognise the world as viewed from above, to recognise and interpret patterns, and to comprehend such basic concepts as scale, projection and spatial resolution. Goodchild (2006)

- Spatial technology is the use of data and mapping to create digital products that can be used in areas such as business, education and disaster response management.

Spatial technologies include any form of technology that refers to place, space and location. Specifically, they are technologies that organise and collect data, by referencing the information collected to a point on the earth’s surface using latitude and longitude. A very large percentage of all information gathered today has a spatial or geographical component. This means that most information is tied to a place. This includes:

- Remote sensing, which is the science and art of obtaining information about the Earth’s surface without being in contact with it.
- Global positioning systems (GPS) which is a satellite-based navigation technology that uses a network of satellites placed in orbit to determine locations on earth.
- Geographic information systems (GIS) is a computer-based mapping software that collects, stores and analyses previously unrelated information into easily understood maps. The GIS program represents the data as layers of information (called themes). These layers of data can be turned on or off, according to what the user wants to look at and the relationships they are trying to find.
- Triangulation of mobile phone signals to different base stations, to pinpoint location of the source.
- Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt where you use GPS navigation to find caches (treasures) hidden by other players.

There are hundreds of ways spatial information can assist and aide in the everyday lives of all people. Such as:

- satellite images bringing daily weather reports and provide farmers with information for precision agriculture
- airborne infra-red scanners tracking bushfires
- ambulance dispatch services
- global positioning systems monitoring the location of thousands of trucks and taxis
- real estate sales using geographic information systems
- using mobile phone data to locate a lost phone or person with the phone
- tracking a parcel delivery.

The spatial information industry is growing rapidly and many of our students today will work with these technologies. This industry is a component of the broader information technology sector and has scientific and technical links to all other disciplines such as environmental science, engineering, computer science, health delivery, logistics, planning, resource management and electronics.
A short list of web links

With a focus on geography:

- [Home: A full and beautiful life](#), a primary work book developed by Caritas Australia.
- [Larrakia interactive calendar, Northern Territory](#). Provides details of the seven seasons used by the Aboriginal people in the Darwin area.
- [Geoscience Australia](#) provides a geographical data, publications and information portal, including specific spatial technologies.
- [If it were my home](#), a web site that provides country comparison data.

United Nations Australia – 2016 World Environment Day Awards

Each year on United Nations World Environment Day (June 5), the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) seeks to focus world attention on the environment, particularly on innovative programs that protect and restore our world’s natural heritage, through its World Environment Day Awards. The UNAA has actively promoted this important day through the World Environment Day Awards program since 2000. The Awards recognise the environmental achievements of individuals, community groups, local councils, schools, businesses and the media.

You can view a full list of Award categories and eligibility requirements [here](#).

For more information please email [awards@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:awards@unaavictoria.org.au) or phone on 03 9670 7878.

The Everhard Schools Competition

Everhard Industries is celebrating 90 years as a family run business. They have organised a school competition with prizes in three categories. Entries close 30 June 2016.

There are 2 topics:

1. The importance of clean water and good sanitation, in your community or, in your environment or, to better lives in developing
countries.

2. The importance of family business in your community or, to the national economy.

For further information and entry forms go to the web site http://www.everhard.com.au/schools-comp/

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DoE Environmental Education Centres links

There are 24 Environmental Education Centres and two Zoo Education Centres across NSW. These centres run a variety of programs for students and teachers K-12, including site specific excursions. One of their features is the opportunity to undertake authentic fieldwork run by teachers with specialist field knowledge.

[Environmental and Zoo Education Centres NSW](#) [EZEC on Facebook] [Twitter @EZECNSW]

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DoE HSIE K-12 Yammer

Do have a look at, ask a question, post a comment, and share some of what you are doing on the HSIE K-12 Yammer group. There is significant value in primary and secondary teachers contributing to this discussion forum as there is a great deal we can learn from each other, as we engage with the K-10 History and Geography syllabuses.

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BOSTES on Twitter

[BOSTES is now on Twitter](#)

BOSTES has an official twitter account (@NewsAtBOSTES) for communicating BOSTES news and events to the teaching profession and broader community.

To support HSIE educators specifically, an additional BOSTES account has now been created. This will provide a dedicated location for accessing information, initiatives and news of interest covering K-12 HSIE subjects – including curriculum and assessment, resources and professional
learning opportunities. @hsieBOSTES

Professional Associations
The following HSIE professional associations provide support for members who are primary teachers:

- Aboriginal Studies Association
- Asia Education Teachers’ Association
- Geography Teachers’ Association NSW
- History Teachers Association NSW

Links

- Subscribe
- Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES)
- Implementation support for the Australian Curriculum
- Contact us

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If you do not wish to receive further eNewsletters or information from the HSIE K-6 at the DEC Learning and Leadership Directorate, Early Learning and Primary Education (HSIE), please email anne.southwell@det.nsw.edu.au