Dear Colleagues,

Well what a busy month it has been. The HSIE team here has been working very hard on writing the DEC response to the new draft Geography syllabus. We have run a survey and held webinar familiarisation afternoons as well as organising focus groups. I would like to thank all the teachers who have been involved in helping us to reflect the thoughts of geography teachers across the state. Whether it was through sending us an email, filling out the survey or being part of the groups, the time you gave up was very much appreciated. That response is now completed and is being presented to BOSTES.

We are also looking at and forming a response to the direction papers released by BOSTES on the senior History syllabuses. I have run a focus group and at the moment I am in the process of constructing the response. Once more, thank you to all of the teachers who have been involved in that process. Can I also encourage you to go on the BOSTES site and to fill out the survey so they can get a really clear picture of the direction senior history should take in the future.

This month I attended both the NSW History Teachers Association and NSW Geography Teachers Association Conferences. The high standard of professionalism and dialogue was encouraging and it was good to see how well these events were patronised. I encourage all of you to support these local networks, as the work they do enhances the teaching and learning taking place in our classes.

Please remember if you come across any good web sites that you think another teacher might be able to use, email them to me and I will add them to our Pinterest boards.

Have a great month.

Alana Ellis
**Quote of the month**

“A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.”

Ever Garrison

**For leaders:**

“You can’t make positive choices for the rest of your life without an environment that makes those choices easy, natural, and enjoyable.”

Deepak Chopra

**News Update**

On the BOSTES site you can access a survey to give your opinion about the development of new NSW syllabuses for senior history. I encourage to have a say about your vision for history in the 21st century.

**ClassMovies**

The Department’s partnership with ClassMovies allows NSW public schools to create short videos of innovative teaching practices and school programs. Raw footage captured by the schools will be professionally edited in order to bring your story to life in the best possible way. We are looking for schools who are delivering curriculum in exciting and innovative ways, resulting in rich learning experiences for students. We are particularly interested in best practice examples of integrated learning and differentiated learning that engage our diverse student population in authentic learning experiences.

If this sounds like your school, please contact Amanda Lee (Amanda.Lee18@det.nsw.edu.au or 9244 5484) to discuss a possible focus area for a documentary. If you fit the bill, there will be no cost involved for your school, just the opportunity to show NSW Public Schools how you are inspiring your students every day.

**Literacy and Numeracy**

I heard an HSIE teacher talk on the radio a few weeks ago. He was saying that he can understand why we should be teaching literacy in HSIE as students need to write well for their HSC. However, he could not understand why he had to teach numeracy as it was not as important. I beg to differ. In all our subjects, especially stages 4 & 5 we are teachers of numeracy and we use it on a very regular basis. It is important to recognise the fact that some students struggle with the language of numeracy and we are obligated to explicitly teach it within the content and context of our lessons.

I am currently with the Educational Services Teams and teachers from across the state on the Literacy Continuum. The secondary literacy advisor, Annalies van Westenbrugge and the Assistant Director of Secondary Education, Kim Proctor, are working closely on this collaborative plan and my role as one of the advisors...
involved is to demonstrate how the continuum can be incorporated very easily into the content of all subjects. As teachers we need to ensure that our students can engage with the literacy components of our subjects and by doing this they will be empowered within both education and society beyond. Get together with your colleagues and start the professional discussion on strategies that may help your students succeed.

BOSTES

Senior History syllabuses

There will be only two consultation meetings that teachers can attend to discuss the direction of all senior history syllabuses. These are:

Coffs Harbour 3 September
Parramatta 10 September.

Please go online to register your attendance.

Geography Update

Anne Southwell and I attended a meeting at BOSTES last week to look at the way teachers have reacted to the draft document. Overall it has been a positive response, however, it was acknowledged that there need to be some changes made, especially in the depth of the content and the language used. The team at BOSTES is working very hard to produce the very best syllabus possible so that all students can access the concepts, skills and tools of geography. I commend them for their efforts.

HSC examination

The 2014 Higher School Certificate timetable has been released. The exams start on the 13 October and go to the 5 November. Some of the exams in the HSIE area are entitled to bring equipment into the exam and it is important that our students are aware of these. There are:

The dates for HSIE exams are:

15 October – Ancient History
21 October – Modern History and Aboriginal Studies
23 October – Business Studies
24 October – Economics
28 October – Studies of Religion
29 October – Legal Studies
31 October - Society and Culture
4 November – Geography and History Extension

For further information about the exams go to BOSTES.

Work Studies Stage 6 Additional Support Materials

Additional support materials for the Work Studies Stage 6 Board Endorsed Course are now available. The support materials include sample student activities, worksheets, work placement logbook and assessment tasks as well as teacher resource lists and sample teaching programs.

For more information, contact:
Jennifer Lawless
Professional Development Opportunities

Via this newsletter, we hope to let colleagues know about professional teachers’ association conferences as they come to hand.

- Geography workshop – Thursday 11 September 3:45 – 6:00 pm at the Dubbo School of Distance Education. The focus is on Australia’s Engagement with Asia: Indonesia. For more details contact Sally Egan at sally.egan1@det.nsw.edu.au

- HTAA National Conference - Brisbane on 30 September – 2 October. Please find more details at their site.

- Introduction to Extension History Course
  DATE: Friday 5th September
  VENUE: To be confirmed shortly (venue in Sydney)
  CLOSING DATE: 28 August

- Geography Teachers Professional Development Conference is being held in Rotorua, New Zealand, 11-16 January 2015. For further information go to the Australian Geography Teachers Association and follow the prompts.

Teaching associations are vital in providing professional development for teachers and study days for students. Can I recommend, if your school is not already a member, that you join the professional associations available and become active in the roles they play to enhance the teaching and learning taking place in NSW schools.

Useful Links/Resources

If you wish to get in contact with your local Educational Services Team for assistance, but you are not sure who the right person would be, I have included a link which will allow you to search for your local team and to find the appropriate person for your school and your issue.

If you are teaching the migrant experience can I encourage you to have a look at the Italian migrant community in the Illawarra region. Their site is a virtual tour around their lives and contribution to Australian society and can be found at http://www.vmiii.com.au/

If you wish to investigate the teaching of financial literacy in your school, please get in contact with Colleen Blancato or have a look at the website for resources. The teaching package together with all online resources is available at: https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/teaching
For further information colleen.blancato@det.nsw.edu.au (Ph: 02 9266 8963).
The University of Newcastle has produced a new site to help students with understanding the Higher School Certificate exam specifications. Take a look at the site and if you think your students can benefit from it, please feel free to share it with them.

Another site to visit is the Migration Heritage Centre. This site takes you on an evocative journey of the movement of people to Australia from the 1700s. Personal reflections are the key to this site as well as the government attitude and approach to the issue.

If you are planning an excursion centred on the environment, sustainability and even preservation and conservation of the environment, can I direct you to have a look at what the Environmental Education Centres have to offer. There are centres across NSW and offer an alternative view of how to look at the environment and the way we use it. For a full list of the centres go to Environmental Education & Zoo locations.

To assist with the commemoration of the First World War there are several new websites that are being made available to schools to help students to come to an understanding of the conflict and its legacy. Some of these do come with a cost and so it is up to individual schools to decide which, if any, of the sites are suited to the learning needs of your students. Dynamic Learning Online has a good site where there are interviews with returned servicemen. These interviews were recorded before these men died. There is also a photo gallery and video footage. Another site is called Honouring Anzacs. On this site there are lessons for students to complete and it allows the teacher to monitor the progress of their class. The students get to adopt an Anzac and they then investigate his story and life. It is an interactive site and one I think students will enjoy, so have a look.

Food for thought

For the teachers who are looking for accreditation, or even if you just want to improve your own practice, at any level, have a look at the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership site. They provide teaching ideas on how to improve your teaching practice. I would encourage all teachers to engage with the standards as a way of ensuring that you are holding yourself accountable for your practice. Even if you are not going to gain accreditation it is the language of the future and it provides good checks and balances for all teachers.

Life skills support

In dealing with students who are pursuing Life Skills outcomes think about how you can differentiate the learning to achieve success for these students. You also need to think about the style and method of assessment and to ensure that outcomes are being addressed, whilst catering for the learning needs of all students.

Competitions

The Simpson Prize
A competition for Year 9 and 10 Students. This is an essay writing competition and the question this year is “To what extent did Australians enlist in 1914 to defend the ‘Mother Country’?” For further details go to the Simpson Prize. Entries close 17 October.

Past editions of this newsletter
If you wish to receive any past copies of this newsletter please go to https://drive.google.com/#folders/0B5Yd-knKXeaLYndzeHdMOTFzeUU.

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If you do not wish to receive further eNewsletters or information from the HSIE Advisors at the DEC Secondary Education Directorate, please email Alana Ellis, at alana.ellis@det.nsw.edu.au

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Abode Syllabus PLUS: Australian Curriculum 7-10

Professional Associations

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