

PPTA Curriculum Support Days 2009

Newsletter #6

Tuesday 12 May



Support Days begin

Next Monday, May 18th, the first of the Curriculum Support Days takes place, in Nelson. From then on, there is a Support Day happening nearly every day in some part of the country until June 26, when there will be a small pause for the holiday period. They start again in late July and finish in late August.

Arrangements on the day

The PPTA website, at <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/professional-learning>, contains everything you should need to know as a school, a facilitator, or a participating teacher.

Some key arrangements:

- The morning session (Year 7-10) runs from 9am to 12pm, and the afternoon session (Year 11-13) runs from 1pm to 4pm.
- You need to take with you to your group: your lunch, your copy of the *NZ Curriculum*, and your own resources to work on e.g. a junior unit and a senior unit in your subject(s) - in hard copy or on your laptop. When you get to your group, you will receive a hard copy of the CSD resource that has been developed for your subject. Feel free to familiarise yourself with these in advance – see below under 'The resources'.
- If you have registered for a Special Interest Group (SMT/Curriculum design, Special Ed/Learning Support, Careers Education, Guidance Counsellors, or ESOL), this will be a whole-day session starting at 9am.
- To find out what school is hosting your subject/special interest group, go to <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/professional-learning> and you will see a document for every Support Day that shows the host schools, the subjects they are hosting, the number of rooms, i.e. groups for that subject, and the names of confirmed facilitators. Note: These documents are updated frequently, so unless your Support Day is very soon, e.g. early next week, don't expect your document to be absolutely final.

Facilitators

We still need more facilitators, but we are very grateful to those of you who have offered already.

- To offer to be a facilitator – you can see where the gaps are in the documents referred to above – email Sarah Dalton, sdalton@ppta.org.nz – she will be delighted to hear from you! Or if you want more information first, go to <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/professional-learning/326-events-csdfacilitators> and your questions will be answered.
- If you are already a facilitator and want to know about available training, go to <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/professional-learning/350-csd-facilitator-training>. You will see there that if you can't get to a face-to-face training session

and you have access to videoconferencing gear, you could opt into this form of training. Our IP address will be published on the website soon.

- If you are already a facilitator, you should go to the website at <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/resources/curriculum-support/curric-resources> to check out the resources that have been prepared for your subject, because otherwise the first time you see them will be on the day. Please note, in some subjects, e.g. English and Maths, more resources are on the website than have been able to be copied for the Days. Also, in a few subjects you will see a subject-specific facilitator resource as well as the Toolkit that has been produced for everyone. Have a good look at this.
- If no-one offers to facilitate a group, the group will still meet and choose its own facilitator who will use the toolkit supplied. This is far from ideal, so please offer to avoid this eventuality!

The resources

The resources produced at the 'Experts Forum' on 6-7 April are virtually all available on the PPTA website now. Go to <http://www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/resources/curriculum-support/curric-resources>, and scroll down to Learning areas/subjects and Special Interest Groups. You will see that most of them follow a similar format: some introductory comments, a current unit annotated with comments and questions about how it might be adapted, a revised unit, and some concluding comments about the revision process. These resources are 'work-in-progress', they are not finished units of work that you would just download and use. They seek to demonstrate how you might go about revising a favourite unit of work so that it meets the requirements of the 'front end' of the *NZ Curriculum*. You will, nevertheless, get lots of great ideas for teaching your subject by studying these resources. Try looking at resources for subjects other than your own; you are likely to get some great ideas from that exercise as well.

The plan for the day

If you look on the website at the information for facilitators (see link above), you will see what has been suggested for how each session will run. This is flexible; a group might agree with their facilitator to operate slightly differently.

Best wishes

Graeme Macann, Chair of NZSPC, has sent the following message:

"My thanks on behalf of the New Zealand Secondary Principals Council to all the PPTA officials behind this very important project for the considerable thought and planning that has gone into the Curriculum Support Days. I hope that they are a great success!"

Kate Gainsford, PPTA President, says:

"All the best for your Curriculum Support Day. May you find the day interesting, useful and enjoyable!"