

Secondary English newsletter

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to another school year! My name is Claire Amos and I am the new Secondary English Facilitator for Team Solutions. For the past two years I have held the position of Head of English at Auckland Girl's Grammar School. In 2009 I was also lucky enough to be awarded a Ministry of Education e-fellowship for my project 'Beyond the Virtual classroom – Using blogs and wikis to raise literacy levels in and beyond the English Classroom'. I have also been part of the writing team for the alignment of the English NCEA standards. I look forward getting to know as many of you as possible.

I will send out newsletters once a term. I have also established a wiki for Auckland Secondary English teachers at:

<http://aucklandsecondaryenglish.pbworks.com/>

and an Auckland Secondary English blog at:

<http://aucklandsecondaryenglish.blogspot.com/>

The aim of the blog is to provide more regular bite-size updates for sharing useful ideas and resources.

If you would like to contact me, please email me at:

c.amos@auckland.ac.nz Apologies if you have tried to call, I am still out of reach by phone as my extension is still unavailable.

Congratulations and thank you!

On behalf of the Auckland English community I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Diana Patience and Leanne Webb who have won the positions of Deputy Principal at Ormiston Senior College and Assistant Principal at Kelston Girl's College respectively. I know I am not alone in appreciating the vast amount of knowledge, support and guidance that Diana and Leanne provided our community during their time at Team Solutions.

Claire Amos, Auckland Secondary English Facilitator

Team Solutions

Inside this issue:

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Upcoming events

Beginning Teachers of English workshop

*Monday 15 March
Kohia Education Centre*

This course is designed for teachers of English who have been appointed to their first teaching position over the last 12 months. It is designed to give teachers a chance to take stock of their initial experiences in the classroom.

Planning English Programmes for 2011 - the New Zealand Curriculum and the new Matrix

*Monday 3 May
Kohia Education Centre*

This course will explore the issues around planning programmes for 2011 and beyond with particular emphasis on the links between the New Zealand Curriculum and the new English Matrix. Suitable for all English teachers, particularly those responsible for departmental course planning.

Ph 09 623 8977 or got to:
http://edcentres.auckland.ac.nz/ed_centres/kohia_index.html for more information

EnthusENG 2010

*7th-9th July
Christ's College, Christchurch*

The annual NZATE Conference will be held at Christ's College with its historic buildings, fine facilities and its location within 5 minutes walk of Cathedral Square, the Art Gallery, Museum, Arts Centre and the 'recreational' facilities of The Strip. Keep an eye on the website for more updates.

<http://www.enthuseng.org.nz/>

English Clusters and support in 2010

I will be in touch with those teachers who were involved in the South Auckland and West Auckland BHETE clusters last year. The aim for 2010 is to create Professional Learning Communities (South, West, North?) that will be comprised of HODs and/or middle leaders of English which will in turn support staff and student needs.

Those involved in the PLCs will undertake a personal Teaching as Inquiry project which will begin with establishing three areas (goals) you would like to work on in 2010, these could include personal learning needs, staff learning needs and/or student learning needs. Once these have been established an action plan and timeline for the year will be created. Work towards these goals will be supported through our online community (our wiki), a series of cluster meetings, face to face support, email support, as well as observation and feedback.

The main focus areas for 2010 will be supporting schools with The New Zealand Curriculum; promoting effective assessment practices; raising achievement with a particular focus on Maori and Pasifika student potential; and support around qualifications pathways/transitions.

If you want to know more or are interested in joining one of these PLCs please let me know ASAP by sending an email to: c.amos@auckland.ac.nz

I am also able to help with individual requests, and will endeavour to do so in a timely and effective manner.

NZ Curriculum Implementation

Schools should be implementing the new curriculum. To support this curriculum resources are available on: <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz>

There are also resources available on the English Secondary English wiki; looking at ways you might implement the new curriculum in your junior classes. <http://aucklandsecondaryenglish.pbworks.com/>

English Online

As many of you will know English Online has re-instituted mailing lists for their communities, allowing participants to receive and respond to the forums by e-mail. There are six forums up and running: Literacy; Secondary Literacy; Secondary English; Primary ESOL, Secondary ESOL and ICTs in English

English Online is also working on the re-organisation of content of the sites to make resources and readings more visible and accessible from the home-pages. This will involve "flattening" the architecture so that what you want is usually only 2-4 clicks from the homepage. However this is not a simple process and the re-designed websites may not be available for some time.

If you want to find out more head to:

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

Support for Middle Managers

Targeted support for middle leaders is available on the NZ Curriculum website. There are some great resources available here. The Effective Teaching and Learning section looks particularly useful.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Ministry-curriculum-guides/Secondary-middle-leaders>

English Online also provides an area targeted at English Subject leaders

<http://englishonline.tki.org.nz/English-Online/What-do-you-need-to-know-and-do/English-subject-leaders-page>

Check out their checklist for 'Features of a Quality English Department'

<http://englishonline.tki.org.nz/English-Online/What-do-you-need-to-know-and-do/English-subject-leaders-page/Features-of-a-Quality-English-Department>

How does your department measure up??

NZQA Further Assessment Opportunities

Just a reminder, as of the beginning of this school year the new rules will apply for further assessment opportunities.

From the NZQA website:

Secondary school students will have a maximum of one **reassessment** chance for internally assessed NCEA standards from 2010, under new rules and procedures announced by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

This means students will have a maximum of two assessment opportunities per standard, per year.

The Rules and Procedures for Further Assessment Opportunities were finalised after nearly two months of consultation, which ended in May. A total of 125 responses from 91 schools were received on draft guidelines, representing the views of around 2000 teachers, with 70 per cent support for limiting reassessment to one opportunity.

Under the rules and procedures:

- A maximum of one further opportunity for assessment of a standard can be provided within a year.
- A further assessment opportunity is only appropriate if additional teaching and learning has taken place since the first assessment opportunity.
- It is not compulsory to offer an opportunity for further assessment, but if it is offered, it must be offered to all students.
- All grades must be available as a result of a further assessment opportunity (i.e. Not Achieved, Achieved, Merit, and Excellence, in the case of achievement standards).

The rules also cover **resubmission** – where a student can be offered the opportunity to correct a minor error in an assessment but only if they are capable of identifying the error independently. Resubmissions will be limited to one per assessment opportunity.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/news/releases/2009/150709.html>

Getting connected - are you a member?

NZATE (New Zealand Association for Teachers of English)

Chair: Leanne Webb

Email: l.webb@kelstongirls.school.nz

Secretary: Lizzie Harrison

Email: h.z@burnside.school.nz

Treasurer: Helaina Coote

Email: helainamc@yahoo.com

Auckland Representative: Sean Hawthorne

Email: shawthorne@mrgs.school.nz

AATEL (Auckland Association for Teachers of English Language)

Ngairi Hoben

School of Education University of Auckland

PO Box 92019 Auckland.

Email: n.hoben@auckland.ac.nz

Website: <http://aatel.wordpress.com>

SAATE (South Auckland Association of Teachers of English)

Chair: Ivan Peter

Email: pti@edgewater.school.nz

Secretary: Jo Sanson

Email: j.sanson@rosehill-college.co.nz

Treasurer: Rafi Khader

Email: mtss@xtra.co.nz

Website: <http://www.saate.webs.com>

NARATE (North Auckland Regional Association of Teachers of English)

Chair: Jo Robson

Email: jo.robson@ajhs.school.nz

Secretary: Robin Holding

Email: r.holding@takapuna.school.nz

Treasurer: Catherine Blomkamp

Email: c.blomkamp@gc.ac.nz

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