New Appointments

The Northern Territory Board of Studies has two newly appointed members.

Ms Saraswathi Griffiths-Chandran, member who represents the interests of parents of children who attend Government schools; and Ms Pauline Schober, Member who represents the interests of Indigenous people.

Ms Saraswathi Griffiths-Chandran is a lecturer in Education at Charles Darwin University in Early Childhood. She has worked extensively in the Northern Territory with remote Indigenous community children’s services and for three years was senior lecturer Early Childhood with Batchelor Institute. She has worked as a Senior Project Manager with Indigenous Early Childhood advocacy and leadership.

Ms Pauline Schober is an Indigenous Teacher teaching at a Darwin Middle School and is currently undertaking her Masters of Education at Charles Darwin University. Actively involved in the wider community through sport, Ms Schober has coached Junior Rugby League for a number of years and was recently appointed Head Coach to the Northern Territory Titan’s Women’s Rugby League Academy and Team.

NT Board of Studies Awards

The Northern Territory Board of Studies student award presentation ceremonies, which publicly recognise Territory students for their Year 12 academic achievements, were held in Alice Springs and Darwin on 4 and 11 February 2011 respectively.

These awards are a major item on the NTBOS agenda.

Further information is available on the NTBOS website at: http://www.det.nt.gov.au/teachers-educators/curriculum-ntbos/ntbos-awards

Congratulations to all students who received awards.

SACE Board Code of Practice

The ‘Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) Assessment responsibilities: SACE Board and Northern Territory Schools Code of Practice’ was presented to Northern Territory principals at the recent Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training Principals meeting. Dr Paul Kilvert, Chief Executive, SACE Board of South Australia, presented.

The Code of Practice defines the responsibilities of the SACE Board and Northern Territory Schools for managing school and external assessments of student learning in the NTCET.

Vacant Positions

Vacant Catholic Education Office representative
Vacant Post school education representative
Vacant Teacher representing the interests of teachers

It is envisaged that appointments will be finalised in time for the May 2011 meeting.
Recent developments around the Australian Curriculum in the Northern Territory:

Phase 1
Foundation — Year 10 curriculum

On 8 December 2010, Australian education Ministers endorsed the content for Foundation to Year 10 Phase 1 learning areas of English, mathematics, science and history. Foundation in the Australian Curriculum refers to the year before Year 1. In the Northern Territory, this year of schooling is called the Transition Year.

Phase 1 of the Australian Curriculum is published online at: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home.

Northern Territory Implementation

In 2011 teachers from pilot schools will participate in focus groups to provide formal feedback to Curriculum, Teaching and Phases of Learning, Department of Education and Training, on matters relating to implementation of the Australian curriculum. This advice will assist in the development of systemic support for all schools to implement the curriculum.

The following schools will be involved in piloting the Australian curriculum in one or more learning areas in 2011:

- Alyangula Area School
- Barkly Education Office
- Braitling Primary School
- Bradshaw primary School
- Casuarina Senior College
- Darwin Middle School
- Darwin High School
- Dripstone Middle School
- Girraween Primary School
- Manunda Terrace Primary School
- Marrara Christian College
- Milingimbi School
- Nemarluk Primary School
- Nhulunbuy Christian School
- Nhulunbuy Primary School
- Nhulunbuy High School
- Nightcliff Primary School
- Ross Park Primary School
- St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
- St Paul’s School
- O’Loughlin Catholic College
- Taminmin College Middle School

Literacy and Numeracy Strategy

The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy Prioritising Literacy and Numeracy 2010 — 2012, was launched on 1 July 2010. The strategy aims to improve literacy and numeracy achievement of students by working at a whole school level through professional learning communities led by the principal and school leadership team in government schools.

On 7 March 2011, materials including written support documents, PowerPoint presentations, vodcasts and teacher materials in a Moodle SharePoint were uploaded on the Department of Education and Training website for use for all NT schools. These documents will support schools, teachers and system/sector officers in their efforts to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes of all students in the Territory.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Curriculum:
It is anticipated that by October 2011, ACARA will finalise, for Minister’s approval, the achievement standards and adjustments and refinements to curriculum content for the four areas of English, mathematics, science and history for Foundation to Year 10.

Assessment and Reporting:
The MySchool 2.0 website was released on 4 March 2011 and is available at www.myschool.edu.au.

Numerous analyses of the MySchool 2.0 Government schools data, indicate early encouraging signs of improvement, particularly in Reading.

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