

Themes for 2009

2009 has been declared by UNESCO as the international year of:

[Astronomy](#),
[Natural Fibres](#), and
[Reconciliation](#).

This year is also still the international decade of:

- Water for Life
- Education for Sustainable Development
- The World's indigenous people
- Literacy: Education for All
- A Culture of Peace and non-violence for the children of the world
- The eradication of colonialism; and
- The roll back of malaria in developing countries.

This range provides many opportunities to link with all areas of the curriculum.

For more information about UNESCO international years, go to their [website](#).

Visit the [eCentre](#) and Curriculum area [Sharepoints](#) to access or suggest teacher resources in these areas.

The curriculum team is available to work with teachers and school leaders in all learning services in implementing the Tasmanian curriculum.

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For curriculum and professional learning support contact your Manager (Learning)

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Next issue: March 2009

- Curriculum planning 2009: state wide audit results
- *Move Well Eat Well* project 2009
- *Sustainable Schools* update
- *Outdoor Education* guidelines update

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Curriculum Matters

February 2009

From the Manager...

National curriculum feedback

Welcome back to school and to the first edition of *Curriculum Matters* in 2009.

As you may know, the National Curriculum Board released curriculum framing papers for English, mathematics, science and history for public consultation late in 2008.

Learning Services are working with officers from the state wide curriculum team to organise teacher focus groups to provide advice to the Board on these areas of the curriculum.

More information can be obtained from your Learning Manager (see page 4 for contact details).

You can also provide advice directly to the Board through the National Curriculum Board website.

http://www.ncb.org.au/our_work/preparing_for_2009.html

The framing papers are open for consultation until 28 February 2009.

For questions or comments about curriculum implementation, email irene.gray@education.tas.gov.au

For Curriculum Matters on the web visit <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum/resources/updates>

Public information about the curriculum can be accessed at: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum>

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National Curriculum Board

Responses from the Curriculum Implementation Survey circulated late last year will be used to plan support for schools in 2009.

Members of the state wide curriculum team will work with Managers Learning to address your schools need and will be in contact to arrange the assistance you have requested.

Stay tuned for information on Moderation Days to be held throughout the year.

Teaching in the wake of tragic events

Recent events in the Victorian bushfires provide a wealth of opportunities for important student learning across all areas of the curriculum.

However, like any events that deal with tragedy, pain and suffering, issues and ideas need to be handled with sensitivity and clarity – particularly around what understandings you would like the students to gain from their learning.

There is a wealth of good advice available on dealing with sensitive or tragic issues. For example, consider some of the following guidelines adapted from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM):

- Always aim to place what you are teaching in a wider context
- Be particularly sensitive to personal connections to the events and people involved
- Translate statistics into people
- Avoid recourse to simple answers and solutions
- Try to avoid stereotypical descriptions
- Strive for balance in establishing perspective on the events, participants and those reporting on them
- Make careful distinctions about sources of information and their possible reliability and accuracy
- Be sensitive to all forms of content – for example, written and audio visual, and, importantly
- Avoid comparisons of pain and loss.

For a full description of these and other points, visit the USHMM [website](#).

Extensive, specific resources on the Victorian bushfires have been added to the [eCentre](#). For example, a collection of websites about the Victorian bushfires has been added. This list will be updated as new resources come to hand.

A search of the Resource Centre for Bushfires will give you a collection of older materials, including photographs on this topic.

This disaster will also be the theme on the eCentre and Student Freeway in the near future – keep watching for it.

<http://ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/default.aspx>

<http://www.student.education.tas.gov.au/default.aspx>

Finally, a teaching and learning focus on such events also provides an opportunity to focus on positives including disaster prevention, the work of emergency services and relief efforts. This includes developing empathy and understanding, taking positive action to support those in need and where appropriate becoming involved in the many relief and charity efforts that have been mounted in response to the disaster.

Please feel free to share your ideas and responses in an upcoming newsletter by emailing nigel.brown@education.tas.gov.au or contacting the relevant Curriculum Officer (page 4 of this newsletter).

Digital stories to tell...

Have a look at some digital story examples to get an idea of how some Tasmanian teachers have enriched their classrooms with digital story telling.

Included are examples from Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary. Tools such as *PhotoStory 3*, *PowerPoint*, *Kahootz*, *Movie Maker* and *Adobe Flash* have been used.

The students who created the digital stories are from schools in all Learning Services: Bruny Island School, Devonport High School, Rokeby Primary School, Warrane Primary School, Mt Faulkner Primary School, New Town Primary School, Riverside Primary School, Punchbowl Primary School and Trevallyn Primary School.

Examples can be found on the ICT SharePoint:

<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/ccict/default.aspx>

For more information, contact Larissa Brenner, Curriculum Project Officer (ICT) on 0417 017 114 or email larissa.brenner@education.tas.gov.au.

Sharepoints are changing...

You will notice over the next few months that Sharepoints for each of the areas of the Tasmanian curriculum are being modified in response to teacher feedback and requests. Please continue to visit the curriculum area Sharepoints for upcoming events, announcements, resources, email discussions and forums and curriculum ideas.

If you would like to provide general feedback on the eCentre teacher resources, Sharepoints or the curriculum resources on the public Department of Education web, please contact nigel.brown@education.tas.gov.au.

If you would like to become involved in curriculum discussion groups or provide feedback or ideas in specific curriculum areas, please contact the relevant curriculum officer – contact details are on page 4 of this newsletter.

A list of all available Sharepoints can be found at <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/C8/SiteDirectory/Lists/Sites/Summary.aspx>

The Vocational and Applied Learning Sharepoint

<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/VAL/default.aspx>