

## Primary Curriculum Project

The Office of the Board of Studies has been consulting widely with teachers, principals and key groups from the government and non-government school sectors about the use of the Board's K-6 syllabuses and support documents.

Teachers and key education groups were invited to make submissions to a working party of government and non-government school principals and Board officers to identify issues impacting on teachers' use of the primary syllabuses and support documents.

The working party received written submissions from the NSW Teachers Federation, NSW Primary Principals Association, Junior School Heads Association of Australia, NSW Federation of School Community Organisations Inc, Early Childhood Education Council of NSW, Catholic Education Commission, Australian Association of Special Education, Parents and Citizens Association and the Professional Teachers Council NSW.

The working party and the Office have been analysing and synthesising information gathered during this consultation period. The consultation process has now identified seven key issues.

The key issues are:

- the scope of the primary curriculum
- the role of outcomes and indicators
- implementation of syllabuses and use of support documents
- curriculum integration
- assessing and reporting
- students with diverse learning needs
- students entering kindergarten.

At its meeting in August, the Board's Primary Curriculum Committee considered a detailed report containing suggested strategies for addressing the issues.

The Board has now endorsed a process for further consultation with teachers and key groups around the suggested strategies. Consultation meetings will now be conducted around the state in order to assist the Office of the Board in developing a strategic plan for providing future support for primary school teachers.

If you would like further information, please contact:

**Margaret Malone**

**Inspector Primary Curriculum**

**Ph: (02) 9367 8199**

**[malone@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:malone@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)**

## K-6 Linkages

The Board of Studies is currently working with schools in northern New South Wales to develop three multi-stage integrated units of work for use in the K-6 curriculum.

The units of work will be developed for Years K-2, 3-6 and K-6 and will incorporate an Aboriginal perspective.

The draft titles of the units are:

- *Leaving* (K-2)
- *Perseverance* (Years 3-6)
- *Shapes Around Us* (K-6).

*Leaving* is a literacy-based unit. It explores the concept of leaving and the customs and traditions different cultures have when saying goodbye. The unit integrates English, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Human Society and Its Environment, and Mathematics. *Leaving* is written by Katrina Germein and illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft.

The Years 3-6 unit, *Perseverance*, explores the concepts relating to perseverance such as believing

in oneself, personal traits, setting realistic goals, discrimination and social justice. This unit also provides opportunities for students to look at the lives of significant Australians and their achievements.

*Shapes Around Us* is a mathematics unit. It integrates space and geometry, patterns and algebra and working mathematically strands with English and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and encourages the use of a range of information and communication technologies (ICT).

The units will be trialled in schools and work samples will be collected in Term 3. They will be published on the Linkages website in Term 4. The Linkages website can be found at [http://www.bosnsw-k6.nsw.edu.au/linkages/linkages\\_index.html](http://www.bosnsw-k6.nsw.edu.au/linkages/linkages_index.html)

For further information about the Linkages project contact:

**Vilma Fyfe**

**Senior Curriculum  
Officer, Primary**

**Ph: (02) 9367 8341**

**[vfyfe@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:vfyfe@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)**

**Suzanne Ziems**

**Senior Curriculum  
Officer, Linkages**

**Ph: (02) 9367 8274**

**[ziems@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ziems@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)**