

TASK CENTRE PROJECT

CONSULTANTS' NEWSLETTER

NO. 6

JULY 1995

Sorry ... Sorry ... Sorry

I have been wanting to write to you for nearly two months to fill you in on the results of the Task Centre Consultants' Meeting back at the beginning of May. Every thing else just seemed to get in the way; and now, I only have a day until I head for Darwin and parts north for the AAMT biennial conference, so it must be done.



Please note though, if you are going to Darwin, that I have arranged for an informal Task Centre Consultants meeting to be listed on the program. If you're there, we would love to catch up. The meeting will probably be Monday lunchtime.



Since May, some of the ideas explored at the meeting have come to fruition, so perhaps it is better that I now write more about what *is* than what might have been.

It is also probably a good thing that it is holiday time-ish because we would like you to pick up a pen and drop us a line.

The Request

At the meeting, your fellow consultants asked to know more of your experiences with, and thoughts about, the Task Centre Project. They suggested that, since it is difficult to bring everyone together for a meeting, you might jot down thoughts under the following (and additional) headings:

- What is the best part of the TC Project for you?
- What part do you think is most in need of improvement?
- What variations do you make to any part of the introductory workshop presentation? Why do you make them? How do you know they work?

We would also like you to comment on the outgrowths described in this newsletter.

The Task Centre Web

I have enclosed the latest version of this document, which will now be sent out as part of an

information pack following an initial inquiry. It pictures the current outgrowths well and doesn't prevent us (or rather our clients) from discovering more.

The Library Project

What was an idea generated by an effort to meet the needs of the school district of Little Rock, Arkansas, is now a fact. The enclosed one page brochure says it all. Cost has yet to be decided and we are hopeful that this item will appear in the Curriculum Corporation catalogue and be promoted through the wider marketing strategies of the Corporation.

Follow-up Workshops

The May meeting came just after I had delivered a follow-up workshop to a school which had changed co-ordinator and a large number of staff in the two years since the Introductory Workshop. As a result I have drafted a workshop outline for others to use in similar circumstances and included it in this

newsletter in the hope that you may also find time to comment on it.

We hope to develop a stable of these to suit a variety of purposes, so if you have any thoughts along these lines feel free to put them on paper too.

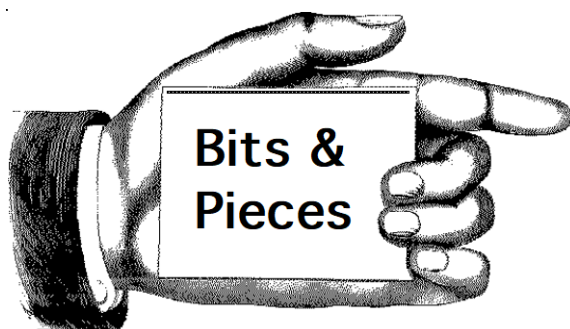
Replacement Units

Work has begun on task based units for particular mathematical topics at a variety of levels. These will contain a collection of tasks (say 10 - 20), teachers' notes, and children's worksheets.

The concept is based on the 'funnel' model described in Sample 2 of the Sample Unit Plans document. The idea is that a faculty would choose to replace a three week topic on, say, algebra, which is already in their program, with our detailed and specific collection of teaching resources.

We see this as an opportunity for a staff to initiate its own development by risking something a little different supported by well planned resources. They are also currently being explored by one particular transition cluster as a way of bridging the transition gap with a consistency of pedagogy and continuity of content.

The units may also prove to be a cheaper way into task centre use for smaller schools which find it difficult to find funding for the full kit.



- The materials and Introductory Workshop have been the focus of another transition project which began last year and is supported by NPDP funding. I will be talking in Darwin about the model this cluster developed. This group, in Lilydale, Victoria, have used the tasks to focus discussion of both pedagogy and content through Years 5 - 8. They have been refunded this year and have begun planning to use their consultant to help plan units of work which integrate the tasks.
- Tim Touzel who was on exchange to Deakin University (Warrnambool) joined us for both the

Task Centre tour and the Consultants' meeting in May. He has since been trained as a consultant and has returned to South Carolina to continue spreading the word in an area where Charles has already made great contacts. Welcome aboard Tim.

Also as we were meeting, Jan Christie, the most recent person to take up the post of Disadvantaged Schools' Consultant in Met Southwest, Sydney, was being trained by Kim Leech. We have a long running connection with this region. A similar connection has been forged with North Coast Region, NSW, through the work of Meg Luckie, and Susan Wynn, the Maths Consultant to that region, is now trained as a TC consultant. Welcome to both of these folk as well.

- We haven't gone too far with the thoughts about an electronic task centre connection through Internet facilities, but if you belong to eWorld, which is the Apple on-line equivalent, you will find the last Clients' Newsletter available for downloading in the Learning Center.

Follow the path Learning Center> eWorld Educator Connection> Educator Resource Corner> Staff Development & Training> Technical Training Centers and Partners.

- *School Contacts*
Please ensure that you do contact the school well before you arrive for a workshop. Apart from communicating about the things you will need to run the day, it is important to determine the background to the school's decision to purchase the Project.

Also make sure that you negotiate *all* the costs of getting yourself to the school if it is beyond a metropolitan area. Airport parking may be something you need to consider for example if you are offered an outback job.

- *Change of Address*
Please let us know ASAP if you change your address. In Australia contact Sue Davis on 03-9808-2610. Overseas, contact your local organiser, but also let me know at Curriculum Corporation so I can direct mail such as this to the correct place.

Keep up the good work,