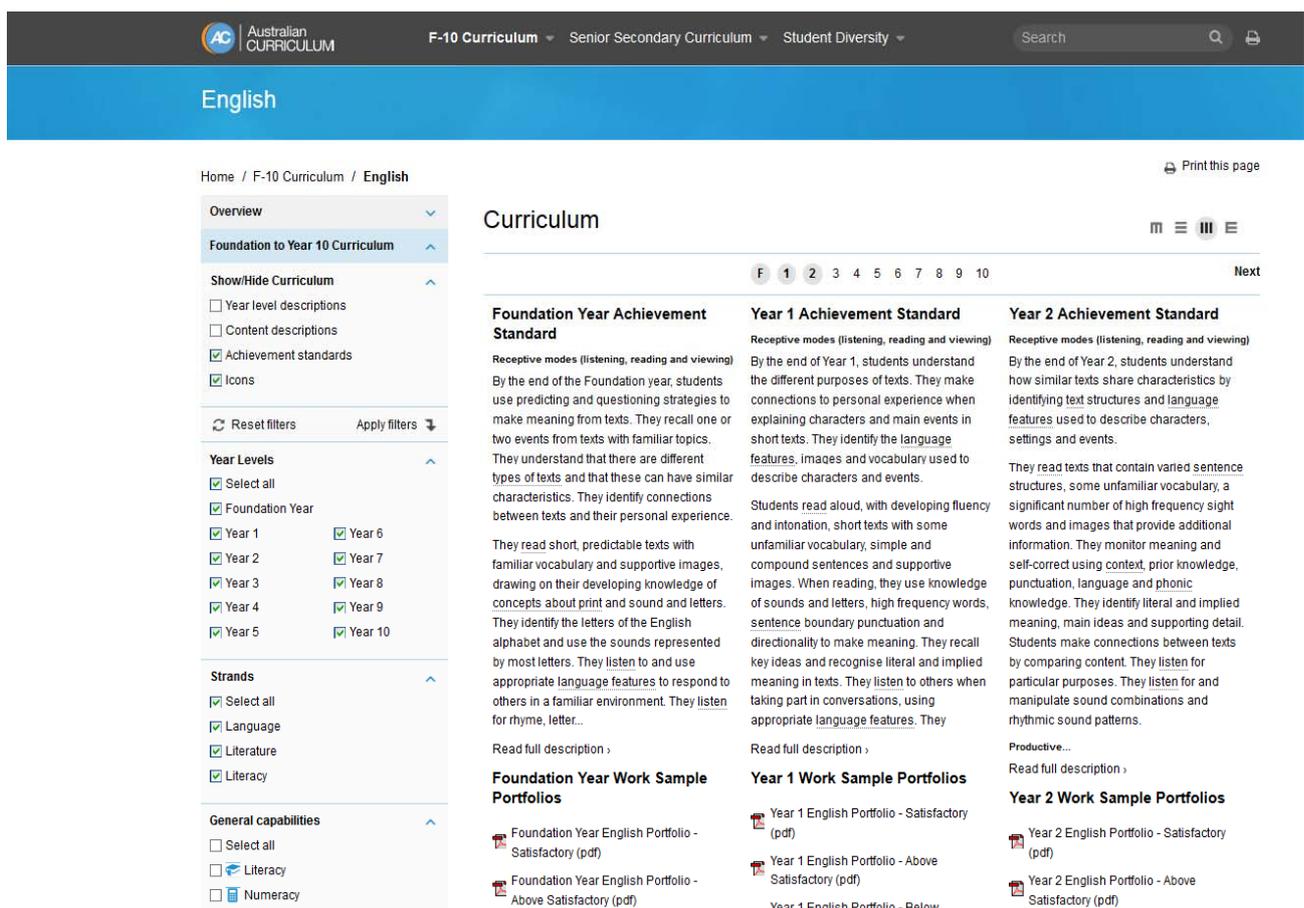# PRIMARY MATTERS

Welcome to the second edition of PRIMARY MATTERS – a quarterly update from the ACARA Primary Curriculum team. We hope this newsletter will explain more about ACARA's efforts to add value to the assistance we provide to primary schools across Australia.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM WEBSITE: What's new?

The trial beta website is available and can be accessed from the home page of the current Australian Curriculum website. Ensure you search from your browser and not a previously tagged favourite in order to access version 6 of the Australian Curriculum. The new site offers more flexibility for primary teachers when planning and programming. Teachers will be able to select different views and filter the content to suit their individual requirements. One example of filtering and viewing would be to display three selected year levels (to assist when programming for multiage classes) as shown below:

Primary Curriculum team members are happy to discuss these projects. Contact them directly by email:

Laraine Lucas, Primary Curriculum Lead: laraine.lucas@acara.edu.au
Jenny Avvenevole, Senior Project Officer, Early Childhood and Primary: jenny.avvenevole@acara.edu.au

PRIMARY MATTERS

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NEW STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

ACARA has updated the work sample portfolios.

Work sample portfolios are a resource to support teachers in planning and implementation of the Australian Curriculum. The set of portfolios assists teachers to make on-balance judgements about the quality of their students' achievement. The work samples have been collected from schools in each state and territory for English, mathematics, science and history. There are 132 portfolios with 1039 pieces of student work. You can find on the Australian Curriculum website below the achievement standards.

This year we are collecting student work samples to compliment the current geography portfolios and to establish portfolios for civics and citizenship, economics and business, the arts, technology, health and physical education. These will be available in early 2015.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF PRACTICE: managing the primary curriculum

We are well under way with our work to provide schools with short vignettes showcasing ways various primary school leaders are approaching the management of the Australian Curriculum. ACARA officers have visited ten schools and whilst we are yet to complete publishing materials around the vignettes they will be available on ACARA YouTube site (www.youtube.com/user/ACARAeduau) as they are released.

When published on the Australian Curriculum website later in the year, the vignettes will offer leadership teams an understanding of how different schools manage implementation of the Australian Curriculum and ideally will assist schools to make decisions at a local level.

MONITORING

In 2014, as a part of agreed monitoring and evaluation processes, ACARA has been gathering information about the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum and identifying ways in which the curriculum may be improved over time. The 'Monitoring and evaluation of the Australian Curriculum' paper describes processes for systematically collecting feedback, analysing data on the effectiveness of the Australian Curriculum and reporting these findings to the ACARA Board in the second half of each year. The ACARA Board will determine if any findings require further evaluation and change. These processes will involve partnerships with state and territory curriculum and school authorities where subject data gathering is required.

Please pass our newsletter on to your primary colleagues. The Primary Curriculum team's contact details are below and we would welcome any feedback or questions about ACARA's work.

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