



National Standards & other things...

We are already halfway through the school year and it's time for a catch up on MUSAC happenings around the North Island. Welcome to those schools that are new to MUSAC or have returned to the MUSAC fold. We look forward to working with you on a regular basis.

You should, by now, all be familiar with the new MUSAC Classic single logon version released at the end of 2008. Feedback has been really positive and we certainly see it as a definite improvement.

FAP (MOE funding to upgrade your SMS to an accredited version) is finally over for us all. For some of you your upgrade is an ancient memory, for others, much more recent. Overall, I believe this exercise has been beneficial for schools. It has given you choice, the opportunity to take advantage of some PD and also to implement some simple assessment capability.

Don't leave it there! It is important that your staff stay up-to-date with everything MUSAC can offer. Edtech can support you with all of the following so don't forget to **budget** for on-going support.

- **Seminars:** choose from many being offered around the North Island in Term 3, including some new options for Secondary schools as well as the Timetable seminars. For details see our website www.edtech.co.nz/musac/seminars
- **Training:** in your school or remotely using special training software (GoToMeeting)
- **MUSAC Best Practice:** see what Iain Taylor has to say in our article over the page
- **Ongoing Classroom Manager development** around assessment and reporting which leads me to National standards.....

While there is still much to be decided around National Standards, I believe that your Edtech consultant will be able to use the MUSAC software to help you set up whatever is required to enable you to meet your obligations (see article).

I recently enjoyed a session with the Senior Management of a school, where we spent an afternoon working through the ways they could use the information from Classroom Manager to help them in their roles as Principal, DP and AP. It was interesting to hear the comment "if only I'd known - I've just spent 4 days doing what you've pulled up in a few minutes". If you would like to talk to me about how we can help your Senior Team to get what they need from MUSAC please call me on 09 913 4351.

Hosting their MUSAC software with Edtech continues to be the choice for an ever-increasing number of schools (now 67, as we go to print). We have found it a great option for urgent changes as it allows us to use any of the available Edtech consultants in the North Island. Schools also enjoy their own remote access, worry-free upgrades and backups. Contact me gaylene.hotchkiss@edtech.co.nz for further information.

And finally, many Waikato, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty schools have enjoyed having Geoff Flett (Edtech Hamilton) in their school. In this issue we tell you more about Geoff.

I am always happy to hear from you so please don't hesitate to email me as above or call me on DDI 09 913 4351 if there is something you would like to discuss.

Gaylene,

Manager Edtech MUSAC Services (North Island)

take a coffee break & have a read...

of our third issue of *intouch*. As always we welcome any feedback or ideas you may have for articles that we could include - email us at intouch@edtech.co.nz

We look forward to hearing from you!

MUSAC Seminars

More choices. More locations

We're offering an expanded range of MUSAC seminars this term. Of interest to many users will be new Classroom Manager courses. Seminars specifically for secondary schools are also on offer, including our popular annual timetabling seminars.

With courses spread across 9 centres throughout the North Island our seminars suit both new and experienced users.

w: www.edtech.co.nz/musac/seminars

e: seminars@edtech.co.nz



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MUSAC Best Practice: more than you realise

To get the most out of MUSAC Software, you need the best advice. And that's what our MUSAC Best Practice (MBP) service is all about. We start by talking to your school's key stakeholders as part of a review of your existing systems, and finish by delivering a report with recommendations for a way forward.

MBP at a glance:

- Conduct a review of the current use of MUSAC software in the school – meeting with the various MUSAC users in the school and discussing their experiences with MUSAC
- Produce a written report giving an Action Plan that will contain advice on the next steps to take to ensure full and beneficial use of MUSAC software with an approximate budget
- Work through the recommendations in the report
- Discuss an implementation plan based around priorities and budget

As a recent user of our MBP service, Iain Taylor (Principal, Manurewa Intermediate School) says

"... we found this Edtech review invaluable... We needed to know that our MUSAC SMS was being used to its full potential and if not why not. We identified areas where extra PD was required, discovered there were parts of MUSAC we didn't know about that would enable us work smarter, became aware of seminars being offered, learnt how to register for Electronic Attendance and realised we weren't even registered on the MUSAC website (which meant we weren't receiving valuable information from MUSAC). We have also started major enhancements to our assessment and reporting. All in all a really worthwhile exercise"



National Standards & MUSAC

Work is progressing on National Standards for literacy & numeracy in primary & intermediate schools.

MUSAC is closely monitoring developments as the Ministry move towards finalising National Standards and how schools will report to parents, families and whānau. Currently many schools use MUSAC to report to parents and the overarching intent of the Government is to leverage existing protocols. We believe that many of

For the latest developments see:
www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/nationalstandards

the requirements can be met with the existing software.

However, once the final National Standards are published in October, MUSAC will be working to ensure that any additional requirements are added in order to be able to satisfy anticipated demand for National Standards functionality.



QUICK TIP

In the latest version of MUSAC there is a new feature called One Screen. All staff should have access to it by default.

Staff should be encouraged to use one screen to find out information about students (address, phone numbers, attendance etc).

All details are read only so there is no risk of any data being changed. Simply click on the one screen icon to start.



To contact Geoff, phone 021-497 144 or email geoff.flett@edtech.co.nz

Meet the team: Geoff Flett

Geoff has been working for Edtech for five years and supports schools in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions in their use of MUSAC Student Management Systems and Library Manager. He has a varied career background that includes Primary teaching as well as a number of years spent working for a multinational oil company.

"We find Geoff great to work with even when we are confused! He has been patient and thorough. I am pleased."

Teresa Brownbridge, Principal
Colville School

Geoff enjoys using his teaching knowledge to assist schools with the development of Classroom Manager solutions that are optimized for each individual school's requirements. In his spare time Geoff enjoys tramping and supporting his two daughters in their sporting and other activities.

For MUSAC training enquiries, please contact us:

Northland	Carolyn Dunn	021-904 504
Auckland	Gaylene Hotchkiss	021-733 478
Waikato / Bay of Plenty	Geoff Flett	021-497 144
Hawkes Bay / Gisborne	Jason Stevenson	021-732 571
Taranaki / Manawatu-Wang	Eion Walker	021-734 934
Wellington	Mike Maguire	021-443 447

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