EDUCATION

NEW ZEALAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Integrated Learning and Collaborative Teaching in the 21st Century 15-16 April 2019, Wellington

The inaugural New Zealand Primary School Teacher's Conference (NZPSTC) will be held in Wellington from 15-16 April 2019. Collaboration is at the forefront with 10 subject associations and DANZ coming together to produce the event, which carries the theme 'Integrated Learning and Collaborative Teaching in the 21st Century.'

As the national support organisation for dance in Aotearoa, DANZ sees this as a great opportunity to work collaboratively with Physical Education New Zealand (PENZ) alongside other Subject Associations to provide a platform for the professional development of Primary and Intermediate teachers.

"We are looking forward to bringing Primary and Intermediate teachers, and the wider community together to network, share good practice and engage in collaborative learning; to be inspired and to have fun!", says Janna McLean, NZPSTC Event Manager.

"THE CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE AN ARRAY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE TEACHERS. WITH 11 DIFFERENT SUBJECT ASSOCIATIONS AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS CONTRIBUTING THEIR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERTISE, IT IS SET TO BE AN AMAZING EVENT".

The two-day conference programme will include addresses by high profile keynote speakers, including Hon Chris Hipkins (Minister of Education), Dr Ann Milne (an expert in the field of cultural responsiveness) and Whetu Cormick (National President of the New Zealand Principals' Federation), and programmed collaborative sessions. An integral part of the programme will be up to 65 professional development workshops led by some of New Zealand's most inspiring, forward-thinking presenters. Dance Educator Vivien Smith says, "I am eager to share my knowledge and encourage others to value the Arts, and be reinvigorated and aware of what it can offer society".

DANZ has long advocated for kinesthetic learning and will be delivering a programme of workshops and panel discussions with the support of Sport NZ. Responsible for governing sport and recreation in New Zealand, Sport NZ wish to create quality experiences that grow individuals' physical literacy and encourage ongoing participation in active recreation. They have leapt in with their support of this programme, which they see as an exciting way to get young people physical through dance. A range of workshops/discussions focused on the benefits of dance and movement, and how it can be included in the curriculum and used by teachers to support their teaching, is proposed.

Research undertaken by Rakesh Pandey of Dunedin based Big Picture Learning in 2008, showed how the use of kinesthetic learning could increase the achievement of students at school. While the research reinforced the importance of dance and movement to the well-being and development of Māori and Pacific Island peoples, kinesthetic learners can be found in every population. Dance is a strong component of kinesthetic learning styles and can be used as a tool in the areas of numeracy and literacy. Given the popularity of dance with children, there is enormous potential in incorporating kinesthetic learning in schools to improve outcomes for all students.

Sheryl Lowe, DANZ Executive Director says, "We are excited about the opportunities provided by this conference to support teachers and hope the programme of workshops and discussion will lead to a shift towards using kinesthetic learning in schools and the wider community".

Primary and Intermediate teachers play an important role in the future of our tamariki. At a time of some unrest in the Education sector, and struggles for the inclusion of dance in the curriculum, this conference is a great example of a collaborative model to bring benefits to the community. The conference aims - to value the contribution of teachers, to empower and inspire them in all areas of the curriculum, and to present them with new and innovative ways of teaching - are a progressive way forward for dance and the contribution it can make to the well-being and health of our nation. ■

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi With your basket and my basket the people will live



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SAVE THE DATE

15th – 16th April 2019

Venue: Wellington College

Theme: Integrated learning and collaborative teaching in the 21st century

- Approximately 65 professional development workshops over two days
- Networking, sharing good practice, collaborative learning, being inspired and having fun!
- Outstanding, innovative presenters
- Motivational keynote speakers include: Hon Chris Hipkins, Dr Ann Milne and Whetu Cormick (National President NZPF)

PRICE (GST inclusive)

(Includes two days of conference & progressive dinner)

Early bird registration	\$380
Ends 15 th Feb 2019	
Standard registration	\$450
Ends 1 st Mar 2019	
Late registration	\$590
Ends 15 th Mar 2019	

www.nzptc.com admin@penz.org.nz

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