**E-newsletter #3 February 2014**

**Science ASSIST logo**

Science ASSIST has a new, smart looking logo that more closely reflects the nature of the online advisory service and website. We will use this on all aspects of the project including promotional material. Keep a look out for it!

**Expert groups’ activity**

OSTEG – Online Science Teacher Expert Group

The members of OSTEG have spent the last few months identifying and collating information on one hundred of the best Australian science education resources. These can support teachers of F-12 implement the Australian Curriculum: Science into their classrooms and will be accessed from the Science ASSIST website from the soft launch.

OLTAG – Online Laboratory Technicians Advisory Group

The members of OLTAG have identified a number of key areas of concern for school lab techs so have been working together to develop resources, including:

* a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) template and number of SOPs for chemistry, biology and physics activities
* a Risk Assessment (RA) template and a number of RA models for the SOPs
* a schools’ guide to labelling chemicals
* the compilation of a legislation list.

**Primary teachers survey**

The Science ASSIST survey of teachers and lab technicians conducted in September last year identified a significant gap in information relating to primary teachers teaching science. ASTA, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Australian Primary Principals Association, has commissioned a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative survey of primary teachers on their capacity and confidence in teaching primary science and the resources and support they require to implement the Australian Curriculum: Science in their classrooms.

The survey will include a series of focus groups, in-depth interviews with remote teachers and an online survey. Please keep an eye out for the request to complete the online survey and pass it on to all your primary teacher colleagues and networks.

ASTA thanks APPA and the local state and territory Science Teachers Associations for their assistance in preparing for this national survey.

**Science ASSIST website development**

The ASSIST website is in the final stages of testing. Our web developers have designed a site, which is both attractive and functional to present the range of questions, answers and resources to our user community. Resources, questions and answers contributed by OLTAG and OSTEG members will feature on the front page, and registered users on the site will also have the opportunity to ask questions, contribute comments and answers, and to rate resources. The URL of the site will be [assist.asta.edu.au](http://assist.asta.edu.au/), so watch for the announcement in a few weeks time when the site goes live at this address.

OSTEG and OLTAG are attending a website training workshop 15 March 2014.