

LIGHTING new FIRES



Kia Ka Ngā Ahi Hou

Newsletter for Integrated Schools

Editorial

PAT LYNCH

The French philosopher Teilhard de Chardin once asserted that 'we are spiritual beings on a human journey'. Our post-modern lives, which are often quite frenetic, don't always enable us to focus on the spiritual dimension of our existence.

It is very easy to become reliant on excitement and adrenalin rushes to keep us going, when we would be better served if we nurtured our spirituality, so we were able to operate in a more fully human way.

The motivations that were appropriate in previous generations are not as applicable today as they used to be. Today's requirements to be an effective human being are more to do with developing a skill base which is multi-disciplined, empathetic and innovative. Collaborative behaviour, focused on alliance building, is more likely to develop greater life satisfaction and happiness. Big picture thinking and boundary crossing are all part of the parameter settings which deliver more effective and productive human behaviour.

Individuals in their own inimitable way will find paths to develop their spirituality, since there is no one way in which this can be done.

However, as people involved with the education process, we are challenged to link these two dimensions of who we are, as cited by Teilhard de Chardin. In our integrated schools, whatever their special character, these dimensions of the education we offer are fundamental to who we are. May we be courageous and resilient in meeting challenges, since if we lose this foundation we forfeit our reason for existence.

Featured in this issue:

- 1 Christchurch Earthquake Support
- 2 Religious Studies Achievement Standards and Course Endorsement
- 3 Education Review Office Latest Publications

Greetings

Tena koutou. Ngā mihi o te wa ki a koutou.

We wish you well as the new term gathers pace and end of year preparations occur.

Christchurch Earthquake Support

On behalf of all integrated schools we extend our support for those affected by the earthquake in Christchurch. Overall, integrated schools escaped major damage, with the exception of St Paul's School, Dallington. We have been in contact with schools to offer support, and have been particularly attuned to the situation at St Paul's School. St Paul's reopened at the start of term 4 in buildings made available on the site of Catholic Cathedral College, as the Dallington site is completely unusable, owing to liquefaction. We are grateful for the very effective work of the Ministry of Education, whose staff have been superbly committed to the work of supporting schools and students. Congratulations on a job well done are offered to all Proprietors in the region, and especially Mike Nolan at the Catholic Education Office for his magnificent response to the disaster.

Religious Studies Achievement Standards and Course Endorsement

A recent letter from Bali Haque of NZQA has confirmed that students enrolled in courses assessed against Religious Studies Achievement Standards are eligible for course endorsement. Religious Studies is one of three subjects exempt from the requirement for students to achieve three credits at merit or excellence from externally assessed standards to be eligible for course endorsement. With two years of experience of the Religious Studies Achievement Standards nearly completed, the current standards will be up for review from 31 December 2010. Consultation with the sector will occur, to enable the Standards to be finetuned if necessary.

Initial Teacher Education Requirements Released

The New Zealand Teachers Council has released new approval, review and monitoring processes and requirements for ITE programmes that lead to teacher registration. These will apply to all ITE providers in NZ. Details are available at www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz.

"The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear."

Aung San Suu Kyi

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Congratulations to:**Otago, Southland Regions:**

St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin: Kristin MacDonald won 1st place in the Lion Foundation Song Writing Competition for her song 'Here is My Witness'.

John McGlashan College, Dunedin: Nat Christensen and Andy Dysart were members of the four student team that represented NZ at the 8th International Geography Olympiad in Taipei. The team won 2 silver medals and a bronze, and placed 7th out of 28 teams from around the world.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

Villa Maria College, Christchurch: Isabella Welsh won 1st prize in the NZ Association of Gifted Children's Awareness Week Competition with a poem.

Kapiti Coast, Horowhenua, Wairarapa, Wellington, Nelson, Buller and Marlborough Regions:

St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie: Dana Nelly was a member of "Team Pink" who won the New Zealand Business Week competition to encourage young entrepreneurs.

Bishop Viard College, Porirua: The Prime Minister launched the new Pasifika Scholarships at the college on 31 August. Matthew Brooker, Georgia Hulme-Moir, Jahnaya Akavi, Josh Velarde and Sean Woodnutt were selected to represent New Zealand at the 2010 International Kids Teaching Coastal Conference to be held in Queensland.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: 15 students received Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Hutt International Boys' School, Silverstream: Jamahl Stringer and Kees Rozenberg designed the first two flags for the Upper Hutt City Centre. Forty flags of each design will fly in central streets.

St Joseph's School, Upper Hutt: The school's approach to National Standards was the subject of an article in the Education Gazette of 20 September 2010.

St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie: The Barbershop Chorus "The Saints" won the male section of the National Young Singers in Harmony competition.

St Francis Xavier School, Tawa: The Young Vinnies group received an Arts Access Aotearoa Big A Award for its work creating oral histories with residents at Longview Retirement Village in Tawa.

Holy Family School, Porirua: The school featured in an article in the Dominion Post with Eric Vandermade performing a liturgical dance at a school Mass.

Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Rangitikei and Hawkes Bay Regions:

St Peter's College, Palmerston North: 14 students received Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Hato Paora College, Feilding: Deputy Head Boy Justin Manuel, who tutors and conducts the college choir,

received the Manawatu Savage Club's Music Achievement Award and the Colin Thomson Memorial Cup. He has just been on a three-week exchange at the Liceo Giotto Ulivi in Florence, Italy where he has tutored classes in waiata, haka and moteatea. Anthony Wanakore was selected as a NZ UNICEF Youth Ambassador.

Nga Tawa Diocesan School: The Chapel Choir won Best Performance of a New Zealand Work at the New Zealand Choral festival.

Lindisfarne College, Hastings: At the New Zealand Band Festival the Bay Cities Band won a gold award and Marcus Jackson won gold for his flute solo.

Thames Valley, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti Regions:

Aquinas College, Tauranga: Choir Angels Awaken received a Guest Choir Award in the Big Sing finale.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Carmel College, Milford: Katelyn Nelson had two of her paintings selected for publication in the NZ Herald College pages. She also won the High Fashion section of the Young Designer Fashion Show, held as part of NZ Fashion Week.

St Mary's School, Northcote: Joachim Tam, Tadiwanashe Mangeya, Monique Oyagawa and Amanda D'Souza were the national overall winners of the Newspaper Competition to design a front page.

St Joseph's School, Onehunga: The school's Board of Trustees election candidates featured in the Education Gazette of 6 September. Six out of eight candidates were from a Pacific background. Elected member Esther Sinapati featured in an associated article.

St Mary's School, Avondale: The school has achieved wonderful academic results with PAT tests showing 89% of year 8 children, 93% of Year 6 and 94% of Year 4 reading at or above the national average. Similar results occur in Maths.

Marist Learning Centre, Glenfield: The centre's nine alternative education students baked, decorated and sold 120 cupcakes for the SPCA Cupcake Day, raising over \$200.

Sancta Maria Primary School, Botany: Kiara West has had her poem selected for the NZ Post Book of children's writing.

Seventh Day Adventist High School, Manukau City: The school's YES team won best customer service in the Auckland Trade Fair.

St Peter's College, Northcote: The college has recently opened a magnificent new gymnasium.

Rosmini College, Takapuna: Joseph Bergin, Year 13 student and deputy head boy, has been elected to the Devonport-Takapuna Board of the Auckland Super City.

Ten Year Rolling Property Plans

Proprietors and Boards of Trustees are reminded of their responsibilities for buildings. Many NZ school buildings were constructed between 1950 and 1980, and need to be progressively modernised. It is wise to put in place for each school a Building

Condition Assessment and a Modern Learning Environment assessment. Proprietors will need to put in place plans for necessary upgrading. It is important that the Proprietor works closely with the Board of Trustees in this area. A letter on the topic was sent out from NZCEO in mid August.

Congratulations

Peter Simpson, the newly elected President of the New Zealand Principals' Federation, is congratulated on taking on this role.

Kane Raukura, HOD Science, De La Salle College, Mangere, has been awarded a NEiTA Foundation National Award for Excellence in Teaching. He will use his \$5000 professional development grant to develop a Science website for teachers and students, focusing on Level One Achievement Standards.

Education Review Office Latest Publications

The Education Review Office has just released:

- 'Promoting Success for Māori Students: Schools' Progress'. Based on reviews carried out in terms 2 and 3 2009, in 60 secondary schools and 227 primary schools, the document shows that in approximately a third of schools Māori student achievement has remained high or substantially improved; in 32% of primary schools and 45% of secondary schools there is evidence of some improvement in Māori student achievement; and in approximately a third of primary schools and almost a quarter of secondary schools there is no improvement. The conclusion of the report provides useful pointers on what schools need to do, and sits well beside Ka Hikitia - Managing for Success: The Māori Education Strategy 2008 - 2012. The report can be downloaded from www.ero.govt.nz, or hard copies requested from ERO.
- 'Promoting Pacific Student Achievement'. This document follows on from the pilot evaluation document earlier in the year. It provides vital pointers, and sits beside the Pasifika Education Plan 2009-2012 as crucial information.

Other ERO reports recently released are:

'Child Youth and Family Residential Schools'

'Good Practice in Alternative Education'

'Including Students with High Needs'

'Preparing to Give Effect to the New Zealand Curriculum'

Including Students with High Needs

The recent ERO report on this topic includes case studies, self-review questions and inclusive teaching indicators. It states that the most inclusive schools operate under three key strategies:

- Having ethical standards and leadership that build the culture of an inclusive school;

"It is not hard to make a decision when you know what your values are."

Roy Disney

- Having well-organised systems, effective teamwork and constructive relationships that identify and support the inclusion of students with high needs;
- Using innovative and flexible practices that manage the complex and unique challenges related to including students with high needs.

Interesting Reading

- 'Dancing on a Shifting Carpet: Reinventing Traditional Schooling for the 21st century', Patrick Duignan, Leoni Degenhardt, ACER Press, 2010. A\$39.95. Order online at <http://shop.acer.edu.au>. Emeritus Professor Patrick Duignan needs no introduction. This book offers new paradigms of schooling and offers practical advice on how to bring about breakthrough change within schools.
- 'Growing Strong: real life values for young people 8-12 years' is a new book by Joy Cowley. It matches the values in the National Curriculum so it would make a good class set, or an addition to the school library. Contact the publisher Pleroma Press, email management@pleroma.org.nz, or: www.christiansupplies.co.nz.



Did You Know?

To find the best deal in the country for any electronic product (including cameras, games, phones, computers etc) go to: www.pricespy.co.nz.

School Insurance Coverage

In the time since the Orewa College boiler explosion, Boards of Trustees and principals are likely to have been checking their boilers and also the coverage provided by their insurers. FMR Risk, the insurance broker to the majority of Catholic schools, has indicated that under Statutory Liability policy reparation costs and legal costs to defend the action would be paid under Vero Liability's Schools Liability policies. Other legal costs would not necessarily be covered, and a fine under OSH regulations would not be covered, with the Board required to make such payments out of school funds. A key point to note in the Summary of Facts issued by the Department of Labour is that

the school needs to ensure that all preventative maintenance tasks are carried out as in the relevant manuals, or according to the relevant standards or best practice. Boards would do well to refresh their understanding of their obligations under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Orewa College was found to be in breach of Sections 6 and 16 of this Act.

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute Courses and Professional Development

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute offers an online Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Christian Education. Individual papers can be taken by staff groups as professional development. There is also a six paper programme which upgrades a DipTch to a degree. The Institute also provides curriculum expertise in a wide range of subjects and initiatives, principal appraisal and mentoring. Contact info@bti.ac.nz for more information or visit www.bethlehem.ac.nz.

Investors in People Framework Is of Value to Schools

A number of New Zealand schools, including St John's School, Mairangi Bay, have found it useful to achieve accreditation with Investors in People. This business improvement tool focuses on people strategies, and is very relevant to schools. Originally developed in the UK and administered by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, the company has been in New Zealand since 1999. It focuses on assessment (using the Investors in People Standard) and organisational development (applying the Investors in People principles).

Births on the Rise Again

With the exception of 2009, birth rises have continued in NZ since 2003. In the June 2010 year the Auckland region had 80% of the birth growth, and Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Otago, West Coast and Gisborne had slight drops. Just over a quarter of a million babies were born between 2007 and 2010. These babies are starting to come into schools now.

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The Diocesan Car Fund Trust

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"Principal Sponsor of the
2009 Catholic Education Convention."



"If I go in the library and do my homework, then it won't really be homework, will it?"

Good Ideas

Every teacher could be asked to present a one page "effective strategy that works" to share with the whole staff.

Pompallier Catholic School, Kaitaia has set up a mentoring programme, Pompallier Disciples, run by Year 7 and 8 students. It uses a restorative practice model with a focus on forgiveness. Seniors are on a roster to help with conflict and issues during morning tea and lunch breaks.

A New Website

www.ezireo.co.nz is worth investigating for online lesson practice in te reo Māori, and associated cultural and other information. The material is set up to be useful in workplaces or at home.

Did You Know?

One in four workers in NZ is a migrant. Over the past five years 60% of NZ's workforce growth came from temporary and permanent migrants. NZ faces ongoing skill shortages that will have to be filled from overseas.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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