



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

“Engage me or enrage me” is a clever statement that is based on a significant platform of truth, particularly when it is applied to a school setting.

Adults know from their life experiences that boredom and monotony easily creep into human consciousness when there is a degree of being trapped in a situation or when moral forces uneasily impact on an individual. Young people are no different in the way they react to such situations.

The challenge for every teacher and school administrator is to develop a culture in a school that engages each student – no easy task, but certainly not an impossible one. Too many young people experience alienation and a feeling of disengagement from society owing to the range of personal, family and societal issues they face.

Relationship management is a challenge at the best of times, particularly with young people. Adults need to reach out to them and seek their ideas and views about how improvement can occur in their interaction with their family, their school and the other institutions in their lives. Young people feel more valued when their experience, knowledge and views are acknowledged and understood. The focus group mechanism, professionally led, is one of a range of tools to achieve this.

Young people whose experiences outside of school are very diverse, especially in the digital world, are attracted by a school culture which acknowledges and celebrates their knowledge and skills. As one youngster put it, “It would be great if I didn’t have to power down when I go to some classes.”

Given the information bombardment we are all subjected to, maybe many adults could listen more to what young people are really thinking and saying and in the process better engage them in their education enterprise.

Featured in this issue:

- 1 Requests for a Temporary Maximum Roll Increase for Senior Students
- 2 Recent Publicity about Locally Raised Funds
- 3 Board of Trustees Triennial Elections 7 May 2010

Greetings

We trust that the last term of the school year treats you well, given the inevitable challenges it brings.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Requests for a Temporary Maximum Roll Increase for Senior Students

The form for this request (relating to unexpected numbers of students returning in the senior years of secondary schooling) is now available on the Ministry of Education website and on the NZCEO website. Proprietors may apply for a 5% tolerance increase on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Broadband for Schools

The Minister of Education has announced that integrated schools will be eligible for 68% of the capital upgrade costs for ICT networks, including the fibre link from the school to the school’s front gate. (The 85% Policy Two formula for capital works in integrated schools is the basis of the 68% total cost contribution from the Government.) The main roll out of this money will not occur until 2010.

July Statistics

The number of students in integrated schools on 1 July 2009 was 85,433. This figure was made up of 65,472 students (77%) in Catholic schools and 19,962 students (23%) in other integrated schools.

Notional Lease Costs

The Office will shortly circulate to Proprietors advice on the calculation and reporting of notional lease costs for schools. The advice remains the same as that issued in November 2008. Proprietors will need to calculate the notional lease value for their school(s) and supply information to each Board of Trustees by 31 January 2010, for inclusion in schools’ financial statements.

Delays in Police Vetting for Teacher Registration Applications

The Teachers Council has advised that teachers renewing or applying for a practising certificate need to apply with plenty of time to spare, as currently the police unit is taking over 30 working days to complete police vets. Applications for renewal can be made up to six months in advance.

“Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA



Congratulations to:

Otago, Southland Regions:

St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin: The choir, Sing Hilda, won bronze in the Big Sing National Finals.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch: Tana Luke gained a 4th placing in the Manu Kōrero National Finals. Danny Gundry was selected to receive a Project K 2009 Excellence Award from the Governor General. The school's 2009 YES team, Decibel Control Systems, won 4 awards and a scholarship in the Canterbury Regional YES awards, and was selected as a New Zealand National Excellence Winner.

St Bede's College, Christchurch: Supported by other Marist Colleges, the school set a goal to raise \$100,000 for CanTeen. 'Run for a Life', involving over 200 students and staff running in teams covering much of the South Island, was central to this campaign.

Villa Maria College, Christchurch: Samantha Downes was a member of the team that gained 1st place in the Secondary Dance school team category in the National Hip Hop Championships.

St Joseph's School, Papanui: Catherine Kwak has been accepted to study at the School of Music at the University of Canterbury in 2010. She will attend lectures and receive tutoring in cello while also attending St Joseph's.

Marian College, Christchurch: Dynika Rayner won 4 gold medals at the World Dance Championships. Stacey Kenyon gained a 3rd and 2 1sts and Tayla Kenyon gained a 1st in her age group (for the 9th year in a row) and another 1st.

Christ the King School, Burnside: Vienna de Wit came 4th in the National Irish Dancing Championships. Her team took a 4th and a 2nd placing. She will represent NZ at the World Championships in 2010.

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

St Benedict's School, Khandallah: Lachlan Cassidy-Rowse won the NZ Irish Dancing Championships in the 11-13 years age group. He will represent NZ at the World Championships in 2010.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: HRH Prince Edward is to visit the school to present Gold Awards to students. Nika Thomson represented NZ at the International Youth Science Forum in London.

St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt: The school featured in an article in the Dominion Post, on the school's support for a student with disabilities. Sepelini Mua'au also featured in the Dominion Post for his selection into the NZ student team to go to the Globe Theatre next year.

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

Lindisfarne College: At the NZ Concert Bands' National

Festival the Concord Junior Band and the Symphonic Band both gained silver. Brooks Kershaw gained silver for his clarinet items and Marcus Jackson gained gold for his flute solo. Neil Marriott was a member of the Pipe Band from NZ that gained 10th world placing at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.

St Peter's College, Palmerston North: Kealagh Robinson and Michelle Keen have been selected to represent NZ at the 2010 Rotary International Youth Science and Technology Forum.

Hato Pāora College, Feilding: At the National Manu Kōrero Contest Yohan Huria won 1st place in the Senior English Impromptu and 2nd place overall in the Korimako Competition, and the overall performances of Yohan and Te Utanga ki Whangaparāoa Tautahi won Hato Pāora the 'E Tipu e Rea' Sir Apirana Ngata Memorial Trophy.

St Anne's School, Wanganui: Rose and Joe Wainhouse and Jacob Mancer all played in the Brass Wanganui Auxiliary Band which won the adult section, the B Grade Section and the Auxiliary section in the Central Districts Brass Band Competitions.

St John Bosco School, New Plymouth: Students featured in the Taranaki Daily News, planting native trees in a wetland area that has become the centre of the school's science curriculum.

Cullinane College, Wanganui: Edward Richardson won 2nd prize in the NZ Visual Arts Schools Photographic Competition. Matthew O'Sullivan and Joshua Firmin were selected for the Waikato University/Hill Laboratories Summer Science School and the Auckland University/Rotary Club Summer Science Forum respectively.

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

Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton: Rebekka Marsh, Emily Howard, Kasey Morton-Adair, Eilish Baine and Lauren Morgan won 1st equal in the Senior Dance section of the National Robocup Competition. Grace Archer won gold at the NZ Concert Bands National Festival. Karina Halberg will represent NZ for St John at the International Youth Festival in Christchurch in January 2010.

St John's College and Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton: The schools' combined concert band won gold at the NZ Concert Bands Festival.

St John's College, Hamilton: Joshua Scarsbrook was selected for the Royal Society of NZ's Realise the Dream programme.

Bethlehem College, Tauranga: The Cultural Funk group won the National Search 4Stars Competition.

Aquinas College, Tauranga: The concert band gained silver at the NZ Concert Bands Festival.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Marist School, Herne Bay: Mele Fehoko and Zachary O'Meagher were selected to sing as soloists at the World Vision Kids 4 Kids Concert.

Carmel College, North Shore: Natalie Turnbull gained Honours in the Photographic Society of New Zealand Ilford Shield Photographic Competition 2009.

Mt Carmel School Meadowbank: Hunter Williams won 1st place for his 'Shoes with Springs' invention in the National Technology Competition.

St Ignatius School, St Heliers: Ryan Taylor was a national award winner for his helicopter design in the Milk Bottle Challenge.

Baradene College, Remuera: The college has produced a superb curriculum booklet which, as well as the usual information, provides the prerequisites and rank scores required for entry to a wide range of university courses, and website references for further information.

St Mary's College, Auckland: The concert band gained bronze at the NZ Concert Bands National Festival.

St Peter's College, Epsom: The senior concert band won gold at the NZ Concert Bands Festival. Paul Harris was awarded an A+ pass in a 100 level Mathematics paper at the University of Auckland.

Holy Cross School, Henderson: Teacher Jenny Booth featured in the 12 October 2009 Education Gazette in an article on the teaching of Modern Standard Chinese.

Sancta Maria College, Flat Bush: Suvishka Singh won a digital camera for a submission to the College Herald. Shana Llorando won 1st place in the Songwriter of the Year Schools' Competition.

St Anne's School, Manurewa: Liam Mooney gained U9 Boys Champion in the NZ Irish Dancing Competitions.

Publicity about Locally Raised Funds

Recent media articles listed schools with a high amount of locally raised funds. The Ministry of Education has noted that the figures related to the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards and included donations; fundraising; activities; house rents; international student fees; property revenue and income; other local funds; trading sales; local transport etc. They were reported on a gross basis with no deductions for expenses incurred in the raising of the funds.

New Privacy Document Launched

The Privacy Commissioner recently launched 'Privacy in Schools – A guide to the Privacy Act for principals, teachers and boards of trustees'. The document will repay careful study. It is available from www.privacy.org.nz.

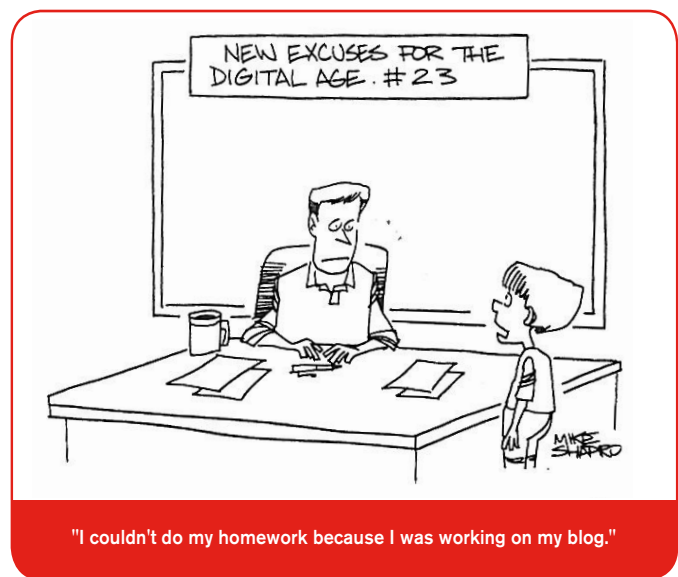
Privacy of Personal Information and School Websites

Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton, has come up with an interesting solution to the issue of privacy for individual students in relation to the school website. It has a public

access website for potential parents and students, and a separate secure log-on site for those who are current students and parents, on which information about individual students' achievements, their photos and so on can be placed.

Board of Trustees Triennial Elections 7 May 2010

NZSTA has proposed 7 May 2010 as the common election date for the triennial elections. Boards may wish to begin considering suitable people to approach to stand for the elections now. The revised 'Returning Officer's Handbook' and separate memos about the election process will soon be sent to Boards. Returning Officers may wish to note that their work is likely to commence in Term 1.



ASG Booklet 'From Holiday to School Days'

Advice for parents on preparing early for the 2010 school year is available in a very reader-friendly publication downloadable at www.asg.co.nz. The advice is particularly relevant for parents whose children are facing transition points into schooling, but all parents could enjoy the useful hints before Term 4 ends. The booklet covers organisational practicalities, budgeting and ways to encourage a positive attitude to school.

WYNN Scholarship Programme 2010

Students with learning disabilities, including dyslexia or vision difficulties, can apply for the WYNN (What You Need Now) scholarship before 29 January 2010. The prize is WYNN software which provides enhanced access to printed and electronic text. Visit www.quantumtechnology.com.au for details and an application form.

Did You Know?

Between 2003 and 2006 the Māori contribution to New Zealand's GDP rose from 1.96% to 5.36%. According to the Auckland Futures Report, launched in September by Te Puni Kōkiri, Māori are positioning themselves as a major contributor in the Auckland economy, and thus to the New Zealand economy.

"One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested."

E.M. FORSTER

Charities Commission Annual Returns Reveal Patterns in the Charitable Sector

As at 21 August 2009 23,159 charities were registered with the Charities Commission and 6,244 had filed annual returns for the 2008 financial year. Those returns revealed: \$648m was received in donations (projected for the sector \$2.4 billion), and 446,000 volunteer hours were worked, on average, each week (projected for the sector 1.7 million hours per week). See www.charities.govt.nz for details.

The Congratulations Section of This Publication

The Office is asked from time to time how we receive information for publication in the Congratulations section of *Lighting New Fires*, and the accompanying Sporting and Academic Achievement inserts. We mainly discover information from reading the school newsletters that the majority of schools send us. Schools can also choose to email us with particular news. Our criteria are: the achievement is usually of a national level of significance, or it is of particular interest as something rather different, including examples of best practice. You are welcome to contact us for further guidance.

ERO Curriculum Report

The Education Review Office has recently published its second report on 'Readiness to Implement the New Zealand Curriculum'. See www.ero.govt.nz. In the first half of 2009 ERO found most schools were progressing well in their preparations for implementation.

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SPOTLESS



"If you ask me, Miss Twilby, schools are not exactly hotbeds for free speech."

Children and the Internet

A 2007 national survey by the University of Auckland revealed that more than half of kiwi teens spend two hours or more a day on the internet and texting their friends, and almost 20% of young people have been sent a nasty or threatening message by mobile or the internet.

A 2009 Telecom survey found that 12% of people have pretended to be someone else online, and at a maximum 25% of parents with children under 18 control/monitor their children's internet activity.

ERO's Differentiated Review Cycle for Schools

After a school's review the Education Review Office now decides whether it will return in 12 months, 24 months, 3 years or 4-5 years. It is expected that for most schools the timing is likely to be 3 years. Schools with a stable reporting history (say over the last two reviews) that have demonstrated competence in using self-review information to improve student teaching and learning and to make informed governance and management decisions, may be reviewed in 4-5 years.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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