



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

HOW BIG IS MY WORLD?

From time to time we all get frustrated by somebody's rather narrow view of the world on a particular issue. Talk back radio and the internet can provide many strident comments.

Despite the knowledge and skills we each have, there is always the danger that what we believe to be the case about something is far from the real truth of the situation. It is easy to run the danger of being as limited in our knowledge on a particular subject as a frog in a well.

The only way individuals can become broadly knowledgeable about as many topics as possible is to become avid seekers after knowledge and truth. The technological revolution, far from exacerbating the haves/have nots divide, is now, via the medium of ordinary mobile phones, fostering equality of opportunity. A 2010 United Nations study found that mobile phones are one of the most effective advancements history has ever known to lift people out of poverty. The African continent currently boasts 50% of its population using a mobile phone.

The question educators face, at whatever level in the system, is how do we entice students to become hungry for knowledge over a broad spectrum of knowledge areas? Smart phones and various tablets that can access the internet are excellent vehicles for accelerating the knowledge revolution amongst the young. Apps can reveal really exciting information which can stun the originator of a question like 'what are the most mind blowing statistics you can find about the universe?' Young men and boys would become more engaged with their education by finding answers to such tantalising questions, which in a competitive setting, get the blood running!!

Narrowness of thought is a great blight in any human being. We owe it to our young people to excite them about the profound information the world contains. All they need is some guidance and direction to spark their enquiry and enthusiasm for knowledge.

Featured in this issue:

- 1 Additions to National Administration Guidelines
- 2 Education Amendment Bill 2012
- 3 Latest Reports from the Education Review Office

Greetings

Tēna koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.

Spring and early summer are times for optimism and joy – we hope both of these are part of your current experience.

Additions to National Administration Guidelines (NAGs)

The Ministry of Education has recently published updated NAGS on its website. Gifted and talented students are now included in NAG 1(c). In NAG 2A(b) school level data on National Standards presented in the Board's annual report must be provided to the Secretary of Education at the same time as the annual updated school charter under NAG 7, and in NAG 8 schools with students in years 1-8 must also provide an analysis of variance. NAG 7 and NAG 8 are new. School leadership and Boards of Trustees may need to download the latest edition of the NAGs from the Ministry of Education website.

Education Amendment Bill 2012

The Education Amendment Bill 2012 was introduced on 15 October. It can be seen at www.legislation.govt.nz. It sets out the necessary legal framework for the introduction of Partnership Schools/Kura Hourua (charter schools), and contains a number of amendments, which affect early childhood services, schools and Boards of Trustees. A guide to the bill and four regulatory impact statements are available on the Ministry of Education website, and on the Treasury website.

How is My Child Doing? Questions to Ask at School

The Education Review Office has recently published an attractive fold-out pamphlet with this title. It has sections appropriate for primary and secondary schooling. Schools can get multiple free copies from ERO. It should prove very helpful for parents.

White Paper for Vulnerable Children and Children's Action Plan

The White Paper Volume 1 and the Children's Action Plan are available from the Ministry of Social Development. They are important documents, worth reading. Volume 2 and the Summary of Submissions are also available.

Board of Trustees Triennial Elections

NZSTA and the Ministry of Education recommend Thursday 30 May 2013 as the common election date. NZSTA has sent a memorandum to Boards recently on this matter.



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

Sacred Heart School, Timaru: After vandals defaced an existing mural, principal David Armstrong asked a third year visual arts student, Abby Dix, to help senior students to design a new mural which includes spiritual images relating to the school's Catholicity and spirituality, a great achievement for all involved.

St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin: Ella Sheard was awarded the Queen's Guide Award by the Governor General.

Columba College, Dunedin: In the National Secondary Schools RoboCup Championships Ailsa Carroll, Ryely Burtenshaw-Day, Holly Hanson and Annabelle Ritchie gained 2nd place in the Premier Search and Rescue event; Annabelle Ritchie and Caroline Moratti were in the team that placed 2nd in the Senior Dance; and Alice German placed 4th in the Junior Search and Rescue. The college has opened the first Confucius Classroom in the South Island. Ella Barclay, Holly Barclay and Karla Robb gained Gold Awards (top 2% out of 140,000 competitors worldwide) in the Language Perfect World Championships.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

St Bede's College, Papanui: Hayden Withers has been awarded a place at the prestigious American Musical and Drama Academy in New York.

New Brighton Catholic School, Christchurch: Arising from the school's Values programme (gratitude), Year 4 student Joshua Bull instigated a project that involved making a giant hat and 'scarf' with the thanks and best wishes of 16,000 eastern Christchurch residents, to be presented to Orion (electricity) staff and contractors for their work in keeping the power on through the winter.

Our Lady of Fatima School, Mairehau: The DRS has sent out to families a wonderful one page sheet with ideas for incorporating Faith at Home, including a wide range of prayer suggestions.

St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch: The school's Romulus team was the Canterbury Regional Young Enterprise supreme winner, and a second team, Remus Enterprises, won the Canterbury Regional Marketing and Communication Awards. Craig Smith took part in the Sir Peter Blake Trust Leadership venture to the Kermadec Islands.

Villa Maria College, Christchurch: Elizabeth McGeorge, Charmaine Tan, Georgia Rouch, Emma Jefferis, Sarah Warner and Isabelle Taylor gained Gold Awards in the Language Perfect Competitions.

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

Garin College, Nelson: Georgia Nott's song entitled 'Better' won the best lyric award in the Play it Strange national song writing competition.

St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt: Charlie Penman was selected to be one of six 12/13 year olds for the television programme Operation Hero.

St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie: Georges Tinawi gained the top mark in the world in the Grade 7 Trinity piano exam.

Ss Peter & Paul School, Lower Hutt: Eva Murray took part in the fundraiser Breathe, a celebration of song and dance in aid of cystic fibrosis, sharing the stage with eight Royal New Zealand Ballet dancers.

Bishop Viard College, Porirua: Staff and students recently visited schools in other parts of the country, establishing invaluable networks and focusing on areas of best practice. They hope these visits will become an annual event.

St Benedict's School, Khandallah: Claire Giles came 2nd in NZ in the U7 section of the NZ Irish Dancing National Competitions.

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

Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth: Estella Winnie-McGee's song 'Better in Black' was one of 46 chosen for the winners CD in the Play it Strange national song writing competition.

Sacred Heart College, Napier: Olivia Jowett-More was awarded a NZ Dance Network Inaugural Scholarship for the most promising dancer. She will study in Sydney.

Francis Douglas Memorial College: Joshua Woudt was awarded the title of Top Scorer in the Big Science Competition, competing against 37,000 other students from Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia.

Lindisfarne College, Hastings: Joshua White won a Gold Award in the solo section at the National Concert Bands Festival and the Concord Symphonic band won a Gold Award.

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

Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton: Campbell Live (TV) featured a group of students who came to the rescue of a lady in a wheelchair which fell into the Waikato River. They kept her head above water and alerted emergency services, saving her life. Emily Hunter won the Young Writers' Category of the BNZ Literary Awards.

Campion College, Gisborne: 'Shadows in the Darkness' were awarded Best Original Song for their song 'Heaven' in the Bandwidth national competition.

Aquinas College, Tauranga: Phoebe Scherer passed the New Zealand Biology Olympiad (NZIBO) Entrance examination in the 10th decile.

John Paul College, Rotorua: Zac Swift has been selected for the

"Speech is the messenger of the heart."

Hebrew proverb

New Zealand Shakespeare Team, to perform at the Globe Theatre, London. Double Bass player Jessie Colbert has been accepted into the Fellowship Orchestra in the 2013 Lion Foundation APO Summer School.

Baradene College, Auckland: Kelly Harris won the Sam Wanamaker Trophy for the most promising actor at the Shakespeare Globe University of Otago Shakespeare Festival, was invited to take part in the National Shakespeare Schools Production, and won a place in the Young Shakespeare Company travelling to London in 2013.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Sacred Heart College, Royal Oak: Jack Larsen reached the final three of the nationwide Peace Song competition organised by Play it Strange.

St Dominic's College, Henderson: Rhonwen Grace, Andrea McDermott, Samantha Lee and Laura Cooper all received the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Marist College, Mt Albert: Helen Evans received the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, the youngest person ever to win it in New Zealand.

St Joseph's School, Otahuhu: The school has just celebrated its 150th anniversary. Otahuhu was originally a military station, and the school was set up for the children of the soldiers and the children of Irish migrants.

OECD Reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education: New Zealand, Main Conclusions

This significant document, published in February 2012, is available at <http://www.oecd.org/education/preschoolandschool/49681563.pdf>.

Education Counts Provides BESs and Summaries

The full texts of the NZ Best Evidence Syntheses on education, and summary points documents, can be found online at <http://www.educationcounts.gov.nz/publications/series/2515>. Board of Trustees members are urged to read these vital documents.

Latest Reports from the Education Review Office

The following reports are new on the ERO website.

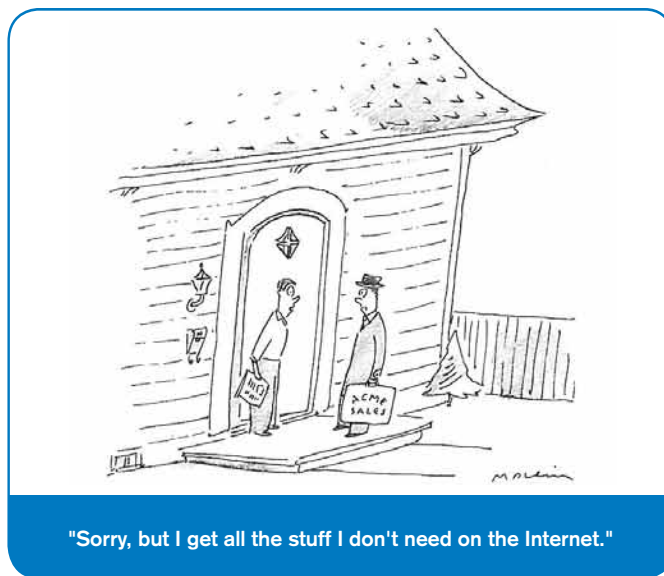
- KiwiSport in Schools (October 2012)
- Alternative Education: An Evaluation of the Pedagogical Leadership Initiative (September 2012)
- Including Students with High Needs: School Questionnaire Responses (2) September 2012
- Reporting to Parents: National Standards Years 4 to 8 (September 2012)
- Schools' Provisions for International Students (September 2012)

"The best beauty aid is the power of contentment."

Dutch proverb

More Documents for Boards and Principals to Consider

- Positive Behaviour for Learning Action Plan Update 2011. See www.minedu.govt.nz.
- Readynet Enhancing Community Engagement and Emergency Response. See www.readynet.co.nz.
- Participating and contributing? The role of school and community in supporting civic and citizenship education – survey results. See www.educationcounts.govt.nz.



'You Don't Have to Be Bad to Be Better'

A presentation on this topic by Graham Stoop, CRO of ERO, is available. See the Article Requests sheet.

NZ Teachers Council New Web Space.

NZTC has just launched www.teachersandsocialmedia.co.nz to help teachers understand and discuss social media and ethical issues they may face when using social media. The lively site provides guidelines, animate scenarios, presentation frameworks and resources.

Did You Know?

An image of 1% of the sky visible from earth recently released by the European Southern Observatory shows 84 million suns in just part of the Milky Way. There are more than 100 billion suns in our galaxy, and the Milky Way is one of several hundred billion galaxies in the universe.

Primary School Resource Available Free

A Study of Flags School Kit is available free from NZCEO. It contains 10 comprehensive lesson plans integrating mathematics, literacy and art curriculum areas. Email s.apathy@nzceo.org.nz to be posted a copy.

Donate an iPad to a School in Need

www.digitaloffice.co.nz is a Dunedin initiative to support the provision of iPads to Dunedin primary schools, and to train and support teachers in their classroom use. See the website for more information.

November is the Arson Season

Police are aware that November is the most likely time of year for young people to start fires around schools. They recommend: keep rubbish bins and skips well away from outside walls, and lock and secure them so they can't be moved up against buildings; install security lights; watch for an increase in vandalism and graffiti, and if necessary increase visibility around school buildings; educate all students about the consequences of fire, and use the free NZ Police Fire Awareness Intervention Programme if needed; involve the community by asking neighbours and parents to keep an eye on the school and report any suspicious behaviour to police.

Police Information on Crime Prevention in Schools

Police recommend keeping intruders easily visible through wire fences (not solid) and adequate night time lighting; building security consciousness in the school and encouraging a close knit community in relation to the school. Material is also available from the Police on the development of lockdown and emergency responses to protect people from a dangerous event. (See Article Requests sheet).

Did You Know?

Education New Zealand states that 85% of Chinese high net worth individuals (above US\$1m) plan to send their children to study abroad. NZ ranks 6th equal (with Hong Kong) as an education destination country for the wealthy. 23% of all Chinese students abroad are high school students. NZ secondary schools are encouraged to develop collaborative programmes with individual schools or regional school clusters to increase recruitment activities and to address capacity constraint issues. There are also big opportunities for delivering off-shore courses, teacher training and curriculum development services.

Education First – Initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General

For the first time a UN Secretary-General has made education a priority, recognising its power to transform lives. UNESCO will lead this five year initiative which has as its priorities putting every child into school, improving the quality of learning and fostering global citizenship.

Congratulations

- Porirua Youth Awards: Hon Hekia Parata recently presented Porirua Youth Awards to Nadine and Adair Houia-Ashwell (St Mary's College), Mafutaga and Fa'aolataga Tau (St Patrick's College) and Mihi Banks (Bishop Viard College).
- Collaboration in Education: the 15 October Education Gazette featured a Youth Guarantee initiative in which students from Auckland schools Elim College, Sancta Maria College and Ormiston Senior College work together at Ormiston in a construction class run by the Manukau Institute of Technology.



Promoting Interfaith Relations in Aotearoa New Zealand

A copy of this booklet, developed by the NZ Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations, is enclosed for every integrated secondary school. It has relevance to Years 9-10 Social Studies, and Religious Education programmes.

Qualification Levels of School Leavers Increase

In 2011 nearly 72% of all school leavers attained at least NCEA Level 2, up from 66.4% in 2009. Māori students went from 44.3% to over 51% and Pasifika students from 55.7% to just over 63%, for Level 2.



Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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