



Social wellbeing education is now regarded as an indispensable component of the education offered in the compulsory school sector. A person's emotional quotient is regarded as a fundamental component of the human personality.

Most educators recognise at one level that the new national curriculum requires schools to address the emotional quotient issue. However, the reality is that not many schools systematically educate their students in this area.

The proponents of social emotional learning speak of deepening student engagement, promoting competencies and developing skills for living. Where these skills are consistently taught the outcomes for young people are often quite outstanding. Simply asserting that skills are caught, not taught, no longer applies, as both explicit teaching and application in day-to-day teaching are now known to be necessary for success.

Appropriate educative experiences are central to successful social emotional learning. Leaving such learning to chance could be seen to be irresponsible and less than professional.

In Catholic schools, with our spiritual and faith foundations, we have the scaffolding to enable students to grow into adults with well-rounded personalities. Service opportunities in the community, as well as being able to observe teachers and other staff, will help students to develop strong emotional maturity.

*"Look backward with gratitude,
upward with confidence and
forward with hope."*

Stephen Kizza

Greetings

Kia tau te rangimārie.

The countdown to the Catholic Education Convention is generating plenty of interest and excitement. Thank you for playing your part in the upcoming venture.

New Zealand Catholic Education Convention Wellington, 8-10 August

You are warmly invited to attend the convention. Information, including online registration, is available at www.nzceo.org.nz, (follow the link to the conference website). Early bird registration is available until 5th July, and almost 600 registrations have already been received. Newsletters providing updates of information on the convention are being sent to schools, and are available on the conference website. Inquiries can be made to m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz. We are grateful to those schools that have already sent in digital presentations showcasing their schools.

An Excellent Website

www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz is an example of an excellent school website. It has a modern look, is very easy to navigate, has a particularly good special character section, and communicates in a fresh and inviting way.

Congratulations to Principals New to Top Leadership in Catholic Schools

Myles Hogarty, De La Salle College, Auckland
Clark McPhillips, St Joseph's School, Morrinsville
Janet Cummings, St Joseph's School, Ashburton
Kieran Stone, John Paul II High School Greymouth

O'Shea Shield Winners

1st equal St John's College, Hastings, and Sacred Heart College, Napier; 2nd St Patrick's College, Wellington; 3rd St Catherine's College, Wellington.

Bishop Lyons Shield Winner

Villa Maria College, Christchurch.

Schools Working Together

Students from St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie, St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie, St Mary's College, Thorndon, and Te Wharekura Nga Mokpuna, Seatoun have combined in the kapa haka group Ngā Maioha o Te Tangikauia; students from St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt and Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, have combined in Te Huatai Katorika. Both groups qualified for the National Secondary Schools Competition to be held in Whangarei.

Candles Made to Order

The Sisters of Mercy in Christchurch are creating candles to order, to raise funds for education ventures run by the Sisters in Samoa and Tonga. The current designs are for Easter and Lent, but other designs might be negotiable. Contact orders@givinglight.co.nz.

New Zealand Book on Prayer

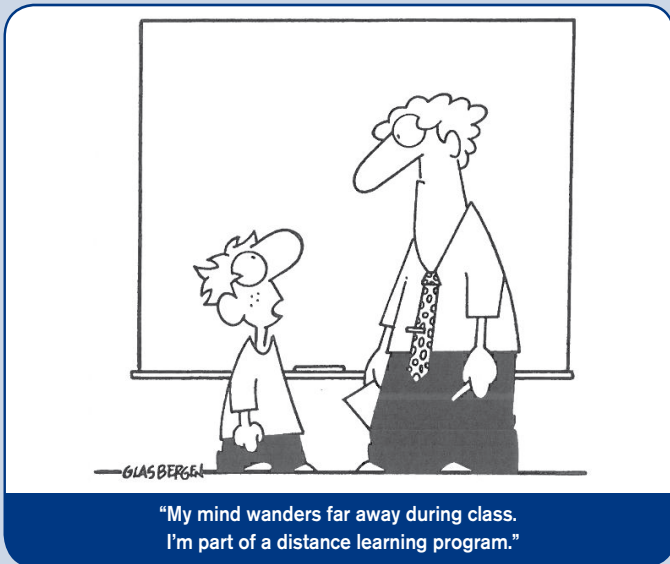
'Journeying into Prayer' ed. Neil Darragh, contains essays by 32 New Zealand contributors from Christian and other world religions writing about what shapes their prayer.

For further information visit www.accentpublications.co.nz

Or email: info@accentpublications.co.nz.

Histories of St Canice's, Westport

Norman Crawshaw has recently completed books on the history of St Canice's parish and school, and they will be available soon. Pre-publication expressions of interest or requests for further information may be made to nrcrawshaw@hotmail.com, or phone 03 789 8866.



New Book

Dr Abe Ata has recently edited a collection of essays, 'Catholics and Catholicism in Contemporary Australia: Challenges and Achievements'. The book encompasses a number of themes, including three essays on Catholic education, which may be of interest to NZ readers.

Contact [publisher@davidlovellpublishing.com](mailto:publisher@ davidlovellpublishing.com) for further information.

Singout4Justice 2012 – a Voice for the Voiceless

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is congratulated on the success of the 2012 Singout4Justice competition run in conjunction with the Lenten Programme. The competition attracted a wide range of entrants including a number from state schools. Brianna Anglesey, the winner, is from Thorndon School, Wellington. Highly commended entrants were Frances Daly and Maria Hayes, Marian College, Christchurch; Katie MacFarlane, Remuera Intermediate; Megan Fromont and Anne-Sophie Issah, Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth.

'Sharing the Gospel Today' Now Available

The Catechetical Directory for Aotearoa New Zealand, 'Sharing the Gospel Today', has recently been distributed to schools. Copies can be requested from the National Centre for Religious Studies.

APPs for Religious Education

The recent schools newsletter from NCRS, the National Centre for Religious Studies, lists a number of excellent websites and Apps for religious education. If you do not receive the NCRS newsletter to schools but you would like to know more, contact ncrsnz@clear.net.

**"Love will find a way.
Indifference will find an excuse."**

(Author unknown)

Subject Association for Religious Studies

The first steps have been taken to establish a subject association for Religious Studies. The association will be open to teachers in all schools that enter students for NCEA Religious Studies Achievement Standards, or who are interested in doing so. Teachers and others can express interest to: s.apathy@nzceo.org.nz.

St Joseph's School Rangiora, 125th Jubilee

The 125th Jubilee of St Joseph's School Rangiora will take place 19-21 October 2012. For more information contact 03 313 7828 or email admin@stjosephsrangiora.schoolzone.net.nz.

Best Practice in Catholic Character

The parish pastoral coordinator can organise a regular children's Mass in the parish, involving students from the Catholic school, and those who do not attend the Catholic school. Some parish councils have appointed a person to assist with pastoral needs in the school, including assisting those in need with bus fees and other costs.

Senior students can work with juniors in a buddy system specifically designed to support students entering a new stage of learning. Students work with staff to provide a wraparound service. This system can work at primary school or secondary school levels.

All new teachers can benefit from a discussion with both the DRS and the principal about the school's expectations for Catholic Character. Ideally, the discussions would be followed up regularly over at least the first year.

The IT data system can be used (with discretion) to provide Religious Education staff with sacramental information so that students can receive personal invitations for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Students can be encouraged to imagine their dreams based around Catholic social teaching principles of the common good.



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