

LIGHTING new FIRES



Kia Ka Ngā Ahi Hou

Newsletter for Integrated Schools

Editorial

PAT LYNCH

The upcoming vacation period is a good time to reflect on who we are and where we are going, not just individually, but as a people of this southern land.

The recent Asia Pacific Economic Council meeting in Singapore calls for some analysis: after all, the 21 leaders present represented in excess of 4 billion people, or nearly two thirds of the world's population.

Asia is a broad term encompassing an extremely diverse group of nations and cultures, each with their rich histories of languages, religions and belief systems. That diversity is New Zealand's backyard. Asian people are Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Korean, Filipino, Burmese, Mongolian and the list goes on.

New Zealanders are only very slowly waking up to the reality that we are so dependent for trade on these neighbours.

Visitors to our large cities are often surprised that so many Asian people have either settled in New Zealand or are gaining some of their formal education here. The Asian presence is now over 10% of the total national population and is concentrated in our northern population centres.

If one accepts that the mosaic of diversity represents strength, New Zealand is wonderfully enriched by migrants from the Asian-Pacific region. It behoves each of us to reach out to these newly resident people and make them welcome in this country. We are always enriched by reaching out to and learning from those who are different from us.

Christmas, among other things, is a time for extending the hand of friendship and support to others by recognising their sacredness, no matter how different they are from us. We will be blessed by encouraging our fellow New Zealanders to be more open to the Asian people in our midst, and to finding out more about these nations and the people of Asia generally.

May you enjoy immersing yourself in the richness of Asia.

Greetings! Thank you very sincerely for the contribution you have made to our integrated schools' growth and development during 2010.

Mā Te Atua koutou e whakakaha i ngā wā katoa.

Government Funding for Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure in Integrated Schools

The official notice concerning registration of interest to participate in this project is on page 17 of the 5 November Education Gazette. A letter on the topic has also been circulated by NZCEO to all integrated schools and Proprietors. Gratitude is expressed to the Minister of Education, Anne Tolley, and the Government for this new capital funding, which is appreciated.

Board of Trustees Triennial Elections

The common election date is 7 May 2010. It is suggested that suitable candidates to stand for election be identified and approached now. Proprietors' appointees are appointed for a three year term, and for most schools these appointments are likely to be changed or reconfirmed in line with the triennial elections. Proprietors seeking clarification of any aspects of this process are welcome to contact NZCEO.

Payroll Giving – a Very Helpful New Initiative

A new voluntary scheme for making donations, called 'payroll giving' will be available from 7 January 2010. It will allow people to make donations directly from their pay, and to receive their tax credit directly. Proprietors and Boards of Trustees may wish to publicise this scheme to parents. Information for individuals from the Inland Revenue Department website is attached. For details go to www.ird.govt.nz.

Leadership Best Evidence Synthesis Launched

The whole education community has contributed to the Ministry of Education's recent publication 'School Leadership and Student Outcomes: What Works and Why: Best Evidence Synthesis'. The document will be very useful for Proprietors and Boards of Trustees. Papers based on early work for the synthesis have already received two international awards. It is available at www.educationcounts.govt.nz/goto/BES, or a paper copy may be ordered free from orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz.

Carrousel Theatre's 2010 Tour

Carrousel Theatre's bilingual (French, German, or Italian, plus English) puppet show, 'Sindbad and the Enchanted Horse', will tour the North Island from 3 May to 28 May 2010. For information and bookings email enquiries@carrousel.com.au.

"Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind."

Mary Ellen Chase

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Supporting Student Engagement – an Interesting Idea

At the recent NZCER conference on student engagement, Sandra Christenson of the University of Minnesota described an engagement exercise in a school in the United States. All the students' names are listed on the staffroom walls, then teachers put red stickers beside those they know something "extra" about, such as a special interest or achievement. Teachers then choose students (from those with few or no stickers) to get to know better, so that those students develop a connection with teachers, consequently becoming more ready to engage with their learning. The programme uses mentors to help students to stay connected with education, deal with problems as they arise, assist with goal setting and monitor performance. Further, Christenson said that if schools can take only one action they should get the principal and senior staff to stand at the school entrance in the morning and greet every student who comes through the door, preferably by name.

'What Teachers Need to Know about Students with Disabilities'

This new ACER Press publication by Peter Westwood gives a concise overview of a range of physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities, with effective teaching methods for each disability. Purchase from the ACER Press online shop at: www.acer.edu.au.

An Apology

Owing to a glitch in our office email systems we failed to print out a number of newsletters from John Paul College, Rotorua. Our apologies. We have endeavoured to catch up on the

congratulations for the school in the material accompanying this newsletter. If you think it is possible that we have made a similar mistake with your school's newsletters please get in touch with us.

New Social Studies Text on World Religions

Pearson Press has just published 'Discovering Diversity: how the diverse values and beliefs of world religions are shaping our identity' by Jocelyn Armstrong. It is aimed at Level 5 of the NZ curriculum, but would be an excellent resource over a wide range of ages, and for the library. A CD-Rom teaching resource is also available, with full background and powerpoint presentations. See www.pearsoned.co.nz for details.

New Resources on Asia Awareness in the New Zealand Curriculum

The Asia:NZ Foundation has just published an excellent resource on Asia Awareness in the school curriculum. The material is useful for both primary and secondary schools. Aquinas College, Tauranga is one of the schools featured in the document. Visit www.asianz.org.nz or email asianz.org.nz to find out more.

"What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, love with mercy, and to walk humbly with your god."

Micah, 6:8

Your Students' Privacy, and Your Newsletters

We publish students' national level achievements, circulating the information to our wider integrated schools' community of schools and Proprietors, Catholic parishes and diocesan offices, leadership in the Ministry of Education, and a number of other people and organisations with an interest in integrated schools. If, because of privacy issues, you do not wish us to publicise the names of particular students, we would still be grateful to receive your newsletter. Simply tell us "Do not publish names."

Appreciation

The staff of NZCEO sincerely thank everyone who is involved with our nation's integrated schools for their dedicated work during 2009. We trust you have a wonderful Christmas, a happy holiday, and an exciting 2010.

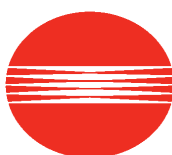
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Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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