



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

Standing up and being counted is fundamental to leadership. It was the Austrian philosopher, Ivan Illich (1926-2002), who urged that we must never fear being a “candle in the dark”, or as the Chinese proverb so aptly states, “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.”

In like manner, Saint-Exupéry wrote, “What saves a person is to take a step. Then another step. It is always the same step, but you have to take it... Only the unknown frightens people. But once a person has faced the unknown, that terror becomes the known.”

When the philosopher William James (1842-1910) undertook an investigation of the survivors of the earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906, he noted that when people were able to share their experiences, there was a perceptible difference in their sense of suffering and loss. Even if such sharing does not immediately translate into the ability to move forward, it can encourage people steeped in pain to look to the future.

As the year comes to a close it is appropriate to thank you for the leadership you have shown during 2012 at whatever level in our integrated school system. Nothing happens without leadership.

The longer vacation period is a time to recharge our leadership batteries by resting and renewing our spirits. Leadership is generated in the depths of our spirit. May 2013 be another year where we confront the status quo and make appropriate changes to better the lives of those we serve.

Appreciation is expressed to you for your hard work and dedication during 2012. We wish you a blessed Christmas, a happy New Year, and happy holidays.

**“Only the unknown
frightens people”**

Saint-Exupéry

Greetings

Tēna koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.

We wish you every blessing as you prepare for Christmas and the summer vacation.

A ‘Good to Great’ Year

We congratulate all our schools – we have seen many reports revealing that the strategic focus on moving from good to great has born much fruit. At the end of the year it is good to look back and see how much has been achieved for the wellbeing of students.

Christchurch Schools Continue to Shine

Those in Christchurch are particularly congratulated for the energy and optimism that they have drawn on all year, ensuring the education and wellbeing of students has continued to be of the highest level.

Ministerial Sector Group Papers Available

Minutes, significant documents and research presented to the Ministerial Sector Group are now available on the Ministry of Education’s website www.minedu.govt.nz. The material is worth reading and using.

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals

Craighead Diocesan School, Timaru: Zoe McClure was a winner in Telecom’s Amazing Ideas Search, which focused on how Ultra Fast Broadband will enhance our lives.

St Patrick’s College, Silverstream: Footballer Scott Basalaj was awarded Wellington Region Young Sportsman of the Year.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: Golfer Julianne Alvarez was awarded Wellington Region Young Sportswoman of the Year.

Columba College, Dunedin: Ellen Gipp was awarded 1st place in the Year 12 category of the 2012 Young Writers in Europe International Competition. Claire McCorkindale was one of five winners, nationally, of the 3 News and UNICEF NZ Young Reporters’ Competition. Violinist Laura Barton has been selected for the New Zealand Youth Orchestra. Holly Hanson, Julia Isoyama and Kim Schultz were prize winners at the 2012 National Chinese Essay Competition. Meng Li has been awarded a Top 100 Certificate in the New Zealand Senior Mathematics Competition.

Villa Maria College, Christchurch: Catherine Kwak competed at the New Zealand Aria Competition and won the U16 New Zealand Aria Trophy.

Aquinas College, Tauranga: Daniel Hughes has been selected to attend the 2013 National Youth Science Forum being held in Canberra and hosted by the Australian National University.

John Paul College, Rotorua: At the National Young Designers Awards Breanna Banks was the winner for Intermediate Quilt Making, Louise Woolhouse won the Intermediate High Street Fashion category, Belinda Piesse won the Senior Evening Wear category and Angela O’Sullivan won the Senior High Street Fashion category.



Resources from Kevin Treston

Senior Australian educator and consultant Kevin Treston has a range of resources available through Pleroma, www.christiansupplies.co.nz. The following are all available either from Pleroma or direct from kevintreston@gmail.com. His widely used DVD Eight Beliefs that Matter: Mission and Ethos in Catholic Schools; a new DVD Come and See, aimed at Religious Education teachers, personal faith development and parish groups. Books: What Matters Most: Nurturing Values for Catholic Schools; Walk Lightly Upon the Earth: Creation Spirituality for Daily Living; and A Modern Credo: Telling the Christ Story within the Context of Creation. A recent seminar by Kevin, Founded on Rock or Sand? Reflections on leadership and the promotion of ethos and mission of Catholic schools, may be of interest to schools or diocesan offices wishing to bring Kevin to NZ for professional development. Notes on this seminar are available from NZCEO.

The Need for Correct English – Worth Noting for Teachers and Students

There are significant disadvantages for those who use incorrect spelling and grammar. British newspaper The Independent reports the head of an online graduate recruitment agency stating that the agency rejects one third of all job applications from graduates with good degrees from good universities, because errors in English in their CVs and covering letters show ignorance, carelessness and a bad attitude.

Caritas Christmas Gifts

Caritas has put out an updated Christmas Gifts catalogue. Prices (donations) range from \$10 to \$500. See www.caritasgifts.org.nz for the catalogue, and to order gifts.

Christian Books Latest Information

www.christian-books.co.nz has just put out its latest newsletter. Visit the website to apply to be on the mailing list. Christian Books has top quality books and ebooks, immediate delivery, personal service, and excellent prices.

The Catholic Institute 2013 Prospectus Available

The 2013 Catholic Institute Prospectus has just been published. It outlines tertiary courses available throughout the country by face to face and distance learning. There are brief Faith Updates, Certificates, Diplomas and Degree level courses. The courses are relevant to teachers in Catholic schools, and might be of interest to others as well. Go to www.tei.ac.nz for further information, or to request a paper copy of the prospectus.

Congratulations

Perenise Tapu, McAuley High School, Auckland, has been awarded an ASG Education Programs Teaching Award.

Te Kotahitanga

The most recent document on Te Kotahitanga is available at www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications. This report summarises the way in which schools that were involved in the project in 2007-2009 were able to continue significant improvements in student education. Schools that fully implemented and sustained the programme in an integrated way have seen significant improvements in outcomes for Māori students. School leadership has been shown to be a vital component of effective implementation and sustainability of Te Kotahitanga.



"Can you hold on a sec? I think I just took another picture of my ear"



KONICA MINOLTA



Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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