



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

Education Is the Locomotive of History

Education is the locomotive engine of history. This is a much more aspirational view about how we can all make a difference for good in the world than Trotsky's view that progress is only made out of the barrel of a gun.

Prime Minister John Key often says, "Education is a liberation", and who could disagree?

As we come to the end of the year, we can take satisfaction from our efforts as participants in the New Zealand Integrated Schools enterprise. We have all helped move the 86,000 young people enrolled in our schools along their journey towards personal liberation as they mature into adulthood.

Next year the Ministry of Education is initiating two important milestones which will help raise the importance of education in the public mind. First there is the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards, which will acknowledge those people who are delivering a better education for our children and young people. They will help raise the bar for the teaching profession by identifying and showcasing quality teaching. Information about these very special awards can be viewed at www.pmawards.education.govt.nz. It would be good if integrated schools enter this awards process, which is open until 31 March 2014.

The second milestone will be the International Summit of the Teaching Profession which New Zealand is hosting in Wellington on 28-29 March. This will be an opportunity to showcase the best New Zealand has to offer in education in front of a distinguished international audience of political and education leaders.

THANK YOU for your leadership during this year at whatever level of the school system you work in.

Our schools are doing well as a result of your efforts. Hopefully you will be able to enjoy a restful, productive vacation period.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Mary Chase

Greetings

Summer and holiday greetings

Ngā mihi ki a koe me tō whānau

We sincerely appreciate your wonderful commitment to your school and its community during 2013. **THANK YOU!**

Congratulations to New Members of the Ministry of Education, Leadership Team

Dr Graham Stoop, Deputy Secretary, Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers; Lisa Rogers, Deputy Secretary, Evidence Data and Knowledge; Dr Andrea Schöllmann, Deputy Secretary, Education System Performance (fixed term).

Education Minister Launches Excellence Awards

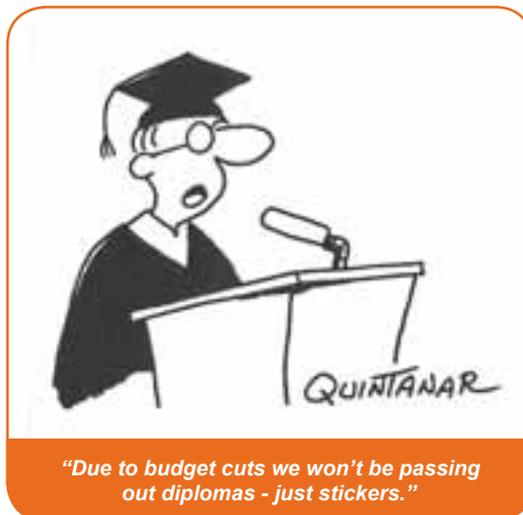
The Minister of Education has launched the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. Entries in four categories, teaching, leadership, community engagement and governance, can come from early childhood through to tertiary and employers. See www.pmawards.education.govt.nz for entry details. Entries close on 31 March 2014.

Celebrating Education Excellence

The Minister of Education has announced a series of Education Festivals to be held in March 2014, to complement the International Summit of the Teaching Profession in New Zealand. To be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, the festivals will focus on collaboration, innovation and celebration, and will showcase best practice.

EDUCANZ to Replace NZ Teachers Council

The Minister of Education has announced the establishment of EDUCANZ (Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand). The new body will sit outside the state sector, will be owned by the teaching profession, and will be accountable to all New Zealanders. It will be led by a governing body of nine board members, with the majority from the education professions. Members will be nominated by the sector and appointed by the Minister. It will take some months for the new organisation to be set up.



"Due to budget cuts we won't be passing out diplomas - just stickers."



Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals

Otago, Southland Regions:

St Brigid's School, Dunedin: Robert Donohue and Callum Chirnside have had articles published in the Oct/Nov issue of 'Upstart' magazine.

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

St Mary's College, Wellington: HOD Music Mary Horner featured in the Education Gazette of 26 August, in an article about the range and variety of the music programmes she runs.

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

Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth: Polaiu'amea Kirifi won the New Zealand Association for Gifted Children Poetry Competition.

St Joseph's Māori Girls' College, Taradale: The decile 3 school featured in the TV programme Te Kāēa, revealing the consistently high levels of its students' success in the three levels of NCEA and its particularly fine results in 2012, when students had a 100% pass rate at all three levels of NCEA, and received Merit and Excellence rates higher than the average throughout the country. The school received a letter of congratulations from the Minister of Education.

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

John Paul College, Rotorua: Tim Bradley played King Richard in 'Richard III' at the final performance of the 2013 National Shakespeare Schools Production.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Marist College, Mt Albert: Teacher Ronnie Karadjov received the inaugural award from the Aotea Youth Symphony Orchestra, to celebrate Auckland's Most Noteworthy Music Teacher.

Sancta Maria College, Botany: Assistant Principal Ian Vickers featured in the Education Gazette of 29 October. An article described his work on supporting teacher wellbeing, and his book 'Good New Habits', which aims to get teachers thinking about their general health every day of their working lives.

Rosmini College, Takapuna: Past and present students Simon Woodward, Christian Nicklaus and Ryan Westney

featured in an article in the Education Gazette of 26 August, showing how their roles in school drama led to postgraduate study and beginning careers in film making and screen art.

Principal Position Advertised

St Francis Xavier Catholic School, Nauiyu, Daly River, Northern Territory, is a 60 pupil school that covers pre-school to post primary. It needs a principal for the start of 2014. Email recruitment@nt.catholic.edu.au for more information, or phone Gerry McCarthy, 00 61 8 8984 1400.

News from the Education Review Office

Latest national reports available at www.ero.govt.nz:

- Use of Equity Funding in Early Childhood Services (Oct 2013)
- Use of Equity Funding in Pacific Early Childhood Services (Oct 2013)

ERO is developing evaluation indicators for student wellbeing in schools. They will be available in draft form on ERO's website during November. Schools could use them for self-review. ERO will finalise the indicators over the next 18 months, and provide a report of good practice in this area.

Worth Reading

'Crossing the Border' (Carol Hartley, Pat Rogers, Jemma Smith, Margaret Carr, NZCER Press), discusses the transition between early childhood and school based on work done by Mangere Bridge Kindergarten (a Centre of Innovation) and its partner schools.

News from The Catholic Institute

The Catholic Institute (TCI) warmly invites teachers and senior management staff from any integrated schools to enrol in its Religious Education and Theological study options for 2014. TCI is offering a wide range of courses next year including the popular online Faith Update series (4x 2-monthly cycles) and a smorgasbord of Distance Education courses. Every diocese also offers face-to-face classes leading to Certificates and Diplomas directly related to teaching in Catholic schools. www.tci.ac.nz

Network for Learning – N4L

The Network for Learning N4L network is now being rolled out across the nation. All schools should register now for this system, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Education. N4L will enhance internet connectivity and will save schools big money with internet service costs. See www.n4l.co.nz for registration details.

"The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world."

Anon



Kia kaha, Kia Māia, Kia ū!

Pat Lynch, C.E.O.

Susan Apáthy, Deputy C.E.O.

Maureen Condliffe, Operations Manager

Donna Campbell, Financial Controller

Jane O'Connell Adele Pedreschi Wendy Rozenberg

Lighting New Fires is published by the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, PO Box 12307, Wellington. Phone: 04 496 1739 Fax: 04 496 1734 or Email: nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz Website: www.nzceo.org.nz