

**NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES,
KINDERGARTENS, PLAYGROUPS AND INTERESTED PARTIES
MAY 2016**

GREETINGS

Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei, talofa lava, ni sa bula vinaka, talohani, kia orana, fakalofa lahi atu and blessings and warm greetings to you all.

We hope that all is going well with you as winter begins to make its presence felt.

Modules for the ‘Certificate in Early Childhood Religious Education’

Congratulations to the Catholic Schools Office in Auckland, who have begun a new round of modules for the ‘Certificate in Early Childhood Religious Education’. Seventeen teachers attended Module EC101 in Term One, and 14 of those teachers received their certificates at the Dedication Mass in Auckland in February. It’s wonderful that this professional training is happening, and we’re grateful to those who run the modules, and to all of you who put the energy and time into attending the modules and growing your skills. Thank you to you all.

Early Childhood Services and the Budget

It is good to see funding going into supporting families on very low incomes and with a variety of issues. The Government’s developing work in social services sounds very promising, and I know we will all be hoping that it will make a difference to our families that are most in need. It will make a difference to early childhood services working with those families.

Early Childhood Folio NZCER no1 2016

In this edition an article *Beyond the Gate* caught my attention. It discussed the connections between ECE learning dispositions and school key competencies and described the dispositional competencies fostered in ECE as a virtual “backpack” that children bring into school with them. In a 3 year TLRI project *called Children’s Learning Journeys from Early Childhood to School* researchers worked to examine the shared cross-sector understandings of how to support children’s learning as they move from ECE to school. The message I took from it is the importance of Early Childhood educators working with new entrant teachers, in a collaborative approach, to ensure that children’s early childhood learning – what they have in their backpacks - is well understood by teachers, so that children’s existing knowledge and dispositions are built on, not ignored. It takes time for both sets of teachers, but certainly the teachers in the study found it highly rewarding.

Other articles in the folio were also fascinating, and I recommend it.

News and an invitation from CECEAA

In the last few days I have had an invitation from Thelma Chapman, the National Coordinator of CECEAA, the national Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa. I can thoroughly recommend the CECEAA conference, which I attended some years ago, and some of you may wish to take up her invitation to join CECEAA as well as being part of the New Zealand Association of Catholic Early Childcare Organisations. <http://www.ceceaa.com/> will take you to the CECEAA website, which has some great resources.

Thelma says:

“CECEAA is proud to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Catholic Education Office. We would love to see more Catholic Centres join us as members. If you are interested please contact Thelma at nco@ceceaa.com. This year the theme of the CECEAA Conference is Growing Sustainability, Whakapakiri Matatū. The conference will be held at Willow Park Christian Conference Centre in Eastern Beach Auckland, August 19-21. How can we be sustainable in our faith, with our staff and families, our financial endeavours, our environments etc? These are questions many services are grappling with across the country. Come and join us and contribute to the conversations. Information will be live on our website next week. <http://www.ceceaa.com/> Blessings. Thelma.”

Gratitude

Thelma, in her latest newsletter, writes on whanaungatanga – relationship, including relationship through shared experiences and working together, which provides people with a sense of belonging. We can all be very grateful for the relationships and friendships in early childhood, and particularly in Catholic early childhood as we serve our children, our families, each other, our Church. May God bless you all as the year continues.

FINALLY

Remember to pass on the newsletter, and to send any news to us for circulating.

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