

**NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EARLY  
CHILDHOOD CENTRES, KINDERGARTENS, PLAYGROUPS  
AND INTERESTED PARTIES  
AUGUST 2011**

**GREETINGS**

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

The sun is bright as I write, and early though it is, the gardens suggest that we may be moving into spring. We hope that the blessings and the hopefulness of spring are visible in your area.

**Measles Information**

Every early childhood service and school has recently received information on the current measles outbreak affecting the upper part of the North Island, and expected to spread. For those who wish to see the documentation, it is on the Ministry of Education website.

**Catholic Education Convention 8-10 August 2012**

The information below is basically the same as in your last newsletter – we want to make quite sure that you have had time to think about it and, hopefully, to respond to us about it.

At the last Catholic Education Convention those from the early childhood sector who attended were delighted with the sessions on the Catholic early childhood curriculum, and were delighted with the convention experience in general.

We intend to have the same sort of programme as last time, with early childhood seminars mainly (or possibly completely) on Friday 10 August, which enables those travelling from other areas for the convention to spend some relaxation time in Wellington over the weekend, or at least to travel back without cutting into the working week.

We expect to have a focus on the Catholic curriculum again, and already have had a seminar offered which, while not directly on the curriculum, fits in very closely with it. We will also have one or more transition seminars. These will be attended by primary teachers, and should provide a good chance for dialogue with those responsible for our graduates from early childhood.

**Action  
Invited**

Further topics have not yet been developed. This is a call for topic suggestions, and is also a call for volunteers who might be prepared to run a seminar on aspects of the Catholic character of early childhood education.

Please do contact me if you have thoughts on what you would like to learn about at convention, or if you can volunteer to run a seminar. The programme for early childhood educators is very much in your hands, and it will serve your needs only if we hear what you would like to have happening.

**A reminder**

Please do get in touch and let us know how things are going – or send us a photo of your service or your staff! It is nice to build the sense of community through articles and photos.

## **NCRS website, early childhood section**

The early childhood section of the NCRS website has some traditional Catholic prayers up and able to be printed off. Some of these prayers are in English, Māori and Samoan. Do have a look at [www.ncrs.org.nz](http://www.ncrs.org.nz), select Early Childhood Religious Education from the column on the right, then go to the bottom of the Early Childhood page and select the button for prayers. When you open the name of each prayer you will see it is beautifully presented, as in the example on the next page. Not all prayers are available in this range of languages, but what a wonderful idea to be able to teach children to make the Sign of the Cross in several languages!

The NCRS website's early childhood section will develop more resources gradually, so keep visiting it.

The NZCEO website is also developing its section on early childhood. We will list Catholic services, with addresses etc, will provide a link to the NCRS site, and will put up electronic copies of the newsletters.

## **With best wishes**

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