



### Editorial

PAT LYNCH

Historically, schooling has primarily focused on the teaching of content.

Today, however, effective schools provide authentic learning experiences that extend the boundaries of understanding and at the same time build up a strong set of competencies and skills in their students.

New Zealand's educational researchers are international leaders in supporting teachers and principals in bringing about this changed way of student learning. The Ministry of Education's publication, 'School Leadership and Student Outcomes' (BES November 2009) is a superb "what to do, and how to do it" document, that guides practitioners in delivering differentiated learning for students. Differentiation doesn't ask teachers to begin with individualised learning programmes. It asks them to look initially for patterns of need amongst students in their classes. Are there students who are interested in sport or music who would benefit, for instance, from seeing how percentages or fractions operate in these contexts?

By creating greater meaning in their learning experiences students become more accomplished in their academic achievements.

The BES document places all this in one simple set of parameters based on quality relationships between student and teacher. When schools are places that actively foster a belief that all students can achieve and learn when they support teachers to collaborate and accept responsibility for the successes and failures of their students, when they reach out to students' families and provide opportunities for tutoring, learning recovery and enrichment experiences, then students will astonish themselves and astonish their teachers and families with their achievements – something that could happen more often!

Schools that have implemented the findings of this country's leading researchers are finding that this approach to learning does have many characteristics of the so-called magic bullet.

### Featured in this issue:

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#### Greetings

Tena koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.

We wish you well now that the shortest day has heralded the official start of winter.

#### Related Parties Disclosure Notes

The Ministry of Education has recently released model disclosure notes for integrated schools to use as appropriate in their financial reporting. Proprietors and Boards of Trustees will find this information valuable. See [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz), under School Operations, School finances homepage, Related Parties – Integrated Schools.

#### Wording on School Websites

Proprietors and Boards of Trustees are urged to check the wording on school websites regarding school contributions and donations. Ministry of Education Circular 1998/25 clarifies the matter, and has recently been circulated again to Proprietors. Information in enrolment packs, bills sent to parents and website information all need to be very clear on what items are compulsory charges (such as attendance dues) and what items are voluntary donations. Further advice is available on request.

#### Tax Rebates on Donations

It is worth reminding parents that they can claim a tax rebate of 33.33% for donations and voluntary contributions. Attendance dues and fees relating to a take-home component do not attract a tax rebate.

The Ministry of Social Development has its payroll giving system up and running. Donee organisations (including schools) can register with MSD, so that MSD, CYF, Studylink and Family and Communities employees can donate through their payroll. Boards of Trustees have received information through NZSTA, and can go to [www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz) or phone 04 9178 100 for further information.

#### Effective Governance Publication for Boards of Trustees

The Ministry of Education has developed a publication on effective governance in schools, which will be useful to new and experienced trustees. Five copies have gone to each Board, and additional copies are available from [orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz](mailto:orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz).

*"You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."*

Tibetan proverb



**Congratulations to:****Otago, Southland Regions:**

**St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin:** Katya Curren was selected for the Youth Parliament.

**St Peter's College, Gore:** The social justice committee is running a stall at the local farmers' market and involving the local community by asking for produce or time. Jenny Mitchell won three citations in the New Zealand Gold Guitar Awards.

**St John's Girls' School, Invercargill:** Ellice D'Arcy, Tessa Forde, Katie Knarston, Ania Kowalewski, Fiona Pahl, Hannah McLaren, Katia Shennan, Kate Wilson, Maria Burnett, Amy Strang and Jane Wallace all gained Distinction in Oral Communication in the NZ Speech Board exams.

**Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:**

**St Bede's College, Christchurch:** Rahul George won the Caritas SINGout 4JUSTICE competition with his song, Society's Tale.

**Middleton Grange School, Christchurch:** The 2010 OPC Adventure Challenge Team gained 1st place in the Edmund Hillary Adventure Challenge.

**St James School, Aranui:** At the end of 2009 the year 5/6 class won a trip to Wellington on Grab a Seat. They visited their local MP at parliament, went to Te Papa, and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. The Close Up cameras were in attendance.

**Roncalli College, Timaru:** James Durcan gained his ATCL in violin. Music students gained first place in the Ukelele Festival.

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

**St Mary's College, Wellington:** Winners of the O'Shea Shield for 2010.

**Bishop Viard College, Porirua:** Jeremy Kelly is one of two students selected to represent NZ on the 2010 Okinawa Exchange Scholarship Programme. Rachel Robati has been awarded the Pacifika Climate Leadership Scholarship to attend an environmental workshop in Fiji.

**St Joseph's School, Levin:** A recent newsletter highlighted Samoan Language Week by publishing writing by bi-lingual students in Samoan and English. Students across the school learned some basic Samoan language as well.

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

**St Peter's College, Palmerston North:** Beth Kreichbaum, a member of the NZ Secondary Schools Choir, will compete in an international choral competition in Canada. The school team won 1st place in the regional Stage Challenge.

**Hato Paora College, Feilding:** Acting principal Debra Marshall Loeb, staff and students worked efficiently and effectively to deal with a fire in the school's hostel buildings, after the alarm was raised at 4.45am.

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

**John Paul College, Rotorua:** Liam Walsh won a Royal Society Sponsorship to attend a conference in Brisbane on Biofutures. Yoon Ho Im gained a place as a 1st violinist in the NZ Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra.

**St Patrick's School, Taupo:** Room 5 children received a letter from the Prime Minister responding to questions they asked him and thanking them for the drawings they sent.

**Northland and Auckland Regions:**

**Sancta Maria College, Botany:** Joseph Xulue was selected for the Youth Parliament. Sam Vincent won a trip to Gallipoli to commemorate Anzac Day.

**Rosmini College, Takapuna:** Matthew Slijp won a Royal Society Sponsorship to attend a conference in Brisbane on Biofutures.

**Carmel College, Milford:** Sarah Kelly took part in the 2010 Youth to Everest Programme. Zoe Pipes represented the Auckland District Youth RSA at the ANZAC reciprocal tour with Sydney RSLs.

**St Mary's College, Ponsonby:** Harriet Peel received a scholarship to attend the NZ Model United Nations 2010 Conference.

**McAuley High School, Otahuhu:** The school received the Heart Foundation Gold Award for its work on school nutrition and health.

**St Peter's College, Epsom:** The middle school was challenged to bring "one can a week". Students intend to donate 3740 cans to a local food bank.

**Board Training and Support**

Web seminars and e-workshop training will be available for boards of trustees from July 2010, specifically on using data in planning for better student outcomes. See [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) (follow Boards, Support for Boards, Training and Support) or contact your local Ministry of Education office.

**Budget 2010**

Schools' operational funding will increase by 4% in 2011. From 2011 operational funding for students in years 9-13 will be allocated using quarterly roll counts. An extra \$349.3 million will be invested in new operating and capital funding. Staffing reductions signalled in Budget 2009 will not take place.

**Schools' Network Upgrade Programme**

The first two rounds of schools to go in the SNUP programme are now being confirmed by The Minister of Education. It is likely that there will be 120 schools in each round, including 14 integrated schools in the first round and 18 in the second round.

**Māori Education Gains Reported**

The Annual Report on Māori Education 2008/09 records some gains in Māori education including increased retention.

## NZ Population Hits 4.36 Million

NZ's estimated resident population reached by 4,362,000 by 31 March 2010, an increase of 1.3% over the year (mainly through higher births and fewer long term departures). 63,950 live births were registered in the March 2010 year. Of the babies born last year, 60% were Māori/Pacific or of Asian descent.

## Religious Studies and Literacy and Numeracy Requirements

Religious Studies will now be a subject from which NCEA Level 1 credits for literacy and numeracy can be sourced. Details are at [www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/for-students/level1-lit-num-as-2011.html](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/for-students/level1-lit-num-as-2011.html) and [www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/for-students/level1-lit-num-reqs-2011.html](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/for-students/level1-lit-num-reqs-2011.html).

## Human Rights in Education

The May edition of the newsletter of Human Rights in Education Mana Tika Tangata contains comment from the Ministry of Education on the fact that human rights values are central to the NZ curriculum. There is also a calendar of Human Rights dates. See [www.hrie.net.nz](http://www.hrie.net.nz), or email: [info@rightsined.org.nz](mailto:info@rightsined.org.nz) to be placed on the mailing list.

## Educating for Asia: The New Zealand Curriculum and Asia Guide

Schools have recently received copies of the very useful document 'Educating for Asia', the purpose of which is to stimulate schools to enable students to learn more about Asia. This follows up the 2009 publication 'Asia: Aware, Why Asia Matters to New Zealand', by providing a scan framework for assessing how the school currently performs on Asia awareness, and a range of curriculum examples currently in schools. Aquinas College, Tauranga is congratulated for its initiatives, which are highlighted in the document.

## Did You Know?

- Over 80% of New Zealanders say that Asia is important to New Zealand's future.
- Half of New Zealand's top 20 trading partners are now in East Asia.
- Fewer than 50 schools teach Chinese.
- Almost 80% of humanities programmes at senior secondary level do not include Asia-specific topics.

## Education Benefit from NZ-China Free Trade Agreement

Eight Mandarin Language Assistants are teaching in New Zealand during 2010, as a result of the NZ-China Free Trade Agreement. There is a rapid increase in the numbers of schools recognising that young New Zealanders will benefit from learning Mandarin.

***"An idea needs an audience like fire needs air."***

Thought Leaders Studio

## Recent Publications from the Education Review Office

- Success for Māori Children in Early Childhood
- Success for Māori Children in Early Childhood: Good Practice

These reports focus on the 76% of Māori children who attend mainstream early childhood services. They are available at [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz) and printed copies are being sent to early childhood services. You may wish to note that ERO's general reports on education are all available on the website – go to Reports, National Reports.

## 2010 NEiTA Foundation Awards

The regional awards celebration in parliament honoured a number of teachers from integrated schools: Georgette Jenson, Sunrise Christian School, Gisborne; Kane Raukura, De La Salle College, Mangere East; Amanda Woods, Marian College, Christchurch; Br Steve Hogan, Principal, De La Salle College, Mangere East. Congratulations to all these people.



**"I'll bat my eyelashes at him. If that doesn't work, I'll swoon. That's a word I learnt from my great grandma."**

## News from the New Zealand Teachers Council

The May Director's Message contains information about the teacher registration fee increase and the provisions in the latest Education Amendment Act concerning changes in processing nonteacher police vetting and the information matching programme. The Council has also finalised the new registered teacher criteria. See [www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz/rtc](http://www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz/rtc) for details.

## NZSTA Conference

The New Zealand School Trustees Association annual conference will take place in Christchurch 9-11 July 2010. The conference is very worthwhile for both new and experienced trustees. Principals are also welcome.

## Lead Teachers Make a Difference

The Woolf Fisher Research Centre at the University of Auckland is offering programmes training lead teachers in improving reading comprehension and writing with students who are "behind". Work in 14 decile 1 schools, and 33 West Coast schools has seen student achievement rise significantly. The programme is to expand, with more lead teachers being accepted for a year's training and Master's thesis work. Auckland and Northland schools will be targeted for the next five years.

## National Standards Training Response

Over 81% of schools have registered for, or participated in, the first round of National Standards training workshops.

## Oxfam Wara Blong Life Project

Following its initiation in 2009, the Oxfam online project Wara Blong Life (Water for Survival), will take place again in Term 4. It is based on the technology, social studies and health curricula. Working in collaboration with Kenyan and Papua New Guinea schools, students design a method of washing hands requiring very little water and develop health education materials. See [www.megabright.co.nz/Wara\\_Bilong\\_Life/home.html](http://www.megabright.co.nz/Wara_Bilong_Life/home.html) or email [monika@megabright.co.nz](mailto:monika@megabright.co.nz) to register.

## Worth Checking Out

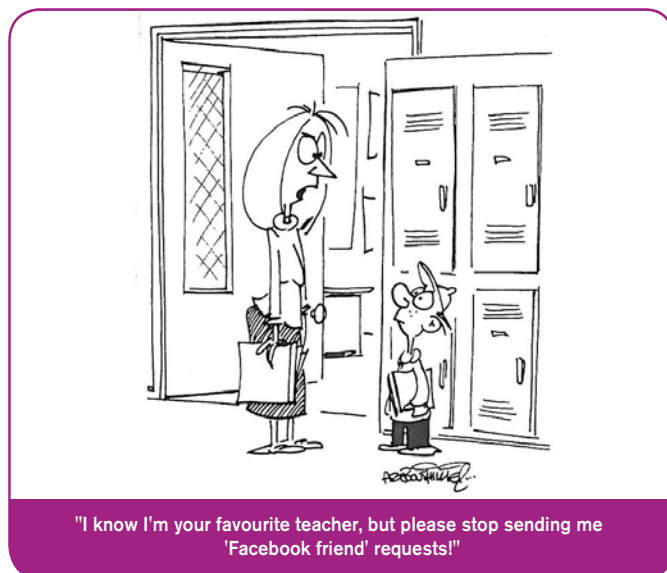
[www.superclubsplus.co.nz](http://www.superclubsplus.co.nz) is the website of "a safe social global community where children learn how to be responsible cyber-citizens and have fun online." It is currently being trialled in New Zealand schools, at no cost for this school year. Contact [penny.harrison@intuitivemedia.com](mailto:penny.harrison@intuitivemedia.com) to take part or to find out more.

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 SPOTLESS



## Change in Correspondence School Te Kura Dual Tuition Arrangements

Ministry of Education Circular 2010/07 specifies that Te Kura can now terminate dual tuition arrangements where return of work and course requirements are not being met.

## Volunteer Awareness Week 20-26 June

We offer thanks and congratulations to the many volunteers who support our schools.

## Teacher Vacancies Low

The 2010 survey of primary and secondary schools (responded to by 95% of primary schools and 94% of secondary schools) showed that 99.6% of teaching positions are filled. Vacancies in primary schools have dropped for the first time since 2007, while vacancies in secondary schools continue to decline. Re-advertised vacancies have also declined in recent years, largely due to decreases in vacancies in secondary school, according to Secretary for Education Karen Sewell.

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## Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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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: [nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz](mailto:nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz)  
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