



### Editorial

PAT LYNCH

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", wrote Charles Dickens in his novel, 'A Tale of Two Cities.' Of course he was referring to a period in history 200 years ago. However, the insight is still very apt for the start of the 21st Century.*

*The ambiguity we all experience in our lives excites us sometimes and can be a source of upset at other times.*

*The Christmas – New Year holiday period is always a good time to reflect on what has been and what is, and to plan for the future. We always will struggle with the powers of the past and wrestle with the powers of the future. It is part of making progress, however.*

*As people who have a particular, religious and/or philosophical view of the world and humankind's place in it, Integrated School personnel are able to focus on the beauty of hope, which along with peace, is the core of the Christmas message.*

*Many young people in their twenties are now recognising that while competencies are a huge factor in career development, as individuals they are also seeking meaning in what they do. In their own way they are reflecting on the ambiguity of Charles Dickens' assertion. They are deciding that work and life must have meaning and that it is not impossible to actually make a positive difference for good in the world in a myriad of ways. They are wrestling with the questions associated with who they are and why they are here.*

*By being honest in our relationships with others and as older adults sharing life experiences with the younger generation, we ensure that Integrated Schools with their values, spirituality and faith basis, make an even stronger contribution to the well being of New Zealand.*

*THANK YOU for the way in which you make a difference for good in our schools and by extension to the New Zealand community.*

**No reira e hoa mā, ma te Atua koutou e tiaki e manaaki i ngā wī katoa. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a tātou katoa. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa, tēnā tātou katoa.**

**Greetings to you all as the year comes to an end! Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our young people.**

### Curriculum Launch

The National Curriculum was launched on 6th November 2007. The document enables schools to focus on a holistic, values-based education, and provides the flexibility schools need to provide education with a special character, and to respond to the individual learning paths of students. Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, the partner curriculum document for Maori-medium teaching and learning, was launched in draft form on 15th November.

The new site for the NZ curriculum on line is <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz>. The website contains some very valuable articles which reveal the research and thinking behind the curriculum, including material on values in the curriculum. NZCER has created a Kick Start discussion pack focussing on the key competencies in the curriculum. Order online from [www.nzcer.org.nz](http://www.nzcer.org.nz).

A detailed Catholic perspective on the curriculum is being prepared by diocesan advisors working with NCRS. This will be published in the New Year. NZCEO is assisting with the exercise. The document will also be available to any other Proprietors who might like to see it, and perhaps amend it for their own use. Ⓣ

### Changes in the Role of Minister of Education

Hon Chris Carter is welcomed as the new Minister of Education. Hon Steve Maharey is thanked for his work as Minister of Education – he served us well. Ⓣ

### Caritas Research on Child Delivery Workers Published

Caritas research on the working experiences of children delivering newspapers and pamphlets found that most were self-employed contractors aged 10-16, with the majority aged 12. However, children as young as 6 were assisting with the work. Although they enjoyed their work, believed they benefited from it, and felt relatively safe, they identified dangers such as dogs, heavy loads, traffic risks and working after dark. Basically, they are not as well protected as adult postal delivery workers. The report may assist teachers to understand the working experiences and issues that even quite young primary school students are facing. Contact Lisa Beech at Caritas, [lisa@caritas.org.nz](mailto:lisa@caritas.org.nz). Ⓣ

### Anti-Spam Act Now in Force

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act states that all email and text messages may be defined as spam unless the recipient has given specific permission to receive the messages; or the recipient has an existing relationship with the sender. An opt-out facility must be provided. Ⓣ

### World Youth Day Tracking Well

More than 4000 New Zealanders are now committed to travelling to Sydney in 2008 for World Youth Day. Please keep these pilgrims in your prayers, and give them practical support as they move along their faith journey. Ⓣ



## NCEA on the Right Track

A recently released report from NZCER shows very strong support from educators for NCEA, which, they say, helps them to deliver appropriate and personalised learning for students. 📄

## International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement

The ICSEI Conference will be held in Auckland from 6-9 January 2008. Visit [www.icsei08.org.nz](http://www.icsei08.org.nz) for details and registration. 📄

## Proposal to Raise Leaving Age

The Prime Minister has announced a proposal to raise the education and training leaving age to 17. This would require students to be either in school or in tertiary training until at least this age. Details of the proposal are awaited. 📄

## ERO Reviews: Friend of the School

Proprietors are advised that they could suggest to their Proprietor's Appointees that it could be helpful for the Board of Trustees to appoint a Friend of the School prior to a school review. Approximately 50% of boards choose to have a Friend of the School. 📄

## A Useful Website

[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org) is a website of the De La Salle Brothers Great Britain. It has a selection of 100 prayers, and excellent prayer links. It is worth bookmarking. 📄

## Teachers Unlimited Free Until 1st February 2008

Until 1st February 2008 schools can advertise vacancies and teachers can advertise availability, free of charge on this new website. It is not a recruitment agency, simply an international advertising site. Visit [www.teachersunlimited.org](http://www.teachersunlimited.org) or email [brydon@teachersunlimited.org](mailto:brydon@teachersunlimited.org). 📄

## Integrated Schools' Property Management Handbook

The Ministry of Education's Property Management Handbook for Integrated Schools is now expected in 2008. A copy will be sent to each school, and the document will be on [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz). Meantime, the Handbook for State Schools, already on the website, provides useful information, including the new furniture and equipment funding rates. 📄



## National Children's Day 2nd March 2008

The theme for next year's Children's Day is 'New Experiences'. See [www.childrensday.org.nz](http://www.childrensday.org.nz) for details. 📄

## Hostels in New Zealand

Approximately 10,000 school students are served by New Zealand's 113 licensed hostels. 📄

## Congratulations

Students from Champion College, Gisborne, and John Paul College, Rotorua were national finalists in the Young Enterprise scheme. Finalists from St Thomas of Canterbury College Christchurch gained the Maori Enterprise award, a special export award, and teacher David Ivory gained the teacher award. 📄

## Worthwhile Reading

'How Many Lightbulbs Does it Take to Change a Planet: 95 Ways to Save Planet Earth' (Quercus, 2007). This book by Tony Juniper, Friends of the Earth, provides straightforward, lively, compelling reading on the topic. 📄



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No. 1 in Church Vehicle Management

## Kia kaha, kia māia, kia ū!

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