



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Prime Minister Jim Bolger was courageous when as the leader of the Government in the 1990's he spoke out about the importance of encouraging the growth of social capital in order to strengthen the nation's social and economic wellbeing. At the time it was not very fashionable to talk this way.

Today we refer to the same concept by insisting on the importance of developing the nation's soft skills, which have much in common with social capital.

Human capital, is an economic passport. Generally speaking, the more educated and informed a person is the greater their level of human capital. When young people drop out of school and then drop out of education, their life prospects generally take a dive.

Normally, well educated people not only possess specialised knowledge and technical skills, they are usually talented also in interpersonal relationships, entrepreneurship, perseverance, honesty, motivation, positive attitude, and they have built supportive networks.

Building social capital makes individuals better people who are more appreciative of human differences, culture and the arts.

Educators, parents and caregivers have a sacred duty to encourage the young, including those in tertiary education, to develop those personal dimensions that strengthen their social capital.

In the Integrated School sector the faith based and/or philosophical culture of the education offered by each school is a wonderful ready-made framework on which to build strong personal social capital.

There is no doubt that for many poverty is linked to lower levels of education, and to low levels of social capital. The more social capital individuals possess, the happier they are likely to be. They are also more likely to be economically successful and to contribute to the wellbeing of others in our society.

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Greetings

Ki ngā tumuaki, kaiako, porī me ngā matua, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te wā nei.

May the New Year be one of joy and achievement for you all.

Congratulations on NCEA Results

Hearty congratulations to integrated school leadership, teachers and students on the wonderful NCEA results reported in school newsletters.

Pasifika Education Plan 2013-2017 Recently Launched

This important plan is available from www.minedu.govt.nz. It is top priority reading for any school leadership and Board of Trustees with Pasifika students, even if numbers are low. Key actions include improving the information available to Pasifika families and communities, strengthening partnerships to support identities, languages and cultures, upskilling teachers in what works for Pasifika families, and increasing the number of Pasifika members on Boards of Trustees. To order printed copies of the Pasifika Plan 2013-2017 please email the Pasifika Unit Mailbox PasifikaUnit@minedu.govt.nz with your name, address details and the number of copies you require. It should be read alongside the ERO Report of May 2012, on Improving Education Outcomes for Pacific Learners, which gives Boards of Trustees and school leadership many ideas on ways to enable Pacific students to achieve better in school. See www.ero.govt.nz

New Leadership Scholarships Announced for Māori Boarding Schools

In December Hon Dr Pita Sharples announced the establishment of Puawaitanga scholarships for students enrolling at Hato Paora College, Hato Petera College, Hukarere Girls' College, St Joseph's Māori Girls' College, Te Aute College and Turakina Māori Girls' College. 90 scholarships will be available for the 2014 school year, with each school funded for a maximum of 15 scholarships at any one time. Scholarships will cover all boarding and school fees.

Education Sector: Results of the 2011 Audits

This document prepared by the Auditor General's Office was presented to parliament in late 2012. It names individual schools that have failed to meet specific areas of compliance. On the whole integrated schools are managing their affairs correctly, but several anomalies were commented on. The report is available at www.oag.govt.nz, and has been sent to Proprietors and their schools.

Congratulations to Fonterra

Fonterra is congratulated on the nationwide rollout of its 'Milk for Schools' programme.

Sympathy and Support to Bethlehem College

The community of integrated schools offers support to Bethlehem College staff, students and families as they continue to come to terms with the tragic loss of life of three members of the Bethlehem College community in a bus accident in Kenya. We hold them in our prayers and thoughts.



Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals

Otago, Southland Regions:

John McGlashan College, Dunedin: The school featured in the Education Gazette of January with comments by HOD English Iain McGilchrist on his expectations for ways his Department will improve student learning in the year ahead.

St Peter's College, Gore: Jenny Mitchell opened the Tamworth (Australia) Country Music Festival, playing to over 10,000 people. She also received a female solo award. Michaela Roy and Vanessa Harvey were 2nd placed in the group/duo section, and they made the top 10 out of 680 buskers.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

Villa Maria College, Christchurch: Estelle Thomson has been accepted into the Junior Associate Programme with the New Zealand School of Dance as a Classical Student. Esha Dickson's story "Nature's Secret" has been chosen as a winner in the Re-Draft Creative Writing Competition.

St Bede's College, Christchurch: The school featured in the Sunday Star-Times because it now heads the unofficial New Zealand Ivy League, in a survey by the Sunday Star-Times of the schools attended by 74 leading politicians, business leaders, government mandarins and the judiciary.

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

St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie: Anne Isaac, Tessa Reid and Rachel Duignan won the Trade Aid Human Rights section in the nationwide Inspiring Films Competition with their film 'Silencio'; they also won the People's Choice Award. Tessa Murphy won a Wild at Heart Award from Wellington Airport Authority.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: After significant fundraising, the school has opened its Notre Dame des Missions Performing Arts Centre.

St Mary's College, Wellington: The 8 February school newsletter movingly expressed the commitment, compassion, maturity and personal growth of 15 students who went to Vietnam in the Christmas holidays and worked with landmine victims.

St Patrick's College, Silverstream: The school recently featured on TKI in relation to its professional learning groups, introducing the Teaching as Inquiry model in the school. Contact Deputy Rector Jeanette Duffy for information.

Garin College, Nelson: Logan Ford is the youngest member of the National Youth Brass Band, and recently won the prize for the best audition DVD to the New Zealand Brass Band Association.

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

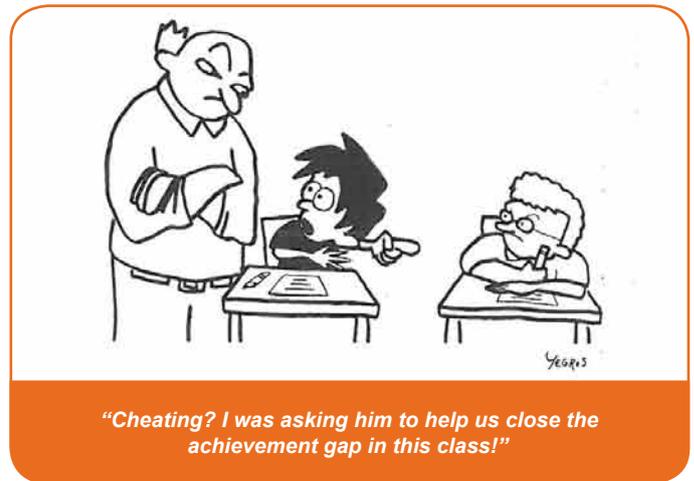
Sacred Heart College, Napier: Charlotte Collins won \$600 in the Alcohol Action New Zealand Art Competition, winning her section and coming second overall.

Lindisfarne College, Hastings: Joshua White has been selected as a clarinettist and bass clarinettist in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra.

St John's College, Hastings: Cameron Ferrick was accepted into the New Zealand Singing School in January. Won the prize for top Hawkes Bay Singer and sang solo at the Singing School's final concert. Lucan Battison featured in national newspapers because of his actions rescuing three girls from the sea at Waipatiki Beach.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

St Anne's School Manurewa: In the 2012 Choice Foundation Stand Tall Leadership Programme Awards Constance Wendt received Year 7 Cadet of the Year, Jacinta Makakea received Year 8 Greatest Journal of the Year Award and Teisa Semisi received the Year 8 Leader of the Year Winner Award.



"Cheating? I was asking him to help us close the achievement gap in this class!"

Race Relations Day Thursday 21 March

The theme for the 2013 Race Relations Day is "My Dream for Aotearoa New Zealand". Schools are encouraged to celebrate the day. Go to www.hrc.co.nz for details, and to get the delightful poster. Students can complete the sentence "My Dream for Aotearoa New Zealand is..." and see their thoughts on the website. Alternatively, email the answer to nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz, or look at the Facebook page.

For Each and Every Child He Taonga Tonu te Tamariki

Unicef New Zealand has published a wonderful bi-lingual children's book on the Rights of the Child. www.unicef.org.nz has details, or contact the publishers, Learning Media, www.learningmedia.co.nz.

Worthwhile Reading

- SPELD magazine is full of useful information about recognising and working to ameliorate learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and Asperger's Syndrome. Visit www.speld.org.nz.
- 'Educating Children and Young People with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: constructing personalised pathways to learning' by Carolyn Blackburn, Barry Carpenter and Jo Edgerton.

"All cruelty springs from weakness."

Seneca

Ministerial Cross-Sector Forum on Raising Achievement: Papers Available

The Forum's Minutes and interesting background research papers are available at www.minedu.govt.nz. (Type 'Cross Sector Forum' in the Search Box). Material from the September meeting includes research from the OECD on technology and learning and on innovative teaching and learning from the ITL Research website.

New Zealand and China Announce Updated Education Cooperation Agreement

In mid December an agreement increasing education cooperation between New Zealand and China was signed in Wellington between the NZ Government and the Chinese Government.

Education New Zealand China Plan

Education New Zealand (ENZ) has developed the first draft of its New Zealand China Plan 2012-2015, outlining trends in the China student market and growth opportunities. The Plan notes that 23% of all Chinese students abroad are high school students, and New Zealand ranks 6= (with Hong Kong) as an education destination country for wealthy Chinese. There is an unmet demand for high quality education in China. Comments on the plan are invited. Go to www.educationnz.govt.nz to learn more.

Prioritising International Education Markets

Education New Zealand has ranked China, India and Indonesia as tier 1 countries and Malaysia, South Korea, Middle East, Thailand, Brazil, Chile and Vietnam as tier 2 countries. Most ENZ focus and resources (including market research) will be devoted to these countries.

New Zealand Religious Studies Teachers Association

A meeting of the steering group was held on November 1st. A Term 4 newsletter was also sent out. Anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list can contact s.apathy@nzceo.org.nz.

Did You Know?

Until 1752, in England New Year's Day was on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation. The Romans had always begun their year in March (hence the months September – December are named using the Latin for 7-10). January 1st was adopted universally as the first day of the year following modifications made to the calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582.

Latest ERO Publications

- In 'Evaluation at a Glance: Transitions from Primary to Secondary School' (December 2012) ERO finds that successful transitions need to be prepared for, effective transition processes need to be used, additional support needs to be provided for vulnerable students, transition must be understood, reviewed and monitored, and the curriculum must respond to the diversity of students. This is a very useful document for primary and secondary school leaders.
- Mathematics in Years 4 to 8: Developing a Responsive Curriculum (February 2013) urges primary schools to be flexible and design a mathematics curriculum with appropriate teaching strategies adapted to the specific needs of students, particularly priority learners.

- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs in Early Childhood Services (December 2012)

Go to www.ero.govt.nz/national-reports to read or to download a summary of each report.

The Māori Success Complementary Evaluation Framework is available on the ERO framework, and includes investigative prompts for schools.

A Summary of Te Kotahitanga 2007-2010

A summary of the progress in educating Māori students in Te Kotahitanga schools has been published by the Ministry of Education. It provides key findings that would be of use to every school with Māori students.



"How many of you know what a pencil is?"

Volatile Substance Abuse – Information Available

www.volatilesubstances.org.nz has valuable information about this topic, including access to a new parent brochure. The website includes information for parents and retailers. While the problem peaks in teenage years all ages of children can be affected, sometimes through the parent use of volatile (butane-based) substances. Boards of Trustees would do well to be informed.

Human Rights Information

It is 20 years since the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Human rights are included in the NZ Curriculum. A regular emailed newsletter on Human Rights in Education is available from www.rightsined.org.nz. It is packed with excellent information and suggestions for classroom activities. Alternatively, see Facebook, twitter at (#hrie), Linked In, or find a presentation from HRIE on Slideshare.

"It may be those who do most, dream most."

Stephen Leacock

21st Century Learning Environments and Digital Literacy

Parliament's Education and Science Select Committee has recently published the above report. It provides a useful overview of the current state of digital use and resourcing in schools, and indicates where further steps need to be taken.

Digital Literacy

The 2020 Communications Trust Headlight Series publication 'Success in the Digital Economy' says:

- The personal attitudes that demonstrate digital confidence include: Critical/reflective use
- Confidence to find and select the best digital tools for a specific purpose
- Responsible use
- Legal and ethical principles
- Creative use.

How well do schools develop digital confidence in staff, students, Board members and parents?

Did You Know - Items from Wiki New Zealand

- In 2009 NZ was third in the world in the number of passenger cars per 1,000 people (600 cars per 1000 people).
- In 2009 NZ was sixth highest in the OECD for road fatalities per million inhabitants.
- A February 2012 analysis by the World Bank shows that NZ's top employment areas are manufacturing, health care and social assistance, retail trade, education and training, and accommodation and professional, scientific and technical services.

A Reminder for Boards of Trustees

Best Evidence Syntheses (BES) are important professional resources for the Board as well as for school leadership. Effective Pedagogy in Mathematics is one of eight very significant research summaries. Go to www.educationcounts.govt.nz/goto/BES to download full text and summaries and to find out about updates.



KONICA MINOLTA

Imagine This

When Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, first thought up the concept, he wrote a memo to his boss (in 1990) who labelled the idea "exciting but vague" and gave him permission to try it out. Imagine, said Sir Tim, if his boss had written "vague but exciting", we wouldn't have the web as it is today.



A Day Made Better – Teachers that Go Beyond the Call of Duty

Congratulations to Geraldine Sumner, St Joseph's School, Hastings, and Sonia Rova, St Patrick's School, Inglewood on winning flowers and \$1,000 worth of arts and crafts, stationery and office supplies for their classroom. Go to www adaymadebetter.co.nz to find out about entering teachers in the next round of awards.

A Reminder

Specifically teaching academic vocabulary for each subject area makes a considerable difference to students' ability to achieve, as knowing the relevant vocabulary enables students to understand subject-specific text and to write more accurately. Similarly, studying word roots (particularly Greek and Latin), prefixes and suffixes gives students a significant boost in tackling more difficult vocabulary.



Kia kaha, Kia Māia, Kia ū!

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