



Editorial

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OECD INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STANDINGS (PISA)

In December 2013 the OECD published its secondary school education tables following the testing of a sample of 15 year olds from over 60 countries in mathematics, science and writing. (Programme for International Student Assessment – PISA).

Unfortunately, for New Zealand our international rankings have slipped, much to our national embarrassment. All sorts of analyses about our predicament were proffered in the public debate that followed the release of the information, but the fact remains that, independently of the rankings, New Zealand's results have gone down.

Clearly, the information is a big wake up call for New Zealanders. Many people fail to recognise what Harvard President Drew Faust recently stated, "Knowledge is replacing other resources as the main driver of economic growth, and education is increasingly become the foundation for individual prosperity and social mobility."

Herein lies the nation's challenge. The questions the 15 year olds were asked in the PISA tests reveal that the ability to take information and manipulate it via the thinking process, is the way to become intellectually literate in the 21st Century. Many of our young people clearly find this difficult.

If we are not to slide further down the international rankings there are some structural issues that need addressing in our education system. There is no doubt Government is working on some of these reforms.

Two simple points might be worth turning into action plans:

- Hard work is a big part of the PISA success stories of China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam etc. Dan Carter, Richie McCaw, Valerie Adams and others did not become world beaters without consistent hard work, determination and courage. All our young people need to learn this lesson. There is nothing new in this but the lesson is not always put in front of our young people strongly enough as an imperative for success in life.
- Life is not always fair, nor is it always easy. Placing high expectations of achievement in front of young people will build their resilience and develop their well-being so they are better able to master what life throws at them.

These two ideas could be added to the reality spectrum of young people. Without emphasising them and vigorously tapping into the Emotional Quotient of our young people, New Zealand will be doomed to mediocrity.

Featured in this issue:

- 1 Recent Education Initiatives
- 2 Enrolment Fees
- 3 Recent Publications from the Education Review Office

Greetings

Ngā mihi nui o Te Tau Hōu ki a koutou katoa.

New Year greetings to everyone. Hopefully the year has started well for you.

Recent Education Initiatives

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 - In December Education Minister Hekia Parata announced a review of the Ministry of Education's Professional Learning and Development (PLD) expenditure in the schooling sector. An Advisory Group of sector leaders is being established.
 - In November Education Minister Hekia Parata announced the 'Building on Success' Programme, which combines the best from Te Kotahitanga and He Kāhano. The initiative has as its aim to further advance educational success for Māori students. Approximately a quarter of all secondary schools will be in the programme at any one time.
 - On 23 January the Prime Minister announced the 'Investing in Educational Success' strategy, with \$359m allocated to sharing best practice across groups of schools. Information is available at www.minedu.govt.nz.
 - Education Minister Hekia Parata has recently announced the establishment of a Taskforce on Regulations Affecting School Performance with an aim to free up schools to focus more on raising student achievement.
 - The Ministry of Education is congratulated on its new online Bulletin for School Leaders, He pitopito korero. It is being sent to principals and BOT Chairs fortnightly on Mondays, then published on the Ministry of Education website.
 - In association with the International Summit on Education in Wellington on 28-29 March, Festival of Education events will take place in Auckland, 21-23 March, Christchurch, 23 March, and Wellington, 29 March. Schools are urged to participate and share ideas, inspiration, success and best practice. Details are at www.festivalofeducation.org.nz.

Reminder to Proprietors and Boards of Trustees

NZCEO has recently sent or re-sent to Proprietors and BOTs the following Ministry of Education Circulars: -

- **Circular 2013/30 Attendance Dues Accounts** outlines the requirements for reporting to the Secretary for Education on attendance dues income and expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2013. It replaces Circular 2012/11. Audited annual attendance dues accounts are due with the Secretary for Education by 30 April 2014.
- **Circular 2013/06 Payments by Parents of Students in State and State-integrated Schools** gives advice on requests for payments in schools. It replaces Circular 1998/25.
- **Circular 2012/02 Financial Governance** covers conflicts of interest, recovery of overpayments and unlawful payments and procurement.

Enrolment Fees

It has come to the attention of the Ministry of Education that some integrated schools are charging parents an enrolment fee. This is not legal. All Proprietors and Boards of Trustees are advised to ensure that it is not happening. Advice on the topic has been sent to the affected parties.



Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals

Otago, Southland Regions:

Verdon College, Invercargill: Ben Simpson was presented with the National Leadership Award at the regional course at Burnham Military Camp; he was asked to attend the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice in South Korea. Robert Lindsay has been selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Choir and will travel to Argentina and Brazil to compete in an international choir competition. Liam Van Eeden and Jean-Martin Fabre were among the 20 winning film-makers honoured at the Someday Awards ceremony for their documentary 'Nearly Lost' about the endangered New Zealand Sea Lion.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

St Peter's College, Gore: Brooke McFaul was presented with the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award by the Governor General Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae.

John Paul II High School, Greymouth: Dana Lambert has been selected for entry into the 'Follow Your Dream' New Zealand Science Fair, one of only 20 students in New Zealand to be selected.

St Bede's College, Christchurch: A recent newspaper article revealed that five sitting MPs, Gerry Brownlee, Clayton Cosgrove, Peter Dunne, Damien O'Connor and David Carter, attended St Bede's College, Christchurch, a record thought to be unequalled in New Zealand political history. Mark Blumsky, a recent former MP and Wellington Mayor, also attended St Bede's College.

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

St Joseph's School, Kaikoura: Shelby Matthews won the local Lions International Peace Poster Contest with the theme of "Our World, Our Future". Her poster is now with the international judges in America.

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

Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth: The senior Future Problem Solving Team (Patrick-Fisher-Evans, Ryan Sadler, Louis Poole and Kurt Beiseik) has been selected to represent NZ in the international finals of the FPS in Iowa, USA.

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

John Paul College, Rotorua: Tim Bradley was selected for the National Shakespeare Team and will travel to the Globe Theatre in London. Fintan Walsh won the Rodney Walsh National Irish Essay Competition.

Aquinas College, Tauranga: Phoebe Scherer and Virginia Barnett attended the London International Youth Science Forum, a two week programme of lectures and trips.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Sancta Maria College, Flat Bush: Justin Rojos won an iTunes voucher for getting over 5000 points in the Language Perfect World Champs.

De La Salle College, Mangere: Senior students stood on the College driveway and asked students, staff and parents for their loose change, raising \$1,104.70 for the Philippines Disaster Fund.

Rosmini College, Auckland: With the support of the police and Auckland Transport, a student committee ran a travel expo to find safe travel solutions for their age groups. Displays, quizzes and activities gave students multiple ways to learn about safe driving and the dangers posed by alcohol and drugs.

Baradene College, Auckland: Teacher Theresa Bosch has been selected to take part in the Microsoft Expert Educator Programme and will become part of an exclusive one year initiative that recognises pioneer educators and school leaders using technology to transform education.

Congratulations to National Young Enterprise Award Winners in Integrated Schools

- The Todd Corporation Award for 2nd place, and the Unitec Award for Excellence in Enterprising Technology: Shepherd, St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch
- AUT University Scholar of the Year: Olivia Morgan Mitchell, Sass & Spice, St Mary's College, Wellington
- New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants Award for Young Managing Director of the Year: Sian English, Otepoti Products, Columba College, Dunedin
- Global Future Charitable Trust Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability: Debonair, Kingsway School, Auckland
- Ministry of Youth Development Award for Commitment: Campbell and Co, Hutt International Boys' School, Upper Hutt
- The YES National DairyNZ Get Ahead Challenge for Year 10 students: Al Madinah School, Auckland



"Our brains aren't fully developed until we're 19, so what's the point of going to school when we're just six?"

Māori Battalion and Ngarimu VC New Initiatives

The Ngārimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board is offering new opportunities for students. These include a battlefield pilgrimage, a multimedia challenge, new research and an Alumni Association for past recipients. Details are on www.minedu.govt.nz, search for Ngārimu VC.

Recent Publications from the Education Review Office



- Student Safety in Schools: Recruiting and Managing Staff (January 2014).
- Improving Guidance and Counselling for Students in Secondary Schools (December 2013).
- Making Connections for Pacific Learners' Success (November 2013).
- Wellbeing for Success: Draft Evaluation Indicators for Student Wellbeing (November 2013). This document is an aid to checking out how resilient a school is.
- Priorities for Children's Learning in Early Childhood Services: Good Practice (November 2013)

Download from the ERO website: <http://www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports>

Pacific Achievers Project - Congratulations

In 2013 the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs set up a project to mentor a number of schools to create videos to inspire Pacific students. Nineteen videos were made. De La Salle College students focused on HOD Science Kane Raukura because he is such a great role model for the students. McAuley High School students filmed senior student and highly successful country music singer Khona Va'aga Gray. To view all the videos go to www.mpia.govt.nz/pacific-achievers-project.

50th Jubilee

Middleton Grange School will celebrate its 50th jubilee in June 2014. A Christian early childhood centre is to be built adjacent to the school.

US \$100,000 International Schools Prize for Energy and Sustainability Project Proposals

Schools are invited to submit a detailed proposal for a project that would result in measurable energy efficiency improvement through sustainable and innovative means. The prize will be a grant that will enable the project's completion. A total of US \$500,000 will be distributed to five schools, with the final prize amount being based on financial information submitted in the project proposal. Submissions are accepted online and will close on June 14, 2014. Details are at www.ZayedFutureEnergyPrize.com

Congratulations

Ian Vickers, Sancta Maria College, Auckland, is congratulated on winning the national Innovation Award for his 'Good New Habits' programme at the NZ Workplace Wellbeing Annual Awards.

Jajoza Internet Safety eLearning

Australian company the Jajoza Collaboration Centre offers in-class internet safety eLearning and collaboration, a safety-first social network for jajoza registered students, and a range of other services. Many services are free. There is also a series of internet safety 'textbooks' covering topics for Years 1-13. For details go to www.jajoza.com.

The OWLS Project

The recently launched OWLS Project will help primary and intermediate school children manage their personal information online and understand the implications of making certain information available. Associate Minister of Education, Nikki Kaye said one of the reasons the project was exciting was because it had been driven by teachers.

'Start With Your Heart'

A Nelson Cengage Learning resource for primary schools, this reading series is designed to enable teachers and students to develop a deeper appreciation of God, Jesus and the world around them. The series is grounded in scripture and presents theology in a contemporary form. The resource includes interactive CDs and teaching notes. For more information go to www.nelsonprimary.com.au.

2014 Festival of Education

The object of the Festival of Education is to lift the quality of public debate about education and endeavour to better engage parents, caregivers and the public generally as to what constitutes education good practice. As part of this festival the Minister of Education is hosting the International Summit on Education, Teaching and Learning in Wellington on the 28th – 29th March. www.festivalofeducation.org.nz provides information.

'Inspired by U'

This is a Ministry of Education initiative designed to recognise and celebrate teachers and educators who have made a difference to their students' lives. Read the wonderful things people have written at www.inspiredbyU.org.nz, and perhaps add your own thanks to a teacher.

Did You Know?

- 76% of early childhood teaching staff are now qualified teachers, up from 51% in 2004.
- Between June 2011 and June 2013, youth crime dropped by 19%. Statistics NZ numbers show that conviction rates in the Youth Court are at their lowest since records began. In the last few years youth crime has dropped from 22% to around 15%. According to Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft this can be attributed to the introduction of measures like Positive Behaviour for Learning.
- The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) is a 10-year plan to reduce crime by children and young people and help those who offend to turn their lives around. It is based on partnering with communities to reduce youth offending, reducing escalation to ensure

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

young people are dealt with at the lowest appropriate level of the youth justice system, and early and sustainable exits to divert young people from falling into an ongoing life of crime.

- Auckland's population is 1.5 million, representing 180 different ethnic groups, including the highest concentration of Pacific peoples. 40% of Auckland's population was born overseas and 25% of them speak two languages.

Mental Health Foundation Video Competition

The Mental Health Foundation is running a competition to create a video to encourage young people not to use discriminatory language. It is open to all secondary students. There is a teaching unit plan for those schools using Media Production Standards 2.6 and 3.6. Projects must be submitted by 20 June 2014. Express interest and get more information by contacting Ivan Yeo: ivan@mentalhealth.org.nz.

Websites Worth Visiting

www.childpoverty.co.nz is the website of the JR McKenzie Trust in conjunction with the Children's Commissioner and Otago University's NZ Child and Youth Epidemiology Service. This new initiative puts the spotlight on child poverty. Alternatively, follow them on Twitter @povertymonitor.

<http://theagenda.tv.org/special/agenda-steve-paikin-learning-2030-0> provides a fascinating ongoing in-depth look at the future of education.

Care of Creation – A Rocha

A Rocha New Zealand is part of an international Christian network. Established in NZ in 2007, it encourages and equips ordinary Kiwis to care for the natural environment through hands-on community based projects. The head office is in the

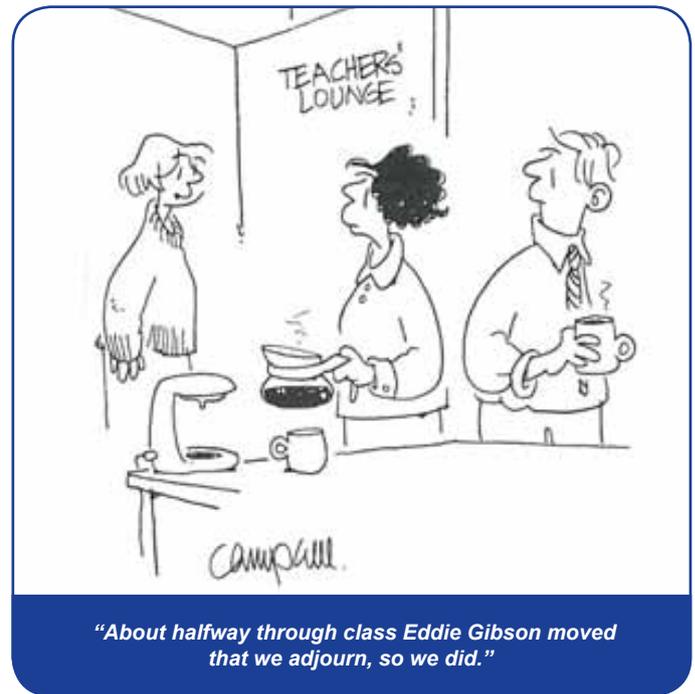
Waikato supports the work of six branches in Christchurch, Wellington, Manawatu, Waikato, Dunedin and Auckland. A Rocha offers a 'Care of Creation' seminar and a one-hour workshop 'Planetkeepers: why every Christian should be involved in creation care'. Contact phillip.donnell@arocha.org for more information, and view A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand on Facebook. More information is at www.arocha.org/int-en, including mini videos.

Efficiency – a Neglected Leadership Virtue

Viviane Robinson, in an opinion piece in a University of Auckland Centre for Excellence Newsletter issue 3, 2011, encouraged leaders to confront the question "What can I do to ensure that the time and efforts of my teachers are used in ways that maximise the probability that we achieve our student learning goals?" Efficiency requires that projects, innovations, action research and any school-based initiatives are tightly aligned to their intended outcomes otherwise they waste school resources including teacher and student time. The whole article is worth re-reading.

Network for Learning

Schools are reminded they need to register at www.n4l.co.nz.



"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve another."
Nelson Mandela



Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!
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