



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

INCORRIGIBLE OPTIMISM

Disasters of one kind or another are a constant news diet for billions of people in today's world. Natural catastrophes or man-made ones, unfortunately, occur all too often. In many instances those affected by misfortune exhibit extraordinary resilience in face of adversity. Just why some individuals and their communities are better able to cope with disaster is a tantalising question.

Great spirits remain intact in the face of adversity and with a few individuals adversity strengthens their resolve. Herein lies part of the answer to the above question.

Those people who have developed the spiritual side of their humanity, who have a reason for living and who have a faith of one kind or another, seem better able to cope than those who do not. Linked to their reason for living is a well-established set of values and virtues that are the guideposts of their lives.

There is also the matter of attitude. Mahatma Gandhi considered himself an incorrigible optimist, and Helen Keller believed that optimism leads to achievement.

Our human experience teaches us that optimists are more likely to lead others in solving problems, simply because they are people of hope who display resilience and seek to build networks of mutuality that ultimately get things done.

Hope is characterised by a belief that there is a way forward, no matter how insurmountable the odds. It is a pivotal virtue and is the driver for optimism.

Most people's experience is that optimists are easier to live with because they use their intellectual abilities and their spiritual energy to solve problems and achieve results. The moaners and groaners of this world are singularly unable to generate positive energy for good in helping their fellow human beings when disaster strikes. They need encouragement. "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

Featured in this issue:

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- 2 Health and Safety Update
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Greetings

Ki ngā Tumuaki, Kaiko, Poari me ngā Matuia, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te wā nei. We trust that all is well with you as autumn settles in.

Dear colleagues – greetings as we move towards Matariki. Hopefully the new term has started well for you.

Food Regulations

The new Food Act comes into effect on 1 March 2016, and currently Food Regulations are being developed under that Act. There is a three year period to comply: pre-schools will have to be compliant by June 2017 and schools by June 2018. Sectors with low risk will be required to do less. Education providers will not all be at the same risk level – some schools may require a food control plan, others will come into a National Programme. Territorial Authorities will act as regulators, and will set costs. Regulations specific to the education sector are being developed with input from sector organisations, and will be tested with them.

Vulnerable Children Act 2014

This Act was passed into law in July 2014. Legislative changes are being rolled out over several years. Obligations for schools in relation to child protection policies are likely to need to be in place by 30 June 2016. The Ministry of Education is working with sector leaders to develop guidance for schools and early childhood agencies. You will be kept informed. Boards of Trustees would do well to ensure they discuss this matter as information becomes available. General information is available at www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz.

Health and Safety Update

The Ministry of Education will be providing regular information and updates in its fortnightly Ministry Bulletin for School Leaders, from the start of May. It is suggested that these updates become compulsory reading, as details begin to emerge on the new practices that will be needed in this area. Proprietors receive the Bulletin link from NZCEO fortnightly.

New NZSTA Website

NZSTA is congratulated on the look of its new website, which is now easier to use on a range of devices. The website now has a single log-in facility for member Trustees. Trustees will need to register on the website before they are able to login. An activation email has been sent to all trustees and school staff who are currently recorded on the NZSTA data base. Staff not recorded on the NZSTA database can email database@nzsta.org.nz to register/login.

"One word frees us from all the weight and pain of life: that word is love."

Sophocles



Congratulations to:**More Integrated Schools in Latest Communities of Schools**

A number of integrated schools have signed up for the second round of Communities of Schools. A large grouping of Catholic schools is centred on Rotorua-Tauranga, and quite a number of integrated schools have joined local groupings throughout the country. Collaborations across schools, and across the primary-secondary schools in an area, are likely to be helpful to students.

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals**Otago, Southland Regions:**

St Peter's College, Gore: Jenny Mitchell was named the Junior Aristocrat Entertainer of the Year and runner-up in the CCMA song writing section at the Tamworth Music Festival, Australia. Oliver Gordon-Glassford won the SuperValue Talent Quest for his piano performance.

St Brigid's School, Dunedin: Ben Knopp was the co-winner of "What did you do in the war – Grandy?" a nation-wide poster competition organised by the NZ Society of Genealogists.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

Marian College, Christchurch: The college has a Facebook page which offers inspirational prayers and thoughts, pictures and news of special character events. The page is managed by the special character committee, pastoral chaplain and DRS. Look for 'Special Character at Marian' on Facebook.

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

Garin College, Nelson: Jake Robinson has attained his ATCL Diploma in Musical Theatre with Distinction. Sam Harrison won a position as a New Zealand Ambassador to Gallipoli, with the New Zealand Defence Force.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Thorndon: The school website is very appealing, and kept right up to date. See www.sacred-heart.school.nz.

Holy Family School, Porirua: About 40 staff from Z Energy's Head Office have helped out during the past year doing a huge range of activities to support the school, including helping clean out a drain, re-laying bark, creating maths games, donating food, and playing soccer with children.

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

Iona College, Havelock North: The school was a successful applicant to the New Zealand China Sister Schools Fund, a contestable fund announced during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to New Zealand late last year.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Baradene College, Auckland: Zosia Herlihy-O'Brien has been selected into the New Zealand Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra.

Marcellin College, Royal Oak: Celine Malaluan is one of four NZ students chosen to attend the London International Youth Science Forum.

Sacred Heart College, Auckland: Harrison Fookes, Dux in both Year 12 and Year 13 (2014) has been awarded a prestigious Girdlers Scholarship to Cambridge University. Valued at approximately NZ\$50,000 a year it will pay his university fees and contribute to his living costs while he studies for his degree.

St Dominic's College, Auckland: Board of Trustees member Malia Tuala has been awarded a NZSTA Trustee Study Award.

St Paul's College, Auckland: Sione Pole has been awarded the University of Auckland's Chancellor's Award for Top Māori and Pacific Scholars, valued up to \$50,000. Philip Ega has been awarded the AUT Vice Chancellor's Scholarship, valued at \$15,000.

A New Integrated School Opens

On 1st May the Minister of Education opened Rolleston Christian School in Canterbury. This is our 335th Integrated School. We congratulate the Proprietors and all associated with the school on this auspicious occasion. The school will eventually accommodate 300 students.

Did You Know?

We read a lot of integrated schools' newsletters, looking for achievements of a national level, to offer congratulations on. If you do not currently send us your newsletter, please do so, or simply send a separate email if you have something you think we could report on. Email nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz.



"As our math teacher, we'd like you to tell the coach it's impossible to give more than 100%."

Congratulations on Election as President of SPANZ

Sandy Pasley, Principal of Baradene College, Auckland, is congratulated on her election as President of SPANZ.

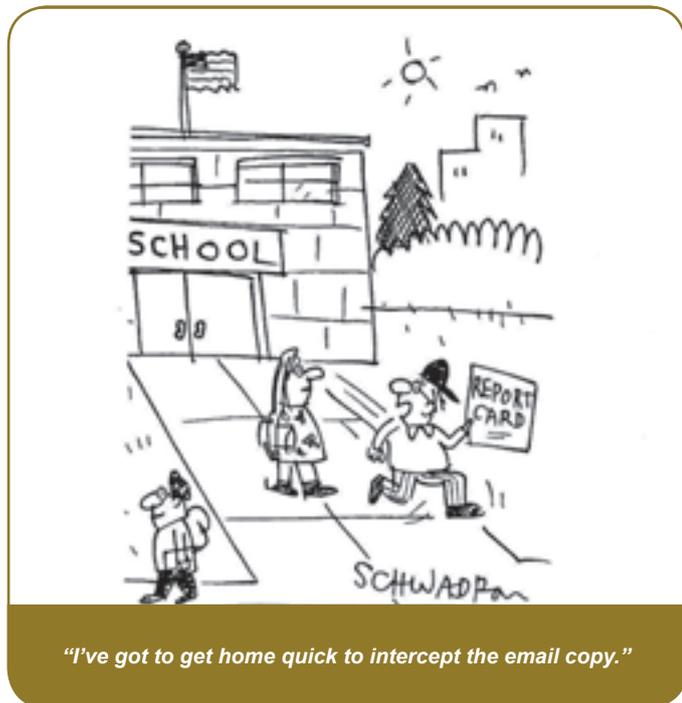
Australian Honours

Rosmini College Old Boy, David Addington, has been recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2015 Honours List for "significant service to the community through refugee support organisations, particularly the provision of financial assistance programmes." The Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary operates a zero interest loan scheme to fund travel and establishment expenses for refugees who have been approved for relocation to Australia. Over the last 13 years, 4,000 refugees have been provided loans, with the failure rate of these loans being less than 1%. For more information go to www.nbrs.org.au.

Helping Kids through Variety

Schools are reminded that the national organisation Variety has funding available to assist in some of the costs that families may not be able to cover in relation to education. Children aged 3-12 years old who are NZ residents, and who have parent/caregivers on a limited income may be able to get assistance for expenses such as school stationery, doctor's visits, literacy support, extra-curricular activities and a range of other needs (not attendance dues).

Sponsors are also needed. Go to www.variety.org.nz to find out more, contact sponsorskids@variety.org.nz, or phone Ruth on 09 522 3740.



Police and Education Partnership Update

The NZCEO office has representation on the Police and Education Partnership, a national group which meets quarterly to share information and work on developing policies and practices. At the March meeting of the Partnership CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) was on the agenda, as was cost recovery for police vetting - a submission has been made to the Select Committee on this topic, asking that schools not be charged for police vetting, as this is a public good, designed to keep children safe. The Youth Guarantee initiative 'Count Me

In' was outlined, and its importance for those at risk of not achieving educational success. Work is beginning to shape the November 2015 White Ribbon campaign, which will focus on sexual violence and the issue of consent. Education experts can get involved. Contact Roland. Hermans@police.govt.nz to learn more.

Recent National Reports from Education Review Office

- Inclusive Practices for Students with Special Needs in Schools (March 2015)
- Wellbeing for Young People's Success at Secondary School (February 2015)
- Wellbeing for Children's Success at Primary School (February 2015)
- Bullying Prevention and Response Guide: Schools' Awareness and Use (February 2015)

The recently released report on Inclusive Practices for Students with Special Needs in Schools is good news – 78% of schools are now (2014 data) found to be mostly inclusive, up from 50% in the previous report in 2010. Only 1% of schools still have few inclusive practices, down from 20% in 2010.

The two Wellbeing reports highlight good practice in schools, but also reveal gaps, and the need for a more cohesive approach to student wellbeing. The ERO draft wellbeing indicators are worth studying.

Cyberbullying Bill on the Way

The Harmful Digital Communications Bill, designed to curb the growing incidence of cyberbullying, passed its second reading in parliament in March. It is expected that the Bill will establish a complaint handling agency, allow people to take serious complaints to the District Court, allow people to easily and quickly request the removal of harmful content, make it an offence to send messages and post material online that is intended to cause harm, create a new offence of incitement to commit suicide in situations where the person incited does not actually attempt to take their own life.

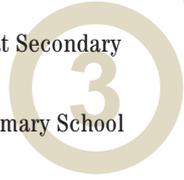
Spirituality Assists to Protect against Depression

www.macleans.ca/society/science/god-is-the-answer/ This is a significant article about how shared (and operative) religious or non-religious spirituality has a very strong correlation with protection against depression. Children in families with operative spiritual values are significantly less at risk in adolescence of depression, substance and alcohol abuse, and unprotected sex, despite the chaos that goes on in the adolescent brain.

Worth Reading

'Teach Like a Champion', Doug Lemov. His ideas have stirred up some controversy, but the book apparently has lots of tips that are useful, particularly to teachers who are still mastering classroom control and student engagement.

'This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs the Climate', Naomi Klein. "A book of such ambition and consequence that it is almost unreviewable ... the most momentous and contentious environmental book since "Silent Spring." (New York Times Book review). A matching feature film will be released this year.



'Lillibutt's Te Araroa Adventure' is a delightful follow up to the successful 'Lillibutt's Big Adventure', both books written by Maris O'Rourke and illustrated by Claudia Pond Eyley. Lillibutt is a Kunekune pig, and her adventures are aimed at 7-11 year olds. It is available in bookshops.

'Stop! Navigate your Christian Spirituality' by Kevin Kannan (currently Deputy Principal of Nga Tawa Diocesan Girls School, Marton). The book makes use of Catholic, Christian and other writing on spirituality to provide an analysis of different types and levels of spirituality. Leaders with responsibility for religion in the school might find it interesting. It is available on www.amazon.com as a printed book for US\$13.22, and on Kindle for \$US9.99.

A New Fundraising Alternative

A healthy alternative product for fundraisers is 'Disaster Plasters'. The product and the concept have been well tested and a co-ordinator works with the school. To find out more visit www.schoolaid.co.nz, email aimee@schoolaid.co.nz or phone Aimee Perry on 021 060 4437.

Did You Know?

2015 is the 25th anniversary of the Great Potentials Foundation, CEO Dame Lesley Max, Chair Angus Fletcher. The organisation runs HIPPY, MATES and two Family Service Centres. The Foundation is thanked for its wonderful ongoing work for New Zealand children and families.

New Zealand Parent Teacher Association

As well as holding an annual conference, (in Christchurch, 15-17 May 2015) the Association runs a useful website, www.nzpta.org.nz, and can supply information on 0800 334 403 or email secretary@nzpta.org.nz. 'Give me 5' is a useful initiative to encourage parents to contribute five hours a year to their school.

Anglican Schools Focus on Special Character

Anglican Schools, both integrated and non-integrated are working together to consider and deepen their Special Character and to strengthen their networks. A number of the schools have taken part in special character reviews. All these actions strengthen education. We know some other integrated school networks are doing similar work to strengthen their special character, and will report specific actions when we are informed of them.



"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

Indira Gandhi



KONICA MINOLTA

Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!

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Adele Pedreschi Wendy Rozenberg

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