



Editorial

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WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Every day we all make a myriad of decisions linked to satisfying a need or expanding our horizons. Many of us engage in middle and high level planning to achieve some end or other. However, when the outcomes of our decisions are analysed we could well ask what was the real purpose of what we were planning or seeking to do, since the final outcome was not satisfactory.

A laser-like focus on what we are seeking to achieve brings our purpose statement into bold relief. Fuzzy thinking and a raft of qualifications that dilute clear purpose and action do not help us achieve our ends.

Very often we hear people say "at least we are all singing from the same song sheet," and they are comforted that their group has been unified because they all know what they are doing. CEOs of companies, NGOs, team leaders and a host of other organisations at least theoretically know about the importance of identifying and defining our purpose in a particular set of circumstances.

With the emphasis in recent times in education institutions on professional planning and professional processes of operation, defining one's purpose is fundamentally important if superior outcomes are to be achieved. If the hang man's noose sharpens the mind so should a focus on purpose equally sharpen the mind. A well defined purpose adds to the mana of leaders

Questions that could be asked when focusing on purpose:

- What does final good practice look like?
- Is what is proposed fit for purpose?
- Is there clarity around the roles of those engaged in the organisation?
- Is what we are using to achieve our purpose actually fit for purpose?
- What is the cost benefit of what we are doing?

Once focused on the purpose of a particular organisation or project, there is a much greater chance of successfully achieving superior outcomes.

Featured in this issue:

- ① High Court Decision on Suspension over Hair Length
- ② Investing in Educational Achievement (IEA) – No Risks for Integrated Schools
- ③ The Physical Activity Report Card for Children and Youth

Greetings

Ki ngā Tumuaki, Kaiako, Poari me ngā Matua, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te wā nei.

We wish you well for Term three, and trust it is a productive time for you.

High Court Decision on Suspension over Hair Length

Following on the recent High Court decision that student Lucan Battison should not have been suspended for refusing to cut his hair, lawyer Mai Chen of Chen Palmer, has stated that schools' ability to make and enforce rules has not changed. However, schools need to be careful that any penalty is appropriate to the particular infringement. Advice is available from NZCEO.

Best Practice in Relation to Complaints

It is important for schools to ensure that parents know who to contact and what steps to take when they wish to make a complaint. A complaints procedure should be easily discoverable on the school website. It is worthwhile to make Board policies available on the school website also.

Investing in Educational Achievement (IEA) – No Risks for Integrated Schools

Some integrated schools have questioned whether they will be able to participate in the Government's IEA initiative and still maintain their school's special character. The matter has been discussed in detail with Dr Graham Stoop, the Deputy Secretary of Education charged with rolling out this policy, and a letter has been sent to all principals and Boards of Trustees of Integrated Schools assuring them that there will be no risk to any school's special character, which continues to be fully safeguarded in law. A copy of the letter is available from NZCEO.

New CEO Appointed at Education Review Office

Iona Holsted is congratulated on her appointment as Chief Executive and Chief Review Officer of the Education Review Office.

Recent Statistics

Based on 2013 results, 78.6% of 18 year olds gained a minimum of NCEA level 2, with significant increases for Māori and Pasifika students. Early childhood education participation is now up to 95.6%, with significant increases for Māori and Pasifika students.

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart."

French proverb



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

Verdon College, Invercargill: Rihitoto Albert won a bronze award in the online Education Perfect Social Sciences Championships 2014, placing in the top 10% of competitors from around the world.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

John Paul II High School, Greymouth: Seventeen students participated in Shave for a Cure, to raise funds for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. They raised \$6,335, and gained a place in the top ten school fundraisers throughout New Zealand, a huge effort for a school of only 186 students.

St Joseph's School, Rangiora: The school's Enviro Group featured in an article 'Project Gro in Rangiora'. in the May/June Organic NZ Magazine.

St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch: The school's social enterprise hub was awarded the 'Excellence in Engaging Atahāpara Award' in the inaugural Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. Bradley Blackler was recognised for his voluntary services through the Canterbury District Health Board Youth Advisory Council and Heart Kids New Zealand at a function hosted by the Hon. Nicky Wagner with guest speaker the Right Hon. John Key.

Roncalli College Timaru: The school featured on TV One news when local businessman Hayden Vaughan gave 100 copies of Sir John Kirwan's book 'All Blacks Don't Cry' to the school, which then created a programme on mental wellbeing, to be taught to every Year 10 student. Sir John Kirwan visited the school to talk to students.

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

Hutt International Boys' School, Silverstream: Jake Ward has been selected for an international Air Cadets exchange in the United Kingdom, where he will visit military bases. Liam Whitney performed a solo stand-up comedy act as part of the International Comedy Festival, and was awarded the top 2014 Comedians' Choice Award. Andre Brown was accepted as principal tuba player in the NZ Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra. Liam Dennis was a member of the team that won the New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships, and has been selected for the New Zealand Debating Team to compete at the World Debating Championships in Thailand.

St Mary's College, Wellington: Meg Henderson won the 11-14 age Article Category in the Kiwi Young Reporters for the Environment and Wrigley Company Foundation's Litter Less Campaign. Sudha Kanarpa, Billie McGuinness and Lizzy Gaiduch won the 15-18 age Photography Category in the same campaign.

Garin College, Nelson: Team Tima Ruku consisting of Finlay Langelaan, Julia Froeling and Molly Inman, travelled to the University of Southern Mississippi to compete in a Robotics competition where they won first place in the scientific presentation. Holly Webster has been selected to represent New Zealand at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Thorndon: Zoe Ferguson is to represent New Zealand at the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section Children's Camp in Washington D.C.

St Teresa's School, Karori: The school held an international information evening at which parents of current students gave insights into schooling in other countries including India, China, Wales, Samoa, Korea, Japan and the Philippines. This was a learning experience for parents and teachers.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: Olivia Van Woerkom received a PACNZ Ballet nomination for the NZ National Young Performer Awards, and received a scholarship to attend the McDonald College Performing Arts School summer programme in Sydney.

St Mary's School, Blenheim: has developed a set of Be-attitudes and Me-attitudes, which unpack the school's values in language that makes sense to students. See www.stmb.school.nz for more.

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

Cullinane College, Wanganui: Mona Wareka won the regional Manukorero in Senior English Speech and will compete at the national competition. The school Kapa Haka team is representing the region at the National Kapa Haka Competition.

St Joseph's School, Hastings: Alan Uthuo won \$1,000 for his school in an art competition.

St Joseph's Māori Girls' College, Taradale: Joela Elliot competed in the United States at a Hip Hop/Lyrical/Jazz Dance Competition. The school's Kapa Haka group performed at the Prime Minister's Excellence Awards.

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

John Paul College, Rotorua: Fintan Walsh's speech on what he would do if he was New Zealand's Prime Minister won the 2014 Rotary International Secondary School Speech Contest. Liam Benfell was picked to sing the Australian Anthem at the Black Ferns vs Australia international rugby match. Former Head Boy, Christian Thurston, has been announced as a 2014 finalist in the prestigious Lexus Song Quest.

Sacred Heart College, Hamilton: Marianna Kang is a national finalist in the Wallace National Junior Piano Competition where she is up against much older students.

Campion College, Gisborne: Andrew Derby is part of the Gisborne Concert Band which competed at the National Concert Band Festival and won a silver award. He also won a silver award for his clarinet solo.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Carmel College, Milford: Anneke Simmonds has been awarded a place on the London International Youth Science Forum.

Sacred Heart College, Glenn Innes: Harrison Fookes has been selected for the New Zealand Debating Team to compete at the World Debating Championships in Thailand.

St Peter's College, Grafton: The Senior Concert Band won a gold medal at the National Band Championship.

Congratulations

- Terry Consedine, Deputy Principal of Aquinas College, Tauranga, winner of a NEiTA Cognition Excellence in Leadership Award.
- Melissa Bell, Principal of St Hilda's Collegiate School, Dunedin, winner of a NEiTA Cognition Excellence in Leadership Award.
- Teams from McAuley High School, Otahuhu and Francis Douglas Memorial College New Plymouth represented NZ at the Iowa State University Future Problem Solving Programme International Conference. The McAuley High School team, Vivien Taega, Caylah Tongotea, Leueta Mulipola, Hinemoa Finau and Tereena Noomaara, was awarded first place in the Senior Division of the 2014 FPSP International Conference CMPS (Community Problem Solving) team competition, Education Category.
- Cullinane College, Wanganui, and Aquinas College, Tauranga, have been selected as pilot schools in the Restorative Practice pilot. See www.pb4l.tki.org.nz and www.wellbeingatschool.org.nz for useful information on creating a more caring school climate where learning flourishes.

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand 2014 Awards

The University of Otago Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival 2014 Awards celebrate specific areas of ability, skills and excellence. Congratulations to:

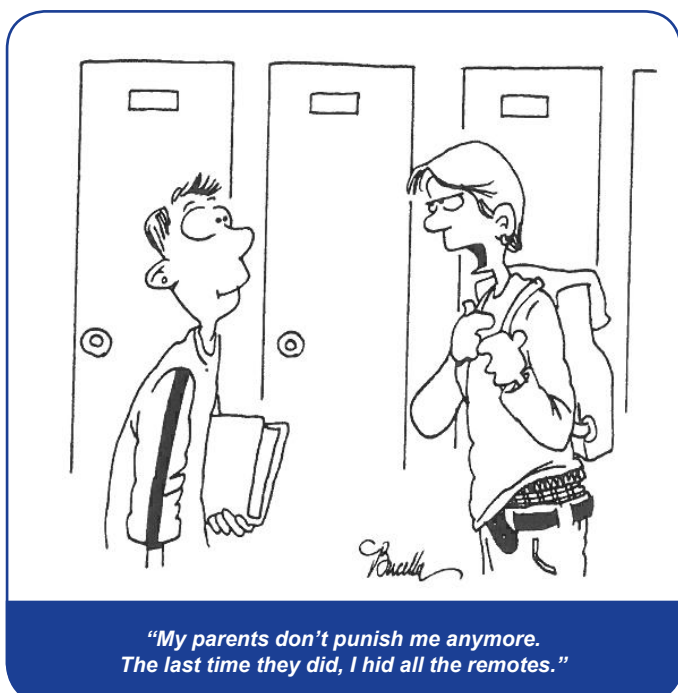
Verdon College, Invercargill: Outstanding Student-Directed Costume/Design Award

Iona College, Havelock North: Outstanding Music/Song Award, Most imaginative and Innovative Production Award, Best Technician Award to Bridie Casey

Wesley College: Outstanding Student-Directed Music/Song Award

Lindisfarne College, Hastings: Most Effective Design Award

Hutt International Boys' School, Upper Hutt: Best Use of Space Award



Rathkeale/St Matthew's Senior College, Masterton: Outstanding Presentation from a Tragedy Award

John Paul College, Rotorua: Most Thought-Provoking Performance Award

Selections for SGCNZ 2014 National Shakespeare Schools' Production: Ben Black, Lindisfarne College, Hastings; Ella Brown and Tessa Rao, Iona College, Havelock North; Manaaki Graham, Hutt International Boys' School, Upper Hutt; Zoe Hancox-Monk, St Matthew's Collegiate School, Masterton; Callum McIntosh, Garin College, Nelson; Olivia White, Champion College, Gisborne.

The Big Picture Competition

Drawing attention to child poverty solutions, this competition is tied into the school curriculum for young people to create a big picture and make a difference. For further details go to www.thebigpicture.org.nz or email bigpicturecompetition@gmail.com. Entries close Friday 17 October.

Websites worth Visiting

www.religionresourcesonline.org/bible-trivia/ is a nondenominational site that provides easy Bible quizzes for children and young people.

www.projectrocket.com.au is the site of Australia's youth-driven anti-bullying and leadership organisation, Project Rocket. The group has toured NZ schools with workshops, and would be happy to come again.

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Week e-books Launch

At Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Wellington, Education Minister Hekia Parata launched new e-books that have been developed in collaboration with Deaf Aotearoa to improve children's access to sign language. They are the first digital resource of their kind to be used in New Zealand schools. A fortnight later the Minister launched a new Family Whānau Sign Language Facilitator Service, to be run by Deaf Aotearoa..

You Might Like to Read

'Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: an Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children', John Wood, (founder of 'Room to Read'). Starting in Nepal in 1998, Wood has raised millions for new schools, libraries and books for the developing world.

Recent Publications from ERO for Boards, Principals and Parents

Recently released national reports can be downloaded from the ERO website www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports

- Supporting School Improvement Through Effective Teacher Appraisal
- Supporting School Improvement Through Effective Principal Appraisal
- Towards Equitable Outcomes in Secondary Schools: Good Practice
- Raising Achievement in Secondary Schools
- Raising Achievement in Primary Schools: ALiM and ALL
- Raising Achievement in Primary Schools

ERO has made some changes to the way it presents school reviews, which will be particularly valuable for parents. Reports now have a new section providing comment on ERO's overall judgement of the school. This statement appears on a new opening web page about the school.

ERO has also added to its series of booklets for parents, with 'From Education to Employment' and 'Your Child's Education'. As well as being on the ERO website, the booklets are available in secondary and primary schools, respectively.

Did You Know?

In 2010-2014 around 40% of NZ births had a Māori or Pasifika identity, and 52% of births had a Māori, Pasifika or Asian identity. The trend looks set to continue over the coming decades. About two thirds of New Zealand's Asian and Pasifika populations live in Auckland.

Recent Ministry of Education Documents

- The Management of School Information: Ministry of Education school data collection, use and release
- Bullying Prevention and Response Guide
- Teachers and Teachers' Aide Training Kit for Schools. <http://teachersandteachersaides.tki.org.nz/>.

NZCER Report on Achievement in Boys' Schools

In this report De La Salle College, Mangere, Rongotai College, Wellington, Sacred Heart College, Auckland and Hutt International Boys School, Upper Hutt were the four schools identified as being particularly high achieving. Integrated schools are congratulated for being three out of the four schools reported on in detail. See www.nzcer.org.nz/research/publications/achievement-boys-schools-2010-12.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

African proverb



KONICA MINOLTA

The Physical Activity Report Card for Children and Youth

This was initiated in Canada and for the first time has been completed by 15 countries. The New Zealand Report Card was developed by a team of researchers at the University of Auckland. The nine key indicators used were physical activity levels, sedentary behaviour, organised sport, active play, active transportation, whānau/family and peer influence, school and community environment, and government policies. New Zealand came top with Mozambique in the overall Physical Activity Indicator, scoring a B, but had mixed results in some of the other key indicators.

Did You Know?

87% of the world's carrot seeds come from Canterbury.

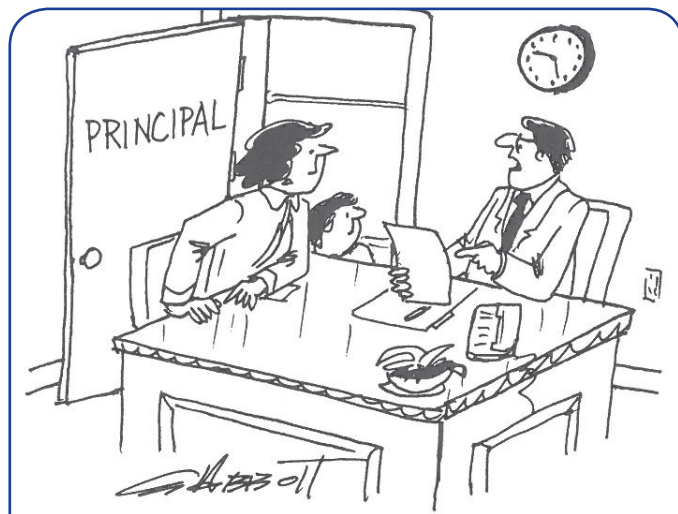
New Zealand has 75% of the global sheep trade and 34% of the global milk trade.

App Cuts Paper Trail

Lynmore Primary School is using an app which sends out alerts to parents with smartphones about last minute changes to sporting and other events. It will eventually phase out hard copy notices and will use the app for most communications to parents.

Consider This

At the recent NEiTA awards the Minister of Education said that teachers are "a crucible of magic" to enable education to happen.



"If you expect your son to take care of you in your old age, you need to be sure he does his homework."

Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!

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