



Editorial

PAT LYNCH

WHAT HAS THE LAST TWENTY YEARS TAUGHT US ABOUT WHAT WORKS IN EDUCATION?

There are few silver bullets that will automatically bring about desired results. They are generally limited to the world of mechanics, biology and physics. In relation to the development of human beings we have to be guided by the wisdom of the ages and the experience of successful professionals.

Schooling used to be deemed successful if graduates could remember a lot of information and leave school as literate and numerate individuals, with some sound skills and attitudes. School reports often stated the obvious, didn't tell parents much they didn't already know and frequently students were blamed for not engaging in their studies.

Today international experience and research states very strongly that the learning process is more important than anything else.

Central to this is the vital importance of parental involvement in achieving academic success. Today's youngsters come from very diverse domestic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, which are often very different from the culture of a school. Unless parents and caregivers are overtly welcomed into their child's school and are clearly valued by the administrators and teachers, there is a little to be gained from preaching the value of diversity. Actual practice is what matters.

Well-intentioned schools do not always examine and reflect on the deficit attitudes and practices they might engage in unwittingly, and thus they may put off both students and parents.

Migrant children and ethnic minority children are different in so many ways, and if they feel alienated or not really valued by the adults in their school their achievement is likely to suffer.

Our integrated schools try to place significant emphasis on the values, spiritual and philosophical dimensions of what they offer as they seek to better engage and excite their students about their learning. This is commendable, yet the question remains: are we asking the right questions about why some of our students are not achieving at higher levels?

Maybe a greater emphasis on mining all the data we now have available, and a focus on 'what if' questions, would help deliver better outcomes for every one of our kids.

If we ask the right questions, we can change the world.

Featured in this issue:

- 1 Changes to Furniture and Equipment Policy
- 2 Administration of Code of Practice for International Students Passed to NZQA
- 3 NZSTA Takes on Expanded Role in Professional Development for Boards of Trustees

Greetings

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.

We wish you well for Term Four, with all the challenges it brings!

Changes to Furniture and Equipment Policy

The Ministry of Education, with APIS input, has developed new furniture and equipment policy and guidelines for integrated schools. Starting on 1 July 2014, funding will be paid annually to the Board of Trustees, in addition to the Operations Grant. Proprietors will no longer have to submit forecast of requirements. Full details are also available from NZCEO: contact Maureen Condliffe if necessary.

New Zealand Police – Serving School Communities

- NZ Police has recently published an overarching document that defines how the NZ Police will provide prevention services to school communities, and the goals, principles and values that NZ Police and NZ schools share. Education resources are being redeveloped, and assistance to schools will be mainly through an annual planned approach. Police will work with a range of community providers. A copy of the strategic document is available from Police.
- Advice on School Balls: Recently principals of secondary schools have been sent advice from the Police and Education Partnership on school balls and pre- and after-ball functions. Schools or Proprietors are welcome to contact NZCEO to receive a copy.

Administration of Code of Practice for International Students Passed to NZQA

On 1 August the responsibility for the administration of the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Applications for Code signatory status, queries about the Code, and complaints alleging provider non-compliance will all be dealt with by NZQA. School relationships with ERO in terms of monitoring the Code remain the same.

School Uniforms and Supplies – Procurement Guidelines for Schools

In June the Commerce Commission published a significant document on this topic. Find it at www.comcom.govt.nz/school-uniforms.

Network for Learning Launched

On 7 August the Minister of Education announced the launch of the Network for Learning, a Crown-owned company to provide NZ schools with fast internet and uncapped data. Schools can register and can learn more, on www.n4l.co.nz.



Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Schools and Individuals

Otago, Southland Regions:

Columba College, Dunedin: Megan Summers was selected to attend the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) National Leadership Programme. Angela Jenks has been selected to attend NSSP (National Secondary Shakespeare Production).

St Peter's College, Gore: Jenny Mitchell has been selected to sing The Little Drummer Boy in the 'Christmas in the Park Concert' in Christchurch.

St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin: Anne-Sophie Page was selected to attend the Youth ANZAAS (The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science), a week long science forum held in Tasmania, Australia.

Canterbury, South Canterbury and West Coast Regions:

St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch: Braydon Drummond has been judged as the best snare drummer for his age in the world, and will attend the World Pipe Band Competitions in Scotland. The school figured in the June 2013 issue of Talanoa Ako (Pasifika Education Talk) with an article featuring its hosting of the Anueriueta Pa'o-Sopoaga Speech Competitions, in which its students Patrick Elia and Malo Tautalafua won the junior and senior Samoan sections, respectively. Maria Pula, Villa Maria College, Pamela Tuulua and Benjamin Tatafu, Catholic Cathedral College, Leticia Feausi, Middleton Grange School, also received placings.

Marian College, Christchurch: Special Character at Marian College has a Facebook page which offers inspirational prayers and thoughts, pictures and news of Special Character events. See Facebook 'Special Character at Marian'.

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

St Michael's Catholic School, Taita: The school was featured in the June 2013 issue of Talanoa Ako (Pasifika Education Talk) with a description of its Computers in Homes programme.

St Claudine Thevenet School, Wainuiomata: The school was featured in the June 2013 issue of Talanoa Ako (Pasifika Education Talk) with an article on its carefully planned and implemented programme that enabled Pasifika students to rise from less than 50% achieving reading, writing and mathematics at the expected national level to 77% achieving at that level.

Garin College, Nelson: Paddy Ferris, Jaco van Staden and Logan Ford are members of the Nelson City Brass Youth Band which won the Youth National Title at the NZ Brass Band Championships. Logan Ford won the NZ U15 cornet solo championship. Team Nautilus, consisting of Julia Froeling, Molly Inman, Finlay Langelaan and Harry Woodyear-Smith, won the New Zealand AquaBots

Challenge and will represent NZ at the 2014 SeaPerch Challenge at the University of Southern Mississippi.

St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie: Conor English has been selected for the NZ Secondary Students' Choir.

St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie: Belles Voix were winners of the Festival Cup at this year's Big Sing. Sophie Halliday wrote and directed 'Padro Nostro' (a setting of the Lord's Prayer in Italian) which the group sang. The college has a very smart and appealing website: www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz.

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt: Kate Upton was presented with the Queen's Scout Award by Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, Governor General, at a ceremony at Government House in Wellington.



"Quick! Get me the dispute resolution mediator!"

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

Cullinane College, Whanganui: In the ERO National Report, 'Secondary Schools: Pathways for Future Education, Training and Employment', the school is the subject of a two page case study, as an example of a school that is effective for the majority of its Maori students. It is the only case study in the report.

Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton: Georgia Hodgson, Anna Fenemor and Kelly Davenport were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards by Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, Governor General, at a ceremony at Government House in Wellington.

Iona College, Havelock North: At the Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival held in Wellington, Tessa Rao won the Outstanding Individual Tragic Role Award, Bridie Casey won the Toi Whakaari Best Technician Award, and the team won the Patrick Spottiswoode Best Use of Space Award.

St Peter's College, Palmerston North: Lydia Boon, Stephanie Ford, Tessa Judd, Josh Peck, Emma Rayner, Edward Richards, Greer Saxton-May and Renee Wallis were presented their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards by Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, Governor General, at a ceremony at Government House in Wellington.

Lindisfarne College, Hastings: 42 music and kapa haka students are doing a concert tour to Scotland, England and France. Stuart Curran was selected for the NZ International Biology Olympiad team which competed in Switzerland, in July. At the NZ Chamber Music Contest Sam Broome won the Junior Section with his piece "Highland Landscape." Nick Broom has been selected to attend the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference in Noumea.

Woodford House, Havelock North: Principal Jackie Barron hosted a NZ symposium on Girls: Pathways and Strategies. The symposium focused on wellbeing and opportunities for young women, and on the challenges and issues girls face.

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

John Paul College, Rotorua: Stanley Holt won a national French writing competition.

Bethlehem College, Tauranga: Dominic and Anna Lee competed at the Viotti Valsesia International Music competition in Italy, where Dominic won the overall competition with a score of 98/100, Anna achieved 96/100 and was placed first in her category.

Northland and Auckland Regions:

Seventh-day Adventist High School, Mangere: The school featured in the July 2013 edition of 'Leo Pasifika: News from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs', receiving seed funding for its teams that were accepted into the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme.

St Mary's College, Ponsonby: Kayla Polamalu was selected as part of the NZ Youth Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in The Hague.

St Peter's College, Auckland: School-Wide 2 Minutes Midday Silence has been adopted as a means to strengthen the culture of reflection in the school. It also represents the rediscovery of an ancient spiritual practice – the discipline of silence and stillness as a means of prayer. This is the prayer of presence, where the cessation of action shifts the attention inward.

Carmel College, Milford: Elena Siljic won the 2013 Play it Strange National Secondary Schools Song Writing Competition. Tanya Kerr won the Open Category and Best Garment in the Show at the 'Walk the Line' Young Designer Fashion Show (part of New Zealand Fashion Week), Bernadette Boland won the 'Twilight in Paris' category.

Other Articles

Congratulations on National Debating Championships Results

At the Russell McVeagh NZ Schools' Debating Championships the winning team (Wellington Black) included Liam Dennis, Hutt International Boys' School and Maddy Nash, Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt. The runner-up team (Auckland Blue) included Kayla Polamalu, St Mary's College Auckland. Liam Dennis was a highly commended speaker. Maddy Nash and Callum Lo, Lindsfarne College were named in the 2013 Russell McVeagh Schools Debating Team and Kayla Polamalu was named as reserve to the Team.

NZSTA Takes on Expanded Role in Professional Development for Boards of Trustees

As a result of financial provisions made in the latest Government Budget, NZSTA is in the process of taking over all Board of Trustees professional development and support. Details have been agreed with the Ministry of Education. Extra advisors will be appointed.

Principal Wellbeing Best Practice Resource – Get Involved

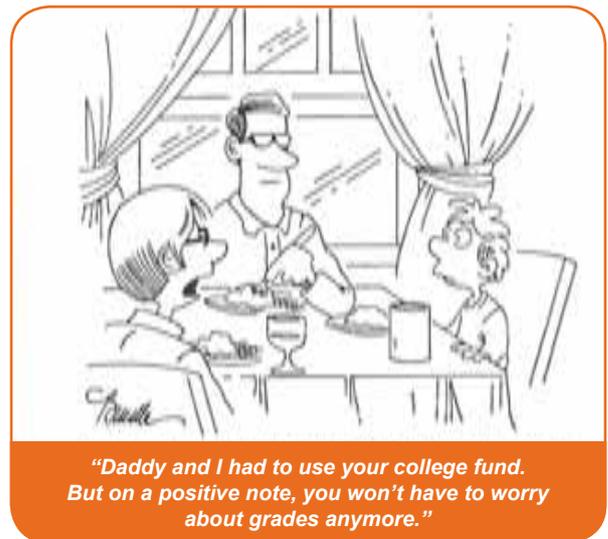
Paul Daley, SPANZ executive member and principal of Sancta Maria College, Flat Bush, Auckland, is developing a SPANZ project on Principal Wellbeing. He is seeking ideas/practices from principals on how they lower their stress levels. The project is being co-ordinated by Ian Vickers, Assistant Principal at the school, who has done considerable work on combatting stress among teachers.

Ministry of Education: Education Report 2013

The recently released 'Education Report 2013: Investing in Education to Raise Achievement' has an interesting two-pager on current education statistics and priorities, which provides current achievement levels and goals for 2017 in a lively way, useful for any staff room, BOT or parents gathering. Look for 'New Zealand Education Profile' on www.minedu.govt.nz.

Enabling e-Learning

Proprietors and principals can now find out their school status and approximate timetabling for ultra-fast broadband connection and the network upgrade (SNUP) by going to www.ufbis.elearning.tki.org.nz.



"Daddy and I had to use your college fund. But on a positive note, you won't have to worry about grades anymore."

Did You Know?

The following information is from a University of Auckland nationwide survey of students in 91 secondary schools, released in August 2013:

Almost 42% of Kiwi teenagers are of mixed ethnicity.

29% of teens live in more than one home (usually because their parents have separated).

11.5% of teens say their parents worry about not having enough money for food "often or all the time".

86.9% of teens feel safe at schools all or most of the time.

6.2% of boys and 9.8% of girls are not very happy or unhappy.

28.1% of teens rank spiritual beliefs as very important, and 25.8% attend a place of worship at least once a week.

"Give light and people will find the way."

Ella Baker

SMARTBUS Takes Early Childhood Education Information to Pacific Parents

The Ministries of Pacific Island Affairs and Education are congratulated on the launch of the SMARTBUS on 5 September. It will spread the word on the benefits of early childhood education at festivals, sporting events, malls and markets. It will contribute to the Government's goal of raising Pacific children's attendance at an ECE service from the current 86.4% to 98% by 2016.

Early Childhood Education Participation Rises

Enrolments in early childhood education services increased by 2,400 between 2011 and 2012, which is good news. However, participation by Māori and Pasifika children is still significantly below the national rate, and places available are unevenly distributed with some areas oversupplied and others undersupplied with places. Those considering opening an early childhood service would do well to consider the needs of communities with high Māori and Pasifika populations, where there is a real need. South Auckland is one such area.

An Idea Worth Emulating

Arising from a Leadership Course she attended, Maddie Little, Head Girl of Baradene College, Auckland, has recently set up a 'Kindness Club' at the school. Jimi Hunt, who co-founded the Live More Awesome Charity that aims to help people beat depression, was the prompt for the initiative. As well as promoting random acts of kindness, the club members have carried out many group activities. A Facebook page has been set up.

"Education is the movement from darkness to light."

Allan Bloom

A Useful New Word?

Richard Dawkins, who brought the word 'meme' into popular use, is now trying to popularise the word 'dundridge' (from a novel by Tom Sharpe) to describe a minor official who has no flexibility, discretion or humanity. His example is "The dundridges in the passport office are refusing to give me a new passport because I misspelled my name." It could be useful!

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.



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Funding Technology

Kia kaha, Kia Māia, Kia ū!

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