

We spend a great deal of time talking about buildings and money within our Catholic networks, but in isolation they do nothing to grow the mission of the Church. We all know that the challenge to schools from the NZCBC was to provide an encounter with Christ.

As I read the many Special Character Reviews that come to this office each year, it is obvious that this is work you do well and that you continue to review and develop the Special Character of your schools.

In 2017 NZCEO has prioritised new work that will focus on formation of staff, evangelisation of students and engaging and supporting the people who make our Catholic schools and colleges the success that they are. We will continue to manage resources and advocate on your behalf for money for buildings but we are reviewing how we communicate effectively to support Boards and teachers, how we can support low cost formation experiences for teachers who are not in a position to seek formal qualifications, and how we can identify and support new leaders in our schools.

These are all major pieces of work and will have a life over many years but we hope to share with you some of the early steps we have taken to focus on these changes.

A video conferencing facility has been installed in the NZCEO to help deliver webinars and formation material, to support Principals new to Catholic Schools. A survey to test the satisfaction of our current communication strategies has given us some very useful starting points. Later in the year you will see a new NZCEO website with some highly interactive features. We have analysed the data from our web master which shows how people access the information and where their frustrations lead them to leave the site. Hopefully we can provide a more satisfactory experience with our new work.

I am grateful to the many principals and teachers who have offered to participate in these projects and look to sharing them later in the year.

Greetings

Tēna koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.

We trust you had a blessed Easter, and that the Autumn term has started well for you.

Education Review Office Reports

When ERO finishes a report on any Catholic school, office staff print a copy for us to review. Each school receives a letter from the office thanking them for their work which generated the report and where appropriate noting some of the highlights of the report. In 2016 we responded to over 30 reports. We also met with the Chief Review Officer, at the time, who reiterated her positive comments on the work done in integrated schools. The office really appreciated seeing the way ERO acknowledged that Special Character permeated all aspects of most schools and the way it influenced culture, pastoral care and overall achievement. NZCEO has encouraged ERO to continue to look for evidence of the link between our Special Character and the achievement of the school.

Fire Dangers and Arson

The Fire Service has a lot of material and programmes to support schools looking to become more fire aware, including simple tips to reduce the likelihood of arson and the material for their 'Get Fire-wise Programme.' The Fire Service spoke to NZCEO about children attending integrated schools who have been known to practise with candles for religious ceremonies. This has resulted in damage to property and is a significant safety risk. One suggestion they put forward is battery operated or electric candles.

Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School

Grant Stuart, St Peter's Catholic School, Cambridge, Hamilton.

Aaron O'Neill, St Joseph's School, Waipukurau, Palmerston North.

Alan McNally, St Mary's School, Kaikorai, Dunedin.

Forging a Pathway to Careers

De La Salle College runs a Health and Sciences Academy in which 48 young men in years 11 and 12 have been given the opportunity to study three science subjects to prepare them to follow a path into health careers. In collaboration with the Oceania Trust, the College has also established a Trades Academy, which will give 22 young men a pathway at year 13 into the building and construction industry.

Congratulations

- Sir Br Patrick Lynch KNZM has joined the panel of judges and experts for the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards.
- Baradene College, Auckland was one of 19 New Zealand schools that trialled the KiVa anti-bullying scheme over the last two years. Sandy Pasley, Principal, said the scheme had been a success at her school. See <http://www.kivaprogram.net/nz>
- John Paul College, Rotorua, has been named a finalist in the Excellence in Engaging category for the prestigious Prime Minister's Excellence Awards. The winners will be announced at a ceremony celebrating the best in education in the Grand Hall at Parliament, on 27 June 2017.

Education Council Code of Professional Responsibility

NZCEO is very pleased to note that the Education Council's proposed Code of Professional Responsibility uses very similar headings to the Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of New Zealand Catholic Schools. (See the NZCEO website if a copy is not on the school wall. The document is being reprinted and will be distributed a little later in the year.) It will be very easy to ensure that both Codes are adhered to in Catholic Schools.

What Does it Mean to be a Catholic?

- Being Catholic means following Jesus and believing in Him, the Creator and Holy Spirit.
- Being Catholic means being connected.
- Being Catholic means we value everyone, we are all precious and valuable no matter if we are girls or boys, regardless of our age, colour, sexuality, health or religion.
- Being Catholic means we are part of a world-wide family.
- Being Catholic means that we strive to support people who are in need and vulnerable.

Jim Bolger on Faith

In an article in CathNews, 27 April 2017, Jim Bolger is quoted on how his faith helped him negotiate his way through the turbulent waters of the 1990s. He said, "The Catholic Church teaches a very strong message of social justice and if everyone was to follow the teachings of the church on social issues then we would have a much more socially just world than we have at the moment."

Apologies to WelCom

In our April edition of Good News and The News we published the article 'Consent is Not Enough' by Colin McLeod. We would like to apologise for inadvertently omitting to credit WelCom for this article.

Cameo Appearance for Pope Francis

Pope Francis plays himself in the new movie Beyond the Sun. The producers claim it is the first time a pope has agreed to play a cameo role in a film. The religion-themed movie, in which four young children from different cultures try to follow the teachings of Christ, will be launched at the Cannes Film Festival, which starts on May 17. Not only is the Pope in the film – he inspired it.

Australian National Religious Symposium, 27–28 July 2017

This Symposium, to be held in Sydney, will explore the relationship between secularisation and religious education in Australian Catholic schools. For further information and details go to <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

Webinar Presentation on Handling the Media

NZCEO has recently made a webinar on this topic. Contact s.dilly@nzceo.org.nz to access the webinar.

A Focus on Evangelisation

NZCEO has established a relationship with Catholic Youth Ministry Australia as a way of investigating strategies that would engage our secondary students more in the mission of the Church outside of school. Secondary colleges that have an interest in developing this idea in their college should feel free to contact Paul Ferris, CEO, to see if they can participate in a visit to Canberra later in the year.

Congratulations to O'Shea Shield Winner

This year the O'Shea Shield was won by the Hosts, St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt.

Evangelii Gaudium – the Joy of the Gospel - Pope Francis on Catholic schools

Para 134. "Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelisation of culture."



"When you cease to dream you cease to live."

Malcolm S Forbes



KONICA MINOLTA

Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!

Paul Ferris, C.E.O.

Susan Apáthy, Deputy C.E.O.

Heather Richardson, Financial Controller

Siobhan Dilly, Project Manager and Policy Analyst

Jane O'Connell Adele Pedreschi Debbie Vreeburg

Lighting New Fires is published by the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, PO Box 12307, Wellington. Phone: 04 496 1739
Email: nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz Website: www.nzceo.org.nz

"Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage."

Pope John XXIII