

NZCEO is considering how it might focus its attention on supporting and growing key aspects of our Catholic Schools network. Much of the work that the office becomes involved with relates to finance, property and review. Other work requires us to respond to Ministry of Education, Education Council or ERO work which has an impact on our schooling network.

Looking to the future we can see that relationships and communication with Ministers and Government remain a key part of the work but there is another equally important strand relating to our management and support of the Catholic Special Character.

Key challenges for Catholic Schools appear to lie in the preparation for leadership of future Principals, the ongoing formation of staff, the strengthening of our own review process and the development of data that will help us plan and prepare more effectively.

As a first step, the office is working with the Catholic Enquiry Centre to prepare a card to go to parents in all enrolment packs. The card will simply invite the parent to consider accessing information about our faith from the Enquiry Centre. The card will help them understand what their child is sharing at school. Over time we look to work with the centre and NCRS to develop material that will engage and re-evangelise a generation of parents who seek to enrol their children but are not particularly engaged in parish or church.

A number of schools talk about declining rolls and the need to shift preference boundaries so that they can widen their enrolment. That is unlikely to happen without a negative impact on our Special Character. What can happen is that schools can rethink how they can work with parishes or college communities to develop opportunities for evangelising the parents and families already in our schools. Having an active plan for evangelisation should be a priority in our schools today.

As we negotiate the revision of the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975, it is good to remind us what motivated and supported the decision of the day. There was a recognition that Catholic Schools had a distinctive and special place in supporting and maintaining a Special Character that contributed to the Nation on a number of levels. Ensuring we have a strong commitment to our Special Character is fundamental to success as a network.

Nga Mihi

Paul Ferris  
CEO

## Greetings

Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koutou.

We hope you enjoyed your recent holiday time and are refreshed for the winter term.

## New Handbook for Boards of Trustees Available

The new, significantly revised, Handbook for Boards of Trustees of Catholic Integrated Schools is now available. Schools will receive copies through their diocesan office. Copies are also available from NZCEO. Please order from jane@nzceo.org.nz.

## New Parent Teacher Interview Scheme

Chris Theobald, principal of Holy Family School, Porirua, has introduced a programme in which a support worker will visit each of the school's 120 families in their own homes for an hour, three times a year. "This is a chance to connect and make a difference for a family, for our children," he said. The school has already seen positive results with the trial families, from improved attendance and homework to more parents coming into the school to see what is happening.

## Deputy Prime Minister at St John's College Hamilton

Hon Bill English recently visited St John's College, Hamilton to talk to students about his life and politics. He told students that a lot of what they hear about the world is negative but he wanted to instil hope into the Year 13 boys who, compared to a lot of countries, have a positive future. MP for Hamilton East, David Bennet, an Old Boy of the school, organised the visit.

## Teacher-Led Innovation Fund - Round 2 Successful Schools

### Congratulations to:

- Catholic Cathedral College – Project: *Advancing literacy to improve outcomes for students entering university*
- St Patrick's College Silverstream, St Patrick's College Kilbirnie, St Bernard's College Lower Hutt, Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt, Garin College Nelson, St Catherine's College Kilbirnie, Bishop Viard College Porirua – Project: *Enhancing students' outcomes in technology in a number of Catholic secondary schools*
- St James School Palmerston North – Project: *Inviting whanau, hapū and iwi to work collaboratively with schools to strengthen learning contexts that support all learners to better understand their place and its importance to Rangitane Iwi.*

## Congratulations to Principals New to Leading Catholic Schools

Regina Smuga, St Joseph's School, Grey Lynn

Gareth Duncan, St Columba's School, Frankton

Mary Kleinsman-Powell, St Mary's School, Foxton

Maureen Phillips, St Paul's School, Richmond

Moarikura Johnson, St Peter Chanel School, Otaki

## McAuley High School Takes Top Education Honours

Congratulations to McAuley High School on winning top honours at the 2016 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. The school was a finalist in three categories and, in addition to winning the Supreme Award, won the Excellence in Engaging trophy. Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata says the school has built a cohesive, respectful and supportive environment for all students, with brilliant results. It has high expectations of its students and makes strong connections with its parents and the community.

*"There is no greater invitation to love than loving first."*

St Augustine

## An Interesting Website – St Joseph’s School, Pleasant Point

St Joseph’s School, Pleasant Point has an admirable website, worth exploring for its excellent Religious Education sections including sections headed Jesus for Parents, Holy Spirit for Parents, Church for Parents, and more. It is worth looking at the Principal’s Blog and the Religious Education Blog also.

## Bringing RE into the Home via Facebook

Some schools are using Facebook effectively to provide RE information for parents. If you know a school that is a good example of this please contact [S.apathy@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:S.apathy@nzceo.org.nz), so that it can be noted in the next Lighting New Fires



## Congratulations

- Former Secretary for Education Karen Margaret Sewell QSO, who was made a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, for services to education.
- Former Principal of St Peter’s College, and current Principal of St Paul’s College, Auckland, Kieran Francis Fouhy, MNZM who was made a Knight of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, for services to education.
- Francis Douglas Memorial College students Prathik Rajasingh, Bailey Wensor, Alex Lightbody, Flynn Wise and Dylan Wheatley, who developed a ‘T’ plate for tourist drivers. They were featured in CathNews.
- St Peter’s College Auckland, which featured in an article in the Education Gazette about science teacher Dr Michael Harvey’s use of video with his students to make learning more engaging and collaborative.
- St Francis de Sales School, Island Bay, which featured in an article in the Wellingtonian ‘Standing Together Against Bullies.’ The students worked together with New Zealand Police to produce a series of short anti-bullying awareness films which will feature on the new website [www.bullyingfree.nz/](http://www.bullyingfree.nz/)

**“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”**

Pablo Picasso

## Gospel Resources

[www.gpbs.com.au](http://www.gpbs.com.au) connects faith, liturgy and life, for Catholic primary and secondary schools. It is based on the four key components gather, proclaim, break and send.

## Community Engagement

A Homework Help Club has been started at Holy Family School in Porirua, by a group of lawyers from Wellington firm Minter Ellison Rudd Watts. Stacey Shortall, a lawyer at the firm, developed a regular Wednesday afternoon homework routine, supported by lawyers from the firm. The lawyers provide both help and role modelling for the students. Stacey plans to get a range of role models from the community involved.

## Caritas SINGout4JUSTICE Prizewinners

Hato Pāora College Year 12 student Nikau Te Huki won the senior category of the SINGout4JUSTICE competition with his song ‘Now or Never’. Hato Pāora was the only school to have two finalists in the song writing competition with Year 13 student Ihaia Ropata also highly commended for his song ‘Your Own’. The joint winners of the junior category were Year 8 student Anna Tukuitoga from St Joseph’s Catholic School in Paeroa, with her song ‘Justice for West Papua’ and Naia Alkhouri from St Francis de Sales School Wellington with her song ‘Just Want Home’. Students in 7N & 7A Sacred Heart Girls’ College, New Plymouth were also finalists in the competition.

## Subscribing to CathNews

CathNews keeps people abreast of what’s of interest to Catholics in New Zealand and what is happening in our Church. To subscribe go to [www.cathnews.co.nz/newsletter/](http://www.cathnews.co.nz/newsletter/)

## From Pope Francis

“We need to care for the earth so that it may continue, as God willed, to be a source of life for the entire human family.”



**KONICA MINOLTA**

**Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!**

**Paul Ferris, C.E.O.**

**Susan Apáthy, Deputy C.E.O.**

**Donna Campbell, Financial Controller**

**Jane O’Connell    Debbie Vreeburg  
Adele Pedreschi    Wendy Rozenberg**

Lighting New Fires is published by the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, PO Box 12307, Wellington. Phone: 04 496 1739  
Fax: 04 496 1734 or Email: [nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz)  
Website: [www.nzceo.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.org.nz)