

Good & News

The News

April 2017

Broadsheet of Good Practice in Integrated Schools

Editorial

New Schools

It is good news indeed that this year a new Catholic school, Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, has opened in Takanini, Auckland. You will see an article about the school in this edition. We offer warm congratulations to all involved – it is a huge and long task to plan and build a school from scratch.

Another event to celebrate has occurred in Paraparaumu, where St Patrick's School has been rebuilt on a new site, and renamed Our Lady of Kapiti. We offer warm congratulations. We will have an article about the school's modern learning environment and its effect of teaching and learning in the next edition.

We also congratulate Holy Cross School, Papatoetoe, and Holy Cross Catholic School, Miramar, on their leadership in learning and thank them for providing articles here.

We mostly keep our ear to the ground to source articles for this publication. We would be more than happy to receive more unsolicited articles or suggestions about people to approach for articles. Please send them to me.

Catholic Education Convention 13-15 June 2018

We are starting to prepare for the next Catholic Education Convention, which will be held in Wellington, 13-15 June 2018. Our venue is confirmed, our conference company is confirmed and we have some international speakers pencilled in. We are already at the exciting stage of seeking possibilities for seminar topics, seminar leaders, ideas for activities and so on. We rely on the whole Catholic education community for this, so please, send us any thoughts you have, from now onwards. As always, we want to replicate the best of what we have done before, and we also want to bring you new and exciting activities and possibilities – so help us with your thoughts. Please email me at s.apathy@nzceo.org.nz.

Susan Apáthy

Intensive Oral Language (IOL) Programme

Think-Talk-Create at Holy Cross Catholic School, Miramar

Celeste Hastings, Principal, Holy Cross School, Miramar had observed the IOL programme while on a sabbatical and knew that it would be just right for her school, which has a large number of new migrant and refugee families where English is not their first language and more than half of the 210 pupils are from bilingual backgrounds. The programme which was developed by Dr Jannie van Hees, University of Auckland, was adapted to suit Holy Cross School and has become imbedded in the school over the last two years as Think-Talk-Create.

The programme involves three 45 minute intensive language sessions each fortnight and follow-up activities throughout the week. It supports all learners, those that have English as a second language and those that are confident speakers of English. The topics and learning experiences are stimulating, relevant and very engaging. Celeste thinks that improving language skills early on opens up the world for young children, not only in the language they are using but in their understanding of wider ideas and concepts.

Since beginning the programme, they have tracked their students' progress and it is clear that it is making a difference for all of their young learners. Many pupils doubled their vocabulary and concept knowledge and every single pupil made an improvement. Think-Talk-Create is featured in the school's positive 2016 ERO report which highlights the importance of the use of the programme in accelerating learning.

The majority of the programme is funded through government English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) grants, but the school also gained approval for three years funding from its Board. Holy Cross is the only school in Wellington to introduce the programme

Celeste says, "You see and hear the difference it is making to the children. It has truly blown me away."



Language learning without taking away the "joy of learning"