

ISNZ Newsletter

Confidential to ISNZ Member Schools

October 2008, Issue 4

Room with a view

It is with great pleasure that I write this newsletter from the new ISNZ office!! It is such a treat to walk into my office in the early morning to a sun-drenched room with a commanding view of the waterfront and coastline. We now boast a meeting room and warmly invite Heads, Board Chairs, Bursars and Sponsors to make use of this space should you be in Wellington on business and require this facility. I am looking forward to bringing people into the organisation, so please do pop in to see us if you are in this fair city.

The wall space in the office is sadly bereft of interesting artwork (the budget does not allow for such luxuries). I have mentioned to a couple of our Heads that I would love to promote students' artwork in the office. I would like to fill our rooms with the wonderful works that come out of our schools.

Any donations will be gratefully received. I am happy to frame the work if any pieces are not already framed. Just roll the work into a cylinder and send it to ISNZ, Level 16, 142 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Should we be in the enviable position of receiving more artwork than can be accommodated on the wall space then we will rotate the works. It would be a privilege to promote the artist and the school that he/she attends. PLEASE SUPPORT US.

Private School Subsidy Funding 2009

With the general election only weeks away we are very mindful of education policies and how they might benefit independent schools. The Ministry of Education has furnished ISNZ Member Schools with the per-student subsidy rates for 2009. These rates reflect the Labour government decisions to hold the total resourcing for private schools within an annual capped budget. The 2009 funding rate shows a 0.45% decrease from 2008. There has been a 43% real decrease in funding since 2000.

I shall be putting out a document outlining the education policies from the major political parties prior to the election. I had hoped to have this to our schools by now but we are still waiting for Labour and National to release their full education policy.

Charities Commission

We have now received formal notification from the Charities Commission that the applications from the Association of Heads of Independent Schools (AHIS), The Heads of Independent Schools Scholarship Trust (HISST), the Independent Schools of New Zealand (ISNZ) and the Independent Schools Association (ISA) to be registered as charitable entities have all been successful.

Conference 2009

The 17th Annual Independent Schools of New Zealand Conference will be held at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington 29-30 May 2009. The ASBA (Bursars) conference will run from 27-28 May and the AHIS (Heads) conference from 28-29 May. The theme for the 2009 conference is "Sustainable Innovation". We are currently developing the programme and securing speakers and we look forward to giving you the conference outline in due course.

There will be improved registration options for delegates, spouses and sponsors for the 2009 conference so that as many people as possible benefit from the conference programme.

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Professional Development

We have recently hosted four professional development seminars:

- **Association of Heads of Independent Schools Forum:** this year's Forum was held in Wellington and was attended by most of our Heads and their Senior Managers. ISNZ Member School Heads shared their expertise in the focus areas of Leadership initiatives, Employment Law issues, Recruitment, Resilience and Retention and Board Protocols. Sven Hansen spoke to Senior Managers on the subject of Resilient Leadership and Jenny Thomas from the NZ Teachers Council addressed delegates on current registration developments and concerns expressed by Heads.

I would like to acknowledge the Ministry of Education for the grant of \$1000 provided by the Quality Teaching Partnership Fund to assist with the development of the Forum and its associated costs.

- **Board Chairs' Seminar:** This annual seminar was this year held in Wellington and was well represented. I would like to acknowledge Mr John Shewan, Board Chairman, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, who gave a thought-provoking presentation on recruiting a Head. This was a timely discussion with a number of Boards currently recruiting new Heads. Hon Bill English attended briefly in the afternoon and discussed with Heads some political issues relevant to the future of independent schools.
- **PAs Seminar:** this seminar was well attended by 35 PAs from ISNZ member schools throughout the country. Robyn Bennett from Team Link Training gave a session on "PA Communication and Inter-personal Skills" and also explored with delegates the skills that will be required of PAs/EAs in the future. Debbie Mayo-Smith from SuccessS gave a presentation on computer literacy and the "10 Computer secrets you shouldn't live without". Delegates indicated in their feedback that the professional development was valuable and that the collegiality and 'sense of belonging' that this sort of seminar promotes is extremely worthwhile.
- **Aspiring Leaders,** Southwell School, Hamilton: Topics covered included Management & Leadership; Leading Change and, Ethical Dilemmas. I would like to thank Royce Helm, Headmaster at Southwell School, for hosting the delegates and developing the programme. Again, the delegates found the day extremely worthwhile and the programme inspiring and informative.

We look forward to developing more professional development opportunities for our member schools in 2009.

Excellence in Teaching Awards 2009

The promotional material and call for nominations have been sent to all ISNZ Member Schools for the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Awards. We have encouraged Heads to nominate teachers for these prestigious awards which acknowledge and promote the calibre of expertise in our schools to our school communities and beyond.

I would like to see some expansion in the awards offered to teachers and hopefully develop a new Awards framework to acknowledge the outstanding professional performance of our Heads.

Education Review Office

Boards, Heads and Senior Managers may find the following ERO recently published reports useful:

- Boys' Education: Good Practice in Secondary Schools
- Good Practice Report on Provision for Gifted and Talented Students
- Partners in Learning: Schools' Engagement with Parents, Whanau and Communities
- Good Practice in Supporting and Engaging Senior Secondary Students.

These reports can be downloaded from www.ero.govt.nz, select National Reports.

ISNZ Sponsors

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I would like to acknowledge the continued support of our sponsors who play a crucial part in contributing to the operational funding of ISNZ and the services that we are able to provide to our member schools. Special thanks go to Athol Evans, from Konica Minolta, who has kindly updated our office photocopier. It sits very comfortably with our new, terribly smart office environment. I would also like to express gratitude to Julie Carter at Distinction who has worked with us closely on our furniture requirements for the new office and given us a great deal!! Judy is enjoying her new reception desk and as a result productivity has soared! Thank you also to Paul Mita at Distinction for his patience and understanding and outstanding customer service.

I am currently reviewing our sponsorship model and look forward to sharing with you increased sponsorship opportunities for our current and potential sponsors. I recently attended an extremely worthwhile workshop on sponsorship, the current global trends and what sponsors are looking for in aligning themselves to an organisation. The presenter pointed out that most not-for-profit organisations, when developing a value proposition to potential sponsors, tend to hugely undersell themselves. Watch this space!!

Comment from Marsh Limited: Risk Management & Insurance Broking Services: Gold Sponsor

Managing Risks – Laptop Computers

In everything we do there is an element of risk. The degree of its severity depends greatly on the choices we make and the actions we take. When it comes to managing risk with laptop computers why are so many of us so complacent?

One of the most frequent claims we experience, from the education sector and from our ISNZ clients, are claims relating to lost and stolen laptop computers. Whilst the cost of replacing a laptop computer has reduced dramatically over the last few years the costs associated with the loss of data, important information and time spent replicating the information and data is very high but often not considered by the laptop user.

There are a number of very practical and simple things you can do to safe guard your laptop computer, keep your school revenue for new materials (rather than paying policy deductibles) and save your IT administrators time for delivery of better resources.

Protecting your data:

1. Leaving the classroom for a few minutes for any reason? Use Ctrl + Alt + Delete and “lock your system” this way no one can access your system and data without a password
2. Back up your data – often laptops that are networked only back up data held on the network drives. Any data you hold on the computers C Drive (including My Documents Folders and Desk Top) will not usually be backed up. We therefore suggest you copy all this data to a network drive weekly or immediately if the data is critical.

Protecting your laptop computer:

1. Leaving the room for a period of time? You should take your laptop computer with you or lock it away in a cupboard or draw. It will be out of sight and removes the temptation of an opportunist. If you cannot do these at least lock the classroom and close the windows.
2. Taking your laptop computer home? Place it in the boot of the car, especially if you plan to stop somewhere on the way home. When you arrive at home take it into your home at night. Most car break-ins at night are due to people leaving laptops, briefcases and other articles of value on the seat in view.



By adopting these principles you will make a difference that will benefit your school.

London Times Obituary of the late Common Sense

“Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No-one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the work; life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by his four stepbrothers, I Know My Rights, I Want It How, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, please pas this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.”

View from Deborah James's office—Lambton Quay looking towards Oriental Bay.



Congratulations

Social Studies teacher **Kate Lambert, Diocesan School for Girls** in Auckland has developed a national resource that will teach students about avoidable blindness and how they can help eradicate the condition that affects more than 30 million people worldwide. Kate developed the free teaching resource kit with The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ. All teachers can access the kit and adapt it to use in primary, intermediate and secondary classrooms.

Kerrin Davidson, St Andrew's College, Christchurch was recognized for her teaching of Creative Writing in the recent 2008 New Zealand Post National Schools Poetry Awards.

ISNZ member school students played a significant part in the recent World Schools Debating Championship in the United States finishing a magnificent second to England in the grand final. The team consisted of **Maria English, captain, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Wellington; Jennifer Savage** (pictured right), **Wanganui Collegiate; Ben Kornfield, King's College, Auckland;** Holly Jenkins, Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt and Tom Chen, Hillcrest High School. **Jennifer Savage** was named best debater of the tournament for her performance throughout. The team will travel to Athens in Greece in February for the 2009 championships.



Stephen Mackereth (pictured left), Year 11 student from **King's College, Auckland**, will head to the United States next year to represent New Zealand in the International Brain Bee Challenge. Stephen was named New Zealand winner of the Brain Bee Challenge finals held at the Queensland Brain Institute. He won his way through two rounds of neuroscience questions, an anatomy exam and a doctor-patient diagnosis test to impress the judges with his knowledge of brain function and disease.

Congratulations to **Larissa Smith, Year 7, Southwell School**, who returned home from Canada with two gold medals after competing for New Zealand at the World Wado-Kai Karate Championships. She beat team members from Japan, Serbia, Canada and Northern Ireland.

And for **Allie Rout, Saint Kentigern College**, the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics is no longer a far off dream. It has become a reality. New Zealand's golden girl of figure skating recently returned from the Australian National Ice skating Championships with a gold medal in both the junior and senior women's sections.

Head Girl, **Olivia Blundell, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School**, won three international titles when she was a gold medalist at the Oceania U18 Championships in the Northern Mariana Islands. Olivia has been selected for the Pacific Schools Games in Canberra in December, along with **Madeleine Simmonds** and **Anna Roche**, also from **Samuel Marsden Collegiate School**. **Anna Roche** will represent New Zealand in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India this month.

Lucy Spoor, St Peter's School, Cambridge, recently returned from the World Junior Rowing Championships in Linz, Austria, with a Gold medal in the Women's Four event.

The **Kristin School Senior Ski Team** is the winner of the North Island Secondary Schools Ski Competition 2008 and the **Kristin Girls' Snowboard Team** has won the North Island Secondary Schools' Snowboard Competition.

Brianna Roberts, Geraldine Roche, Lucy Tohill and Edward Roche from **The Cathedral Grammar School** finished fourth in the final of the World Literature Quiz held in Oxford, England.

Since its inception in 1946, the Freiburg Musikhochschule (University of Music) in Germany has attracted gifted musicians on an international scale – and will soon include talented **Corran School** cellist, **Emily Constable** (pictured right). Professor Henkl, regarded as one of the leading cello performers and teachers in Europe, heard Emily play and offered her a place in his teaching studio in Freiburg.



Independent Schools of New Zealand—Proudly Private

Welcome

We warmly welcome Mr Tim Wilbur to New Zealand where he has in the last week taken up his new position as Headmaster at Wanganui Collegiate. Tim has moved to New Zealand from Lancashire in the United Kingdom with his wife, Fay, and their three children.

We congratulate Mr Tony Batchelor on his appointment to the position of Principal at St Mark's Church School in Wellington. Tony has held the position of Head of the Primary School at St Mark's and more recently has worked at the school in an Acting Head capacity.

Farewell

We wish Mrs Ann Mildenhall our very best wishes for the future as she leaves her position as Principal at Diocesan School for Girls. Ann has made an enormous contribution to ISNZ and its member schools. Her expertise and institutional knowledge will be sorely missed.

Girls better at reading, boys better at numbers

Kiwi girls are better than boys at reading, but cannot match up to their male peers in maths.

And the difference continues right through to adulthood, with women out-performing men on adult literacy tests but men doing better at numberacy.

Analysis of the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results carried out by the Ministry of Education demonstrated that girls out-performed boys at reading by 37 points, achieving a mean score of 539 compared to 502.

But boys did better at maths, gaining a mean score that was 11 points higher than girls.

The patterns for both maths and reading were replicated across Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in the tests, which were taken by 15 year olds.

In the recent Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) survey, women achieved a higher mean score in literacy than men, but the mean numeracy score was better for males than females. However, the gap was much narrower amongst adults than teenagers.

New Zealand boys had a broader range of mathematical achievement than girls with a bottom score of around 370 and a top score of about 685. Girls' scores ranged from approximately 375 to 600.

However the same proportion of New Zealand boys and girls—14 percent—achieved level 1 or lower in maths.

Boys' scores in reading also covered a broader range than their female counterparts. While the lowest performing girls achieved a score of about 360, boys managed only 315. The best female readers scored almost 700 points, but the top boys achieved about 660.

There was a much greater proportion of low-achieving boys in reading than girls.

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The analysis found Maori and Pasifika students had lower mean scores than other ethnicities, with Maori out-performing Pasifika. For both reading and maths Pakeha students had a much lower range of scores than other students.

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As first reported when the PISA results were released in December last year, New Zealand scored highly overall in maths, reading and science, recording the fifth highest score of participating countries in reading, the seventh highest in science and the 11th highest in maths.

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Taken from NZ Education Review