

ISNZ Newsletter

Confidential to ISNZ Member Schools

February 2009, Issue 1

Happy New Year

With the New Year well and truly underway we welcome one and all back to the 2009 school year. Like most other business sectors, 2009 will present our schools with many challenges as we grapple with the global financial crisis. During the holiday period there was much media speculation about the financial status of our schools and the effects of the current economic climate.

ISNZ has just completed an analysis of the starting school rolls of our member schools. We are encouraged by the findings that show overall numbers reflecting those of this time last year. Having said that, there is no doubt that some of our schools have definitely seen a sharp decline in their starting rolls. Others are sitting on their projected roll figures, and some are bucking the trend and have an increase in their rolls for 2009. All of our member schools are aware the financial situation may worsen and that enrolments for 2010 may be affected. The existing government subsidy per student, coupled with the current economic climate, is still putting real pressure on independent schools throughout the country.

Out of adversity there is always some good. Whether the external threat is ravaging fires, economic woes, employment losses, or plane disasters, in times of crisis there becomes an overwhelming desire for people to unite and to take comfort from a sense of belonging, to put aside differences and to extend a hand of friendship and embrace the power of community.

The ISNZ community is strong and I feel confident that our Boards, Heads, staff and students will unite in the interest of shouldering a little of the load as each of us feels the effect of this recession to a lesser or greater degree. We market our schools, as being places of innovation. Now is the time to showcase that innovation. In a recession people are forced to prioritise their spending, and in doing so, many parents place the education of their children at the top of that list. Together we can work to promote independent schooling and the educational opportunities we offer that will equip young people to thrive in the good times and bad.

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Government

The Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, has informed us that she has formed delegation groups and that the Associate Minister of Education, Hon Heather Roy, will hold the private schools sector portfolio. I am meeting with Hon Heather Roy this month and will give her an overview of the organization and outline the issues we would like to raise with her. Some of the issues that ISNZ will request the government address will include:

Issue One: Private Schools Subsidies

ISNZ requests that in light of the crippling capped funding of the last nine years and the current economic climate the allocated \$10 million in additional funding be implemented immediately after the May 2009 Budget announcement.

ISNZ requests that by the end of the first term of the National Government the private schools subsidies reflect 50 percent of the funding paid to a decile 10 public school (as stated in the 2008 Schools Policy).

ISNZ requests that where a private school has a lower decile ranking the allocated additional funding to that school reflect 50 percent of the funding given to a state school of the same decile ranking.

Government cont'd

Issue Two: The Conditional Integration Act: Attendance Dues charged by Integrated Schools

ISNZ requests that the Ministry of Education should use its available powers to 'rein in' what ISNZ believes are excessive attendance dues charged, and if the Ministry needs greater powers then the Act should be updated.

Issue Three: Eligibility and Admission to Extending High Standards Across Schools (EHSAS) Clusters

ISNZ requests that Independent schools become eligible to apply for Extending High Standards Across Schools funding in the interest of contributing to the raising of student achievement and promoting excellence among New Zealand schools. The Ministry of Education will call for Expressions of Interest on 27 April 2009 with successful clusters beginning their four-year projects 19 July 2010. It would be highly desirable for independent schools to have eligibility in place for EHSAS Round Four.

Issue Four: Access to State-funded curriculum initiative: STAR: Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource

ISNZ requests that Independent Schools become eligible to receive additional funding to enable more students to participate in STAR funded tertiary courses.

Issue Five: Access to TEC Foundation and Community fund: Gateway

ISNZ requests that Independent schools have access to the Gateway programme and the funding provided to meet the costs that schools and employers incur in arranging and managing workplace learning, including assessment for school students enrolled in Years 11, 12 and 13 and capable of undertaking a structured work placement and attaining credit achievement in the workplace.

Issue Six: Access to Team Solutions Services

ISNZ requests that where Independent Schools engage the services of Team Solutions, they incur the same administrative/fees costs for services provided as state and state integrated schools.

Issue Seven: Ministry of Education: School Transport Assistance

ISNZ requests that Independent schools receive some government funding for school transport in the interest of safety of students and to alleviate obvious funding inequities.

Issue Eight: TeachNZ Teacher Recruitment Scholarships

ISNZ requests that Teacher Recruitment Scholarship graduates are allowed to teach at a private school during their bond period allowing for a more equitable manner in educating the young people in New Zealand whatever school they attend.

Issue Nine: Recruitment of International Teachers

ISNZ requests that The New Zealand Teachers Council review its registration criteria for international teachers so as to eliminate undue limitations and restrictions and to address the current challenges of the recruitment and retention of quality teachers in New Zealand.

Issue Ten: Representation for ISNZ schools on Government Advisory Groups

ISNZ requests that in the interest of a balanced perspective on matters relating to the school sector and the education of young New Zealanders, candidates from the private school sector will be considered for representation on Government Advisory groups.

Please note. There will be other issues arising throughout the year and beyond. Our communications with the Minister will be ongoing as other areas of concern are raised. We welcome your input into this evolving dialogue with the Minister.

Ministry of Education

- **NZQA Board Appointments:** Over coming months the Minister of Education will be filling several vacancies on the board of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). The Ministry of Education's Crown Entity Monitoring Unit is responsible for developing a short list of possible appointees for the consideration of Minister of Education. ISNZ has been invited to provide the name and supporting information for any person we would consider an appropriate appointee to the board.

Section 249 of the Education Act 1989 provides for the Minister of Education to appoint not fewer than eight and no more than 10 members to the NZQA Board.

It is important to consult widely on these appointments, to ensure that a mix of people with a broad cross-section of skills is appointed to the Board. Therefore, this invitation has been sent to a number of organisations with an interest in these positions.

Notification has been sent to all Heads of member schools. All expressions of interest with CVs will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

Ministry of Education cont'd

Gold

Marsh Ltd

Silver

ASB Bank Ltd

Gallagher Security Management
Systems (Cardax)

Karndean International

Programmed Maintenance
Services

RED

School Supplies

Spotless Services (NZ) Ltd

- **Curriculum Support Days:** In November 2008 ISNZ requested that independent schools staff members be eligible to attend the Curriculum Support Days being organised by PPTA with the Ministry of Education for Terms 2 and 3, 2009. It was agreed that teachers in independent schools would be made welcome at the support days, and would be invited to share their expertise with colleagues. This contribution could be as local facilitators, where they are recommended by their subject associations, or by School Support Services, or by their principal. Registration is now open and the appropriate registration forms have been sent to all schools.

Law Commission

The Law Commission has processed submissions received in response to their April 2008 consultation document and has now made suggestions about the changing of the law in an Issues Paper which all member schools should have received. The Law Commission is calling for submissions on this Issues Paper by 20 March 2009. The Law Commission states that it does not suggest substantive change to the law. It does suggest clarification and application of sanctions by the Ministry of Education. We need to be aware that this could represent a move toward government control of private schools, contrary to the concept that private schools by definition are independent of the Ministry of Education. Many of our member schools will make their own submissions. Member schools not wishing to make their own submissions are very welcome to send comments and recommendations relating to the questions of the Issues Paper for inclusion with the ISNZ submissions.

John Burrows QC, from the Law Commission, has accepted an invitation to speak at CEO Day for Heads on 17 March 2009. If necessary he is prepared to extend the close off date for submissions by a week.

Bronze

3P Learning (Mathletics)

ACTIVboard NZ

Computing Directions Australia
Distinction

Education Personnel Ltd

Learning Network NZ

Lundia Shelving Ltd

Omnilink

Rent for Plus Education

Schoolgate

Spacific Yearbooks Ltd

University of Cambridge

International Examinations

ISNZ 2009 Annual Conference

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a Conference Preview of the 2009 ISNZ Annual Conference to be held at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington, 29–30 May. Registration will be open at the end of February. The conference theme “Sustainable Innovation – Sailing Stormy Seas” is a timely one and I am sure that the conference speakers will challenge you to rethink strategic direction and to confront environmental, demographic, global and financial challenges as you plan the future direction of your schools.

His Excellency The Hon Anand Satyanand, Governor-General of New Zealand, will officially open the conference. We are also honoured to have the Vice Chancellor of Victoria University Wellington, Professor Pat Walsh, with us to present the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

ISNZ Strategic Plan

The ISNZ Executive will attend a Strategic Planning day on the 18th of March. This will be held in Wellington and we have engaged the services of an independent facilitator. Again, I invite you to make recommendations/suggestions for consideration in developing the strategic plan for the next three years. Your input is important if we are to meet the needs of our member schools.

HISST Grant

Financial assistance is offered to Principals and Staff of ISNZ Member Schools for current research and/or study that advance the value of independent schooling in New Zealand. Applications will close on 31 March 2009. Promotional material and application information has been sent to schools.

New Appointment at Hill Top School

Mr Mark Broadwith has been appointed to the position of Temporary Teaching Principal at Hill Top School, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, effective from Term One, 2009. Mr Broadwith resigned from his position as Headmaster at Ficino School at the end of 2008 having given 12 years of service to the school. Mr Broadwith is acting in a temporary capacity whilst the Board considers the future direction of the school.

New Appointment for Diocesan School for Girls

The Board of Governors has announced the appointment of Ms Heather McCrae as the 11th Principal of Diocesan School for Girls. From 1996-2002 Ms McCrae consulted internationally with the Multi Serve Education Trust, which is New Zealand's leading "exporter" of education, providing educational services to public and private education providers, mainly in Asia and the Middle East. In 2002, she was appointed Principal of Western Academy High School in Beijing, China. In 2004 Ms McCrae was recruited back to New Zealand to Pakuranga College as Associate Principal, and then promoted to Principal. Ms McCrae will take up her position with Diocesan School for Girls in Term Two.

Sponsors

With the economic downturn we have seen many organisations cut their sponsorship/marketing budgets. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their continued loyalty and willingness to maintain sponsorship with Independent Schools of New Zealand.

We are continuously looking for improved return for our sponsors and I would once again ask our member schools to support our valued sponsors, give them the opportunity to provide a quote and to speak with you about the services and products they provide.

Fulbright—Cognition Education Research Trust Scholar Award in Education Research

For a New Zealand educator or scholar to pursue research in the US designed to have an impact on New Zealand schooling and student achievement, for three to five months. One award valued at up to US\$20,000 (plus travel expenses) is offered each year. Applications close 1 May 2009.

News Flash...

- 1 New Zealand students win the World Schools' Debating Championship in Athens, Greece, after a convincing victory over England. On the way to the final, New Zealand defeated Singapore, Scotland, Canada, Wales, Peru, the Netherlands, Chile, Bangladesh and Germany. The team included captain **Maria English (Samuel Marsden)**, Holly Jenkins, **Jennifer Savage (Wanganui Collegiate)**, Tom Chen and **Ben Kornfeld (King's College)**.
- 2 **Natasha Paul, Diocesan School for Girls** - selected to attend People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC.
- 3 **Ella Tunnicliffe-Glass, St Cuthbert's College** - recipient of five NCEA scholarships, four of them Outstanding Scholar Awards.

We look forward to working with you all during 2009 and we especially welcome the opportunity to continue to promote choice in education, and to promote our member schools as leaders in innovation and major contributors to the communities in which we live.

Deborah James
Executive Director