

**NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES, KINDERGARTENS,
PLAYGROUPS AND INTERESTED PARTIES
MARCH 2017**

GREETINGS

Tēnā koutou katoa, malo e lelei, talofa lava, ni sa bula vinaka, talohani, kia orana, fakalofa lahi atu and blessings and warm greetings to you all. Here we are in Lent, and it seems too early!

CONGRATULATIONS

Colleen Gleeson reports from Auckland that up there they have completed another four modules in the 'Certificate in Catholic Early Childhood Education'. We congratulate the following who have now completed all modules and received the Certificate at the Auckland Diocese Dedication Mass on 21 February 2017.

Marina Larsen and Shiree Klenner from St Mary's Preschool, Avondale

Gay Manansala, Surgian Singh and Natasha Vaaetua from St Peter Chanel Preschool, Clover Park

We had another busy year with another four modules completed in the "Certificate in Catholic Early Childhood Education"

Congratulations to the following who have now completed all modules and received the Certificate at the Auckland Diocese Dedication Mass on Feb 21st:

Temukisa Tusa Tala from St John the Evangelist Preschool, Otara

Jill van Amsterdam and Anna Boston from Our Place Preschool, Hamilton Diocese.

A huge congratulations to St Peter Chanel Aoga Amata Preschool for continuing to upskill their teachers in Special Catholic Character. In 2016 the preschool had:

Six teachers who attended the 'Teachers New to Catholic School' three day course

Four teachers who reached Classroom Level (Special Character) Certification

And the following teachers completed RE101: Introduction to Catholicism through The Catholic Institute. Sohair Abdul Meseh, Suhad Lirato, Tofuola Aialeo, Ravina Singh, Moria Eteuati, Efo L. Filia

Colleen says, "Aren't we a great Diocese of committed EC teachers! And I agree wholeheartedly!"

THE BEDTIME STORY IS THE KEY TO LITERACY

English research has discovered that many parents stopped reading aloud to their children once they became independent readers, although many children wanted them to continue. As early childhood teachers it will be good if you can remind parents that children will benefit enormously from sharing books with their parents right through their childhood, not just when they are little. Parents also need to be encouraged to keep the television and computer out of the child's bedroom.

KEY POINTS FROM ERO REVIEW

A reminder of some key points from the ERO review *Infants and toddlers: competent and confident communicators and explorers*. This review found that services gave priority to establishing warm and nurturing relationships with infants and toddlers and had less emphasis on communication and exploration. Children need to be challenged and extended. For infants and toddlers to be competent and confident communicators and explorers, leaders and teachers need to give them opportunities to improvise, randomly explore, compromise, negotiate and be playful.

UPDATE ON TE WHĀRIKI

You will be aware that final drafting is under way now, with the launch expected in March-April. I do not know whether this will require any tweaking of the Catholic Early Childhood curriculum, which of course is aligned to match the current version of Te Whāriki. I am sure that NCRS will be giving this consideration.

EDUCATION COUNCIL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

You may get the Education Council's Highlighter. If not, you may be interested to know that Frances Nelson, principal of Fairburn School, has been seconded to act as convenor of the new Centre for Leadership Excellence. Frances wants to ensure ECE are part of the strategy, and you can expect to hear more about the various events planned to take place in the next 3-6 months.

The Education Council runs advisory groups, and is interested in hearing from people who would like to sit on their advisory group for Early Childhood Education. The group meets several times a year, and you receive a payment as well as reimbursement of costs. You'll find selection criteria and more information about the Early Childhood Education Advisory Group on the Education Council website <https://educationcouncil.org.nz/content/early-childhood-education-advisory-group>. The deadline for expressions of interest has been extended to 15 March.

COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

The involvement of early childhood services in COLs is still comparatively rare. We can only encourage you to push to be involved in the COL which includes the school(s) that most of your children will move on to.

A BOOK YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL

Act Love Walk: Praying in the Josephite Spirit, by Josephite sisters of the Australasian province Ann Gilroy, Colleen O'Sullivan, Anne-Marie Gallaher and Judith Sippel, is a series of reflections and prayers for gatherings (or for using alone). There are 22 prayers in the first section, *Journeying through the Year*, and following sections are titled *Act Justly*, *Love Tenderly* and *Walk Humbly*. The book is full of beautiful colour and artwork and might be a useful addition to your staff reflection sessions, or for your own use or for some of your families. Order it at: <https://store.marymackillop.org.au>. Cost \$20.

FINALLY

Remember to pass on the newsletter, and to send us any news for circulating. Blessings to all.

And also – it is while since I have had any lovely photos from any of the services. I would love to receive some. If I get enough I will put out a special colour newsletter a little later in the year, entirely full of colour photos.

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