

# **NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES, KINDERGARTENS, PLAYGROUPS AND INTERESTED PARTIES MAY 2013**

## **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.** (Let me know if there is a language I should add to this.)

May Pentecost have brought you many blessings!

## **Catholic Early Childhood Professional Development**

The continuing success of professional development for teachers in Catholic services is essential to ensure that the Catholicity of these services is sustained, developed and promoted. While geographical limitations mean that not every service is able to have access to the specifically tailored courses currently run in Auckland, The Catholic Institute does have a range of shorter and longer courses, many available by distance learning, which would help teachers to develop their knowledge of the Catholic faith, and the communication of that faith to children. We would suggest that you have a look at what is on offer at [www.tci.ac.nz](http://www.tci.ac.nz). Further, the site is well worth publicising to parents, particularly the taster courses.

## **Update on the National Centre for Religious Studies (NCRS)**

Acting Director (part time) Gary Finlay, has had to give up this role owing to personal commitments. Elizabeth Wootton is currently the acting director part time. She can be contacted at [e.wootton@tci.ac.nz](mailto:e.wootton@tci.ac.nz). Apart from her general educational professional background, Elizabeth has a very strong interest in vital and inspirational liturgy.

## **Noel Leeming Offer**

With this package there is an offer to schools from Noel Leeming. Please note that this offer also applies to Catholic early childhood services. If you are at all uncertain about this, you can contact [m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz).

## **Let's Read Them a Story – New OECD Study**

OECD publication 'Let's Read Them a Story! The Parent Factor in Education' shows the importance of parents reading to pre-schoolers. 'Growing Up in New Zealand: Now We Are Born' (Morton S. et al, 2012), the second report in a longitudinal study of children born here in 2010, has found family difference in reading by the time the children were nine months old. Parents often need help in developing reading confidence, or do not understand the importance of reading to their children from babyhood. Of course, that includes some of the lovely Bible stories and prayer books that you already publicise to your parent community – perhaps a community (parent whanau) library of such books could be established?

**Catholic Schools Day, 22 May**

We hope you had the opportunity to celebrate Catholic Schools Day, either with your local Catholic primary school, or in your own service.

**Finally**

Please, please, please, do send me some news or phone me to say how things are going at your place (contact details below).

Best wishes and many Pentecost blessings to you all.

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