

**NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES,
KINDERGARTENS, PLAYGROUPS AND INTERESTED PARTIES
AUGUST 2015**

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.

Me mihi ki te Runga Rawa nāna nei ngā mea katoa.

We hope that you were able to make much use of te reo Māori during Māori Language week. Further, we hope that you are planning to continue to incorporate a few more Māori words and phrases every month, so that the vocabulary builds up.

I'VE BEEN THINKING.....

I read quite a lot about how teachers learn to incorporate a range of mathematical, science and language concepts into their early childhood work, and into the experiences (based on children's interest) that they shape with children. So I've been wondering: how are our basic Catholic early childhood curriculum concepts being embedded in the daily life, interactions and learning of your service? And how are these concepts being reflected on, and recorded as part of the child's learning story? It's not truly happening if planning, reflection and recording are not happening, I don't think.

I'm not the expert, however. I'd love to hear from you on how the Catholic early childhood curriculum plays out in the daily experiences of your service. If you have lost your copy of the curriculum it's easy to get another copy. Contact Anne Kennedy (below) or just use the NCRS email address below and order a copy. I know that those of you who have been doing the Catholic early childhood papers in Auckland have probably got some wonderful things you can share – and maybe even some cautionary tales on what doesn't work, not just what does work. It would be great if you could drop me an email with 2 or 3 lines (or more) that I could include in the newsletter.

And while we're on this subject, what sort of daily or weekly conversation takes place between staff members on how the Catholic nature of the service is played out, and how the curriculum is lived out, on a daily basis?

I would love to get some news. Maybe you could appoint someone from your service to write to me, or to pick up the phone (see below) and talk to me for five minutes? You might know of a good website that you could share with others.

In my efforts to find something to share with you I got on the internet, and came across Catholic Icing. <http://www.catholicicing.com/catholic-preschool-curriculum/>. I'm not the expert – it's definitely not a preferable option to what we do in NZ (it's packages of work for homeschooling parents, and for Catholic preschool classes), but I think there might be some bits of stimulus there if you spend a wee bit of time browsing it. I noted a reference to cute songs somewhere. Perhaps even better, this pinterest site has some interesting downloadables, and might well repay a good look. <https://www.pinterest.com/osv/teaching-catholic-kids/> Let me know what you think of both of these, and send me in better sites that you've found, so I can share them.

FINALLY

Reminder: share this newsletter around, with staff and even, perhaps, with parents!

If you know anyone that would like to receive this newsletter, please get them to email me (see below), and I will add them to the list. Alternatively, the newsletter goes up on the website, (address below), at about the same time as it goes out to you by post.

Mā te Atua e manaaki
God bless

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