

Federation Flyer 2015



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President's Message

Federation Flyer 12 – 7 May 2015



Tēnā koe «CHRISTIAN_NAMES»

Last weekend I had the privilege of attending the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) conference in Liverpool. The NAHT is a union of head and deputy head teachers in England. Delegates from English regions met for three days to debate a wide variety of education issues. With the UK general election due this week, it was timely for the conference organisers to also invite the education spokespeople from the three major political parties to address the participants. It was interesting to hear the parties' respective education policies.

Some of the topics covered by the conference included pupil well-being, funding, curriculum and assessment, accountability, governance, structures, pay and conditions. Sound familiar? As I listened to the discussions, all I could think of was déjà vu.

You cannot visit the UK without being exposed to commentary on the national testing regime and their present government wants to add yet another test to the list! In the UK if it moves, it's tested!! The testing makes for very high stakes. Head teachers have lost their jobs when data has not shown improvement or if the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection report shows that a school's test data is poor. OFSTED fulfills a similar role to our Education Review Office (ERO). The pervasiveness and influence of OFSTED is of deep concern to schools in the UK.

Similarly, in New Zealand we have had grave concerns about the public and pervasive reporting of national standards results which allow the media to create league tables of schools and publish the tables as if they were the sole measure of a school's performance. We have also objected to ERO requiring schools to report children's national standards results to parents in the language of 'above', 'at' or 'below' the national standards. This in fact is not a requirement of the legislation and NZPF has requested that ERO and the Ministry make this fact clear on their respective websites and in their communications to schools. They have both agreed to this request.

The New Zealand and UK systems of education have many concerns in common, including (in our case) national standards and in the UK the even higher stakes version of national testing. Both countries suffer the same consequence of the standardised approach for accountability which is narrowing of the curriculum. At a time when the work forces of the world are calling out for creativity, critical thinkers and entrepreneurs, it would seem that Ministers of Education world-wide are woefully out of step. One lesson I have learned from our UK colleagues is that at home we must be vigilant of further validating national standards which will only lead to further narrowing of our NZ curriculum. One tool that elevates the risk of boosting the significance of national standards through making Overall Teacher Judgements (OTJ) more reliable is the Progress and Consistency Tool (PaCT). We cannot afford to open the gate and invite this tool into our schools.

The NAHT conference raised another familiar issue, that of collaboration. The participants announced, through a remit, that the days of the 'stand-alone' school are over. NAHT declared its intentions to work together with the profession and the government to develop a model that ensures '*all schools are part of a collaborative structure that offers mutual support, accountability and development.*' This was a refreshing approach and quite the reverse of how the IES was launched in NZ.

In his address to the NAHT conference delegates, David Laws, education spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats Party, and MP in the present coalition government, said that the government and educationalists **should** develop policy together as it is educationalists who know about education! What an uplifting statement! What an inspired approach!

Returning for a moment to your 'log-jams' feedback I am reminded that context is everything and solutions will accordingly differ from large to small schools, urban to rural. I am also reminded of some of your vicarious comments that left me in no doubt that you want to put learners at the heart of your decision making and you are quite prepared to work long and hard provided that your efforts are directed at those things that count for children. On my return I will further analyse your responses, categorise the information and share it with you.

Take care out there!
Noho ora mai ra



Denise Torrey
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UPCOMING DATES

15-16 May	Executive Meeting, Rotorua
30 June – 3 July	NZPF Conference, Wellington
2 July	Annual General Meeting, Wellington

CONFERENCE 2015



NZ PRINCIPALS' FEDERATION
CONFERENCE 2015

Time is running out! Click [here](#) to register for the Wellington hosted NZPF conference if you want to be up with the very latest education thinking from some of the world's most respected educationalists. The conference programme committee has taken a selection of the most currently relevant topics to principals in New Zealand and sought out the best researchers both worldwide and locally to bring you fresh thinking on issues like collaboration and professional learning communities, the effects of poverty and social inequity on learning, the importance of a broad curriculum, educational reform, cultural strategies and practices and self-managing schools to name a few. The programme is expertly woven into the theme of seeing the issues through multiple lenses to give you the broadest possible perspective from which you can develop your own thinking.

Don't miss out on this superb opportunity and the chance to engage with your colleagues from across the country.

TE AKATEA - NZ MĀORI PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS



Te Akatea represents Māori Principals, AP's/DP's, HOD's and Senior Teachers in the NZ education system. The purpose of Te Akatea is to give a collective voice on Māori education from Māori educators. Te Akatea works closely with NZPF and other education groups to support the education of all Māori students. Our members are from Kura Kaupapa Māori, Kura-a-Iwi, Rumaki Reo and English speaking Primary and Secondary schools.

Elections for the nine positions on the Te Akatea Executive are to be held between 23 August and 1 September 2015.

Eligibility requirements and the online registration form are on our website www.teakatea.co.nz.

For further information contact Myles Ferris - (09) 437 0623 or email principal@otangarei.school.nz

MAKE-A-WISH MUFTI DAY



Cognition Education Limited is supporting an 'I Wish I was' Mufti Day to raise funds for the 'Make-a-wish Foundation'. If you want your school to be part of this fundraising campaign then encourage your children to come dressed as 'whoever or whatever they want to be' on 8 May 2015.

To register click [here](#) and ask for further information

PARTICIPANTS FOR RESEARCH IN CO-TEACHING

Kia ora Colleagues

As you will be aware Canterbury is charging ahead into a rebuild. Most, if not all of the schools, are being re conceptualised as collaborative teaching and learning space.

Many other schools in New Zealand are exploring the power of collaboration between teachers and the opportunity for children to learn in collaborative spaces.

I am completing my thesis this year and have also been awarded the CPPA Fellowship for 2015. My research question for both is:

"What are the key components of an effective co-teaching relationship?"

To that end I am wanting to survey principals and teachers, and interview a sample, who have been involved in co-teaching (also called team teaching) for two years or more. The criteria for involvement in this study;

- Have been involved in co-teaching for 2 or more years
- Understand co-teaching/ team teaching as two or more teachers working together to teach in the same instructional space
- Happy to complete an online survey (may take up to 60 minutes)
- Would consider being interviewed if invited

My research findings will be published in two formats, a thesis together with a digital resource to be shared through the CPPA website for anyone who is interested. Participants (individuals and schools) will be anonymous and the research will also include some Australian schools that have met the criteria.

If you or some of your teachers meet the criteria and would like to participate please contact me at principal@waitakiri.school.nz and I will make contact.

Thanks

Neill O'Reilly, Principal, Waitākiri School email: principal@waitakiri.school.nz mobile: 027 270 3300

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

One of the undertakings the NZPF gives its business partners is that **at the very least, they are given the opportunity by members to quote for a product, service or solution. PLEASE support our business partners as their assistance is very important to NZPF and to you as members.**

Gold



Interested in becoming an NZPF Business Partner?

We welcome enquiries from businesses that are interested in engaging with schools. If you would like to know how a partnership with NZPF can add value to your business, while supporting New Zealand education, please email [Gavin Beere](mailto:Gavin.Beere@nzpf.ac.nz) (NZPF's Business Partner Convenor), for an information package and further details about NZPF.

National Office

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For a map showing the location of the National Office in Wellington [click here](#)

To update membership details [click here](#)