



ADVISER TO SCHOOLS - MARLBOROUGH

A Newsletter for all Primary Teachers and Support Staff
February 2009



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Term Highlights

- Continuing to provide support for individual teachers, groups or schools.
- Our Christchurch New Curriculum Bus Trip last term. For the 38 staff from 9 schools it was a fantastic networking and PD opportunity.
- Facilitating a staff retreat in the most stunning bach in the Sounds.

Welcome

New Principals

This term we welcome seven new principals to our schools. A warm welcome to **Dina Ahradsen (Blenheim)** who has moved from Buller, **Sarah Laugesen (Woodbank)** who has moved from Christchurch and our local colleagues **Pete Knowles (St. Joseph's Picton)**, **Willem Lampe (Ward)** and **Steve Crockett (Fairhall)** who all begin in their new role this term. A special welcome to **Mary Gray (St Joseph's Kaikoura)** and **Chris Duckworth (Havelock)** who are acting principals.

I know your colleagues will make contact to welcome you in your new role. We are lucky to have principals and teachers in Marlborough schools so willing to share and support each other. For new principals never be afraid to ring another colleague for support or ideas. I know the response will be always be positive. This works both ways as experienced principals ask for help too!

The Marlborough Principals' Association is a wonderful professional forum and a way to network with your colleagues. You will be made very welcome so look forward to seeing some new faces at the next meeting.

New Staff

There will be many new faces in staffrooms this term. A special welcome to any teachers and support staff new to Marlborough or returning to teaching. Please introduce yourself when I am next in your school and don't hesitate to make contact if I can support you in any way.

Farewell

We farewell Ernie Buutveld as he begins his new position as National President for the New Zealand Principals' Federation. This is a challenging new role and we wish him every success. Also David Lamont who moved to St. Joseph's in Danniverke at the end of last year.

Professional Development Opportunities

Due to a family bereavement I have been unable to include all details of the courses REAP has organised this term in this newsletter. Individual flyers for each course will be sent out asap. I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

- ***Notification of REAP courses***

Below is a very brief outline of professional development opportunities REAP is offering this term. Some courses are targeted for specific professional groups but all courses are open to all interested colleagues. For some courses I have yet to finalise the content and costs etc so more details, reminders and registration forms of individual courses will be emailed out to all schools as appropriate throughout the term.

I send out all information about professional development courses I have organised by email. These usually include attachments for you to download for more information and registration forms. **To ensure all teachers and teacher aides get this information if your school is experiencing any serious computer problems please contact Jo or Janice (Ph: 5787848) so we know to fax information to you instead.**



PD Opportunities This Term for All Interested Staff

- **Literacy Learning Progressions Workshop-Jacqui Clayton**
19th February - 4.00-5.15pm - St Mary's Parish Centre - No charge.
- **Cornerstone Values - Workshop 1- Andrew McFarlane**
16th March -3.45-5.45pm Spring Creek School Kauri Room – Cost \$25

- **The IEP Process and Personalised Learning- Team of Presenters**
25th March - 4.00-5.30pm – St Mary's Parish Centre –Cost \$35
- **Nigel Latta- Workshop for all teachers**
31 March – 3.30-4.30pm Venue and exact topic (behaviour focus) to be confirmed - Cost \$25



Marlborough Teachers in Leadership Association

The Marlborough Teachers in Leadership Association has invited Nigel Latta to present in Blenheim.

All PD sessions organized for the MTLA are open to all staff and this workshop is relevant for both primary and secondary teachers.

- ***Nigel Latta – Workshop for Middle leaders and Principals***

Nigel Latta will also be holding a workshop for all teachers from 3.30-4.30pm directly after this workshop. The venue and exact topic (behaviour focus) yet to be confirmed for both workshops.

When: Tuesday 31 March

Time: 11-3.00pm

Venue: TBC

Cost: \$55 (Includes lunch and afternoon tea)

- ***MTLA Social Networking Sessions***

We have been getting an excellent turnout to these important meetings and it is great to see some new faces. It is a chance for you to meet with colleagues, build support networks and relax. These are planned for early each term on a Thursday afternoon at Chequers. We are a very friendly group so if you are in a leadership role you will be made very welcome.

Dates for your diary:

Term 1 Week 4: Social Networking Meeting Thursday 26 February: 4:30-6pm @ Chequers

Term 2 Week 3: Social Networking Meeting Thursday 14 May: 4:30-6pm @ Chequers

Term 3 Week 3: Social Networking Meeting Thursday 6 August: 4:30-6pm @ Chequers

Term 4 Week 3: Social Networking Meeting Thursday 29 October: 4:30-6pm @ Chequers

Term 4 Week 7: MTLA End of Year Dinner Thursday 26 November- Dinner at Bacchus @ 6pm



Marlborough Small Schools Cluster Days

The Small Schools group consists of all U1 and U2 schools and meets during terms 1-3 for PD and networking opportunities. If you have experienced a declining roll and are now classified as a U2 school please let me know so I can add you to our email list. **All initiatives planned for this group are always open to any other interested principals especially our U3 colleagues.**

- ***How to Work Less and Play More! – Sharing of 'systems' and time saving tips***

Alan Straker and Andrew McFarlane will be sharing their time saving tips and systems that work for them. The details for this day have yet to be confirmed but it will be an informal and informative session with pearls of wisdom being shared! Registration details and a detailed flyer will be sent out asap.

When: Thursday 19th March (NB: Not the 12th March as previously advertised)

Time: 9.30-1.30

Venue: TBC

Cost \$25 (Includes lunch)



Marlborough Support Staff Group

Each term I organise a PD and social networking session for our support staff. The attendance at these sessions has been excellent so a big thank you to all schools for releasing their support staff for these days as I appreciate this puts an extra load on teaching staff.

- ***An Introduction to Glasser for Marlborough Support Staff
The Road Trip - Day 2 - Lisa Moffat***

This is only for those support staff who attended Lisa's first workshop last year as numbers are limited sorry. Registration details will be sent out asap.

When: Tuesday 10th March

Time: 9.15-2.30

Venue: St. Mary's Parish Centre-Maxwell Road

Cost: \$40 (Includes lunch)

- ***Marlborough Teacher Aides Social Networking Sessions***

The purpose of these meetings is to give you all an excuse to relax and catch up with your colleagues so look forward to seeing you all at Chequers on Thursday 19 March. A reminder email shall be sent out nearer the time.

Dates for your diary:

Term 1 Week 7: Social Networking Meeting- Thursday 19 March 4.30-6.00pm @ Chequers

Term 2 Week 7: Social Networking Meeting- Thursday 11 June 4.30-6.00pm @ Chequers

Term 3 Week 8: Social Networking Meeting- Thursday 10 September 4.30-6.00pm @ Chequers

Term 4 Week 8: Social Networking Meeting- Thursday 3 December 4.30-6.00pm @ Chequers



Marlborough Children as Artists Workshops

This initiative provides an opportunity for Year 6 students in Marlborough with a keen interest and a talent in the visual arts to work with a local artist for a day. An exhibition of their work will be held at The Millennium Gallery early in term 2. All details will be sent out to schools asap.

- Marlborough Children as Artists Workshop to be held in Kaikoura -2 April
- Marlborough Children as Artists Workshops to be held in Blenheim -6 April - 8 April



Teaching Reading Comprehension Workshops-*Dr Alison Davis*

I am giving you advance warning of these two exciting workshops being offered in terms 3 and 4. Some schools have indicated they wish to use their teacher only days to enable all staff to attend the Teaching Reading Comprehension workshops with literacy expert Dr Alison Davis.

Dr. Alison Davis, the author of Teaching Reading Comprehension, is an experienced and respected literacy developer and coach. She has led professional development for teachers, principals and administrators in New Zealand and throughout Asia, Australasia, the United States and Egypt. Alison has spoken at a range of international conferences, including the American Research Association Conference, the International Reading Association Conference and the World Reading Congress.

- Teaching Reading Comprehension- Introduction Workshop Day 1- Dr Alison Davis
3 August - 9.00-3pm – Venue and cost TBC
- Teaching Reading Comprehension - Follow Up Workshop Day 2- Dr Alison Davis
12 October - 9.00-3pm – Venue and cost TBC

Due to possible overseas commitments Alison will confirm these dates at the start of term 2.

Time Tips

How to Retain that Holiday Feeling!

Adapted from Robyn Pearce -Free Time Tips www.gettingagrip.com

Considering that everyone starts back rested and refreshed after our long summer break, it might seem a strange time to think about looking after ourselves. A stitch in time saves nine and most teachers are keen to maintain the sense of wellbeing they return with after a decent holiday. The other side of the picture is stress and burnout – all too common in the education sector, as we all know.



Some simple stress reduction strategies

- Have regular 'do nothing' weekends – about every month to six weeks. Leave school with the pupils, take no work home and give yourself a complete break from work-related activities and commitments.
- If we take a short break about every six weeks and it might be only a full day or two days of NO WORK or deadline-driven commitments, we keep the stress bricks at a manageable level. A few layers of bricks tumble down when we slow down.
- However, if we don't take those small 'sanity gaps' through the year, creating space for our body to control the stress bricks, when we finally stop for an annual holiday our body heaves a huge sigh of relief and says, 'Right, if you won't stop when I tell you you'll certainly stop now'. Whack, - we're flat on our backs!
- Ask yourself 'Will it matter in 5 years time?'
- Ask yourself: 'Whose problem is this?' If it's not yours, let it go.

What About You?

- When did you last take a clear weekend off?
- When did you last leave the 'guilt pile' of paperwork at work instead of lugging it home and then back again - often without opening the briefcase?
- When did you last ignore the computer all weekend, and the mobile or Blackberry?
- And if it was a while ago, what are you going to do about it?

Transition and Beyond Resource Kit for Parents

I have developed a 'Transition and Beyond' resource kit for parents which is now available for all schools on request. The purpose of this kit is to support the learning partnership with parents throughout the early years at school.

This kit is packed with practical ideas and resources to assist parents to participate in their child's education. As well as free Ministry material -Team Up books, Laura Starts School booklet, Feed the Mind and Reading Together at Home pamphlets it also contains the following support material. A CD with two alphabet songs on it (permission kindly given to copy these for this purpose), fan numbers, 1-20 number line, a hundreds board, jovi crayons, a library enrolment kit and a clearfile full of practical ideas to support transition but also those early months at school.

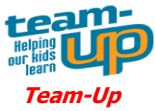


I am available to present a 'Transition and Beyond' workshop for your new entrant parents and suggest this is held approximately a term before they start school. REAP funding is allowing this kit to be purchased for \$5. Adding this cost to their stationery list when they enrol is one way to meet this fee. Please email me if you are interested in viewing the kit or would like to book in workshops for 2009.

Pause Praise Prompt Workshops for Parents

It is important to ask how with the smallest effort are we able to make the biggest difference. At the NZPF conference recent research was shared that showed that PPP is a very powerful intervention programme with parents. Helen Wilkie and I are available to run these workshops so please email me if you are interested in offering PPP workshops for your parents.

Class and School Newsletter Ideas



New Curriculum Snippets from *Team –Up* www.teamup.co.nz

This website is full of snippets to help your parents come to terms with the New Curriculum

What children learn – what we want them to know and be able to do by the time they leave school – is set out in The New Zealand Curriculum. Te Marautanga o Aotearoa is the curriculum used for Māori-medium schools.

Key Competencies -Future-proofing our kids

A really important part of the curriculum is the five 'key competencies' that everyone needs to live, learn, work and contribute to society throughout their lives. Children need to develop these key competencies so they can adapt and function well in life, now and in the future. Competencies are more than skills. A better way to describe them is: Skills + knowledge + attitudes + values = taking action

So what are these key competencies?

1. Thinking.
2. Using language, symbols, and texts – different ways to communicate and understand information.
3. Managing self – a "can-do" attitude.
4. Relating to others – being able to listen, see different points of view and share ideas.
5. Participating and contributing – being a good group member and including others.

How will children develop these key competencies?

They are important in every learning area. Successful learners will use them, along with the knowledge and skills in the different learning areas, as they interact with people, places, ideas and things. As children develop the competencies, they will learn more about when, how and why to use them.

Helping your child develop these key competencies

You know your child better than anyone else, so you can help them develop their competencies in lots of different situations. Doing things together at home helps show your child that what they learn at school is connected to the things they do in everyday life. It helps to 'personalise' learning for them – make it meaningful.

Parents Inc.
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR PARENTS



This is an idea to share with parents in your class/school newsletter and is adapted from their website www.ParentsInc.org.nz. It is also a great way for teachers/ teacher aides to build positive relationships and really get to know the children they work with.

Conversation Starters

Meal times can play a critical part in forming positive relationships with your children. A number of studies have shown that top achieving young people come from families where a sit down meal and discussion are a feature of family life. Shared meals without the competition of television are a training ground for the disappearing art of conversation! The following conversation starters may help to encourage family connection around the dinner table.

- What is something to be grateful for today?
- What's the hardest part of being a kid?
- What do you think is the hardest thing about being a parent?
- If your house was on fire and you could choose only one thing to save (besides family members), what would it be?
- Which famous athlete would you love to meet?
- If you could do anything you wanted when you grow up and could guarantee success what would you choose to do?
- What were you proud of today?

Marlborough Schools List

- ***Updated Marlborough schools list attached***

I have attached an updated contact list for Marlborough schools. Every term I shall send an updated list out with this newsletter so please check carefully and let Janice or Jo know if there are any changes that need to be made to your contact details.

REAP Loan Library Resources

REAP Loan Library Resource Room

- Details of new resources purchased will be included in my next newsletter and a catalogue of resources will be emailed out to schools this term.
- Email, phone or fax any orders and we will find a way to get them to you as I appreciate how hard it is to get in during office hours. You may keep resources for up to a term to enable you to return them during the holiday breaks. I am very relaxed about the borrowing times-there are no fines issued!
- If there is a resource that you feel would benefit your school it will also benefit other schools so just email the details to me and if the budget allows we will purchase it.



Quote

***If I had my child all over again,
I'd build self esteem first and the house later
I'd finger paint more often and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing seriously and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.
I would be firm less often and affirm much more.
I'd model less about the love of power and more about the power of love....***

Anon.

I look forward to working with you and wish you a happy and healthy term one.

Nicky

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