



ADVISER TO SCHOOLS - MARLBOROUGH

A Newsletter for all Primary Teachers and Support Staff
May 2009



In this issue:

- **Term 1 highlights**
- **Welcome**
- **Sir Ken Robinson**
- **New website - Educational leaders**
- **Some leadership thoughts**
- **PD opportunities**
- **Time tips**
- **Marlborough Children as Artists Exhibition**
- **Marlborough schools list**
- **REAP loan library**
- **Quote**

Term 1 Highlights

- It is always a privilege to be supporting Marlborough schools in a variety of ways.
- Joining Renwick School on their 'Tour of Christchurch'. A wonderful PD and networking opportunity for staff. Taking the time as a staff to 'visit' your own school can be a powerful exercise. Start at the front gate and see your school through the eyes of a visitor. Is there integrity between policy and practice? Does what we say match what we do? As a staff do we walk the talk? How do we know? Look at the physical environment, playground, foyer, office, classroom environments, displays, student books etc. I can assure you it will create an opportunity for some great dialogue!
- The huge support from schools for PD opportunities provided last term. With close to 200 registered for Nigel Latta's workshops it was disappointing he had to cancel due to ill health. However we have Nigel booked in for the same workshops in August 2010. Nigel will also be presenting at the MPA conference next year.
- Thank you for your support for our Marlborough Children as Artists initiative. We had 58 students from 25 Marlborough schools attend the workshops. Some stunning work was produced.

Welcome

New Principals

This term we congratulate and welcome **Mary Gray (St Joseph's Kaikoura)** as you begin your new role. A special welcome also to **Helen Voice (Kaikoura Primary)** who is acting principal for term 2 and **Adelle Galloway (Richmond View School)** who is also acting for part of term 2.

I know your colleagues will make contact to welcome you in your new role. The MPA is a wonderful support network for both new and experienced principals.

New Staff

There will be many new faces in staffrooms this term. 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.

Best Wishes

We wish Murray Ramsay a restful start to the term and a speedy recovery.

Sir Ken Robinson

Sir Ken Robinson challenges the way we are educating our children. He believes we have a systems problem where we privilege academic work above vocational education. The problem is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed. His latest book ***The Element: How finding your passion changes everything*** challenges us to think differently about our own capabilities and creativity and create a new paradigm for education. Click on www.wiredteachers.org/video/more-sir-ken-robinson to view his presentation about his new book.

For those of you who haven't seen his presentation ***Do schools kill creativity?*** this is an absolute must see for every teacher, teacher aide and parent. Click on: www.youtube.com/watch Sir Ken Robinson makes an entertaining and profoundly moving case for creating an education system that nurtures creativity, rather than undermining it. He argues that we don't get the best out of people because we've been educated to become good workers, rather than creative thinkers.

Educational Leaders Website

Educational Leaders is the new Ministry of Education's website for school leadership. It targets aspiring, middle and senior leaders in our schools so I encourage you to explore this new website. <http://www.educationalleaders.govt.nz>

Wherever you are in your leadership career, you should find materials, tools, resources, news and discussions that help you to solve day-to-day problems and issues quickly, so that you can focus on the

strategic role of being a principal or leader in your school. You will also be able to explore the issues that other leaders face and interact with those who have similar questions, interests, and experiences.

Some Leadership Thoughts

'Leadership deals with direction, with vision, with purpose, with principles, with top line, with people building, culture building, emotional bank account building, strengthening people. Management deals more with control, logistics and efficiency.' S. Covey

Have you got the right people, in the right seats on the bus and are you all clear about where you are going? Leadership is not just about leading learning and the new curriculum but about leading people.

- **Seven Habits of Effective Leaders**

What are the basic principles of effective leadership? Often our approaches reflect the inverse of effective leadership as illustrated here.

7 Habits of Ineffective Leaders	7 Habits of Effective Leaders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be reactive: doubt yourself and blame others!</i> • <i>Work without any clear end in mind.</i> • <i>Do the urgent thing first.</i> • <i>Think win/lose.</i> • <i>Seek first to be understood.</i> • <i>If you can't win, compromise.</i> • <i>Fear change and put off improvement.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be proactive.</i> • <i>Begin with the end in mind.</i> • <i>Put first things first.</i> • <i>Think win/win.</i> • <i>Seek first to understand before being understood.</i> • <i>Synergise.</i> • <i>Sharpen the saw –continually seek to improve!</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Stephen Covey</i></p>

- **Seek first to understand before being understood**

It is so important to really listen to all stakeholders as their perception is their reality. We are all guilty of too often just listening to respond! People matter first and therefore people need to feel heard and valued.

Professional Development Opportunities

Notification of REAP courses

Due to limited space, below is a reminder and 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 all courses, more details, individual flyers and registration forms 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 support staff 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

- **Autism Workshop-Making It Work Together- Celeste Littek**

2 June- 9-3pm - St Mary's Parish Centre – Cost \$60

An exciting PD opportunity for all levels - early childhood, primary and secondary. This practical workshop is suitable for teachers, specialists, support staff and parents. Celeste comes very highly recommended and those attending will receive practical support material also.

- **ESOL Support Group**
4 June -4-5pm – Witherlea
Resource sharing and how to assess ESOL students and how to get started
- **Literacy Learning Progressions Workshop-Jacqui Clayton**
4th June- 3.45 -5.00pm - Kaikoura Primary - No charge.
- **Cornerstone Values - Workshop 2- Andrew McFarlane**
8 June- 3.45-5.00pm Spring Creek School Kauri Room-Cost-\$25
- **Reciprocal Teaching Workshop –Marie Kelly**
24 June- 9-12.30 pm - St Mary's Parish Centre – Cost \$50



Marlborough Teachers in Leadership Association

- **Introduction to Glasser- The Road Trip - Day 1- Lisa Moffat**

10 June – 9-3pm – St Mary's Parish Centre – Cost \$40

This workshop is for middle leaders and principals.

As we know our role is about relationships, relationships, relationships! This is a wonderful personal and professional development opportunity not to be missed and you do not have to be a 'Glasser' school to benefit from this workshop. The follow up workshop is planned for the 23 September in term 3.

- **MTLA Social Networking Sessions**

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 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 and all staff.**

Please note the new date for this day as our original date clashed with the sole-charge schools conference.

- **So you want to do inquiry in your classroom/school?- Claire Hutchison, Cathee Wilks (9-12.30)**
Jocelyn MacKay (1.30-3pm)

28 May- 9-3pm – Springlands School Library– Cost \$30

This will be a very practical workshop and is open to all principals and staff able to attend. Especially relevant for principals and teachers who have not been involved in any ICT cluster.



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.

- **Autism Workshop-Making It Work Together- Celeste Littek**

2 June- 9-3pm - St Mary's Parish Centre – Cost \$60

This is our PD opportunity for support staff for term 2.

- **Marlborough Support Staff Social Networking Sessions**

The purpose of these meetings is to give you all an excuse to relax and catch up with your colleagues. A reminder email shall be sent out nearer the time.

Dates for your diary:

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



Teaching Reading Comprehension Workshops-Dr Alison Davis

A reminder that these two exciting workshops are being offered in terms 3 and 4.

We already have over 100 registered 'unofficially' as registration forms will be sent out in June. This is an exciting professional development opportunity for all Marlborough teachers.

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.

Dates now confirmed for those considering making these teacher only days.

- Teaching Reading Comprehension- Introduction Workshop Day 1- Dr Alison Davis
3 August - 9.00-3pm – Cost \$50
- Teaching Reading Comprehension - Follow Up Workshop Day 2- Dr Alison Davis
12 October - 9.00-3pm – \$50

Time Tips

Research shows that 95% of problems that occur in organisations are systems problems. Our role is to work **on** the system and not just in the system. What do we need to change about our systems to support staff, students and parents? All staff at all levels can reflect on this question. Supportive structures are important and staff and student feedback is important. Ask your staff or team, what would you like me to **continue** doing, what would you like me to **stop** doing, what would you like me to **start** doing? Classroom teachers may also find these questions helpful to ask their students.

The following snippet from Robyn Pearce illustrates how working on the system can support staff and save precious time.

That's the Way We Do It Round Here

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

How many of your staff are doing paperwork which is no longer necessary? What processes are done 'because we've always done it this way'? Consider your own school, no matter what size.

- How many administrative staff beaver away, conscientiously collecting data for reports which no-one really needs?
- How many trees and hours go into those unnecessary reports?
- Even if some of the information is still necessary, what other format could it be presented in? Could it be e-mailed as an attachment, leaving those who really need the data to take responsibility for running off a copy of the bits they need?

Tip No. 1 - Ask the newest person on the staff what time savers they can see. Usually when someone's new they're reluctant to rock the boat by making unsolicited comment. By the time they're confident enough to say something about time-wasting techniques, they're moulded to the culture and have forgotten their early wisdom.

Tip No. 2 - Think like a new person yourself. Go through your office procedures with a 'Why do we do this?' mindset. I guarantee that you'll find things to save time, money and resources on.

Tip No. 3 - If you're still challenged, bring in an outsider to ask the questions and facilitate the thinking process. It helps to take personalities out of the equation. You may be challenging something which very conscientious people have spent years of their lives doing - just because 'it's the way we do it round here'.

Marlborough Children as Artists Exhibition

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 from 13th May -7th June with the official opening on Sunday 17th May at 2pm. I would appreciate it if you could promote the exhibition in your school newsletter. The Gallery is also holding an 'Art Celebration' evening for interested principals and staff on Thursday 28 May from 5.30-6.30pm. Children's work can be collected from REAP after Thursday 11th June.



Marlborough Children as Artists
An Invitation to the Opening of the Art Exhibition

Where: The Millennium Art Gallery, Seymour Square
When: Exhibition will run from 13th May -7th June
Official Opening: 2.00pm on Sunday 17th May
Time: 10.30am - 4.30pm Week days
1.00pm-4.00pm Weekends

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

A catalogue of resources will soon be emailed out to schools. You may keep resources for up to a term to enable you to return them during the holiday breaks. We have limited resources so thank you for ensuring they are returned at the end of each term for others to borrow.

Quote

Teaching makes every other profession possible. It is the second most important job on the planet - the first being parenting.

Karen Boyes

From this term I am working reduced hours so to ensure you get dates that work for you I encourage you to make contact in advance. I look forward to working with you and wish you a happy and healthy term two.

Nicky

*Nicky Halligan
Adviser to Schools-Marlborough
REAP House
19 George Street Blenheim
Telephone: (03) 578 7848
Facsimile: (03) 578 9777
Mobile: 027 478 9111
Email: nicky@reapmarlborough.co.nz*