

**ADVISER TO SCHOOLS - MARLBOROUGH**  
A Newsletter for all Primary Teachers and Support Staff

October 2007



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## Term 3 Highlights

- Support from Marlborough Schools for Cheryl Doig's workshops with over 225 attending. I hope to be able to repeat a similar district wide PD opportunity every year by using one of the keynote speakers invited to the annual MPA conference to hold sessions in Kaikoura and Blenheim.
- Establishing a *Marlborough Teachers in Leadership Group* and a *Marlborough Teacher Aide Support Group* to provide PD, support and networking for our middle managers and teacher aides.
- A Small Schools cluster day held in Kaikoura, with Roger Hornblow principal of Amberley School. To travel for nearly four hours to attend a PD session shows the amazing dedication of our remote rural colleagues. Rural education is certainly in good hands!
- Professional development opportunities this term included Cheryl Doig's sessions, the MPA conference and a workshop with Tony Ryan. I have shared some snippets from these courses in this newsletter.
- Continuing to work with teachers and support staff and also working in classrooms with children. It is always a privilege to be working alongside dedicated professionals and I appreciate the warm welcome I receive in schools.

## Welcome

### ***New Principals***

This term we welcome Alister McCosh (Picton) to Marlborough and also acting principals for this term, Graeme Drummond (Whitney Street) and Helen Williams (Rapaura). I know your colleagues will make contact to welcome you in your new role and you will experience the supportive and positive network that exists within the MPA. Always remember for new and experienced principals that support is only a phone call away!

### ***New Staff***

After 17 years at REAP Sue Matthews left at the end of last term. A special welcome to Janice Thompsett who has joined our REAP team and will be the friendly voice/face at the front desk Monday to Wednesday and Jo Clark will continue to cover Thursday and Fridays. Welcome to any teachers and support staff that are new to Marlborough. Please introduce yourself when I am next in your school.

## Class and School Newsletter Ideas

**Parents Inc.**  
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR PARENTS



[www.ParentsInc.org.nz](http://www.ParentsInc.org.nz)

Adapted from a poster from Parents Inc. this is an idea to share with parents in your class/school newsletter.

## Great Questions to Keep in Touch with Kids

**Listening to your kids' answers for just five minutes may do more to build your relationship than five months of telling them what to do. Whether it is at the dinner table, walking to the park, in the car... how about asking a question or two?**

- What is your favourite time of day?
- What do you most enjoy doing with your family?
- How do you decide who your friends will be?
- Other than play time and lunch time, what did you most enjoy at school today? Why?
- What bothers you most?
- If you were Mum or Dad, what would your top five rules be?
- What is your child's biggest complaint about the family?
- In the film Pinocchio, Jiminy Cricket played Pinocchio's 'conscience'. What does a conscience do? Where does it come from? Do you have one?
- What are five questions that kids your age would like to be asked?
- What is the best gift you've ever given to anyone? What made it so special?
- Is there someone in your life that you can't stand to be around? What bothers you the most about them?
- In all the things you've had to forgive people for, what has been the toughest thing to forgive?
- What is the best job in the whole world?
- If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why there?
- What is your favourite room in the house?
- What person outside the family has most influenced your child's life?
- What is the best job in the whole world?
- Who are the three greatest people you've ever learned about? What makes them so 'great'?

## Time Tips

Robyn Pearce has a fabulous website for those needing time saving tips. She has a free menu of 94 time tips. You will need to visit her website to access these tips.

<http://www.gettingagripontime.com>

I have summarised one of her time saving tips for teachers below for you to ponder over!

### ***How to Minimise Interruptions and Get the 'Real' Work Done- A total open-door policy is poor management!***

"It seems I spend all day reacting and my home time then becomes admin time." Does this sound familiar? Some possible solutions and thoughts.

- Shut the door, for at least an hour a day.
- When used with no restrictions, the open door policy is bad management.
- Use uninterrupted time for high level activity that requires concentration
- Educate your staff, team, parents, students and anyone who thinks they can have your undivided attention anytime.
- Can you just drop in to your lawyer, dentist or doctor and expect them to drop tools just for you?

Results when you declare war on **unrestricted** 'open door' policies are...

- Staff are more focused
- Work outputs increase
- Staff take more responsibility,
- Interruptions dramatically reduce

Beware of monkeys!

- If you are not so available staff can't come rushing in the minute they have a problem so then they start to solve far more of their own problems. The monkeys (alias problems) now stay on the shoulders of their owners, because the owners have been encouraged and helped to think more deeply before they ask for help.

## Professional Development Opportunities

«Think Tank»



### *Marlborough Teachers in Leadership Group:*

**Think Tank Meeting:**

**Wine, Nibbles and a Natter!**

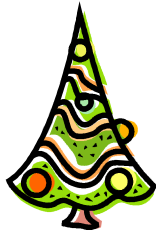
**When:** *Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November*  
**Time:** *Wine and nibbles from 4pm. Informal meeting starts promptly at 4:30pm*  
**Venue:** *REAP House, 19 George Street*

Our first official meeting was at the Cheryl Doig lunch session and I explained that the purpose of this group is to provide collegial support and professional learning for **all** teachers in leadership positions and is not just restricted to AP/DP's.

I asked for names of people keen to support this initiative and now have a wonderful group of 15 teachers that are keen to be involved in planning future PD and social networking opportunities for our Marlborough middle managers.

I know how busy you all are and cannot stress enough that REAP will do most of the organising and your role will be to provide support by providing ideas etc! If you were not at that meeting and are keen to be involved in our **'Think Tank' meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at REAP House** we would love you to join us.

Please just email me so I can add your name to my contact list. [nicky@reapmarlborough.co.nz](mailto:nicky@reapmarlborough.co.nz)  
This is an advance notice for your diary and a reminder email will be sent out nearer the time to the 'Think Tank' team!



## ***Marlborough Teacher Aide Support Group***

### **Xmas Party/Social Meeting Wine and Nibbles**

**When:** *Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November*  
**Time:** *Wine and nibbles from 5-6ish - no charge!*  
**Venue:** *REAP House, 19 George Street*

We had 55 attending our Teacher Aide day last term so it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible at our social meeting for this term for a social hour or two! I hope there may also be a group of you that will be keen to go to Paysanne's for pizza afterwards. I will send out a flyer nearer the time to all schools but mark it in your diary now.

#### **Kaikoura Teacher Aide Support Group**

A Xmas social meeting is also planned for later in the term but a date has yet to be confirmed.

Our first meeting in term one next year will be a 'Pause Praise Prompt' workshop and these will be held in both Kaikoura and Blenheim. If there are any teacher aides that were not at our last professional development day but would like to be on our Teacher Aide database please cut and paste the form below and send me your details.

<b>School</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>	<b>Email Contact</b>

#### ***ESOL Cluster Meeting***

**When:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
**Time:** 3.30pm  
**Venue:** Marlborough Girls' College –C10 (Meet at reception)

Jo Robinson has organised this cluster meeting. She will be showing a DVD the Ministry sent called 'WAVES', showing a few resources and giving some information about a TESSOL scholarship being offered by the Ministry. It is an informal meeting and will give teachers a chance to share ideas and resources (please bring along any you feel are worthwhile) and generally give each other support. Please email or ring Jo to confirm attendance. [attendance.JoR@mgc.school.nz](mailto:attendance.JoR@mgc.school.nz) or phone 5784031

#### ***Professional Development 2008***

To enable schools to budget and plan to meet the needs of their staff a booklet will be distributed to all schools outlining the range of professional development opportunities organised by REAP Marlborough that will be available during 2008. There will be an opportunity to share the expertise we have locally in our schools as well as inviting outside experts in various fields. Let me know this term if you have any suggestions for speakers or areas of particular interest.

## ***The IEP Process and Personalised Learning-Term 1 2008***

The IEP process is about personalised planning to enable students to reach their full potential. This interactive course is designed for educators to examine current school practice and to develop skills for writing effective IEP's, for inclusive programme planning and review. We plan to hold early this workshop early in Term 1 so if you would like to be part of the planning team for this course or if you have content ideas please contact me. [nicky@reapmarlborough.co.nz](mailto:nicky@reapmarlborough.co.nz)

### **Ka Hikitia-Managing for Success**

***Ka Hikitia-Managing for Success*** is a draft strategy that is seeking transformational change and is relevant to everyone within the education sector. The overall strategic outcome of *Ka Hikitia-Managing for Success* is 'Maori enjoying educational success as Maori'.

At the MPA conference at Portage Apryll Parata – Deputy Secretary Group Maori, gave a powerful presentation that challenged the role of all involved in education to 'step up' the system's performance for Maori to ensure more equitable outcomes. Apryll stressed we know what works for learners so it is time to step up!

#### ***What works for learners?***

- Participation in **early childhood education**
- Building **strong early literacy foundations** at home and school
- Whanau, students, schools, centres building **partnerships to support learning**
- Teachers with **high expectations** of their students
- Teachers who build **strong learning relationships** with students and use student data to make good teaching decisions
- **Professional leaders** who lead the professional learning, build partnerships with Maori communities and use data to manage change

The importance of taking the time to build those connections with the Maori students in your class, syndicate and school and take a special interest in them was stressed.

Some points and priorities she challenged us to reflect and focus on:

- How do you show you care for Maori students in your school?
- All Maori have potential, are culturally advantaged and are inherently capable. So how can you create a 'step up' that is transformational for Maori learners in your school?
- A shift in thinking is needed. How can you change attitudes and raise expectations for Maori learners?
- A sharpened focus for organisational success by being accountability for outcomes, using evidence.
- Using and acting on evidence about what works for Maori
- Focus less on problems and deficit thinking and focus more on identifying opportunities and investing in local people and local solutions.
- Further develop strong transition practices for Maori students
- Ensure effective early literacy programmes and equitable access to reading intervention for at risk students.

Improving Maori students' achievement clearly needs to be a priority goal for all educators. The public consultation process closes on Thursday October 31. For more information visit <http://kahikitia.minedu.govt.nz>

## New Curriculum Support

An **Engagement and Planning** resource pack will be sent out to schools soon after the release of the NZC and replaces the planned **Preparing to Lead Curriculum Change** guides. A NZ Curriculum launch workshop is also being planned in Blenheim towards the end of November providing the document has been released. The following is an outline of the implementation support that will be available.

### Support for schools during the three-year implementation phase includes:

- Three **resource packs**
  - Engagement and planning (2007)
  - Supporting Professional Practice (2008)
  - Sustaining Development (2009)
- A redeveloped **New Zealand Curriculum website** with links to specific curriculum design and review.
- **Resources** to support the development of **key competencies** and **school curriculum design and review**.
- Post-launch **professional development** in the form of regional workshops for principals and curriculum leaders.
- The creation of **professional learning communities** that are curriculum related.
- A three-year programme of **exploratory studies** that will be used to inform school practice.
- A monitoring and **evaluation strategy** for analysis of 'snapshots in time', demographic data and attitudinal responses.
- The **alignment of current ministry support** for teachers, principals and boards of trustees to implement the NZC.

### **Kick starting the key competencies- A NZCER resource for schools**



#### **Key Competencies: The Journey Begins**

Rosemary Hipkins, Josie Roberts, Rachel Bolstad

This is a **discussion kit** based on NZCER's research with five "early adopter" schools. The seven pamphlets in this kit draw on the stories of these schools as they adapt their curriculum, teaching and learning to focus on lifelong learning. They are intended as a beginning point, or "kick start", as schools work towards implementing the key competencies. Included is a series of brochures, posters and notes for teachers.

**Pamphlets** include: The nature of the key competencies

- Why the key competencies?
- "Doing it our way": how can schools develop their own approaches to the key competencies?
- What do the key competencies mean for curriculum, teaching, and learning?
- Can key competencies strengthen student involvement in teaching and learning?
- Should we assess the key competencies?
- Discussion ideas and further reading and resources.

To or find out more information about the Kick Start resource, go to:

[http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?products\\_id=1874](http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?products_id=1874)

## ***Local Schools Featured***

The TKI site has a range of resources currently available to support the new curriculum implementation and two Marlborough schools, Springlands and Kaikoura Primary currently have their reports from the 2006 key competencies exploratory studies available to view online. [http://www.tki.org.nz/r/nzcurriculum/index\\_e.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/nzcurriculum/index_e.php)

## **Back to the Moon**

- ***Information flyer attached***

I have been approached by Educate ME to promote their *Back to the Moon* presentation which is an interactive science programme that will take students on a ride back to our moon. I have attached their promotional flyer and they have pencilled in 26-28<sup>th</sup> March for any Marlborough schools that may be interested but urge you to get in early to secure a booking. Phone 0800 990 111 for more information.

## **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 let Janice or Jo know if there are any changes that need to be made to your contact details. [reap1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reap1@xtra.co.nz)

## **REAP Loan Library Resources**

### ***Thank you***

Sally Robertson, Sales Consultant for giltedgepublishing has given REAP a small collection of resources listed below for our loan library. For many of the smaller schools struggling with limited budgets this will be a way for you to 'try before you buy'! We are grateful for her donation and I would appreciate it if you could acknowledge Sally when next ordering any of their resources for your school.

If you would like to borrow any of the resources below but are unable to get to REAP I will find a way to get them to you. Remember you may normally borrow all resources for up to a term if needed however this term **I am asking all resources to be returned to REAP no later than Wednesday 28 November – Week 8**. The REAP Loan Library is in urgent need of an overhaul so thank you for your support by returning all resources by this date.

If there is a fantastic resource that you think everyone should have please let me know so I can purchase it for the library.

Some recent additions now available to borrow:

### ***For Teachers***

- ***The Publishing and Display Handbook*** – Sheena Cameron  
Provides guidelines and ideas to assist teachers in creating interesting and functional classroom environments and also publishing and display formats to present students' work.
- ***Writing Essentials*** – Regie Routman  
Raising expectations and results while simplifying teaching.
- ***Reading Essentials*** – Regie Routman  
The specifics you need to teach reading well. (Both these Regie Routman texts were highly recommended by Helen Wilkie - RTLit.)
- ***Right-Brained Children in a Left-Brained World*** - Jeffrey Freed and Laurie Parsons  
Unlocking the potential of your ADD child. Includes a ten minute a day programme for parents and children.
- ***Art Titles Set*** : (Donated by giltedgepublishing)  
***Excavating the past – Michael Shepherd Artist*** – Claudia Bell  
***Publishing the Boundaries*** – Camilla Highfield and Peter Smith  
Eleven Contemporary Artists in Aotearoa New Zealand

### ***For Students***

The following books were kindly donated by giltedgepublishing and each series may be borrowed as a complete set.

#### **Fast Zone Reading Series**

Set of 6 books. High interest books for reluctant readers.

- ***Parasites***  
Bloodsuckers, The Parasite Problem, Uninvited Guests, The Dog Ate My Homework
- ***Treacherous Ice***  
Titanic Disaster, Avalanche! To the Pole, Over the Edge
- ***Kick for Goal!***  
Football, Peta's Problems, Soccer, The Real Thing
- ***Strange in the Sky***  
UFOs, A Close Call, IFOs, The UFO Spotters' Club
- ***Hoops and Hardwood***  
Basketball, Then and Now, Wheels for Legs, Hardwood Wizard, Joanie
- ***Dinos***  
Different Dinos, The Gofer, It's in the News, The Mystery of the Missing DNA

#### **Go for IT Series**

Set of 3 books. A high interest magazine series.

- ***Intense Surf***
- ***Rosh***
- ***What a Wreck!***

## Giltedge Readers Series

Set of 14 books.

- ***My Friend Sam*** – Level 3
- ***In My Garden*** –Level 4
- ***A Giant Sandwich*** – Level 4
- ***Molly's New Shoes*** – Level 6
- ***A Very Good Lunch*** – Level 6
- ***The King's New Crown*** – Level 8
- ***My Summer Holiday*** – Level 8
- ***William's Wet Week*** –Level 9
- ***My Dad's Old, Blue Vintage Car*** – Level 10
- ***The Day My Wish Came True*** – Level 11
- ***Mrs Rush-Around*** – Level 15
- ***Aunt Milly's Magical Tree*** – Level 18
- ***The Oldville Flyer*** – Level 21
- ***Knit-Witch*** – Level 23

## Quote

***Seek first to understand ... and then to be understood.***

(So often we listen to *respond* rather than listening to *understand*.)

***Stephen Covey***

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

Nicky

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