



# AMSSA

Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association

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## NEWSLETTER 04/06 OCTOBER 2006

Welcome to the MSEA Newsletter.

Scroll down to find these features:

1. President's Report
2. Prayer
3. Useful things from the Pastoral conference
4. 2006 Tax Invoice

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006 ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED –THERE IS A TAX INVOICE AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**The MSEA Pastoral conference** was very well attended and very well received by all who attended, and the MSEA executive has received very positive feedback both informally and from the conference evaluations. The success of the conference augurs well for future similar conferences for senior staff in our schools. There was a good representation among participants from most of the MSEA members in Australia and New Zealand.

Thanks to Kitty Guerin, and the rest of the Organising Committee: Vivien Brewer, Julie Flynn, Margaret Kingston and Michele Naughton, to the staff of OLMC, and to Margery Jackman and the staff of Catherine McAuley Westmead.

**For our Biennial MSEA Conference in Brisbane on August 16 – 18, 2007, organisation is already in train, with a working theme of "Mercy in Action".** It is a tradition of our conferences to have a range of workshops for the conference participants.

**Do you, or does a member of your staff, have an interest in conducting a workshop? If so, please get in touch with me.**

As we are approaching the end of the 206, year, we have included with this newsletter the **2006 tax invoice**. You will recall that at the 2004 AGM, the Association levy was set at \$600pa. The levy provides us with funds to enable MSEA to host conferences, operate in the period between conferences, to maintain the website, to fund other general administrative costs and to provide for the services of the executive officer.

Every best wish to you and all in your school communities for a happy and safe Christmas and New year, and thanks to you all for your support for MSEA.

**Lee-Anne Perry (President)** [perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au](mailto:perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au)

### **PRAYER**

(taken from one of the liturgies at the recent pastoral conference)

We pray in the name of our God who is creator, liberator and enabler.

God of mercy,  
help us to be conscious of your great love  
for every one of us.

Be with us in all our relationships  
with our students and their parents,  
with our fellow staff members  
and with all those who come into our daily lives.

Help us to recognize the right moment for challenging,  
encouraging and praising.

Guide us in building the confidence and self-esteem  
of our students, our colleagues and ourselves.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

### **MSEA PASTORAL CONFERENCE CARING FOR STUDENTS - THE MERCY WAY**

Participants from eighteen Mercy schools across Australia and New Zealand attended. On Friday Margery Jackman and her staff and students hosted us at Catherine McAuley Westmead, and on Saturday Kitty Guerin and her community welcomed us to Our lady of Mercy Parramatta. Following the conference dinner the speaker was Brigid Glanville, ex-student of OLMC, whom you can see on ABC TV's Lateline Business program.

## **SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. CYBER BULLYING – CHRIS WEBSTER**

Chris developed his website, <http://websterc.bravehost.com>, as part of his HSC English studies in order to educate others about cyber bullying.

The website is well worth a visit.

If you would like a print copy of the outline of his presentation, email Frances on [ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au).

### **2. PASTORAL CARE STRUCTURES**

#### **St Catherine's College Wellington NZ**

- Structures based on Mercy values – "It is safe for you to be who you are"
- Structures cater for differing ethnic groups
- Basic home group is the 'whanau', (family) group
- There are special measures for the most vulnerable students.

Contacts:

Chris Jarrat: [cjarrat@stcatherinescollege.school.nz](mailto:cjarrat@stcatherinescollege.school.nz)

Kathy Ryan [kryan@stcatherinescollege.school.nz](mailto:kryan@stcatherinescollege.school.nz).

#### **St Saviour's College Toowoomba Qld**

- Leadership training and opportunities for senior students include the Youth Empowerment program (part of Mind Matters). Students have inserviced the college staff.
- Network among local schools to address self-harm among young people.
- Integration of Sudanese refugees into the school community.

Contact Chris Ryan [ryanc@stsav.qld.edu.au](mailto:ryanc@stsav.qld.edu.au).

#### **Marian Catholic College Griffith NSW**

- Structures for co-ed school with seven main ethnic groups and 5% students with disabilities
- Structures for students who arrive midway through the school year
- Adapting to the needs of each student

Contact Frances Fitzpatrick [ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au)

### **3. ACADEMIC RESILIENCE – CATHERINE BOLAND**

Catherine is a consultant clinical psychologist to the University of New South Wales and also works in private practice.. A sample of her input:

- Resilience is a set of qualities that foster a process of successful adaptation and transformation despite risk and adversity.
- The current wish for many parents is for their children to have a childhood devoid of risk and adversity.
- Fundamental to the resilience of a child is a strong attachment relationship with an adult.

- Teachers and schools are often crucial in offering an attachment relationship to young people.
- Failing to live up to potential may be associated to an inability to take risks.
- To improve, one must work at the edge of one's competence, and that always involves risk.

For a print summary of Catherine's session including her select bibliography contact Frances on [ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au).

#### **4. MANAGING A CRITICAL INCIDENT – STEPHEN SAID**

Stephen co-ordinates Pastoral Services for the Inner-West Region, Catholic Education Office, Sydney. His book, **Critical Incidents Affecting Schools – Prevention, Preparation and Response**, is available from the CEO Sydney (Inner Western Region). Or email him - [stephen.said@ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stephen.said@ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au).

"A critical incident affecting a school is any event that causes a significant number of people to experience reactions that are beyond their emotional range."

#### **5. ACADEMIC CARE AND ACADEMIC RESILIENCE – ANN NADGE**

Ann is Deputy Principal at St Catherine's School, Waverley. Her presentation was about a major action research project at Waverley which began as a desire to have all teachers understand their pastoral role. Interest was in the hours the students are in the care of teachers while they are in classes, at school. The intended outcome of the project several years later is expressed as "Academic care involves promoting well-being through academic structures and processes which are sympathetic to adolescent needs."

The powerpoint of Ann's presentation will be on the MSEA website but if you want a copy now, and/or a print copy of the original charter, email Frances - [ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ffitzpatrick@mcc.wagga.catholic.edu.au).

Ann covered all these and more –

- Professional development of staff in meta-cognition for learning, goal-setting, assessment for learning, motivation, taxonomies, Applied Psychology for students, co-operative learning ...
- Enhancing resilience in the classroom
- Giving students a metalanguage about learning through study of Applied Psychology
- Teaching style as help or hindrance to resilience-building.

Contact Ann - [anadge@stcaths.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anadge@stcaths.nsw.edu.au).

#### **6. WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO PASTORAL CARE – TANIA CAIRNS**

Tania is PDHPE adviser and Pastoral Care Resource Officer for the Parramatta diocese.

## **7. THE PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOL USE – PAUL DILLON**

Paul is Information/Media Liaison Manager for the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Sydney.

**If you Google ndarc you will reach NDARC's website.** Click on **Drug Information** and you will find over fifty **fact sheets** which will give you not only the information Paul uses when speaking but also the strategies he offers for educating and assisting young people and their parents.

*Thank you to all who were involved in making the visitors welcome, and for all that went into making the conference days such a success!*