

**Enclosed in this mailing:**

- March Newsletter;
- Workshop listing;
- Available brochures;
- List of Eionline Courses

# CSAANYYS



**Your professional organization!**

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## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Keep parent-teacher meetings focused on the child especially if the parent & teacher do not see "eye to eye". As administrators, you are often the buffer in meetings that could easily stray off subject - the child and off topic - the child's needs. Be a good buffer by keeping the focus on the child

## SAVE THE DATE!

The date for the 7th annual Catholic School Administrators Gathering will be October 14, 2007 with the NPS Conference Oct. 15th & 16th. Mark your calendars now!

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Teachers who hold a NYS Professional Certificate (after 2004) are required to obtain 175 hours of professional development every 5 years. If a teacher is employed *exclusively* by a nonpublic school, the hourly requirement is reduced by 10% for each year of the 5-year cycle. For further information, go to: [www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/) click Memos to the Field, click June 2006 Guidance on Record Keeping-Nonpublic.

## THE MYSTERIES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

*Did you know in the New World, Spanish missionaries used the passion flower to explain the mysteries of the Christian faith to the people? The priests christened the flower they encountered in the Caribbean "la flor de las cinco llagas" - the flower of the five wounds. The spiraled tendons of the plant were taken as symbols of the lashes Christ endured, and the central flower column as the pillar of the scourging. The 72 radial filaments of the flower were seen as the crown of thorns; the three stigmas as symbols of the nails used in crucifixion, as well as the Holy Trinity; the five anthers, as the five wounds of Christ; and the style as the sponge doused in vinegar used to moisten Christ's lips. Taken together, the five petals and five sepals were used to refer to the ten apostles who did not either betray or deny Christ. The fragrance of the flower helped recall the spices used to embalm the body of Christ. Finally, its globular egg-size fruit was taken as a symbol of the world that Christ saved through his suffering.*

*By Mary Ann Castronovo Fusco*

## EMAILS SUBJECT TO LEGAL REVIEW

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, new rules, went into effect December 1, 2006 which require schools, businesses, and other organizations to keep tabs on all emails, instant messages (IM), and other digital communications produced by their employees. This ruling also applies to public schools and nonprofit organizations.

The rules - which state that any entity involved in litigation must be able to produce "electronically stored information" during the discovery process. Opposing sides of a legal dispute must share evidence before trial and could have significant implications for school technology departments, especially in places

where technicians routinely copy over backup discs and other information housed on school servers. (Email messages and electronic documents are part of that mix.)

This rule will require schools and other organizations to think about how and where they store digital information in advance of any potential legalities. Schools, for example, might want to conduct technology inventories to better understand what types of email storage and data backup systems they have in place; establish guidelines for the kinds of information that must be saved and for those that can be deleted; and decide where to store critical

data, so the information is easily accessible in the event of a problem.

Electronic communications should be preserved with the same care and diligence as other business-related documents, the High Court ruling forces managers "to recognize this distinction up front," giving schools, businesses and even individual users an opportunity to be proactive in efforts to secure relevant computer-based information. Schools need to have a policy for saving electronic information. As long as a process is in place so this type of information is discoverable in the event of a lawsuit, schools should be fine.

*Source: eSchoolNews, January 2007*

## 2007 CATHOLIC SCHOOL GATHERING - SPEAKER

Leland Nagel will be speaking on "Catholic Schools... Catholic Identity: What the Documents Say" at the 7th annual Catholic School Administrators Gathering this October 14th.

He has held a variety of positions on both the diocesan

and university level. His messages are motivational and inspirational. A faith-filled storyteller, he serves as a part-time national sales consultant for Benziger, a division of Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Lee Nagel is an educator by profession and a catechist by vocation, a

teacher by trade and an evangelist by Baptism.

Come join other Catholic school administrators from around New York State for a wonderful chance to re-energize and enjoy an afternoon and evening for YOU.



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New on the website:

- Pandemic Flu Preparation New York State Toolkit
- Universal Pre-K Research report

**New Orleans needs help:**

The Ursuline Academy in New Orleans is looking for a donation of 3rd and 4th grade science books. For a complete list of books they need, go to [www.csaanys.org](http://www.csaanys.org) - Member News.

**WELCOME BACK**

- St. Dominic Elem., Oyster Bay
- Moore Catholic HS, Staten Island
- Xaverian HS, Brooklyn

**MISSION STATEMENT THOUGHTS**

Does the schools mission statement:

- Reference the age of school and/or
- The school's founders, and if a religious community their charisma and/or
- Reference historically significant changes ie: mergers, consolidations, etc.

**A HEAVY TOPIC**

According to the centers for Disease Control (CDC) 17% of U.S. children are overweight. The number of 6-11 year olds who are overweight has doubled in the last 20 years, for 12-19 year olds, the figure has tripled. The CDC reports that our nations poorest urban and rural areas is predominantly where the problem is occurring.

Every day we feed the students in our schools minds full of facts and figures, formulas and strategies. Schools must now take the lead in creating healthy eating and fitness partnerships with families. By creating a partnership with families, healthcare professionals, teachers and students we can begin making positive changes in the eating habit and fitness of our students.

So what can schools do? First of all, assess you schools physical-education program. According to Section 135.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner required instruction in physical education: all pupils in grades K-3 shall participate in PE on a daily basis for a weekly total of 120 minutes. Grades 4-6 shall participate not less than 3 times per week for a total of 120 minutes and 7-12 shall have no less than three times per week in one semester and two times per week in the other semester. For nonpublic schools similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained and all pupils shall attend such schedules. Is the program balanced with activities that raise the heart rate for a sustained period (aerobic exercises) and games like basketball where not everyone is at the same proficiency level?

Work with the school nurse to develop materials for families on healthy eating and family exercise programs. Discuss the impact on learning and future health. Begin developing school policies about soda consumption at school, what snacks are sold for lunches and snacks. Even if you don't have the federal lunch programs consider developing a wellness policy for the school (sample on our website - [www.csaanys.org](http://www.csaanys.org)).

Don't forget to delegate the assessments to a committee of teachers and use the findings to develop goals.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**IDEA Planning for 2007-**

**2008:** Principals, now is the time to call your LEA if you have not heard from them regarding consultation to fulfill the requirements of IDEA. If you have children in your school who have an IEP or who are in the process of having one developed PLEASE encourage the parents to sign the consent form that allows your information to be shared with you and the district of residence.

**Emergency Preparedness:**

The council for Excellence in Government (CEG) has launched a website: [www.whatsyourrq.org/](http://www.whatsyourrq.org/) that provides an interactive "Readiness Quotient" survey and corresponding public readiness index to help people evaluate their disaster preparedness. The site also offers Red Cross preparedness messaging so participants can immediately learn what steps they should take based on their RQ scores.

**Greening the Cleaning update:** A list of approved

cleaning products and the guidelines and specifications for procurement can be accessed at: [www.ogs.state.ny.us/bldgadmin/environmental/default.html](http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/bldgadmin/environmental/default.html)

**Free Resources:** Log on to: [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org) for your free classroom resources. The topics range from bullying to the American Civil Rights movement. Teaching Tolerance also has a free magazine full of great articles and helpful ideas for teaching tolerance in our schools.

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH):**

Every summer with financial support from the NEH 2,500 school teachers from across the U.S. participate in advanced study programs in humanities that range from one to six weeks. Teachers who wish to participate in the 2007 NEH summer program must apply by March 1, 2007 for seminars and institutes and

by March 15th for Landmark workshops. Additional information can be found at: [www.neh.gov/projects](http://www.neh.gov/projects)

[www.eschoolnews.com/safe](http://www.eschoolnews.com/safe) - The new S.A.F.E. (School Actions For Emergencies) Center is an online clearing house loaded with information to help you craft well-informed emergency plans.

[www.spellingtime.com](http://www.spellingtime.com) - helps student practice weekly spelling terms. Teachers, students or parents can enter each week's spelling words and the site takes students through a four step instructional process.

[www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org) - an online global science museum that offers access to information and interactive experiments from more than 600 of the world's science and technology museums.

[www.iwaswondering.org](http://www.iwaswondering.org) - aims to encourage girls in science. A project of the National Academy of Sciences it is intended to showcase the accomplishments of contemporary women in science.