

# CSAANYS NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE  
406 Fulton Street • Suite 512 • Troy, New York 12180

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TOUCH THE FUTURE

### New Administrators Conference

In the majority of New York State's dioceses, Catholic Schools Week opened on February 1 with the theme, Catholic Schools Touch the Future. The theme was adapted from the words of Catholic school alumna, Christa McAuliffe, who said, "I teach. I touch the future." Christa actually presents a striking example of how our Catholic schools affect the future by attempting to motivate our students to develop their full potential.

Rev. Francis Kelly writes in NCEA's Forum for January 1987 about the great reservoir of generosity and idealism waiting to be tapped in our young people of today. He agrees with James DiGiacomo, S.J., who states, "We have to help young people recover a sense of measuring up to something or someone." A Catholic school graduate is, hopefully, generous enough to be actively concerned about the needs of others.

All that we attempt to do as Catholic educators is aimed at the long term goal of Christian commitment to making this world a better place. Our students learn through what we teach but, perhaps, more importantly, from what we are. Rev. Edward Braxton, also writing in Forum challenges us as educators to create "an environment of spiritual awareness that flows from our own interior life". He goes on to say:

"...Our personal prayer, our casual encounter with a fourth grader in the playground, the way we relate to teachers, the manner in which we discipline a youngster, all these lay a foundation. Our attitude of trust and respect, our recognition of the dignity and worth of each person will help to establish the rapport that will be necessary if we are to do more than just teach about faith."

Those that leave our schools richer in the living faith experience give us encouragement to continue touching the future by our fidelity to our mission.

Once again CSAANYS served as a co-sponsor of the SED's Conference for Administrators of Nonpublic Schools. Approximately 150 administrators attended from a variety of nonpublic schools. It was generally agreed that the conference was both profitable and enjoyable.

CSAANYS had a booth featuring effective school communications. Through the school offices of several dioceses a number of representative samples of handbooks, calendars, newsletters and brochures were collected. These samples were a big hit with conference participants. Many requested copies of material of interest to them.

In addition, Sister Mary Dawson, Sister Patricia Houlihan, Mrs. Ann Suydam and Sister Edwardine Weaver were among the presenters. J. Alan Davitt, Executive Director of the NYS Catholic Conference was honored for his long standing support of and cooperation with the State Education Department. Commissioner Gordon Ambach presented the award at the Conference dinner.

This was the second annual conference for nonpublic school administrators. It is a worthwhile experience and we suggest that you reserve Dec. 3 & 4, 1987 so you can attend the third annual.

### HAVE YOU RETURNED...

• The deadline for nominations for Elementary Representatives to the CSAANYS Executive Board is March 6.

• Registration materials for the CSAANYS Annual Spring Workshops were mailed in January. April 6 - O.L. Help of Christians School, Woodside; April 8 - Notre Dame H.S., Utica; April 9 - Cardinal O'Hara H.S., Tonawanda. REGISTER TODAY! (You may register at the door, but early registration gives us a better idea on the number of participants to plan for.)

# Newsbriefs

## TEXTBOOK AID EXPANDED

On January 21, the Regents authorized the purchase of newspapers under the State Textbook Law. School districts are permitted to purchase general circulation daily and weekly newspapers for students under two conditions: the papers are provided at a discount of at least one-third; and study guides are made available at no cost by the publisher to help teachers integrate use of newspapers in the curriculum.

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## OCC. ED. SERVICES FOR NPS STUDENTS

Occupational education services are available to students attending nonpublic secondary schools. The parents of a nonpublic school pupil must file a written request with the district in which the pupil resides. The nonpublic school may forward the requests. Requests should be filed as early as possible so that they can be considered as plans are made and budgets written. Most school districts begin this process by the winter of the preceding school year though the legal deadline is June 1. Participation in an occupational education program does not involve the payment of tuition by parents.

The Program may be provided in local public schools or through a BOCES. Nonpublic school pupils are entitled to participate on the same basis as pupils in public schools.

The district must provide transportation between the nonpublic school and the program site if the distance is more than 1/4 of a mile.

Consult the "Handbook of Services to Pupils Attending Nonpublic Schools" from the Office for Nonpublic Schools for more information.

## LEGAL NOTE

We presume you hear this often but a recent (11/21/86) ruling of a state court deserves notice:

"A student in a kindergarten was injured while playing on a mini-gym during a brief period when his teacher had left the children unsupervised. The school is liable 100%. The teacher's action was a proximate cause of injury and constituted a breach of the defendant's duty to provide adequate supervision ... It is not necessary that the particular manner of the event be anticipated only that a mishap was foreseeable."

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## SED NPS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Several years ago the Commissioner of Education, Gordon Ambach, established an Advisory Council for Nonpublic Schools to advise the State Education Department both on the development and review of educational policies as they relate to the nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in New York State and on its operations and services for nonpublic schools.

Sister Patricia Houlihan, principal of Holy Cross School, Albany, has been named to a three year term on this Council beginning this month. Sister Patricia's long association with CSAANYS makes her an excellent choice for this position. She had served on the Executive Board since 1981 and was President of the Association from 1982 to 1985.

If any of you have a matter which you feel might be addressed by this advisory council please contact our office and we will see that Sr. Patricia is apprised of your concern.

We congratulate Sister Patricia on her appointment and assure her of our support.

## GALLOP POLL RESULTS

A recent Gallup/Phi Delta Kappan Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools shows that a majority of Americans prefer private schools. For the first time since 1982, the poll asked 1,552 adults nationwide, "If you had the means, would you send any of your children to a private or church-related school?"

Forty-nine percent of parents whose children currently attend public schools answered "yes", a 4% increase since 1982.

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## STUDENT SERVICES TO ELDERLY

The NYS Board of Regents has proposed the creation of awards to schools and colleges to create exemplary programs for students to provide services for the elderly. Models would then be disseminated to other educational institutions.

We feel sure that many of our schools currently have such service programs in place and urge administrators to be alert for the announcement of the availability of these grants.

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## NEW FEDERAL ASBESTOS LAW

In October, 1986, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act was signed into law. The law requires the EPA, by October 17, 1987, to publish new rules for inspection of all public and nonpublic K-12 school buildings and for schools to develop containment procedures for any asbestos that may be found. Inspections must begin by April 15, 1988 and by October 13, 1988, management plans must be submitted. Schools must begin implementing the plans by July 12, 1989.