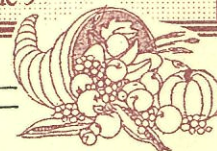


A digest for busy administrators!

# CSAANYS



Catholic School Administrators Association  
Of New York State  
406 Fulton Street, Suite 512, Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 273-1205 Fax: (518) 273-1206  
Web site: [csaanys.org](http://csaanys.org) E-mail: [nysadm@aol.com](mailto:nysadm@aol.com)  
November 2001  
Volume 31 – Issue 9



## MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

By Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ, Executive Director

### At Last, An Answer?

Whenever one asks a question, he or she must be prepared for the answer. So it is with the Supreme Court's decision to take up the matter of vouchers for religiously oriented schools.

Hailed as the most important decision since *Brown*, the case, which the Supremes will take up, is the result of a long and circuitous journey that has resulted in appeals filed in the Cleveland voucher cases. When the Cleveland program was struck down in 2000 as violating the First Amendment's establishment provision, several parents of voucher students and several religious schools appealed the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit court's decision. Now, as the "moment of truth" approaches, we wonder if the matter will be settled for once and for all.

Ever since *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925) settled the right of religious schools to exist, there have been various attempts at instituting some form of government support for parents who choose religious schools. And, since 1925, there have been groups, most notably the teachers' unions, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others who have foiled any attempt to provide relief for parents who want a religiously based education for their children. They seem always to cite the Establishment Clause of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, while conveniently forgetting the Free Exercise Clause of the same amendment.

Studies of the benefits to children who have participated in the too-limited voucher programs that exist have, depending on whom you're reading, been either positive or neutral; none has been negative. In the meantime, states have seen fit to pour millions of dollars into charter schools, whose track record is dismal at best. All of this attests to the power of those who wish to continue the most shameful monopoly in America.

We won't know the exact date that the court will hear arguments or when it will render its decision, but we can be pretty sure that some closure will be brought to the issue. In the meantime, we should be working very hard towards maintaining our excellence, our Catholic identity and all the other virtues our schools possess that make them beacons of hope for so many.

### SUPPORT FOR NYC SCHOOLS

A special thank you to schools that have gone out of their way to do something special for our Catholic schools hit so hard by the WTC tragedy.

Most Holy Rosary School in Syracuse – wrote letters of encouragement and support to teachers and administrators.  
St. Amelia's School sent gloves with special notes inside.  
Our Lady of Victory in Troy – the children wrote letters to the children in Manhattan and took up a collection.

## REMINDER!

Since state law requires pesticide reporting, expenses might be covered by mandated services. Be sure to keep track of the cost of your time and materials needed to conform to the law.

## PROJECT SAVE AMENDMENT

The State Legislature and the Governor have enacted a new law, which requires instruction in civility, citizenship and character education. It reads as follows:

### Instruction in Civility, Citizenship and Character Education

"The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizenship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on the principles of honesty, tolerance, personal responsibility, respect for others, observance of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which will enhance the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to, the community. The regents shall determine how to incorporate such component in existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such determination of the regents." (Amendment to #801-a of existing Education Law)

Schools are encouraged to analyze existing efforts in these areas and determine how best to strengthen curriculum and staff development. New York State Learning Standards for social studies, health, physical education, and family and consumer services already include many of the elements listed in the new legislation.

## CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT

Any schools that are receiving E-Rate funds for internet access and internet connections in the current year four must certify on the Form 486 that they are either in compliance with or are in the process of being in compliance with the requirements of the children's Protection Act (CIPA). This means that they are enforcing a policy of internet safety that includes measures to block and filter internet access for both minors and adults to visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. Failure to comply with this requirement could cause the school to lose these funds.

In year five, 2002, schools that are recipients of these funds must be in compliance with these requirements.

## CSAANYS CONFERENCE 2001

To those who attended the CSAANYS conference, featuring Sister Clare Fitzgerald on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001, we thank you. To those who couldn't make it... YOU MISSED A WONDERFUL TIME!!

The conference was a success and enjoyed by all. More information and pictures will be coming up in the next newsletter.