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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

By Sister Carol Cimino, Executive Director

Ave atque Vale

"Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step: only they who keep their eyes on the far horizon will find the right road." Dag Hammarskjold.

It seems as if we come to the end of a school year almost serendipitously; it just happens. We didn't really plan for it, and we didn't do anything to hasten its arrival. But here it is, and, along with it, I have reached the end of my tenure at CSAANYS.

I had a terrific party; it was really more like a wake in some respects, and I felt like the body. You know, you have to be there, but you don't have a lot to do. Father Joe O'Keefe from Boston College celebrated liturgy and gave what I referred to as a eulogy. One should be so lucky as to hear one's own eulogy!

There were lots of surprise guests from my many previous lives (a la Shirley McLaine), and some roasts, and some presentations, and I received a lot of nice gifts and warm wishes. Many thanks to everyone who had anything to do with it. I feel that I had a wonderful sendoff.

And now, I'd like to turn the actual running of the association to other able hands. As of this writing, the search committee has not decided on my successor, but I trust he or she will do a great job meeting all our members' needs. In any case, both Sister Catharine Ryan and Lori Kaiser plan to stay on; it's always nice to have people who know what they're doing.

As many of you know, I begin working as a national consultant for the William H. Sadlier Co. on July 1st. It's a family-owned, very Catholic, very excellent producer and publisher of fine religion books and other curriculum products. So, it's not really goodbye; I hope to be seeing all of you again, just in a different capacity.

I will always carry CSAANYS and all of you in my heart; many thanks for 16 great years.

NPS CONFERENCE 2003

It almost didn't happen. The twentieth annual Conference for Nonpublic School Administrators has been in jeopardy ever since the budget crunch worsened at SED. However, with the cooperation of all the sponsoring members of the conference committee and the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Advisory Board, there will be a conference next fall.

So mark your calendars now: October 27th and 28th are the dates for the 20th annual conference. Of course the CSAANYS gathering, with John Findlater as speaker, followed by dinner, will be held at the Albany Marriott on Sunday, October 26th beginning at 3:00pm.

A block of rooms is being held by the Marriott for Sunday and Monday nights at the conference rate. However, they will be released ten days before our gathering, so you will need to make reservations well in advance. (Besides, the Talbot's outlet is just around the corner).

This is the only conference of its kind; it's a chance for the Catholic school administrators to have a day and then join our colleagues for the next two days of input, interaction and information. Those new to administration should especially plan to attend this important gathering.

More information will be available in late summer.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

In 1999, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) conducted a special investigation on the use of nonconforming buses for pupil transportation after it investigated four accidents in 1998 and 1999 involving vehicles not built to federal bus structural standards.

The federal government requires large and small school buses that transport children to and from school and school-related activities to have roof rollover protection, energy-absorbing seats, and greater body joint strength than most other types of vehicles.

Fifteen-passenger vans, which make up about 25 per cent of the passenger vehicle fleet in the United States are frequently used to transport school sports teams, van pools, church groups, and other groups. Because these vans are designed to carry 15 passengers, the NTSB is particularly concerned about the relationship between occupancy level and vehicle rollover.

The NTSB is convinced that the best way to maximize pupil transportation safety is to ensure that all vehicles carrying more than 10 passengers and transporting children to and from school, school activities, daycare centers, Heart Star programs, etc., meet federal school bus construction standards.

In addition, it is a crime in New York State for any dealer to sell a passenger van that will be used to transport children.