

CSAANYS wishes you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



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THE HUNGER FOR LEADERSHIP *by Evelyn Kirst*

I recently came across this quote by Robert F. Kennedy on leadership: *"People are selfish, but they can also be compassionate and generous, and they care about the country. But not when they feel threatened. That's why this is such a crucial time. We can go in either direction. But if we don't make a choice soon, it will be too late to turn things around. I think people are willing to make the right choice. But they need leadership. They're hungry for leadership"*.

After reading this, I couldn't help but think of our Catholic schools in New York State and the need for people like you – the leaders of today and how you are planning for the leaders of tomorrow. I believe with every cell in my body, that Catholic schools are here to stay. I also believe that we are facing a crucial time in our history. Switching some words around, I offer you this reflection:

People are selfish - Catholic school leaders today believe that we have the best educational system for our chil-

dren and for the Church. They are selfish in their beliefs.

People can be ... compassionate and generous -

Catholic school leaders seem to find room for the family who can't pay full tuition knowing this is the best placement for the child. Their vision is of love of Christ and love of children.

People can feel threatened -

Catholic school leaders know that costs keep rising and our schools may become class systems for the wealthy and the poor. They are tired and over worked constantly "fighting" the naysayer's in the press, and in the boardrooms.

They're hungry for leadership -

Catholic school leaders are willing and able to have a vision and provide leadership for the systems, the families, the children, and the faculties. They usually receive only intrinsic awards and satisfaction.

During these liturgical seasons of waiting and celebration, I wanted to say thank you to all the administrators in New York State who are reading this newsletter. You are needed and appreciated. And I want to leave you with a question and a challenge. Have you planned for your succession? Are you mentoring someone to pick up the challenge of leadership for our Catholic Schools? Give your passion for Catholic schools, a gift this holiday season and call someone else to leadership. Make the right choice and satisfy the hunger for leadership in our Catholic schools. We are here to stay!

Evelyn J. Kirst

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THE GOVERNOR SAID HE'D BE BACK!!

This year Governor Spitzer attended the CAIRS conference. This was the first time a sitting governor has attended this conference. Save the date (November 17th-18th, 2008) now and budget for it in your 2008-2009 school budget.

The 8th Annual Catholic School Administrators Gathering will be November 16, 2008 (\$45.00) and the CAIRS conference is on November 17th and 18th, 2008 (approximately \$90.00) plus hotel costs ~ \$125 per night

GREEN SCHOOL TIPS

A few tips from schools across New York State.

- ♻️ Sustainable Pencils - students use the same refillable pen or pencil all year.
- ♻️ Waste-free lunches— encourage parents and children to only pack lunches in containers that can be recycled or re-used.
- ♻️ Students can save their work to a teacher folder on the classroom computer or on the media center computers (with network) instead of printing everything out. Teachers can then access the student's work online, read it, and check
- ♻️ it without ever having the student print it out. This not only saves paper but also saves ink!
- ♻️ Paperless tests and quizzes.
- ♻️ Hook up the fax line to the office computer, or copier, junk faxes can then be deleted and needed faxes can be emailed to the appropriate party.
- ♻️ Invest in a set of coffee mugs for meetings and conferences, do away with Styrofoam.
- ♻️ Encourage teachers to recycle the packaging that their microwave lunches come in.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Almighty God and Father of light,
a child is born to us and a Son is given to us.
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night,
and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God.
Open our hearts to receive His life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)