

csaanys news

Serving Catholic School Administrators since 1972

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
OF
NEW YORK STATE

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ
Executive Director

A Place at the Table

Holiday time is greeted by most of us with fond memories, usually of family gatherings, of going "over the river and through the woods" or "city sidewalks, busy sidewalks" to have a meal with relatives. My own holiday memories are of where we spent most of the time at Thanksgiving or Christmas: at the table.

Although a great deal of time at the table was spent in demolishing a meal that had taken days to put together - from the soup to the pasta to the turkey to the...well, you get the idea, most of the time was spent in conversation.

Now, in Italian families, observers of conversation usually ask: "Who's listening?", as it seems that everyone talks at once. They miss the point: the idea is to get your point of view across; listening comes later, and at leisure. Having a place at the table, at least in my family, meant having a chance to say something, to put a point across, to air an opinion, to "put your two cents in", to try out an idea that had been floating around in your head for awhile.

That is why, with changes in New York's testing program, graduation requirements, teacher certification and so forth "on the table", we sometimes feel that we do not have a place at that table. Indeed, it seems that decisions are presented to us after they have been made, or that standards and requirements are fashioned without a hearing from the nonpublic school community.

After, all, we nonpublics account for 20% of New York State's school population. Wouldn't it seem to make sense to give us a chance to be heard? Many of the new requirements require some explanation: who will pay for the correcting and reporting of state tests? What happens to schools that do not give Regents examinations for high school graduation? Will we have a say in the revision of the Part 100 regs? While the Commissioner's Nonpublic Schools Advisory Committee has been grappling with these and many other issues peculiar to our schools, it always seems to be done after the fact.

A place at the table, in my opinion, is where the NYSED Office of Nonpublic Schools belongs. We have been advocating, through the Nonpublic Schools Advisory Committee, that the office be included, as a part of the consultative process before decisions and regulations are made. This was the gist of the conversation we had with Commissioner Mills at the October meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Although he has heard it before, perhaps Commissioner Mills is beginning to see the importance of our having "a place at the table." At least the conversation continues.

CSAANYS Board a Hit at the NPS Conference

Members of the CSAANYS Executive Board gave a first-ever presentation at the October 26-27 Conference for Nonpublic School Administrators at the Desmond Hotel in Albany.



"For First Time, New and Nearly New Principals" even brought in some veterans to hear about collaborative leadership, creating a vision for the school finding time for oneself, pitfalls and practices in the early years of one's principalship, relationships with staff and parents and where to go for help. The presenters provided copies of the Handbook for Nonpublic Schools Administrators and the fruits of their collective wisdom and experience.

Judging from the very positive evaluations, this may have to be an annual presentation. One principal commented: "I've been coming to this conference for six years, and this is the best presentation I've experienced."

CSAANYS Executive Board members who provided the presentation are: Board President Ms. Kathleen Dwyer, Mr. Frank Kamp, Sr. Nancy McNulty, Mrs. Margaret Henshaw, Sr. Katherine Hanrahan.

New Copyright Law Affects Schools

Transmission of copyrighted materials through the Internet could be illegal for teachers, under the new copyright law provisions. Although the traditional principle of "fair use" was extended, the new provisions allow publishers to excerpt copyrighted material and allow its use only to those who have paid for it.

Schools providing distance learning, which uses the Internet, including Web sites, may be severely affected; since they would have to pay licensing fees for every session.

Wishing All
A Most Blessed Christmas Season

FROM ALL OF US
AT CSAANYS



The State of Technology in Catholic Schools

Rather unexpectedly, Catholic school classrooms appear to be well hot-wired to the Internet. On average among all Catholic schools, those instructional rooms that have Internet access contain slightly more than a full dozen computers (12.24) with active connections. Furthermore, an average of 3.42 instructional rooms per Catholic school can access the Internet.



Computer labs in Catholic schools are not nearly so well connected, compared to instructional rooms. About 38% fewer computers (7/64 per lab) are linked to the Internet from computer labs as are linked from classrooms (12.24)

Conference On School Choice

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) will present "Catholic Schools and School Choice: Partners for Justice in Washington, DC from Feb. 4-7, 1999. One hundred Catholic school leaders have been invited, among them, Sr. Carol Cimino, Executive Director of CSAANYS.

The conference goals, as explained by the NCEA, are:

1. To develop an understanding of the complexities of the issues and the forces driving the school choice movement;
2. To explore the legal, political, and practical implications of school choice options;
3. To enable and challenge participants to take active leadership roles in the school choice movement;
4. To publicize proceedings of the conference and provide them to the wider Catholic school community.

Tip of the CSAANYS coif to

Sr. James Patrick of St. Mary Star of the Sea School, Bronx, for receiving the City Island Chamber of Commerce
Citizen of the Year.



Now is your chance to spotlight your school as a SPICE school. SPICE, Selected Programs for Improving Catholic Education, is a project of the SPC division of NCEA. Its goal is to identify outstanding programs, disseminate them to the Catholic school community and provide for their adoption and/or adaptation to other schools.

Now in its fourth year, the theme for 1999 is Creating Innovative Learning Environments through New Technologies. Schools and/or dioceses identified through this process will be invited to attend "Conversations in Excellence", held this year at the University of Dayton July 8-11. Because of the focus this year. "Conversations in Excellence" will be held in conjunction with the New Frontiers Program, which brings together educators from all parts of the country to explore educational uses of technology.

Interested???? You can apply by going to our website, click on the NCEA link, go to "administrators" and click on SPICE. Download the application and go for it!

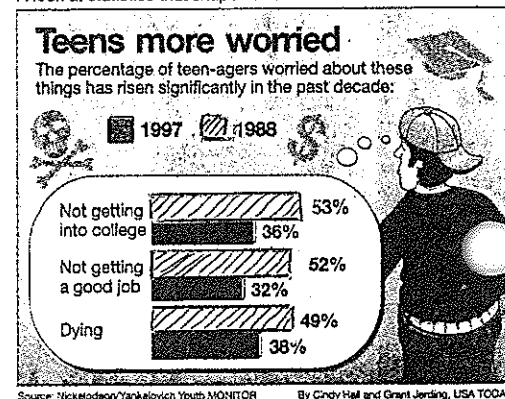
IMMUNIZATION GUIDE AVAILABLE



In our last newsletter we ran an *Immunization Alert*. We received several calls regarding this

At the Nonpublic School Administrators Conference we picked up a publication called "*Immunization Guidelines for Health Care Providers 1998*". This guide is quite comprehensive with regards to requirements. If you are really interested in knowing more than you'll ever need to know contact: New York State Dept of Health, CCH - Albany Regional Team (518)458-5520; <http://www.health.state.ny.us/>

A look at statistics that shape our lives



Supreme Court Says "*Nolo Contendere*"

The U.S. Supreme Court, on November 9, announced that it refused to take up the Wisconsin voucher legislation for consideration during this term.

That's good news and bad news.

On the one hand, the Court's refusal to take up the many challenges to the Wisconsin voucher program which allows parents to choose even a sectarian school allows the program to proceed, providing not only relief for those parents and children, but data for studies to show the benefits of a choice program in terms of student progress.

On the other hand, however, the Court's refusal delays any definitive ruling on the Constitutionality of voucher programs which include religious schools. Meanwhile, organizations seeking to end these programs have time to marshal further arguments against them. Furthermore, other startup voucher programs might be delayed or even scrapped on the possibility of a negative ruling from the Supremes.

In any case, there is no quick answer to the question: "Is it constitutional allow parents to use their tax monies to shop for education?" Here at CSAANYS, our opinion is that the answer, in a market society where one can choose among many different brands and types, is self-evident.

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

Where are all the Nuns?

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSI

What is the definition of an optimist? A vocation director with a beeper. We smirk knowingly at the little joke, knowing in our heart of hearts that young people are not exactly lining up to join religious orders, nor will they come in abundance in the foreseeable future. Some people still lament the mass exodus of women and men religious from the Catholic schools, and some even go from school to school looking for sisters and brothers so that their children can actually experience a vowed religious.

Happily, we've been able to attract the "new religious" into our schools - married and single persons who have chosen poverty, chastity and obedience according to their particular state in life. They have gladly, willingly taken up the ministry of education which imparts a faith dimension in a setting where faith and Christian morals infuse the curriculum.

Of late, however, there are growing signs of teacher and administrator shortages; these are evident in public education and even moreso in Catholic schools. At a meeting I attended in Washington this past Fall, we went around a table of superintendents asking how many new teachers had to be hired over the summer and how many vacancies there were on the first day of school. Of eight superintendents in attendance, there was a total of over 300 teacher vacancies ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

I believe that there are young people out there who would gladly teach in our schools. (e.g. the ACE teachers) I believe that this willingness is, if not a religious vocation in the traditional sense is, at least in the context of a new paradigm: what, exactly is a religious man or woman? It means that we in Catholic education need to look at how we can inspire, appeal to young people's sense of generosity and sacrifice. Perhaps it is in offering the idea of a temporary vocation to teaching that we can help young people to realize their need to do for others, and thus provide them as gifts and role models to our students. After all, we - religious and lay - have answered that same call.

"Making Federal Dollars Work"

A very concise compilation of Federal programs that benefit Catholic schools has been published by the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC). "Making Federal Dollars Work" is available from USCC Dept. of Education, 3211 4th St. NE Washington, DC 20017-1194. 202-541-3132.

Gentleness Comes From the Strong



Catholic Education mourns the loss of one of its founding editors, Dr. Joseph Rogus, who died on Sept. 16, 1998. Joe was an enthusiastic supporter of all educators, but had a special affection for Catholic school teachers and administrators.

DEALING WITH PEANUT ALLERGIES

A great deal of pressure has been put on administrators and cafeteria managers by parents of students with peanut allergies. While schools should take this concern seriously, the outright banning of peanut products impacts negatively on students who derive nutrition, specifically, protein, from peanut butter.

The following are some suggestions from SED as to how to tackle this potentially lethal situation:

1. Develop a plan for dealing with food allergies; everyone who does lunchroom supervision ought to be aware of food allergies of any type, and how to deal with them immediately.
2. Discourage students from sharing lunches. Well-meaning students may give peanut butter sandwiches to friends and trigger an allergic reaction.
3. Require that personnel who prepare lunch use separate knives for peanut butter and jelly.
4. Require that lunchroom personnel review labels on purchased food for peanut by-products in ingredients.
5. Establish "peanut free" zones in lunchrooms.

Allergies to peanuts and peanut products is the latest in the long list of potential ills to which children are prone. Outright banning of all these foods would result in foodless lunches. Using common sense and some simple precautions results in minimal upset, while protecting our allergy-prone students.

WEB Site To Provide Resources For Catholic Educators

A group of Catholic educators and academics has established a new web site to provide teachers in Catholic schools with supplemental teaching materials on Catholic Church teaching, history, and culture. The Catholic Educator's Resource Center provides an Internet library of journal articles, essays, book excerpts, and other text chosen for their objective, concise, and clear presentation of Catholic teaching, history, and culture.

Categories on the web site include politics, government, science, art, literature, American & world history, ethics, current events, and Catholic contributions to culture. The web site is: www.catholiceducation.org and e mail: info@catholiceducation.org.

TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report** of October 9, 1998 presents findings from a recent study on tobacco use among youth. More than 6,000 persons under age 18 try a cigarette each day, and more than 3,000 become daily users. These findings represent an increase in the initiation of first tobacco use among 12-17 year olds by 30% and of first daily use by 50% from 1988-1996.

- Federal law requires that schools receiving federal funds must prohibit **smoking** within any indoor facility used to provide routine or regular kindergarten, elementary or secondary education of library services to children.
- State law prohibits **tobacco use** on school grounds. "School grounds" are defined to include all school buildings, all outdoor grounds within the school's property boundaries, and vehicles used to transport children or school personnel.

A Million A Week



Back to the Community

TARGET Stores offers several programs designed to provide support for schools:

- 1) Non-profit organizations with community-based projects are eligible for grants
- 2) Target Outstanding School Awards are based on levels of parental and community involvement and creative fundraising;
- 3) Arts and Domestic Violence Prevention are two areas under which Target also makes grants.

Stop into your local Target store for more information and application forms.

"FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL AGAIN"

A training program to learn proven methods for defusing disruptive & assaultive students is available through the **Crisis Prevention Institute** 1-800-558-8976. You may also access CPI's **Free Violence Prevention Resource Center** at www.crisisprevention.com.



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 1999

The NYSCC has targeted **enactment of an investment tax credit to stimulate private donations to public and nonpublic schools and programs** as its education priority for 1999 legislative agenda. The Catholic Conference Legislative Action Day will be held here in Albany on March 9, 1999.

Under the topic **Fostering Quality Education for All New Yorkers** the following are points for discussion with legislators:

- ★improvements in school transportation services;
- ★funding to enable parents to choose their child's school;
- ★increased funding for learning technology in all schools;
- ★opportunities to ensure meaningful participation of nonpublic school teachers in staff development programs;
- ★increased aid for textbooks, library materials and computer software ;
- ★comprehensive programs of violence prevention in the schools;
- ★ promotion of abstinence education programs.

The Publication:

SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDIATION ***Real Solutions Where Everyone Wins***

is available from the State Education Department, Office of Vocational & Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Albany, NY 12230. www.nysed.gov

CHARTER SCHOOLS A REALITY

In a surprising move, Governor Pataki tied the creation of charter schools to the Legislature's 38% pay raise. The details are as follows:

--100 start-up charter schools will be permitted, 50 authorized by the Board of Regents and 50 by SUNY trustees;

-- an unlimited number of public schools may apply to become charter schools;

--10 charter schools will be beyond union control, regardless of their size, while the union status of the rest is related to their size (over 250 enrollment will be union);

-- a maximum of 5 non-certified or unlicensed teachers will be permitted in each charter school.

We will have a commentary on all of this in the **March CSAANYS News**. Meanwhile, you may check out the actual wording of the legislation by requesting from the NYS Legislature Bills # A.11466 and/or S.7881.



NCEA 96th Annual Convention

April 6-9, 1999

New Orleans, LA

Once again CSAANYS will offer group registration for any member wanting to attend the NCEA Convention this spring. **ALL** registration forms must be submitted to CSAANYS by: **February 15, 1999**. The group rate is \$66.00. Please make all checks payable to CSAANYS.

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

Blindsided

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ

During his first run for governor, George Pataki campaigned on school choice. When he didn't produce, we figured that the teacher unions had gotten to him and that, like his colleague in New Jersey, the issue would go "quietly into that dark night". Not so.

While the NYS legislature ("best lawmakers money can buy") wrangled over its own 38% pay raise (cost of living said one legislator-seriously!), the governor pulled out a trump card: no pay raise unless we can have charter schools. Interestingly, and with little outcry, the legislature caved. The deal - a limit of 100 new charter schools with a provision that any charter school with more than 250 students would require that teachers be union members, and teachers in smaller schools would be able to vote on union membership. Also, an unlimited number of existing public schools may apply for charter status.

Perhaps it seems like good news: a limited number of charter schools will be established with many of the accoutrements linked to educational reform: more parental involvement, fewer cumbersome regulations, more freedom to innovate. For many children, this is a wonderful opportunity to escape failing schools; for many parents this is a chance to have input into their local school; for these schools, there is the opportunity to try out teaching techniques that work. In fact, the African-American, Hispanic and Native American communities are very excited about the possibilities of creating schools with their own special character.

But for many, the establishment of charter schools may cause confusion. Remember, these are PUBLIC schools. When they start searching for buildings, they will surely look at closed Catholic schools; will the message be that a Catholic school is reopening? Will the charter school, located in a parish building, be a serious competitor for the Catholic school in the same neighborhood? It's already happened in California.

Serious questions over whether there can be Catholic charter schools have been raised. Having religion classes before or after the "official" school day would seem an option. But, if we insist on the permeation of Catholicity throughout the entire program, this option would seem to vitiate our mission; in other words, you can't be a Catholic school for just 45 minutes a day.

We did a rather thorough research report on charter schools last year. Any CSAANYS member may have this at no cost. It might be a good idea to look it over, so that you may answer questions when they come, as they surely will. Meanwhile, we will keep an eye on the success of this new venture, especially in light of the new "standards".

Many of you have asked about the text of the NYS Charter schools law. An explanation may be obtained by logging onto: nycharters@yahoo.com - get to the NYSED website through the CSAANYS page: www.csaanys.org.

A Tip of the CSAANYS Coif...

to the Catholic schools of the New York City area that were highlighted in the January 18 issue of *US News and World Report's* special issue on Outstanding American High Schools.

Of the six high schools in NYC mentioned, the following are CSAANYS members:

- **Aquinas High School, Bronx - Sr. Margaret Ryan, OP, Principal**
- **Msgr. Farrell High School, Staten Island - Rev. Emmet Nevin, Principal**
- **Notre Dame School, Manhattan - Mr. John Joven, Principal**
- **St. Francis Prep., Queens - Br. Leonard Conway, Principal**
- **St. Saviour, Brooklyn - Sr. Valerie Belanger, Principal**

US News and World Report stated that they had created a "value added" statistical model to identify the schools. "It identifies schools that do a better job of educating their students than would be expected, given their students' backgrounds." Congratulations to these fine schools.

What Makes A Good Teacher?

This perennial question is answered through the research of Richard P. Traina, president of Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

From the autobiographies of 125 prominent Americans, Dr. Traina determined from what they said about their educational experience the three characteristics that were described consistently: competence in the subject matter, caring deeply about the students and their success and distinctive character.

Dr. Traina further found that the third characteristic, distinctive character is likely the attribute that contributes most to the making of a good teacher who is also a memorable one.

Colleague to Leave USCC

A colleague of ours, Msgr. Thomas McDade, has announced that he will be leaving the position of Secretary for Education at the U.S. Catholic Conference in July. During his four years at USCC, Msgr. McDade has been very helpful to us pressing for the nonpublic school participation in several federal programs such as the availability of internet access, participation of Catholic school teachers in federal loan forgiveness programs and the revision of the regulations for ESEA after the 1997 Agostini V. Felton decision, just to name a few.

Msgr. McDade has always been available to explain Federal legislation and the USCC's position on legislation. While we will miss him, we wish him well as he returns to the Newark, NJ archdiocese to begin another phase of the ministry to which he has been called.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time we try to list the professional opportunities that are available to our members and to readers of this newsletter. Most of the time, there is direct involvement of CSAANYS or CSAANYS staff. As the professional organization for Catholic school administrators, we feel it is our job to make known to you, the professional, the institutes, workshops and courses that are geared specifically to Catholic school leaders. Below are some of these:

- **NCEA Convention** - April 6-9, 1999, New Orleans, LA
- **"Called to Community: An Institute for Catholic School Leaders"** June 28-July 2, Manhattan College
- **"Voices that Challenge"** - 10th Annual Institute on Catholic Education, July 8-9, University of Rochester
- **"Conversations In Excellence"** SPICE program, July 7-11, University of Dayton
- **New Frontiers: Integrating Technology into the Curriculum**, July 10-14, University of Dayton

Meeting With Regents

For the very first time the Commissioner and the Board of Regents met in Queens Jan. 11 & 12, specifically, to explore the nature of nonpublic schools. On both days, they visited independent schools of every stripe - from Jewish day schools, to Catholic elementary and high schools to an early childhood center, 12 schools in all.

CSAANYS Executive Director Sr. Carol Cimino attended the two day gathering as a member of Nonpublic School While the Regents 11, the Advisory solidify its position Education Dept. is

"We don't want to be like public schools; in fact, we don't even want to be like each other!"

regulations and new graduation requirements, they need to respect the diversity of the nonpublic school community and not impose these requirements on us. As one member of the committee so aptly put it: "We don't want to be like public schools; in fact, we don't even want to be like each other!" Our position is that, if we want to, we will voluntarily comply. The next issue, then, is to craft alternatives to compliance that will satisfy the Regents' responsibility to see to it that all students in NYS meet high standards.

That evening, members of the Advisory Committee had dinner with the Regents at St. John's University; this provided an invaluable opportunity for the Regents to explore the philosophy and nature of our schools and to do personal rapprochement.

Following dinner, the Regents hosted a public forum for teachers, principals and parents in the NPS community to address the Regents. While much time was devoted to the fact that nonpublic schools had not yet received the fourth grade English language tests to be administered the next day, the Regents and the Commissioner heard many concerns articulated by parents, teachers and administrators, specifically on the lack of teacher training opportunities for the new testing program, and seemingly receiving information from SED after the fact, and promised to respond.

On Jan. 12, as the Regents continued their tour of schools, members of the Advisory Committee and local nonpublic high school administrators were invited to a meeting at St. Francis Prep. Assistant Commissioner Kadamus solicited ideas on alternatives to compliance with the new graduation requirements; in fact, he cited the very concise list of requirements listed in the host school's handbook.

Several suggestions that would amount to a "variance" were forthcoming from the principals in attendance. Mr. Kadamus will circulate a concept paper, summarizing the discussion, to the persons who attended. CSAANYS will circulate this paper to our Board members who head independent secondary schools for their comment.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The Reading Excellence Act (REA) provides \$260 million to be used to improve the reading skills of youngsters before the end of 3rd grade.

The REA includes a specific provision regarding private school students and teachers. Among other things, those provisions require public school districts to provide for the equitable participation of eligible private school students and teachers. In arranging for private school participation, school district officials must consult in a timely and meaningful way with private school officials regarding (1) the needs of private school students and teachers, and (2) the design and delivery of services to meet those needs.

1999 NYS Budget

The governor's budget proposal holds a number of increases in program allocations which should be of interest to Catholic schools. We have a summary of those programs available to our members. Check our website for details or call the office for a copy of a summary.

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ

Henny Penny and Other Alarmists

"The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" Who doesn't remember the story of the alarmist Henny Penny? It has become cliché to use it whenever the curmudgeons among us try to precipitate some uncalled-for action.

A recent series by USA Today has inspired this mention of Ms. Penny, for the national newspaper recently investigated the flurry of activity over the "danger" of asbestos in schools.

After spending some \$50 billion on asbestos removal from schools over the past 20 years, reports the article (2/11), "the one thing this colossal investment hasn't done is produce a measurable improvement in the public's health."

The plain truth is that we were better off not disturbing, not even touching the asbestos in schools. Dennis Cauchon, USA Today's author, wrote, "A person who spends a career inside a building rich with asbestos materials is more likely to die of a lightning bolt, a bee sting or a toothpick lodged in the throat than an asbestos-related cancer."

Even an exhaustive study by the American Medical Association said that asbestos removal represented "a mismatch between scientific fact and the need for action." By contrast, exposure to automobile brakes, which are lined with asbestos, is more hazardous.

The dangers of radon (you have to be buried in a cave in the middle of Pennsylvania for 1200 years to suffer from radon), lead in drinking water, lead in paint, are being held up as the next "asbestos." While we would be the last to dismiss a real danger to our youngsters, let's keep looking at what science, not Henny Penny, tells us.

Writing Deficits

The PEP test data for 1996 and 1997 are finally out from the NYSED, and nonpublic school students outscored public school students in every test but one: writing. The percentage of public school students who scored at or above the statewide reference point in the 5th grade writing (statewide) in Spring '96 was 92; for nonpublics it was 89. In spring '97 public was 94 and nonpublics was 92. While the art of writing has declined with the advent of communication through technology, the quality of students' writing should be of concern. Internet chat is often abominable, and the media certainly don't contribute to the quality of syntax and grammar. If we are to train our students to good self-expression, then we ought to pay attention to the quality of their writing.

A Tip from the CSAANYS Conf...to Sister Noreen Nolan, OP, principal of St. Elizabeth's School in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. She has been named 1999 Distinguished Principal for the New York region by the NCEA. She will be honored at a dinner to be held at the NCEA convention in New Orleans this month.

Symposium on School Choice

CSAANYS Executive Director Sister Carol Cimino was one of 100 educators from around the country invited to attend "Partners for Justice: Catholic Schools and School Choice" held in Washington, DC Feb. 4-7. Sponsored jointly by NCEA and USCC, the gathering was held to explore the Constitutional ramifications of school choice, the Catholic Church's involvement in the movement, and, most importantly, to hear from those who have secured either tax-supported choice programs or privately funded voucher programs.

Former Congressman Floyd Flake spoke about the need for quality schools, especially for poor, minority children and hailed the advent of charter schools in New York as a way out of failing schools for many urban poor. Bishop Robert Banks of Green Bay, WI, spoke about the fundamental right of parents to choose where their children will be educated.

But by far the most impactful presentations were those made by representatives from Milwaukee and Cleveland, where tax-supported programs are in place, and Minnesota and Iowa, where parents receive tax credits. The saga of their struggles and missteps was inspiring and challenging.

Attendees challenged the symposium organizers to do a follow-up, perhaps in the form of resolutions and action statement. Whatever the outcome, all of us, educators and parents alike, need to sustain our efforts to secure what justice demands - the affirmation of a parent's right to choose and government's acknowledgment and support of that right.

He is Risen!



Alleluia!

NYSCC LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

The annual Legislative Action Day, sponsored by the NYS Catholic Conference was held in Albany on March 9. Although the issues presented to the lawmakers run the gamut from casino gambling to partial birth abortion, we do manage to get in some items of interest to our Catholic school administrators.

Of priority this year was an education tax credit, which would benefit individuals and corporations who make gifts to schools. They would receive a tax benefit greater than that of a tax deduction. A bill has been introduced into the State Assembly, #A.3369.

Although this was the priority, we also presented several issues of more immediate concern to our members:

- ◆ We would like to see the state reimburse school districts 100% of the cost of transporting nonpublic school students. We feel that this would encourage them to expand this service.

- ◆ We have requested the continued full funding for mandated services; the increased costs of administering and correcting new state exams places a burden on our fragile budgets.

- ◆ We have requested annual increases in learning technology grants, textbooks, computer software, library loan materials.

- ◆ We have continually pressed for real school choice.

Realistically, a one-day shot at the legislature is a drop in the ocean. The teachers' unions, the NYS School Boards Association, the NYSPTA are all out in force EVERY week. We need to utilize the action network established by the NYSCC; but we need to see that it is consistent action that will provide us what we need. When we are asked to write or call our local state senator or assemblyperson, let's not take it lightly.

Do Students Want to be Challenged?

A poll taken by the Public Agenda Foundation found that most teenagers believe that "getting an education" is important to their lives. 96% of high school students said that doing well in school makes them feel good about themselves. 76% said that students should not graduate unless they demonstrate a good command of the English language, and 74% said students should pass to the next grade only when they have learned what is expected of them.

Save the Date....

The annual Nonpublic School Administrators' Conference will be held in Albany on October 25 & 26, 1999. We will have details for you as soon as they are made know to us. The CSAANYS Executive Board has made several suggestions for change of format and we have forwarded them to the Office of Nonpublic Schools at the SED.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS MORE INTEGRATED

In a report from the University of Texas, researchers Jay P. Greene and Nicole Mellow state, "Because private schools do not require that their students live in particular neighborhoods, they can more easily overcome segregation in housing to provide integration in school."

Rather than simply looking at the racial makeup of a school, Greene and Mellow looked at the interactions of over 4300 students in school lunchrooms and with whom they sat.

They found that while 63.5% of private schools students were in an integrated lunchroom setting, less than half (49.7%) of public school students were in a similarly integrated setting.

This provides a compelling argument for school choice. If schooling can be detached from housing, then integration is possible when students are free to choose their school setting, even when that are not free to choose their neighborhood.

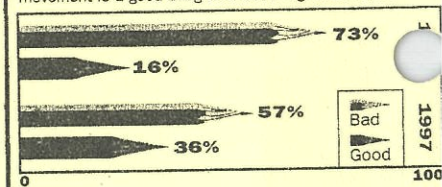
On the Home Front...

Over the past 15 years, the number of home-schooled children has risen from about 3,000 in 1984 to over 20,000 currently. With the increase of the number of children educated at home, the perception of the desirability of this option has changed radically.

This chart from Phi Delta Kappa shows this phenomenon more graphically.

Poll on Home Schooling

Recently, there has been a movement toward home schools, that is, situations in which parents keep their children at home to teach the children themselves. Do you think this movement is a good thing or a bad thing for the nation?



Source: Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Organization 6/97

A Pledge for Parents

Recently we ran across a piece that we would like to share with you. Please feel free to put this in your newsletter, or use it at your next Home-School Association meeting:

By the authority vested in me by God, I am pronounced a parent.
I give up the right to remain silent. Anything I neglect to say or do that will help my child to become a better person can and will be held against me in the court of heaven.
I have the right to say, "I love you".
I have the right to say, "No".
I have the right to struggle openly to live faith within the circumstances of our unique family life.
I have the right to simplify our family life by deciding realistically what we want to do and what we have time to do.
I have the responsibility to provide my child with the lasting gifts of positive role models, beginning with myself.
I will respect my child's other parent.
I relinquish the right to reach back through the mist of my past to relive in my child what was never lived in me.
I am guided by love, supported by prayer, strengthened by faith, and encouraged by God's trust in me, a parent.
Having declared this, I will go forth and parent, so help me, God.

CSAANYS NEWS

Volume 28 Issue 3

May 1999

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

Ya Gotta Be A Football Hero...

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ

The entire matter of sports in high schools has been one of mixed feelings of late. On the one hand, proponents point to students' motivation based on being able to participate in interscholastic sports. Schools demand that students who play on school teams meet certain academic and behavioral criteria. On the other hand, teachers and administrators are disturbed by the overemphasis on sports in school, where the winning goal receives more adulation than the perfect SAT score.

But Catholic high schools, eager to participate in the "big dance" of real interscholastic competition, have had a hard time of it in the past few years. The "big dance" is the sectional and post-season tournament play sponsored by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).

Participation at this level is predicated by the schools' membership and classification in NYSPHSAA. That's where our schools are having the type of difficulty that is worthy of notice.

In 1996, Archbishop Walsh High School in Olean sought membership in Section VI of the NYSPHSAA; by secret ballot of the Section members they were denied entry. In 1998 both Kellenberg and Chaminade High Schools petitioned for membership in Section VIII; they too were shut out. In the meanwhile, Seton High School in Binghamton and Notre Dame High School, Elmira, both members of Section IV, were reclassified to compete in a higher division, thus having to play public schools with much greater populations. At present, other sections around the state are threatening to do the same.

The public high school members in these areas contend that Catholic high schools have an advantage over them because they can recruit student athletes from outside the public school catchment area. They contend that athletic scholarships are made available to outstanding athletes, clearly violating NYSPHSAA rules.

We can counter that public school districts also allow students from out of district to attend their schools; who hasn't heard of an outstanding player suddenly wanting to live with his grandmother in another district? In addition, taxpayer monies are used to support student athletes in public schools; who pays for coaches, uniforms, equipment, transportation?

Several Catholic schools have brought suit alleging the violation of due process rights; the courts have sided with the NYSPHSAA citing no evidence. The fact is, when the majority of the members are public school coaches and they feel threatened by the presence of the Catholic school in the competition, their sheer preponderance of numbers will win out...

Moreover, the reclassification of high schools so that Catholic high schools must compete with bigger schools where the athletes are larger and stronger poses a far different, and more dangerous problem. We feel that issues of health and safety are at stake here, and that smaller athletes who should not be playing at the level beyond them will, in the long run, risk injury and worse.

All of this should force us to rethink the place of sports in our schools. Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth will never be thought of as sports powerhouses. No, they ride on a reputation of academic excellence as should we. In addition, parents should want their children in Catholic school precisely because it is a Catholic school. While sports programs definitely have a place in the life of students, let us keep them in perspective; perhaps we should be more exercised over what really matters.

New CSAANYS Director

The Executive Board of CSAANYS has hired Dr. Lois Stiglmeier-Munro to be the new Director. Dr. Munro, who lives in the Capital region, has extensive experience in both Catholic and public schools of New York State.

Besides being the first lay person to help direct CSAANYS, she is the first to direct her own consulting firm. Dr. Munro has certificates in curriculum and instruction, library and information services, school district administration and school administration and supervision.

According to CSAANYS Board President Kathleen Dwyer, who led the search, "Dr. Munro has the qualities, background and experience to fill the position we have envisioned." Dr. Munro will work with Executive Director Sr. Carol Cimino and will start July 1.

Please welcome her when you call.

Just in Case.....

.....you're doing some advance planning, Catholic Schools Week 2000 will be observed January 30-February 6, 2000. The theme is "Catholic Schools Lighting the Way to a New Century."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW...

NCEA Future Convention Sites:

BALTIMORE: April 25-28, 2000

MILWAUKEE: April 17-20, 2001

ATLANTIC CITY: April 2-5, 2002

Welcome New Board Members

As a result of the balloting for secondary school representatives, we welcome and welcome back the following:

- Mrs. Rebecca Reeder - Buffalo
- Mr. Frank Kamp - Rochester
- Sr. Cordata - Ogdensburg (co-rep)(new)
- Mr. Pat Fontana - Ogdensburg (co-rep)
- Ms. Kathleen Dwyer - Syracuse
- Ms. Elizabeth Lawlor - Brooklyn (new)
- Sr. Lucille Coldrick, RDC - New York (new)
- Sr. Valerie Scholl - Rockville Centre
- Sr. Katherine Arseneau - Albany

A tip of the CSAANYS coif and special thanks to Sister Joan McAvoy, principal of Bishop Kearney in Brooklyn and Sister Maria Cassano, president of Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island. Both of these women have contributed greatly to CSAANYS through their service to the Executive Board.

NYS Graduation Requirements

Both Commissioner Mills and Asst. Commissioner Kadamus have held ongoing discussions with representatives of the nonpublic school community, including CSAANYS. In a series of meetings, both Mills and Kadamus have assembled high school principals and directors of nonpublic school organizations to hear of our concerns regarding the imposition of new Regents requirements on our schools as a condition for the granting of a state-sanctioned diploma.

In response, the State Ed Dept. has offered a series of options for our schools. Although the options offer flexible alternatives, we do have some concerns that need to be addressed by the Commissioner. In particular, the public schools have been promised that funds will be available for the so-called "Safety Net" provisions of the new requirements. These include funds to in-service teachers to the new standards, monies for remediation of students who do not pass the required Regents exams, including summer schools and before-and after-school tutoring. Our concern is that, if we opt to meet the new requirements, then the playing field has to be level.

The other options offered to us would allow schools to meet outside requirements in order to offer a state-sanctioned diploma, although they may involve considerable expense to our schools.

Although these options are still under discussion, and we will report them as soon as they are finalized, the fact remains that we have come a long way toward educating the State Ed Dept. to our long-standing uniqueness.

SOME SCARY NUMBERS

The March 1999 issue of Voice, from the Career Options Institute, carries the following survey results:

- About half of all young women who have left school before graduating are pregnant or have a child;
- 2/3 of teenage mothers are high school dropouts (about 1/4 drop out before they conceive);
- being in school during pregnancy and after birth appears to lower the chances of a young mother's quickly bearing a second child;
- since the fathers of teens' children tend to be older men, boys are only 1/3 as likely as girls to become teen parents.

Administrators of high schools might wish to ask faculties to consider the implications of the above information. Call the CSAANYS office (518)273-1205 or e-mail us: nysadm@aol.com for information on how to obtain an information packet on helping teens to complete their education.

Reading Report Card

Below is a compilation of reading results as reported by the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).

% of Students At or Above Key Levels in NAEP Reading Test		
	Public	Private
Grade 4		
Basic	61	78
Proficient	29	46
Advanced	6	14
Grade 8		
Basic	72	91
Proficient	31	54
Advanced	2	5
Grade 12		
Basic	76	87
Proficient	39	54
Advanced	5	9

CSAANYS Office Manger to Leave

Dianna Crouse, the voice you often hear on CSAANYS phones at answering machines, will be leaving CSAANYS after 12 years. Dianna has grown with the association and been key to the increased efficiency of the office. Her helpful and friendly manner has prompted many of you to comment so favorably on our service and helpfulness.

Dianna has put three boys through Catholic elementary and high school. Since her youngest will be graduating from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, Dianna wishes to "retire" so that she can help her husband with his remodeling business.

We are all very sad at her leaving. We thank her for over a decade of outstanding service, and wish her well.

In the meanwhile, we have hired Laurie Kaiser, a Troy native who has two children at Our Lady of Victory School in Troy. Please welcome Laurie when you call; she starts at CSAANYS on June 1.

EARLY WARNING TIMELY RESPONSE

In light of the April shootings in Colorado, we thought you would be interested in a publication and guide to warning signs of school violence, intervention strategies and developing a response plan. The full text of the guide is available free from the US Dept. of Education's home page at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/earlywrn.html>. Many thanks to CSAANYS Executive Board member Sr. Katherine Arseneau, Troy, for this information.

How schools average \$12,000 a year in donated supplies...

Over 2,000 schools across the U.S. receive brand new supplies from American corporations, each averaging \$12,000 worth of products a year. Donated materials include office supplies, computer software and accessories, classroom materials, audio and video tapes, toys, sporting goods, food service items, janitorial products, clothing, and holiday party goods. Recipient schools pay dues ranging from \$375 to \$575, plus shipping and handling, but merchandise itself is **free**. Members choose what they need from 250-page catalogs published every ten weeks. To receive free information on this nationwide network, call the non-profit National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources: 1-800-562-0955.

CSAANYS Vouchers??

Sister Nancy McNulty, our Buffalo elementary school Executive Board representative, sends us, every year, an extra \$10 in her dues in order for us to provide money to help poorer schools join CSAANYS. While we are happy to negotiate dues for our "needier members", you can imagine that it has to be covered somehow.

We think Sister Nancy has a great idea; if you'd like to contribute to a CSAANYS "scholarship fund" by sending an extra sawbuck, please do so. When a principal calls out of hardship, we'll be able to apply the CSAANYS voucher to the teacher.

A special "tip of the CSAANYS coif" to you, Sr. Nancy.

Commissioner's Decision On GAT

A decision by the commissioner handed down last month clarifies our students' participation in Gifted and Talented Programs. The third grade student's parents petitioned the school district in which their daughter attended a non-public school, to participate in the GAT program. The district contended that, since the district of residence did not provide a program, therefore, the district in which the school was located had no obligation to include the girl in their program.

An appeal to the commissioner resulted in the following:

Applying the plain meaning of the statute, the Commissioner noted that the unambiguous statutory language mandates that, since the school district in which the nonpublic school is located has a program for gifted pupils, the school district of location is mandated per section 3602-c(2) to provide "services" to pupils who are residents of the state and who attend nonpublic school.

In other words, the mandates are dependent upon the school district of location providing the gifted services to its students, not the school district of residence.

We hope this clarification is helpful in providing for your students.

Buses or Vans?

There have been a great many questions over the years on whether or not our schools may use passenger vans to transport students to and from extracurricular activities, or if we are required to use school buses.

The CSAANYS office has attempted to answer this question, especially when schools are ready to purchase a vehicle. Our experience is that there are conflicting and contradictory answers when one calls various state agencies.

In the meanwhile, a van operated by a Catholic high school on Long Island was recently ticketed by the NYS Police simply because it was a van and was transporting students. The school was told it could not use a van, but had to provide a bus.

Sections 142 and 375(20)(e) of Vehicle and Traffic Law does provide some answers, but addresses the use of vans to carry fewer than 10 students.

The bottom line? CSAANYS has decided to take a position on offering advice to schools making a decision on the issue of what kind of vehicle to use. We are repeating advice that we have given in the past, with some further caveats:

- ✓ Schools should purchase or lease approved school buses to transport students to and from school events. We feel that the safety factor in the construction of school buses far outweighs what could be accepted legally;
- ✓ Schools should do background checks on drivers: have they any felony convictions? prior license revocations? the correct class of license?
- ✓ Vans should be modified so that the back seat is removed and no more than 7 students are ever transported in them;
- ✓ Unless the school bus has a compartment underneath it, vans should be used to transport equipment such as skis, bats, etc.
- ✓ Finally, schools should formulate policies regarding the "approved vehicles for the transportation of students to and from school activities:" and publicize these policies and concomitant regulations.

We appreciate the expense associated with this position; we also must come down on the side of safety for our students.

In the Halls of State Ed....

James Butterworth, formerly the superintendent at Averill Park School District, has been recently appointed as the Assistant Commissioner for Regional School and Community Services. Dr. Butterworth replaces Samuel W. Corsi, who recently retired.



Challenges faced by Administrators

In an interview with the *Albany Evangelist* (4/8/99) CSAANYS Executive Director Sister Carol Cimino cited 3 challenges faced by Catholic School Administrators:

- "The next great challenge is the **teacher shortage**. There's a shortage of principals as well. It's even worse in the public sector where they pay more."
- "We need to do **recruitment** all of the time, whether our building is full or empty. We need to keep the message in front of parents that we want to be partners with them. Catholic schools are the most effective means for passing on the faith."

Summer Reading

While we realize that administrators never have a "free summer," we would suggest an article written in the 4/10 issue of *America* by Rev. William O'Malley, SJ. from Fordham Prep. High School.

Entitled "Teaching Empathy", Fr. O'Malley squarely touches upon the measures that Catholic school administrators and teachers should address, especially in light of the Columbine shootings.

If we cannot teach youngsters to "reach out and touch" others with concern and compassion, then we have tragically failed in our mission.

CSAANYS Executive Board

At its May 2 and 3 meeting, the CSAANYS Executive Board greeted new board members and bade farewell to retiring members. In addition, they welcomed the new CSAANYS director, Dr. Lois Stiglmeier Munro and new Administrative Assistant, Lori Kaiser.

The business meeting included a discussion with Albany Catholic Schools Superintendent Sister Jane Herb, IHM on matters of cooperation between CSAANYS and NYS Council of Catholic School Superintendents. Sister Jane urged the board to continue to do research and consultation for principals and reported that CSAANYS Executive Director Sr. Carol Cimino would continue to be invited to meet with the Superintendents' Council annually.

The board approved the 1999-00 CSAANYS budget with no dues or workshop fee increases for the coming year, and were happy to hear that CSAANYS membership is at the highest rate of the decade.

There was a discussion about the annual Nonpublic School Administrators' Conference, to be held October 25 and 26 at the Marriott Hotel in Albany. The Board is eager to repeat their very highly successful panel for new and nearly new principals and to host a roundtable for veteran administrators.

Sister Maria Cassano (l) from Staten Island, explores the CSAANYS Executive Board manual with Sister Lucille Coldrick from the Bronx.



Sister Cordata Kelly (l) gets her orientation to the CSAANYS Executive Board from "veteran" board member Andrea Polcaro of Syracuse.



From l to r: Ave atque vale: a new CSAANYS secretary Lori Kaiser, outgoing secretary Dianna Crouse, new Director Dr. Lois Stiglmeier Munro, Executive Director Sister Carol Cimino at the luncheon to bid farewell to Dianna and retiring Board members.



csaanys news

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

What's in a Name?

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ

Jim Mahoney, from the Archdiocese of New York, has begun a discourse on the nomenclature that we have used for almost 35 years, namely, the term "nonpublic".

He sees several problems with this term, which started enjoying broad usage in 1965, when we joined forces with the Jewish Day schools, Lutheran and Greek Orthodox schools to negotiate over our inclusion in the newly minted Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

Mahoney states, "In hindsight, we should never have accepted such a definition-by-negation." Indeed, the term "nonpublic" does several things:

1. It sets up "public" as the standard against which to be defined;
2. It says what we are not, rather than what we are, and offers acceptance of verbiage which we, in these politically correct times, have refused to use. For example, we don't sanction the term "nonwhite" or "nonmale". Why, then, accede to "nonpublic"?

To use the word "private" sets up a whole set of impressions which, for many of our schools, would be unacceptable. To use the word "parochial", is to apply a set of legal ramifications which, again, are not applicable to many of our schools. The word "Catholic" defines only a portion of those schools not operated by the government and "independent" usually refers to a school's governance structure, not its essence.

All of us not operated by government, are, however, "religious and independent schools of choice". Even though this does not roll trippingly off the tongue, it would seem to be preferable to "nonpublic".

"Schools of choice", moreover, reflects a couple of other ramifications:

1. Parents choose to accept the school's philosophy and ethos; it is not imposed from government, but rather by consensus of the school community.
2. Parents choose to support the school financially; tuition and other methods of gaining income are not imposed by law, but by contract between the school and the parent.

Indeed, we serve the public, and, by extension, the greater society. We choose to do so, because parents choose to send their children to us. Moreover, not only are we "schools of choice" but "choice schools" by the mere fact of our success. Psychologists tell us that our use of language reflects our way of thinking. Let's give some thought to what we call ourselves; are we schools that are not something, or are we schools that are? Let the debate begin!

Consequences of Violence

Use the following questions to explore the consequences of violence contained in TV programs, videos, movies, music, etc. with younger students:

1. Who will be sad?
2. Who will cry?
3. Who will fix everything that was broken? Who will pay?
4. Who will have to go to the hospital? How long will they wait?
5. How will this affect their families? Who will be left alone?
6. Who will be scared to go outside?
7. If someone dies, who will attend the funeral? How will they feel?

NEW YORK STATE BUDGET...

As of this writing, New York State lawmakers are, once again, making a sham of the democratic process, and holding the budget hostage. Our interest in the budget centers on the full funding for Mandated Services, which is crucial this year in light of the extraordinary expenditures our schools have incurred in order to comply with the new testing demands.

In light of the increased, unscheduled expenditures borne by our schools, CSAANYS has written to Asst. Commissioner James Kadamus to remind him that we have complied with state mandates and that the parameters of the Mandated Services reimbursement schedules should be revised. A copy of that letter was distributed to the members of the CSAANYS Executive Board and to the NYS Coordinating Cmte. in April.

In the meanwhile, high schools have already been notified that they will be expected to provide cohort data to the SED to comply with the state's accountability program. Once again, this appears to be an unfunded mandate, and we have asked to have this reimbursed.

Finally, in 1998, the State Legislature agreed to follow a schedule of increases for textbooks, software, library loan materials and teacher centers. We have urged lawmakers to keep to this schedule.

When the budget is passed, we will post highlights of interest to our schools on our website: www.csaanys.org.

Be a

CSAANYS

Angel!

Renew for your successor.

Leave the gift that gives all year long



A Tip of the CSAANYS Coif to...

- All of our principals and assistant principals who are retiring at the end of this school year. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service and for your membership in and support of CSAANYS. Enjoy your retirement!
- Principal Jim Mule' and the school community of St. Amelia's, Tonawanda, for being selected to receive a site visit as part of the selection process for the US Dept. of Ed's Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Winners will be notified the end of May.
- Winners in the SPICE selection process, invited to attend the 1999 Conversations in Excellence in July: Sister Maureen Moffitt, CSJ, principal of St. Jude School in Wynantskill for the school's technology program, Tim Dwyer, Superintendent, Diocese of Rochester for their program to computerize the administrative reporting for all diocesan schools, and Sr. Margaret Ryan, OP, principal of Aquinas H.S., Bronx, for their Network of Empowerment Technology Program.
- Sr. Kathleen Lurz, SSJ, principal of Seton Catholic School in Rochester, grand winner of this year's "great Ideas" sharing program through Today's Catholic Teacher.
- Mother Cabrini High School, Manhattan celebrates its 100th Anniversary Celebration of Excellence.
- Dr. Carol Stewart, principal of Turner-Carroll H.S., Buffalo, dedicated the new Turner-Carroll Family Resource Support Center.
- Lorraine Heine, assistant principal at St. Andrew Country Day School, Kenmore, has been awarded the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Meritorious Service for her outstanding service to Catholic education.
- Congratulations to the Carbery sisters who have 138 years of teaching experience among them. Sr. Rose Alice Carbery, OSF, principal of Holy Cross School in DeWitt celebrates her golden jubilee this year; Sr. Marie Carbery, OSF, who works in the library at St. James School, Syracuse will celebrate her jubilee in the year 2001; Janet Carbery teaches fifth grade at Sacred Heart School. Utica.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

At this time of the year, we receive numerous queries regarding the delivery of special education services. Although the decision by the Supreme Court (Agostini v. Felton) provides for the delivery of Chapter 1 on the premises of the religious school, the provision of services under IDEA is something quite different.

You will recall that the decision in Russman v. Sobol created an entitlement to on-site special education and related services for a child enrolled by her parents in a parochial school. That decision, however, was vacated by the Second Circuit in Russman v. Mills. "...[T]he IDEA as amended does not require a school district to provide on-site special education services to a disabled child voluntarily enrolled in private school."

Thus while the decision in Russman does not require the district to provide on-site services, it does not bar the district from doing so. In our opinion, a principal would do well to negotiate, especially if it would be to the district's financial advantage, to provide on-site special education.

Mandated Services

At the May 12 meeting of the Commissioner's Nonpublic Schools Advisory Committee, CSAANYS Executive Director Sister Carol Cimino was given a draft of the new form, along with the list of parameters. Margaret Zollo, of the State Ed Dept office that deals with mandated services answered several questions, mainly having to do with the raising of the amount of time in the parameters for rating the new 4th and 8th grade exams. Also, Martha Musser, of the SED was asked to come up with parameters for reimbursement to high schools for providing the cohort data for state accountability. With the suggestions given, the forms are slated for printing by the beginning of June.

We encourage all of our principals to work on the data during the summer so as to return the form as early as possible. The amount of \$55 million has been cited as being adequate to cover all requests, but our reading as of the end of May was that the legislature would probably reduce the amount to \$53.1 million. That means that payments would be made to those who get their request in first, until the money runs out.

1.25 Million Children Apply for CSF Scholarships

Ted Forstmann described April 21st as the proudest day of his life. That's the day when the cofounder and CEO of the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) announced that 40,000 low-income children across America would receive more than \$160 million in 4-year scholarships to attend the religious or independent schools of their parents' choice.

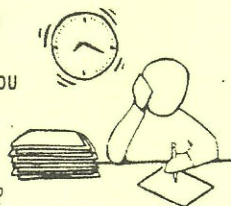
Following its lunch last year, CSF, the largest private scholarship fund ever, generated an overwhelming public response. Encouraged by endorsements from Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, Sammy Sosa, Will Smith, and others, the parents of 1.25 million children from all 50 states applied for the scholarships.

According to CSF, the average scholarship will be \$1,100 annually, and the typical family will have to contribute \$1,000.

Thus, despite their poverty, the parents of applicants are apparently willing to forego a free education in order to pay to have their children attend a school of choice.

Are You a Workaholic?

If you answer yes to several of these questions, you may be working too hard and too much.



- Do you work more than 40 hours a week?
- Do you get more excited about work than about family?
- Do you take your work home in the evenings or on weekends?
- Are you usually late for social gatherings?
- Do you worry constantly about the future even when things are going well?
- Do you work or read during meals?
- Do you believe more money will solve other problems in your life?
- Do you think about work while driving or falling asleep?
- Do you believe it's okay to work long hours as long as you love what you are doing?
- Have your long hours hurt your family or other relationships?

Condensed from "How Do I Know if I'm a Workaholic?" For more information write: Workaholics Anonymous, World Service Organization P.O. Box 289, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0298.

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CSAANYS NEWS

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Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State

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Matters of Principal

by Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ
Executive Director

It's about time CSAANYS weighed in on the Spring's tragedies in Colorado and in Georgia.

I was struck, in each of the cases, by the lack of knowledge on the part of each of the administrators, of what was going on in their schools, and the lack of familiarity with students. In the case of the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado, the principal claimed he had never seen students in black trenchcoats, had never heard of the "Trenchcoat Mafia", had not been informed of the bullying by students on other students. My question was, where had he been?

Those of us who've been around for long enough know that the principal had better be visible. Our offices are the hallways and the classrooms of the school and we supervise the cafeteria, the gym and the many areas that comprise a school building. A principal's ears and eyes are always open and, just to mix the metaphor, he/she always has a finger on the pulse of the school.

In the case of the shootings a month later at Heritage High School in Conyers, GA, the vice principal who ended up disarming the shooter had to ask the student's name, even though the student had several times been in the vice principal's office. Large high schools militate against knowing all the students, at least by name. We have the advantage of having small schools, of knowing at least the names of our students, especially those whom I used to call my "regulars" because they were regular visitors to my office when I was a vice principal.

This is not an exercise in blame. Rather, it is a reminder to all of us administrators that our effectiveness lies in our visibility; our ability to prevent a "Columbine" or a "Conyers" is attributed to our acquaintance with our students, and our ability to help troubled students is measured by our willingness to listen to our constituencies. We can assure parents that our modus operandi is hands-on, feet-on and eyes-and ears-on.

Let's pray that the 1999-2000 school year is free of such tragedies.

WHOOPS!!!!!!

With a simple keystroke we changed principals at St. Jude's in Wynantskill. Major apologies and renewed congratulations to Marcia Rosenfeld, principal of St. Jude's, for being selected a 1999 SPICE school by the NCEA.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

CSAANYS would like to extend a special thank you to Brother John O'Connor CFC from Iona Prep School in New Rochelle for his generosity in contributing to a scholarship fund we set up for needy schools to join CSAANYS. Thank you and God Bless.

97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION

APRIL 25-28, 2000



THEME: CATHOLIC EDUCATION -
BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS
The Baltimore Convention Center - Baltimore, MD

New Century/New Challenges

That's the theme of the 1999 Nonpublic School Administrators Conference to be held here in Albany on October 25th and 26th at the Marriott Hotel on Wolf Road.

The format for the meeting will be slightly different this year; instead of the Commissioner's Advisory Council holding its usual open meeting, the Council President, Rabbi Martin Schloss will give an update on the work of the Council on Monday morning. The Commissioner will arrive at 11:00, give some brief remarks and spend the better part of an hour taking and answering questions from attendees. This will allow all of us the opportunity to question Commissioner Mills on the larger policy issues such as the new standards, graduation requirements, accountability, "safety net" provisions, etc.

A keynote will be delivered on Monday afternoon, followed by a number of 2-hour sessions. The usual "time to consult" with persons from the State Ed Dept. will take place at breakfast time on Tuesday morning instead of late Monday afternoon.

CSAANYS is happy to announce that we will be hosting our usual "thanks to our supporters" reception on Monday evening so make sure you get an invitation when you check in at the conference registration desk. Also, you may wish to introduce yourself to Lori Kaiser, our new secretary.

Once again, the CSAANYS Executive Board will present a panel for new and nearly new principals, and this year, they will also provide a "cracker barrel" session for veterans to discuss with each other various "hot topics".

Our members traditionally have wholeheartedly supported this conference and, on the occasion of the 15th annual, we hope that this tradition continues.

A tip of the CSAANYS Coif to....

Holy Family School, Watertown, for 75 years of service to the people of that part of the North Country. Sister Jennifer Votraw, a former CSAANYS director, is a past principal there.

Sister Cecilia Dolores Holmes, S.C., principal of St. Peter's in Poughkeepsie, as she retires after 30 years in her position. She also celebrates 60 years as a Sister of Charity;

The Sisters of Charity, as they leave St. Peter's School after the Congregation's 140 years of service in the parish; St. Mary's School in Waterford, formerly known as Waterford Catholic, as they reclaim their original name; Sister Nora Gatto, DC, principal of Rome Catholic Junior/Senior High School, is the 1999 recipient of the Elizabeth A. Connelly Community Accessibility Award in the David V. Veatch Advocacy Award category. She is honored for bringing disability awareness to her RCH students.

Mary Jeanne McIntyre is to be honored for her 50 years as a Catholic School Educator by the Immaculate Conception Parish in East Aurora on June 10th. Mrs. McIntyre has taught for 35 years at the Immaculate Conception School which is known to be the longest period of teaching in one place.

LASALLE STUDENTS SPRUCE UP PARK TO GIVE BACK

"Go to your locations!" called Brother Michael Farrell, F.S.C., principal. With materials in hand, students of LaSalle Academy set out to beautify East River Park in Manhattan. The cleanup, on May 12th, was a community service project designed to show goodwill to the neighborhood people and to give something back to the park where LaSalle's sports teams practice and play. "This is for the kids and the community," Brother Carl Malacalza, school president said.

The project ended with an outdoor Mass celebrated by Father Frank Scanlon, pastor of St. Columba's parish in Manhattan. The event was held in observance of the De LaSalle Christian Brothers' 150 years in the archdiocese.

A BLUE RIBBON WINNER

St. Amelia's School in Tonawanda (Diocese of Buffalo), is the only Catholic School in NYS to be named a Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education for 1999.

The school was cited for serving students with a wide range of abilities, meeting the nonacademic needs of students, innovative programs, and professional development, among others.

St. Amelia's is one of seven in NYS to be designated and the first in Buffalo.

Congratulations to principal Jim Mule', who has been a CSAANYS member since his first year as principal, and to his entire school community for this singular recognition.

NYACK SCHOOL HAS GRADS AGAIN!

St. Ann's School in Nyack, which three years ago, shut down its Jr. high due to low enrollment, is having an amazing comeback.

On June 19th, the school had its first eighth-grade graduation ceremony since 1996 for ten students who are moving onto high schools. Principal, Mrs. Ortiz credits the policies of St., Ann's pastor, Father Robert Henry, whose financial reorganization enabled the school to remain open by combining classes and eliminating the two upper grades until enrollment improved.

Congratulations to St. Ann's for their hard work and persistence.

KIRYAS JOEL SCHOOL DISTRICT TURNED DOWN AGAIN

"The recent decision by NYS's highest court against the formation of a public school district for the disabled children of the Hasidic village of Kiryas Joel is another example of the 'almost hysterical' reaction against giving consideration to religious groups in the public sphere," Msgr. Thomas Bergin, the New York archdiocese's vicar for education said.

The state Court of Appeals ruled May 11th that the school district, which serves the 250 handicapped children of a community of Satmar Hasidic Jews, would cause the government to advance the cause of religion and allow an unpermissible accommodation of one religion over others. The recent decision by the state court was the third attempt by the Legislature to draft a bill that will pass constitutional muster.

Members of the Satmar sect strive to live in strict accord with the Torah. They send their children to private religious schools. When the children with disabilities were sent to public schools, parents claim, they could not function well and were sometimes subject to ridicule.

Legacy of Marist Brothers' Founder Celebrated at Manhattan Service

St. Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, was honored on his feast day, June 6th as one whose vision remains alive in the schools run by the brothers and in the students they send into the world.

"The founder was not a good student in his youth," Ms. Patricia Gatti, a longtime supporter and friend reminded the congregation at a celebration at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Manhattan. "Perhaps it was his weakness that gave St. Marcellin his great capacity for compassion and understanding of human foibles". Many of the children that are taught are neglected in many ways and that is why St. Marcellin Champagnat's legacy is so important to the brothers and the lay men and women who work with them.

"Champagnat's commission to the brothers is to make love not only the foundation of your community, but also a distinctive Marist method of evangelization," Ms. Gatti said.

Others who addressed the congregation were Brother Albert Rivera, a novice at the Marist Novitiate in Esopus, F.M.S. and Brother John Morris, F.M.S. a teacher at Marist High in Bayonne, NJ. Brother Charles Imbergamo, F.M.S. of Marist High gave welcoming remarks and copresided at the service with Brother Timothy Zorak.