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CSAANY'S NEWS

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

(518)273-1205

January 28 - February 3, 1990

Catholic
Schools
Week
1990

STEAL THESE IDEAS

YES! Catholic Schools

Just as we promised, here are some activities that proved successful for Catholic Schools Week 1989. Feel free to recycle them in your school for CSW 1990.

* Holy Cross School in Rochester hosted a "Grandparents' Social" with the preschool. The seniors helped with art classes, attended gym class, used the school's computers and had a party at the end of the day.

* Our Lady Help of Christians School in Brooklyn reports that even parents whose children have graduated are involved in the CSW activities. The school had a prayer service with the theme "Gifts from the Heart" in which members of the school community were recognized for their unique gifts that make the school a real family.

* St. Mary's School in Potsdam hosted a family spaghetti supper and featured special T-shirts designed by the school's art teacher. A special assembly offered each class an opportunity to entertain the rest of the school and parents and grandparents.

* St. Alexander's School in Morrisonville had a Family Olympics on Sunday afternoon. Families ate a picnic lunch in the gym and then formed family teams for a variety of relay races and games that required parents (aunts, uncles, grandparents) working in cooperation with younger children.

* Sts. Peter & Paul School in Depew had "Friendship Day" in which they ate lunch with someone they hardly knew in order to become better acquainted with another student or teacher. A "Color Day" provided a chance for each grade to choose a color, dress up with it and play "Student Bingo".

* The parents' club of St. Theodore School in Rochester provided candy apples for "The Apples of their Eye", as a treat to each of the 380 students in the school. A Spirit Day gave students the choice to wear special hats or sneakers and the evening Open House included homemade desserts to "Share the Family Spirit".

* St. Augustine's School in Peru had a family luncheon after which the students conducted school tours and classroom visits. "Happy Feet Day" gave students the opportunity to show off their favorite footwear, sneakers, slippers, dress-up shoes - whatever!

* Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Schenectady had a "Jog Your Memory Day" using Math Bingo, Alphabet Bingo, and "Catholic Jeopardy" for competition among the grades. A family roller skating party gave families the chance to act like "big wheels".

* St. Agnes School in Utica had Family Night which included a prayer service, student-led tours and refreshments.

* St. Peter's School in Lowville had a covered dish supper following their family CSW Mass on Saturday evening. A video, showing students in action, was available all evening for viewing.

* A special tip of the CSAANY's coif to those principals who sent us descriptions of CSW activities. A fact sheet, like the one we did last year, will be repeated, using updated information, in a future newsletter.

A Parent's Choice

Regents Meet on Nonpublic Accountability

On July 27, representatives of CSAANYS, NYSCC and the Superintendents attended the Elementary and Secondary Committee meeting of the Regents. Within a matter of minutes, the Regents approved a document which outlines the minimum standards expected by SED, while recognizing that nonpublic schools are uniquely accountable to parents. On the plus side, not one Regent questioned the performance or the ability to meet or exceed state standards on the part of our schools. Our task is to make clear to the public that we do exactly that; our schools are accountable, not only to SED, but to several other constituencies, whose expectations, we are proud to say, are more than satisfied.

A THOUSAND THANKS!

Once again we are pleased to announce that Mr. John Toman, of P.F. Collier Educational Services, has agreed to underwrite the cost of printing this newsletter. This is a great service to CSAANYS, and is a tangible vote for Catholic education. CSAANYS wishes to thank Mr. Toman, & P.F. Collier for this generous donation.

● St. John the Baptist School, Brooklyn, headed by principal Sister Mary Jane Raihle, was named a Drug-Free School in May. Congratulations to this school community.

LODGING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Two major hotel chains offer discounts, if you're willing to plan ahead.

Days Inn has a program to guarantee reservations for \$19-\$39 per night (with a \$10 surcharge in large cities). Book 29 days in advance and pay one night's lodging within 7 days. Call 1-800-325-2525.

Sheraton Hotels give a substantial discount to educators. Although some dates are restricted, if you call 1-800-325-3535 and indicate that you work for an educational institution, you will receive a discount.

1990 NCEA - TORONTO



The 87th annual NCEA Convention will be held April 16-19 in Toronto, Canada. The location should be accessible to our members and we encourage principals and faculties to attend. Associate Director Sr. Carol Cimino has been asked to do two presentations at the convention.

Having a problem financing your trip to NCEA? Ask your local rep of the companies whose products your students sell to subsidize your trip. Many fundraising companies provide help to principals to attend this convention; all they need is to be asked.

MONEY AVAILABLE

Cycle XII Energy Conservation grants totalling \$9.5 million are available to schools through the Institutional Conservation Program. New this year: there is \$2 million available in supplemental ECM Grant funds for projects in K-12 schools with payback periods of 2-15 years. The application deadline is Dec. 7, 1989 to: NYS Energy Office, Institutional Conservation Program, Two Rockefeller Plaza, Albany, NY 12223.

Director to Give Regents Testimony

CSAANYS Executive Director Sister Mary Anne Brawley will give testimony to the Regents on Friday, September 8. Our major push this year will be an increase in textbook aid and increases in the allocation for software and library materials.

REGENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The SED has notified us that the 1990 series of scholarships will be awarded on the basis of a combination of grade point average (GPA) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores.

SED has encouraged the development of county-wide plans in order to develop compatibility in the computing of GPA's. Accordingly, CSAANYS has sent each board member who represents the high schools a copy of the SED letter and a memo encouraging him/her to apprise each constituency of this plan so that Catholic school concerns are heard.

SED will meet with an advisory group in the Fall to determine guidelines and procedures for submission of GPA's.

REVISED SYLLABUS

The Occupationally Related Math Syllabus was to have been mailed to high schools in August. This course may be used to meet the second unit of Math required for local diploma.

ALCOHOL EDUCATION

Workshops, retreats, improvisational theatre are available through Alcohol Education for Youth & Community, Inc. PO Box 122, Rensselaerville, NY 12147 (518)797-3987.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES FAIR

This student competition will be held Feb 26-27, 1990 in Albany. For info write: Consortium for Learning Technologies in NYS, Inc, PO Box 298, Delmar, NY 12054.

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HOW TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER VACATION

Facing the long, hot summer with a less-than-enthusiastic attitude? Here are some tips for making the most of the summer hiatus while improving your own outlook.

1. Organize your desk (or office). Use a folder system to file all the material that seems to bury your desk. Try having a "5-minute" folder for paperwork that won't take too much time. A priority folder can sort the stuff that needs an answer NOW. A "let George do it" file sorts the items that can be routed to a teacher or the school nurse or anyone else. Finally, the "when I get to it" folder will keep material that you'll take care of when everything else is done - like summer time.

2. Compute. Get all your mandated services and BEDS data together. Either use the new service offered by CSAANY'S (see insert), or start putting together your facts and figures now, so that when the BEDS & SA-186 & 185 forms arrive, your secretary can fill them in right away.

3. Read - articles, books, periodicals that you've been saving. Do it on the beach, in the woods - wherever you can relax and be away from the building.

4. Travel. Combine it with a summer in-service conference or go to a place where you can visit museums or art galleries or historic sites. In this way you could be a guest speaker for your teachers, while enhancing your own knowledge.

5. Write. Summer's a good time to write some articles for your school's newsletter - articles with no time constraints that can be "dropped in" during those busy months when you need a filler for the newsletter.

6. Contact your teachers for lunch or iced tea break to listen to their hopes and dreams for the coming school year. Interest them in serving on committees or commanding projects so that you won't be stuck doing them, and they'll have plenty of time to think and plan, too.

7. Contact your older students at the end of summer to come in and decorate school hallways and bulletin boards, perhaps help the kindergarten teachers with name tags, etc. This will give them a sense of ownership and excitement about coming back to school, while establishing a "privilege" reserved to older students.

8. Plan your school's PR activities for the coming year. Look ahead to the year's activities, Catholic Schools Week (the 1990 theme is Catholic Schools: Parents' Choice). Write some press release outlines, plan photos and various uses of media. Take a good look at your school's promotional material and decide if you need a "new look".

9. Contact your school board members, home-school people and other volunteers just to chat about the year's program. Get them thinking practically about things they need to do now.

10. Relax and dream about what you'd like to see happen during the coming school year. Jot down ideas gleaned from your summer contacts with teachers, board members, parents, other principals. Check these ideas out in February when the sun isn't shining and rate yourself on how you're doing at turning dreams into reality.

With September comes the inevitable, "where did the summer go?" as we quickly immerse ourselves in the familiar sea of hectic activity. Perhaps by trying out 2 or 3 of the above suggestions, you'll be able to answer that the summer went toward making September (and October and November...) a little less hectic. Try it; you'll wonder where the year went.

PLEASE NOTE:

With this CSAANY'S newsletter, you are receiving a CSAANY'S research report updating school record retention.

This replaces the earlier report, and we hope you find it useful.

This report is for CSAANY'S members only; please do not give it to non-members.

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CAN MONEY BUY EDUCATION?

by Sister Mary Anne Brawley, Exec. Dir.

If you listened to radio news throughout the day or caught any of the major networks' evening news broadcasts on Wednesday, May 3, 1989, you heard U.S. Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos call the nation's educational situation, "a disaster we must turn around."

This criticism was based on the results of the annual Federal assessment of student performance. Measures of performance included: graduation rates, SAT scores, teacher salaries, and teacher-student ratios.

The message for NYS did not bode well. The high school graduation rate of 62.9 percent is the 46th lowest in the country. SAT scores dropped 5 points to 889, ranking NY 14th out of the 22 states administering the test.

These are two sobering statistics in a state where the average teacher's salary of \$34,500 is 3rd highest in the nation and the per pupil cost of \$6,497 is only exceeded by Alaska!

In his press conference, Secretary Cavazos said, "We have not made any progress in the last three years. It's hard to say why. I still believe that we have not focused on the fundamental issues of trying to get everybody involved in the education of children. It's not a matter of dollars."

Here in NYS, we Catholic school supporters can attest to the fact that money does not equal excellence. Our strength is social capital; parents who make sacrifices to send their children to Catholic schools are more inclined to become involved with those schools. We loudly claim this partnership between home and school is important in the work of Catholic education. James Coleman in his research study, Public and Private High Schools concludes that parents of children in Catholic schools form a value and functional community.

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Board Elections

Elementary representatives to the CSAANYS board were up for election this year. Elected to the CSAANYS board for a two year term are:

Rochester:	Sister Nancy Kelly
Syracuse:	Sister Kathleen Appler
New York:	Dr. Catherine Hickey (counties)
New York:	Sister Michelle McKeon (Boroughs)
Rockville Centre:	Sister Mary Ann Crimmins
Albany:	Sister Patricia Houlihan
Buffalo:	Sister Nancy McNulty
Ogdensburg:	Sister Jeannette Roy

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Yes, it's renewal time and your renewal notice is enclosed with this newsletter.

*This past year we increased the number of 4-page newsletters and brought you news from around the state before you got it from other sources.

*This year we provided you with a fact sheet about Catholic schools to help you in your celebration of Catholic Schools Week, or to help you in your recruitment efforts.

*This year we provided over 100 workshops, as compared with just over 50 last year.

*This year we provided a statewide conference which included 18 workshops, three keynotes, 37 exhibitors and the opportunity for parents & principals to share experiences and solutions to problems.

*This past year we represented Catholic schools before both the NYS legislature and the Congress.

*This past year CSAANYS, the only organization of its kind in the country, represented the Catholic schools of NYS to the NYS Education Dept., the NCEA and to local educational agencies.

We urge you to renew now. If you are moving on, please renew for your successor and please spread the word: CSAANYS is the Catholic school administrator's professional organization. It's the only organization that speaks for the administrator on a state-wide level.

State Coordinating Committee

This group met in Albany on March 15. Joseph McTighe reported that prospects are very positive for the inclusion of some monies for asbestos abatement for nonpublic schools. With the budget deficit, and the subsequent delay (no budget as of April 6), we should not expect to receive the \$25 million we asked for. Legislators contacted by coordinating committee members on the NYSCC lobbying day Jan. 31 were also receptive to our inclusion in the abatement allocation. The next Coordinating Committee meeting is in New York City on May 10.

Whole Language Conference

SED is looking for presenters for the Second Annual Whole Language Conference to be held October 5&6, 1989 in Rochester. Applications are available from: Naomi Erdmann, Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618.

Holy Trinity Named

Congratulations to Sister Mary Eamon of Holy Trinity School in Massena. The school has been recognized as a "Drug Free School" by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

The 30 or so administrators of the designated schools will travel to Washington, DC for a special awards ceremony. No date has been set.

We again urge our members to enter state and national competitions to demonstrate that our schools continue to be excellent.

FREE GRANTS NEWSLETTER

The New York State Assembly issues a monthly newsletter describing new grants being issued by NYS agencies. Issued by the office of the Speaker, Mel Miller, this free newsletter gives organizations which are potential grant recipients.

To receive your copy of the Grants Action Newsletter, write to: Olga Bousvaros, Director, Speaker's Office for Grant Assistance, Suite 302, Cross Country Center, 6 Xavier Dr., Yonkers, NY 10704 or call (914)968-0808.

Gasoline Sales Tax Refund

This is just a reminder that Catholic schools are eligible to receive a refund on both sales and motor fuel taxes from New York State. You need forms FT-948 and FT-946 and these may be obtained from: NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance, Fuel Tax Refund Unit, P.O.Box 5501, Albany, NY 12205

ESPET Information

Principals should have received a packet containing information and changes regarding the 4th grade ESPET. Since the test will be given this month, we urge administrators who did not receive the update dated April, 1988 to call SED for a copy.

Principal needed...

St. Peter School, K-8, Rosendale, NY seeks a principal for a dynamic school offering an excellent religious and academic program.

Interested parties are asked to write and send a resume to:

Rev. John J. Farley
P.O. Box 471
Rosendale, NY 12472

Science Education Conference

SED is sponsoring this meeting to be held August 21-24, 1989 at SUNY Oswego. Registration deadline is July 1. Write: Dave Denny, 3185 Falls Rd. Marcellus, NY 13108.

"Scared Stiff" Program Available

The NYS Police offer a dramatic presentation, including color slides of accidents, with the message that "drinking and driving can cost you your life." The program is geared to high school audiences during the Spring Prom season.

Principals, SADD advisors, PTA's may contact local State Police Trooper stations to arrange for a presentation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Current and past CSAANYS board members have been honored in the past few months:

• Dr. Catherine Hickey, a current board member, has been named to the Papal Commission on Catholic Higher Education. This international commission met at the Vatican April 18-25. Catherine also has a new job. She has been named Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York.

• Sr. Madeline Powers, CSJ, former Executive Director of CSAANYS, has been elected Provincial of the Latham Sisters of St. Joseph and will assume office on August 1.

• Sr. Lenore Toscano, OP, has been named to the central administration of the Amityville Dominicans. Sr. Lenore is a former board member.

• Former board president Bro. James Liguori, CFC, has been named Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ.

• Former board member Sr. Elaine Englert has been named to attend the NCEA Principals' Academy June 18-23 in Bethesda, Md.