

## COMMISSIONER NIXES OPTION FOR GRADUATION

In a stunning turn-about, Commissioner Mills has decided that the so-called "Option B" for high schools who choose not to give the required five Regents exams for graduation by 2003 is no longer an option.

When it was announced that the requirement for the granting of a NYS diploma would, by 2003, require that students pass the Regents exams, the nonpublic schools met with the Commissioner to ask that some leeway be given, especially to those schools that have, traditionally, not given any Regents exams. These include, in the main, the so-called independent schools such as the Dalton School, the Harley School, and the Jesuit schools, such as McQuaid Jesuit and Regis. The conversation has now gone on for two years, and, last January, seemed viable.

Pressure from public school groups, however, have prompted the Commissioner to reverse his earlier position. As of this writing (November 17th) only Option A-full compliance with the Commissioner's new requirements, and Option C-nonregistration of the school (e.g. Christian Schools International) are available to high schools.

The New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) director, Fred Calder, has called for a meeting with the Commissioner and the independent schools in New York City on November 19th in order to keep the conversation going. We will let you know how that turns out in our next newsletter.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The NYS Energy Research and Development Authority's primary goal is to help NYS institutions make energy efficiency improvements within their establishments, NYSERDA's "New York Energy \$mart" program is currently funding \$16 million in technical assistance and installation incentives to help customers make informed electrical energy decisions and improvements.

Financial incentives are available to our schools to cover up to 50% of costs. Maximum award is \$50,000 or 6 cents per sq. ft. There are currently two deadlines: January 12th and April 12, 2000. Applications are available by fax: Jane Powers at 518-862-1091 or via e-mail: [jap@nyserda.org](mailto:jap@nyserda.org).



## GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

As Arte Johnson of "Laugh-in" used to say, VERRRY Interesting!" The Commissioner is happy that 78% of the high school students who have taken the English Regents exam passed it—a sign that students are meeting standards—or not?

What the results really mean are that 22% scored below 55%. In other words, the SED has allowed the passing grade to be LOWERED from 65% to 55%, and 14% of those passing students really scored between 55 and 64. So, if the passing score had been kept at the old "lower" standard of 65, 64% would have passed it. Oh—16% of students have not taken the test.

## FATHERS MATTER!

All Fathers, no matter what their income or background is can play a critical role in their child's education. Research shows that when fathers are involved, whether sharing the same home or not, children learn more, perform better in school and exhibit healthier behavior. Their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact.

## SELECTED RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

\* The 5 BOCES in Northern New York have developed learning units and learning experiences based on the NYS standards, through a Title III Technology grant. These are available at <http://www.title3.org>.

\* "Earth Matters" is a set of programs available from the Ecotarium, a center for environmental exploration. The center is located in the Worcester, MA area, and provides programs for K-12 and even overnight. Four weeks notice is required to schedule a group. You may contact Ecotarium at (508) 929-2703 or [reservations@ecotarium.org](mailto:reservations@ecotarium.org).

\* Fordham University's Graduate School of Education is offering "Catholic Education 2000: Issues Anchored in the Grace of Foundation: Charisms, Policies, Identity and Prophecies" in Rome, Italy from June 26th - July 5th. Participants may receive graduate credit or travel non-credit. Contact: Dr. Gerald M. Cattaro or Rev. Vincent Diminuco, SJ at 212-636-6420 or [gcattaro@aol.com](mailto:gcattaro@aol.com).

\* The Charles F. Donovan Teaching Scholars Program is an intensive, one-year Master's degree program in teacher education established to recruit and support a cohort of 30 graduate students dedicated to teaching in urban schools. For more information, contact: Donovan Teaching Scholars Program, Boston College School of Education, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 or call: 617-552-0676.

\* The Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, University of Rochester is pleased to announce that this summer they will offer an institute on the topic of, "Catholic Formation: Many Paths, One Way", July 10th and 11th, 2000. The program is designed to provide reflection in support of addressing central issues that will enable the future and continuing vibrancy of Catholic education. It will assist the participants in shaping a vision and plan for their role in this ministry. The institute is planned to include a balance of lecture, activities, discussion and social conversation with colleagues in a reflective and relaxed setting. For more information, call Sister Edwardine Weaver at 716-275-7833 or 716-275-8270.

\* Siena College in Loudonville is offering 30 programs over a 3-week period, July 24-28, July 31-August 4, and August 7-11 to provide an environment for interaction and learning. For more information, contact: Cynthia Calautti, Siena College, Office of Special Programs, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY 12211-1462 or call 518-783-4202, or e-mail: [Ccalautti@Siena.edu](mailto:Ccalautti@Siena.edu).

## TIME TO START THINKING SUMMER (!)

The annual Catholic School Leadership Institute will take place at Manhattan College June 26-30, 2000. Entitled "Called To Create: Change by Design", the institute will feature presentations and opportunities for interaction on a variety of topics having to do with managing change, envisioning the future, strategic planning, planning for development of resources, and predictions for a "future by design, not default".

The institute is co-directed by Sister Remigia Kushner who directs the program for administrators, and CSAANYS Executive Director, Sister Carol Cimino. The week-long gathering may be taken for credit toward a Master's degree or NYS certification, or may be audited.

For more information, call Sister Remigia at 718-862-7473 or [srk2@juno.com](mailto:srk2@juno.com), or Sister Carol at CSAANYS - [nysadm@aol.com](mailto:nysadm@aol.com).

# CSAANY'S NEWS

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All of us at CSAANY'S  
wish you a happy, healthy  
and blessed Christmas  
Season!



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Matters of Principal

by Sister Carol Cimino, Executive Director

## CHARACTER COUNTS

It seems to be de rigueur these days to talk about, study, implement, document, publicize "character education". Indeed, I know of several Catholic schools that have integrated a national program of character education into their schools and are very pleased with the success of the program. After all, who can quibble with teaching students honesty, respect, integrity - all the components of a virtuous person?

There are however, several points which I think we, as Catholic school leaders, ought to keep in mind:

\* Public schools are using the same program, with much success; this is their answer to teaching values. If we contend that what we do is uniquely different, then how are we teaching "character" with a distinctively Catholic flavor?

\* The raison d'être of the Catholic school training is not the formation of character, but the formation of conscience. Catholic school graduates should possess, not the canons and rubrics of character, but the tools of discernment.

\* The only character that Catholic school students need cliché "What Would Jesus Do?" is a more viable question honesty?"

\* Consider that we already have some character models. They give us some character references that bear deeper forgiveness, peacemaking, etc. These are invaluable AND allow for positive, rather than negative modeling Christian.

\* What is the end and purpose of character formation? say when they want to know? Unless it is for something learn to get along", then I wonder about its conformity

\* Finally, as a friend of mine often expounds, "our students ought to be marinated in a Catholic culture". No matter what program we include, the big question should be "how are things done around here?" The answer to that question will tell us just what kind of character education we are doing.

In no way would I want all this to be interpreted as my being "anti-character education". Although this may be a worthy exertion, we need to take some time to ponder these points with teachers and parents to determine how and where it fits into the Catholic school.

**"THE ONLY  
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to model is the character of Jesus. The now for our students than "what do we mean by

the Beatitudes have been around for awhile. scrutiny: poverty of spirit, power of guidelines for teachers and students to follow (e.g. "thou shalt not....") precepts for the

We are teaching Generation Why?; what will we beyond "it will make you successful", or, "you'll to our mission.

## GRANTS FOR TEACHING THE LAW

The NYS Bar Association annually gives away \$10,000 to school programs that promote the development of law-related education. The Law, Youth and Citizenship program for 2000-2001 will give priority to proposed programs designed to support learning technology initiatives in law-related education, facilitate students' understanding of their responsibilities and rights, support safe schools initiatives, encourage reflection in the role of law in our society and further teaching of the standards in courses in citizenship education.

Grants proposals cannot exceed \$500, but funding may be sought for more than one project/activity. Deadline for proposals is February 11, 2000. Applications may be requested by calling CSAANY'S or going to: [www.nysba.org/lyc/LYC.html](http://www.nysba.org/lyc/LYC.html).

## TAX CREDITS AND VOUCHERS

Proponents argue that vouchers that give parents the freedom to choose where to send their children do not have a primary purpose of aiding religious schools. Opponents contend that the money still ends up in the religious schools' coffers - thus violating the First Amendment ban on a government establishment of religion.

Though the Supreme Court let stand a ruling that upheld the Milwaukee voucher plan, the justices have yet to weigh in definitively on such programs.

Meanwhile, the court in its 1999-2000 term will hear a major case from Louisiana concerning a federal program that provides computers and other technological forms of aid to religious schools. The court has been swamped with briefs, including some that mention the 19th century war over school aid in New York City, the Blaine Amendment, and the high court's long history of cases addressing different forms of aid.

The nation has not yet resolved the great Schools Question.

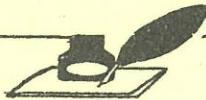


## TEACHER SHORTAGE

A government report released this fall predicts private schools will need to hire about 568,000 new teachers from 1998 through 2008, and public schools, about 2.4 million.

Private schools would seem to face a particularly difficult challenge in coming years. Compared to public schools, the number of new teachers private schools will need represents a higher portion of their current workforce. What's more, as public schools take steps to meet demand, such as raising salaries and expanding benefits, the report suggests "this might be an incentive to private school teachers to move to public schools," thus exacerbating the need for private school teachers. Although the models used in the report regard the public school sector and the private school sector as independent of each other, the author warns, "Clearly, there are instances when they are not."

The study looks at continuation rates for three different time periods and also takes into account three scenarios regarding teacher/pupil ratio. Using various combinations of rates and scenarios, the report generates six different predictions of how many newly hired teachers will be needed in schools from 1998-99 through 2008-09. The private school forecasts range from a low of 524,000 to a high of 620,000. This date was reported by CAPE - September, 1999.



*from Dr. Lois's Desk*

Results of the CSAANYS name survey and the Conference Surveys as designed and conducted by Dr. Lois Stiglmeier Munro 56 responded to the survey both at the office and at the conference. The choices offered were non public; schools of choice; private/religious; other (specify):

- 1 person responded to non public ... 01%
- 15 persons responded to schools of choice ..... 27%
- 35 persons responded to private/religious ..... 63%
- 2 specified Catholic and 1 specified Greek Orthodox ..... 05%

In the category other (specify)

### The Principals' Sessions Evaluation from CSAANYS form:

1. Many issues I had to face back in August have been answered.
2. Non public school administrators need to know that to which they are entitled.
3. We need to know how to write grants and how to secure them.
4. We need to know the distinction between leadership and administration.
5. How to deal with non motivated parents and dissension among faculty.
6. The workshop was very well done and very helpful. Thank you.
7. We need to work on leadership skills for teachers and students.
8. We need to identify our vision and role. Excellent workshop.
9. We need a vision, leadership and better parent/teacher relations.
10. More funding is needed for the private/religious schools.
11. Very inspirational and highly motivating. Truly kept my interest.
12. A wide variety of issues were presented for staff development and faculty.
13. We truly need character development as part of a Catholic education.
14. We need to know how to deal with a limited support system.
15. Learning from experienced principals was most helpful and encouraging.
16. We need in-depth workshops on the ESEA Title programs available to us.
17. I am an "old" principal and most impressed. I look forward to more workshops
18. Excellent discussion on delegation and its importance in providing services.
19. Keep up the good work. As a new principal, I know that I am not alone.
20. We must have a stated vision/mission. We must create a constituency support group. The session was extremely helpful and addressed my prime issues.
21. We must not overlook the importance of our mission. Most practical and I can take home ideas and suggestions that will work. Excellent. Thank you.

## WELCOME TO CSAANYS

Sister Augusta Conter - St. Bartholomew, Elmhurst  
 Sister Maureen Moffitt - Holy Spirit, East Greenbush  
 Mr. Luke Nawrocki and Annette Fiscina - St. Josephs, L.I. City  
 Sister Sheila Anne Burke - St. Marys, Swormville  
 Mrs. Monica Crowley - Our Lady of Grace, Brooklyn  
 Mrs. Grace Mallardi - St. Pauls the Apostle, Yonkers  
 Ellen Sadicario and Linda Ward - St. Patricks, Smithtown  
 John Flaherty and Sr Barbara Wright - Salesian HS, New Rochelle  
 Mrs. Margaret Knoesel - Our Lady of Mercy, Bronx  
 Dr. Maureen Lamb - Holy Cross, Bronx  
 Mrs. Mary Sandoz - St. Rita's, L.I. City  
 Harold Nielsen - Resurrection Grammar, Rye  
 Rev. John Podsiadlo - Nativity Mission, NYC  
 Theresa Wilbekin, Sr. Leticia Aviles,  
 and Sr. Julia Berdugo - Immaculate Conception, Bronx  
 Victoria Boreanaz & Margaret Abels - Nardin Academy Elem,  
 Buffalo  
 Theresa Attianese Desposit - Queen of All Saints, Brooklyn  
 Charles D. Engel - Our Lady of Sorrows, New York  
 Mrs. Catherine Mizzi-Gili - St. Christopher's, Staten Island  
 Mrs. Agnes E. Maleakas - St. Thomas - Cornwall-On-Hudson



### CORRECTION FROM NOVEMBER'S NEWSLETTER:

Francis Foley is the Headmaster for St. Gregory's, Loudonville

Since the CSAANYS forms did not reach all of our participants, some filled out the basic SED form used with slight variations at all of their conferences. The responses are listed below:

1. Salon F: Experienced Principals was very helpful. Do it every year!
2. The presenters were excellent and most expert in their fields. Do it again.
3. The Lieut. Governor was okay but spoke too long.
4. Salon F: Best session I attended regarding options A, B, and C. offered by the Regents. It added much to my knowledge and for my school. (Al Noor School)
5. The Lieut. Governor was too personalized, too long, vague and non-specific.

### CRUCIAL COURT DECISION SOON

The Supreme Court will, within the next month, take up the question of the Constitutionality of government aid to religious schools. At issue is the provision of educational materials, specifically computers, software, library books and other items included under Title VI (formerly Chapter 2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Over 10 years ago, suit was brought by 2 public school parents in Jefferson Parish, LA. They contended that materials, including textbooks and busing, provided to students at Catholic Schools and other religious schools violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

The Supremes are taking up this matter because, while the district court in Louisiana struck down the provision of materials to religious schools, the federal district court in California, in a similar matter, upheld it. Thus, while the Supremes sidestepped aid to religious schools earlier this Fall, they have to take it up when two federal district courts disagree.

In the meantime, it is imperative that we restrict the use of any and all materials provided by any government organization to their lawfully intended use. Furthermore, please make sure, when ordering books and materials, that they have no nature other than secular, including content and use.

### NPS ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE, YEAR #15

October 25 and 26, brought some 300 administrators of all stripes to the capital region for the fifteenth annual conference. This year, the Commissioner, instead of attending an open meeting of the Advisory Council, met with attendees for about an hour and fielded questions from the floor. Participants queried Commissioner Mills on matters ranging from the "pirating" of teachers by public school districts to standards to high schools' participation in new graduation requirements.

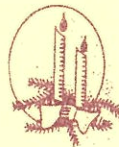
Lieutenant Governor Mary Donahue addressed the audience on her initiatives regarding safe schools, and then participants heard about two private initiatives for providing scholarships.

The CSAANYS Executive Board presented two panels: board members Margaret Henshaw, Sister Katherine Hanrahan, Sister Nancy McNulty and Frank Kamp provided a panel for new administrators, and Sister Cordata Kelly, Rebecca Reeder, Sister Kathryn Arseneau and Sister James Patrick Kavanaugh presented a panel for "veterans". CSAANYS Executive Director, Sister Carol Cimino did a presentation on legal aspects of hiring and firing.

Approximately 150 attendees toasted CSAANYS' health at the annual reception for CSAANYS members and friends held in the CSAANYS suite at the Marriott Hotel. Sister Joanne Callahan, superintendent of the diocese of Rockville Center, and Rabbi Martin Schloss, outgoing chair of the Commissioner's Advisory Council, were honored at the Monday evening banquet.



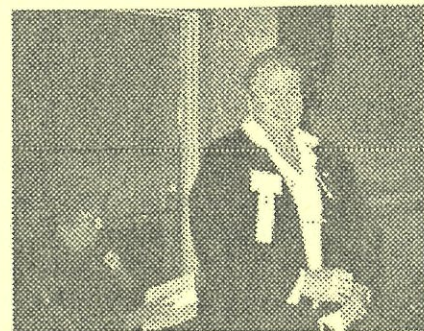
Sister Katherine Hanrahan, principal of Our Lady of Grace School in Corona, was part of a panel for new principals.



Betty Allard of St. Augustine's, Troy, is excited about winning a door prize at the CSAANYS reception; as her sister, Sister Annette looks on.



Sister Nora Gatto (left), principal of Rome Catholic HS, enjoys a glass of wine with Sister Marilyn Dudek and Sister Diane Marie Szylkowski from Buffalo.



Sister James Patrick Kavanaugh, principal of Mary Star of the Sea School, Bronx and CSAANYS board member, moderated a panel for new principals.

