Catholic Principals’ Association of Tasmania

Newsletter

June 2015

There is no doubt that a day in the life of a Principal can be a roller coaster ride. It can be stressful, highly demanding and at the same time incredibly rewarding. One thing that you can guarantee is that no one day will be the same.

As these days fly by, and we reach the half way point in the school year we note and wish the following Principals a wonderful break time away from school in Term 3: Mary Turnock, Stuart Kelly, Cameron Brown, Craig Deayton and Clynton Scharvi.

At our Term 2 CCEL Meeting we farewelled Jo Craddock. Jo has decided to explore other options in Catholic Education, outside the principalship. We wish her well and very much hope she enjoys the opportunities that will come her way!

We also take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the following Term 3, Acting Principals: Rachel Kelly: Corpus Christi, Jo Jordan: St Paul’s, Matt Kean: St Therese’s, Eamonn Pollard: Sacred Heart, New Town, Mary Wall: Our Lady of Mercy, Stewart Farr: Our Lady of Lourdes.

By its nature being a Principal often means that you are supporting others and rarely looking after yourself. For this reason the recent retreat at Freycinet from all accounts was an outstanding success and a valuable investment in Principal Wellbeing. The following article by Brent Wilson emphasises again the importance of positive professional and social support.

The Executive note and record with appreciation the outstanding work undertaken by Sarah Slade that has been the driving force behind much of what has been achieved this term.

It’s a boy – Hot off the press is receipt of the news from Sarah that she and Ben, together with proud big brother Hamish are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Owen on 26 June 2015. Flowers and congratulatory messages are being sent to Sarah on the Association’s behalf.

SNAPSHOT of CPAT AGENDA ITEMS from Term 2, 2015:

1. CPAT Honorary Fellowship Award Criteria amended to include Honorary Fellowships.
2. Work on redrafting the CPAT Constitution continues. The most recent draft will be circulated for discussion at the 31 July CCEL meeting.

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Our Next Meetings:

PECCS:
Meetings in recess

CPAT Executive Meetings:
23 July 2015 – 4pm to 5pm (TCEO Conference Room)
29 October 2015 – 4pm to 5pm (TCEO Conference Room)

CPAT Dinners:
Launceston – 29 July 2015
Including presentations of the:
• 2015 CaSPA Faith and Mission Scholarship
• Kate O’Driscoll Aspiring Leadership Award 2015 by Dance Fever
Hobart – 3 November 2015

CPAT Ordinary Meetings:
30 July 2015, St Thomas More’s
Including presentation by Woods Furniture
4 November 2015, MacKillop Website: www.cpat.tas.edu.au
Update from the CPAT Executive

The work undertaken and meetings held to consider the proposed structural changes to the current Principal Salary Model have led to the Director, John Mula proposing an holistic Review of Catholic Principalship in the Archdiocese of Hobart. This proposal was unanimously supported. A Working Party comprising:

Chair: Sean Gill
Project Officer: Lynden Leppard
TCEO Members: Sandra Harvey
           Paul Adams
           Anne Rybak
           Peter Douglas
CPAT Members: Elaine Doran
           Tom Dorey
           Bernie Brooks
           Cameron Brown
           Anne Foale
Admin Support: Jacquie Mayne

has now been established. The first meeting of the Working Party will take place on 23 July. The Executive will keep members informed of any significant developments.

CPAT FOCUS for 2015

The central focus of CPAT in 2015 is around Principal Wellbeing and how best to support Principals in their roles.

The 2015 CPAT retreat, held on 4 – 5 June and in particular the exploration of Ignatian Spirituality, facilitated by Fr Richard Ross fulfilled this brief magnificently.

Richard’s skilful tutorage emphasised how Ignatian Spirituality is a spirituality for everyday life, and that by adapting the spiritual exercises of Ignatius we can continue to build a personal relationship with Jesus and an active life of service to others.

All of us came away with a commitment to build upon the foundational understandings of Ignatian Spirituality provided at the Retreat and to having a realistic and grateful understanding of ourselves. It was a wonderful reminder that God is present in our world and active in our lives.

The articles submitted by Fran Bearman, Anita Cunningham and Christina Gretton are another reminder of how unique and special we all are and provide an insight as to their passions and leadership style.

Please continue to keep the Executive informed of any emerging issues and keep abreast of all that is happening by reviewing the agendas and minutes available via the secure Principal’s Login Facility on our website: www.cpat.tas.edu.au.

We take this opportunity also to thank our generous sponsors for their ongoing support of the Association.

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Renewal Leave Highlights…
*Article by Brent Wilson*

In 2014 I was fortunate enough to enjoy Renewal Leave for the second time.

In 2009 I experienced Renewal Leave for the first time. The first opportunity was delayed as our school was in the midst of a major building project and soon to be BER project. In 2009 I travelled across three continents and visited 7 different countries with Mark Workman. Mark and I spent time in almost 40 schools and with a number of System Administrators.

2014 was an altogether different experience for me as almost all of my Renewal Leave was experienced without a colleague Principal. As a social learner I soon discovered that this time there would be more opportunities to sit back and absorb the view and reflect on all that happened in my career and think ahead to what lay in the future. In the true spirit of the word, 2014 was an opportunity to re-TREAT on Renewal Leave.

In late 2014 I was asked to present to the Greater Northern Principal colleagues something about Renewal Leave. For the purposes of his articles I will share “some of my key learnings” rather than all of that infamous presentation. Within the course of Renewal Leave I spent significant time kayaking and walking, hence the title of my presentation

“Hiking the Trail…… 10 Lessons I’ve learnt…..”

✓ Lesson 1: “Use your map, follow the map, but remember all detours.”
✓ Lesson 2: “Don’t forget to look up….and down”
✓ Lesson 3: “Don’t confuse the path with your purpose”
✓ Lesson 4: “Drink your water”
✓ Lesson 5: “Remember the small is not insignificant”
✓ Lesson 6: “Find a good rock”
✓ Lesson 7: “We’re in the space of in between”
✓ Lesson 8: “Be careful of what you carry.”
✓ Lesson 9: “Pay attention”
✓ Lesson 10: “You’re never really alone.”

Renewal Leave circa 2014 included two very significant PL experiences. The first was the Canadian Principals’ Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada. The second one was in Melbourne at the Thinking and Learning Conference. In between I was booked to attend a Coaching Course on Vancouver Island, Canada. This course was cancelled (late) so I was able to enjoy a few days kayaking.

Finally I would suggest any one who is preparing for Renewal Leave ask what others are doing, prepare for the un-expected, take on any experience as an opportunity and “build in some me time”.

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Questions for New Principal Bio’s:
Fran Bearman

1. If you were a cartoon character, which one would you be and why?
   Pebbles from the Flintstones. My Dad always called me Pebbles and my brother was Bam Bam.

2. As a child, what did you wish to become when you grew up?
   I always, always wanted to be a teacher.

3. If you could eliminate one thing from your daily schedule, what would it be and why?
   Emails as they take so much time!

4. Which letter of the alphabet describes you best?
   C for calm 😊

5. If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?
   Smile…it makes people wonder what you’ve been up to!

6. Name one thing that drives you crazy.
   Inequality

7. What’s the one thing you can’t live without?
   My family

8. If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day? Or who would you like to exchange roles with?
   I would love to be the Governor of Tasmania and swap roles with Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania.

9. What do you do to have fun?
   Watch a movie or have a coffee with friends. Go shopping!

10. What’s your motto in life?
    You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar and treat others the way you want to be treated.
Questions for New Principal Bio's:
Anita Cunningham, Principal, St Anthony's Catholic School,

1. If you were a cartoon character, which one would you be and why?
   Road Runner: He is quick, clever and gets out of trouble!

2. As a child, what did you wish to become when you grew up?
   A teacher

3. If you could eliminate one thing from your daily schedule, what would it be and why?
   Emails!!

4. Which letter of the alphabet describes you best?
   B…. Be Happy, be generous, be kind, be yourself

5. If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?
   Oops! That’s not what I meant!

6. Name one thing that drives you crazy.
   My hair on windy days

7. What’s the one thing you can’t live without?
   My bike (oh…. My husband and my kids and my family and my friends….)

8. If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day? Or who would you like to exchange roles with?
   Neil Armstrong the day he first saw the Earth from Space

9. What do you do to have fun?
   Ride my bike, read books, meet friends, laugh a lot

10. What’s your motto in life?
    Don’t be so serious… It’s not like we will get out of here alive!
Questions for New Principal Bio’s:
Christina Gretton, Principal, St Joseph’s Catholic School, Queenstown

1. If you were a cartoon character, which one would you be and why?
   Tweetie Bird – small but mighty

2. As a child, what did you wish to become when you grew up?
   PE Teacher

3. If you could eliminate one thing from your daily schedule, what would it be and why?
   Junk emails – they waste time

4. Which letter of the alphabet describes you best?
   T for Team Work

5. If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?
   Diary of a Rookie (not Wimpy) Principal

6. Name one thing that drives you crazy?
   Mess and things not lined up properly

7. What’s the one thing you can’t live without?
   Routine

8. If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day? Or who would you like to exchange roles with?
   Wonder Woman - I’d like her golden lasso of truth and to be able to send people to Transformation Island

9. What do you do to have fun?
   Time with family & running

10. What’s your motto in life?
    Conquer fear by risking failure
Photo’s from CPAT Retreat…
4 - 5 June 2015
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