Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back!!!

On behalf of CPAT, I wish to extend a warm welcome back to all principals in 2015 and particularly to the new principals joining us, Christina Gretton (St Joseph’s Catholic School, Queenstown), Fran Bearman (John Paul II Catholic School, Rokeby) and Anita Cunningham (St Anthony’s Catholic School, Riverside).

The purpose of CPAT is to act as a forum for and the voice of Tasmanian Catholic Principals on matters of common interest to all members. We operate under four pillars, Curriculum, Principal Wellbeing, Professional Learning and Association which members of CPAT have established as the foundations of the Association.

Don’t forget to check out our website at: www.cpat.tas.edu.au

Our Next Meetings:
PECCS:
Tuesday, 28th April 2015
2.30pm, TCEO Conference Room.

CPAT Executive Meeting:
Tuesday, 5th May 2015
1.30pm, TCEO Conference Room.

CPAT Dinner:
Wednesday, 13th May 2015
7pm, TBA, Devonport.
Including presentation of CaSPA Faith and Mission Scholarship

CPAT Ordinary Meeting:
Thursday, 14th May 2015
8am, St Patricks Catholic School, Latrobe.

Update from PECCS:

In relation to the proposed Principal Salary Model that places a greater emphasis on Principal Experience rather than School Size, I can report that PECCS continues to make progress, although somewhat slow, with the TCEO. As outlined in my email to all Principals on 31st March 2015, The TCEO have some concerns regarding the effect of the model on individual Principal salaries. In particular their concerns relate to a small number of principals whose individual salaries while they increase over a 5 year period, do not increase at the current rate of 2% that is enjoyed by the Principal group under the current arrangement. In addition, they are concerned about the additional salary expenditure.

It is important to ask however, whether a true structural change can be affected without some (albeit small) impact on individual Principal Salaries. I once again invite any principals who have any concerns regarding the above to approach me directly to discuss and examine the effect of the proposed model on their individual salary.

Our next PECCS Meeting is on 28th April 2015 and the TCEO (via Anne Rybak) have agreed to present the proposed model over the 5 year period of adoption (without the 2% escalation factor) and will compare this to a simple 2% salary adjustment over the same time frame.

I will endeavour to keep you all fully informed as to the outcome of this meeting and what is discussed.

Proudly supported in 2015 by:
Update from the CPAT Executive

On behalf of the CPAT Executive, I am pleased to report that once again we have had a very productive start to the year. It is fantastic that the Executive Committee for 2015 comprises representation from the North West, North and South with 4 secondary principals and 6 primary principals. For the first time in a number of years, we certainly are a true representation of all Tasmanian Catholic Principals!

Just a reminder that all agendas and minutes for past CPAT Executive Meetings, CPAT Executive Meetings with the TCEO Director, CPAT Ordinary Meetings and PECCS Meetings with the TCEO Director are available via the secure Principals’ Login Facility on our website www.cpat.tas.edu.au. These documents provide an up to date and accurate representation of issues being tabled and discussed on your behalf. Please take the time to review and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or have any agenda items that you wish to raise with the Executive or the TCEO Director.

CPAT FOCUS for 2015
The central focus of CPAT in 2015 will be around Principal Wellbeing and the formulation of a CPAT Care Team – we look forward to workshopping with all available CPAT Members at the CPAT Ordinary Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3rd June 2015, at 4pm at Freycinet, just prior to the start of the CPAT Retreat. The workshop will be facilitated by our President Stuart Kelly and allow for open discussion and collaboration as to the best way to support our fellow Principals in their roles.

SNAPSHOT of CPAT AGENDA ITEMS from Term 1, 2015:
1. Finalisation of the CPAT Retreat focussing on the theme of the Ignation Spiritual Conviction – that God is active and above all present in all of us is well underway, we are thrilled to have Father Richard Ross join us to facilitate the Retreat.
2. We received strong interest in the Kate O’Driscoll Aspiring Leadership Awards. Applications have now closed and a small delegation of the CPAT Executive will meet on Thursday, 23rd April 2015 to consider the applications and will advise all applicants as to the outcome of their applications shortly thereafter.
3. On behalf of the CPAT Executive I am in the process of reviewing the CPAT Constitution. We will be tabling an amended version for discussion at the next CPAT Ordinary Meeting on Thursday, 14th May 2015.
4. Once again, we have prepared the Principals’ Induction Package for 2015 and in early Term 2, a representative from the CPAT Executive will meet with each of our new Principals to present the valuable information that forms the package. For the benefit of our more experienced Principals, we have also included links to this valuable information on our website (www.cpat.tas.edu.au) in the secure Principals’ login facility.
5. The CPAT Honour Board was revealed to a warm reception in the TCEO Seminar Room on Tuesday, 24th February 2015 during a lovely afternoon tea enjoyed by many past and present Principals.
6. A small delegation of the CPAT Executive (and Bobby Court) met with the National CaSPA Executive in Launceston at St Patrick’s College on Sunday 1st March 2015. The meeting was well received and proved very valuable in discussing the common issues affecting all Catholic Schools around Australia. Details of the issues discussed can be found at: www.caspa.edu.au/blog/caspa-board-meets-with-tasmanian-executive
7. An inaugural meeting of CaSPA State Executive Officers and Presidents was held at Melbourne Airport on Monday, 23rd March 2015. CPAT was represented at the meeting by Sarah Slade and Tom Dorey and once again canvassed many issues of mutual interest. Details of the issues discussed can be found at: www.caspa.edu.au/blog/inaugural-meeting-of-state-executive-officers-and-presidents

Proudly supported in 2015 by:
An exciting School Initiative…

Loose Parts Play

Article by Matt Jones (Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Launceston)

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is on the edge of the central business district of Launceston. Our school has a small oval to cater for the 450 students and historically the school has had to be creative in how the spaces in the school have been used.

We have basketball courts, running paths, an oval as well as a Gymnasium (thanks B.E.R.). At the same time there are students in our school that these spaces do not suit their preferred styles of play.

We know there is significant research around the importance of self directed, creative and natural play for children. We know that it has a positive impact on physical, mental and emotional well-being. We know that this has a direct impact on academic and more formal learning across the school day and year. Rather than having adults create playground equipment they think children will respond to, there is an increasing focus on allowing students to determine how they play and use natural spaces and loose parts provided for them.

Two recent developments have created growing excitement within our school community in further supporting our students and providing greater opportunities for creative and loose parts play.

The first, thanks to the donation from parents within the school has been the addition of a small sandpit, large tree branches (that require more than one person to move), sawn tree trunk pieces and some loose parts items (small tools, pots etc.) to an area outside our Grade 1 and 2 classrooms.

The impact and engagement of the students was immediate. Students, who would normally not engage in cooperative play, did! Students who would often be involved in solitary play, joined in! There were no instructions; no directing what or how they would use the natural items just their own creativity.

The second development is in collaboration with the University of Tasmania School of Architecture. Through discussions between Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and the School of Architecture a brief was created to develop a portable ‘Playbox’ that could be used in our school with a focus on ‘Loose Parts Play’.

The Playbox would be positioned on a trailer, be compacted to move but expand and extend out sections once on site. Milk crates would store loose parts, the Playbox itself would have some other loose parts items like pipes, tubing, ropes, witches hats and the like for students to utilise and explore their play with. The portability of the Playbox could enable the school to move the trailer to different locations around the school according to need as well as respond to different physical aspects of different parts of our playground.

Through a design process the School of Architecture has finalised a design that they are now going to build. As part of this process they will be able to observe our students using and playing with the Playbox once it is on site. This will help evolve the prototype based on data the student’s play provides.

The potential for this Playbox to support school communities in creative play in existing playgrounds without outlaying large funds is genuine. (The Playbox prototype is just around $8,000 to build compared with the cost of purpose built play equipment!).

We are looking forward to having our students teach us more about how they like to play and hopefully being able to support this in the design of our playground into the future.

Proudly supported in 2015 by:
Renewal Leave Highlights...

FROM OUR SELF-GUIDED PILGRIMAGE OF IRELAND in 2012

Article by Joy Matar (Principal, St Brigid’s Catholic School, New Norfolk) and Elizabeth McDougall (Principal, St Cuthberts Catholic School, Lindisfarne)

GLENDALOUD – the home of St Kevin
Early Medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th Century, Co. Wicklow

Glendalough or Glendaloch GLEN-dahl-LOKH; Irish: Gleann Dá Loch, meaning "glen of two lakes") is a glacial valley in County Wicklow, Ireland. It is renowned for its Early Medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St Kevin, a hermit priest, and partly destroyed in 1398 by English troops.

Kevin, a descendant of one of the ruling families in Leinster, studied as a boy under the care of three holy men, Eoghan, Lochan, and Eanna. During this time, he went to Glendalough. He was to return later, with a small group of monks to found a monastery where the "two rivers form a confluence". Kevin's writings discuss his fighting "knights" at Glendalough; scholars today believe this refers to his process of self-examination and his personal temptations.[1] His fame as a holy man spread and he attracted numerous followers. He died in about 618. For six centuries afterwards, Glendalough flourished. The Book of Glendalough was written there about 1131. In 1214, the dioceses of Glendalough and Dublin were united. From that time onwards, the cultural and ecclesiastical status of Glendalough diminished. The destruction of the settlement by English forces in 1398 left it a ruin but it continued as a church of local importance and a place of pilgrimage.

Amidst this beautiful, tranquil Irish setting, we explored the Monastic Centre and the Cathedral where St Kevin's Cross is located, walked passed the waterfall to St Kevin's Cell and the remains of other churches on the site: St Kevin's Church, St Kieran's Church, St Mary's of Our Lady's Church, Trinity Church, St Saviour's Church, Reffert Church. We spent a quiet time of contemplation at the site of St Kevin's cell on a hillside overlooking the lake. Other points of interest included the Caher and St Kevin's Bed, a cave in the rock face which was reputedly a retreat for St Kevin; partly man-made it runs back into the rock for about two metres.

The present remains in Glendalough tell only a small part of its story. The monastery in its heyday included workshops, areas for manuscript writing and copying, guesthouses, an infirmary, farm buildings and dwellings for both the monks and a large lay population. The buildings, which survive probably date from between the 10th and 12th centuries.

St Kevin's story has many similarities to the lifestyle of St Cuthbert - quiet, monastic, contemplative, hermitic and someone reluctant to lead.

WATERFORD

The well-designed and interesting Edmund Rice Centre with its striking garden statue and stain glass window, Edmund Rice's tomb and chapel and very informative and interesting museum was well worth the visit.

But additionally there is a factory, which specialises in quality crystal - easily sold, packaged and insured and shipped to a small island on the other side of the world, the products arriving with 2 weeks. Needless to say we took advantage of this wonderful service.

Proudly supported in 2015 by:

- MSP Photography
- Catholic
- Dance Fever
- Woods
- The Old Store
NANO NAGLE’S CORK

Our aim was to follow the self-guided tour of Nano Nagle’s Cork prepared by Sr Majella Kelly. On a mild, sunny, autumn morning we made our way towards its starting point, South Presentation Convent, stopping along the way at St Finn Barr’s Church in Dunbar St, where an original Nano Icon is housed. Here we came across the Parish Priest who had just finished the 10am Mass (it was 10.20am). He insisted on taking us to the nearby convent to meet the Sisters – after all we had come all the way from Tasmania!

We met Sr Patricia who made sure we stayed for tea and fresh scones before taking us out into the convent garden, through the Nun’s Cemetery to Nano’s grave. She gave each of us a Holy Prayer Card with which to touch the grave for a special intention.

We were then invited into the Heritage Centre where we met Sr Carmel, an incredible woman who had entered the Convent at seventeen and taught in secondary schools in Cork, then spent time in South America before returning to Ireland to serve in an administrative role for the Order. Sr Carmel showed us through the History Room – where many of Nano’s personal items are on display. These include rosary beads, a chalice – which could be dismantled to be hidden away, other Mass items, her bonnet, with bits out of it, because the Sisters had taken pieces of it to keep after her death, her will, her crucifix – and from after her re-burial some of her hair, teeth and crushed bones!

The annals of the Order were outstanding – handwritten, almost in the style of the Book of Kells, complete with gilt borders, illuminations and illustrations throughout.

Sr Carmel offered to escort us through the old city of Cork herself – Majella’s self-guiding manual was quickly put away! We were certainly very privileged to have this experience.

The city of Old Cork was bordered by South Presentation and North Presentation Convents and the work of Nano was to minister to the poor who lived there. We ambled through the small, dismal streets of this overcrowded city. Sr Carmel showed us where the original (and still existing) laneways were and how narrow they were throughout the old city while explaining the dire poverty of its inhabitants! You could even smell the pungent odour of overcrowding that still lingered where we walked. As we explored Sr Carmel shared with us some of her stories of Nano – who she helped here and there and where she would have stopped, at her peril, to offer assistance by day or, at night with her lantern.

We walked through the city to the Cathedral of St Finn Barr (now operated as Church of Ireland). This is awe-inspiring, particularly the Baptismal Font and the ceiling. Then further on to North Presentation Convent, where we meet many more of the Sisters. This building had been recently renovated and will probably end up as a nursing home. We were shown Nano’s Door – complete with an opening grate – which Nano would have used to see who was there, or give a response to a request. It is now the custom to knock on the door in prayer/petition, which we of course did. It is planned that once the door is repaired it will be re-located in the Heritage Centre.

Our day did not run as we had planned, but was so much more. Sr Carmel gave up her time freely to share with us her deep knowledge and admiration of Nano. She provided us with life-long memories, affirmed our role as Principals of Presentation Schools in Tasmania and she paved our way for our visit to the Nagle home site at Ballygriffin the following day.

Proudly supported in 2015 by:
1st - 9th AUGUST, 2015

The **Week of Tastes** is an interactive and multi-faceted program providing curriculum based activities and learning opportunities for Grade 4 students. **Week of Tastes** believes children need to be able to recognize and appreciate the tastes and flavours of those foods which provide a healthy balanced diet. With this understanding, plus an appropriate and rich language, students will be better equipped to make smarter food choices.

**Participating in sensory exercises your students will:**

- Learn how to use their 5 senses through actual contact with food - *experiential learning and active participation*
- Become less fearful of trying new and unknown foods - *overcome food neophobia*
- Improve their food literacy - *develop a rich vocabulary*

**Your class will be visited by a local food professional** to hear their story and the importance of eating food which tastes good. This experience helps the children to:

- Directly connect food "messages" with REAL people - *community involvement and learning about food careers*
- Focus on enjoyment of eating and sharing of food (a message often forgotten in the "how to eat healthy" messages) – *conviviality*
- Develop new and positive associations with food - *smart food choices*
- Offer an experience of diverse culinary cultures - *acknowledgement of different food customs and cultures*

To **REGISTER** your interest visit [www.weekoftastes.com.au](http://www.weekoftastes.com.au) OR

Contact [helen@weekoftastes.com.au](mailto:helen@weekoftastes.com.au)