



President's Comment 35

13th November 2009

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ICP Principals' Survey

Alternative Education

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Symposium 2010, Audit of Principals Remuneration, 3R Payments, National Aspiring Principals Programme

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ERO Workshops

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Meetings update with ERO, Ministry & Secretary for Education

Comment 28 - 10.09.09

NZ Schools' Trustees Association special Audit

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Dear Colleagues

Senior prizegiving season is well and truly upon most of us and I wish you all well for these important occasions where the school community comes together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students. I am always impressed with the prize-winners at our school—they are incredibly talented, intelligent, confident young people and there are many others almost as good who don't perhaps get the special recognition they deserve. They are excellent ambassadors for the youth of today and will, no doubt, go on to success in tertiary studies and in their chosen careers, and be fantastic members of their communities. I am sure you will all see the same desirable qualities in the majority of your students and now is the time to enjoy and share their success.

The media would have us all believe that the majority of our youth of today are binge drinking, drug users, disrespectful, text message addicted boy/girl racers who are illiterate, innumerate and have questionable tastes in music and dress-sense. Similar sentiments were expressed in the 1970s, the 1950s, and probably the 1850s. I use every opportunity to promote a positive image of the students we have in our schools and I think it is something we all have to do on a regular basis. Sure there are some who let us down and attract media attention—often for matters that are hardly news worthy. We need to remind our communities that the really important people in our schools are the compliant majority—the responsible, respectful, thoughtful, caring confident young adults who enrich our lives and give so much enjoyment to us. Our prizegiving ceremonies give us an excellent opportunity to celebrate some truly important people.

SPANZ Union

As part of the strategy for the collective agreement negotiations next year, SPANZ Union has contracted the services of Tom Robson (Life Member of SPANZ) as a union coordinator to assist in the process of preparing a claim. Tom will be surveying members within the next week on union related matters.

A further meeting has also been arranged with NZSPC to work through issues relating to establishing a working relationship in developing a claim.

Peter Gall

President