2016 principal professional learning – international opportunities

As principals consider their 2016 professional learning plans, LEA wishes to advise of two international opportunities which come with LEA financial support. These are as follows:

- **2016 Asia Lutheran Education Association Conference**
  This conference will be held at Concordia, Hanoi Vietnam (15-18 September 2016) with the opening and dedication of the new buildings / campus for Concordia coinciding with the conference. Delegates from many Asia Pacific Lutheran schools, as well as the USA and Australia, will be in attendance. The conference theme will be advised when LEA is notified.

- **2016 Lutheran Education Association (USA) Convocation**
  Under the theme *Grow*, the LEA Convocation will be held in the DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan USA (13-15 October 2016). More information is available at: [http://www.lea.org/Events/2016LEAConvocation.aspx](http://www.lea.org/Events/2016LEAConvocation.aspx)

Please make contact with your respective regional director by Friday, 16 October 2015 to confirm your interest. NLT will consider applicants and provide financial support for three principals (one from each region) to attend each of these 2016 international Lutheran education conferences. Dependent on each applicant principal’s (and school’s) circumstances, LEA may provide at least 50% support to assist attendance. Priority will be given to principals who have not previously received LEA financial support for international conferences.

NAPLAN online

At its last meeting, NLT resolved that Lutheran schools would participate in the 2016 NAPLAN online trial. LEA has written to Robyn Ziino (Director, Communications and Strategic Relations, ACARA), and Alex Gordon (Group Manager, Evidence and Assessment Group, Department of Education, Canberra), to confirm the participation of Lutheran schools, requesting assurances that no Lutheran school student nor school will be disadvantaged due to this NAPLAN online participation and to request information to enable schools to make adequate preparations.

August 2015 census

The federal Department of Education has confirmed Lutheran school 2015 census figures as follows:
2015 census 40224.6 students (cf. 2014 census 39764.1 students). This indicates a 1.2% increase.

Interestingly the LEA average enrolment growth from 2012 to 2015 was 1.9%. Since records have been kept the average annual increase (1983-2015) has been 4.34%. This places the past four years as the least growth years in the past 32 years, a trend evident across much of the independent sector as well.

2015 LCA General Synod

The 2015 LCA General Synod will be held from 30 September to 4 October at Redeemer Lutheran College, Brisbane. LEA wishes to acknowledge David Radke (Redeemer Principal) and his team for the support they have been, and will, give to the LCA for this important event.

LEA is able to nominate six synod delegates (one primary and one secondary principal per region). The principal delegates are as follows:
LEA acknowledges these six principals for their commitment to the LCA. Additionally, NLT will attend synod as well as the majority of the Board for Lutheran Education Australia. Prior to synod, BLEA will meet at the LEQ offices. Thank you also to LEQ for your support for these meetings.

**Teachers.on.net**

In the year 2000, Lutheran Education Australia negotiated a national subscription for all Lutheran schools with Teachers.on.net (TON) for the advertising of staff vacancies in our schools. This agreement has proven to be a huge success over the years and has continued to this day. The national agreement has enabled LEA to negotiate a substantial discount.

The aim of using the TON facility is to ensure all vacancies in Lutheran schools are accessible in one place. Principals are asked to promote the TON site amongst staff in their schools.

The TON subscription enables schools to advertise as many vacancies as they wish each year. The annual subscription is very economical and ranges from $288 for a school with an enrolment under 60 to $720 for a school with enrolments over 1200 [based on 2013/2014 subscription rates which are due for renegotiation in first half of 2015]. The TON subscription features include:

- a template for each school containing background information about the school, school crest/logo and links to the school website
- 24 hour/day, 7 days/week log in access to the TON site which enables schools to upload vacancy details at any time
- vacancy advertisements go live immediately on the LEA website and www.teachers.on.net
- all leadership / executive positions are also placed in the eLeader publication
- TON education, training and support – simply call 1800 003 202

The cost to advertise via print media would, in many cases, be more than the annual TON subscription for just one advertisement. Consequently the TON agreement represents a significant savings for all schools.

LEA understands that for some positions, schools will choose to also advertise via other means, however, the expectation is that all vacancies will be included in the TON site regardless of whether they are promoted elsewhere.

**Click here to view details of current vacancies in Lutheran schools**

**Click here to subscribe to the eLeader publication**

**Work-Applied Learning for Change Conference**

Global Centre for Work Applied Learning and our third Conference on *Work-Applied Learning for Change* will be held at the Hilton Adelaide on the 17-18 November 2015.

The conference will involve presentations and group discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to reflect on their own practices and organizational projects / programs with the concepts and practices introduced. It would be very relevant for Lutheran education leaders – directors, principals and leadership teams. The participant number for the conference is restricted to only 100 to ensure maximum benefits for all who attend.

For registration and further information please contact the conference coordinator – Email conference@wal.global, Tel 08 7325 1323
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<tr>
<th>LEA Assistant Director: Formation [Anne Dohnt]</th>
<th>National school pastor/chaplains conference</th>
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<td>Last week over 60 ministry personnel and Christian Studies leaders and teachers gathered in Mooroolbark for the National School Pastor/Chaplains Conference.</td>
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<td>The participants were inspired and challenged by the keynotes, Rowan Lewis and Professor David Tacey, who each spoke about spirituality today and provided significant insights for working with young people and adults. Dr Jill Gowdie shared her deep understanding of the way formation is entwined in developing leadership capacity in Christian schools.</td>
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<td>We also had the opportunity to experience some of the gifts of the many gifted people in Lutheran education through the electives. The sharing times provided the opportunity to share the joys and challenges of work as school pastors, chaplains, pastoral care and wellbeing coordinators as well as Christian Studies leaders and teachers. The PowerPoints from the keynotes and the elective sessions will be placed in the Ministry personnel and Christian Studies sections of the e-Library [<a href="http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/">http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/</a>].</td>
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<td>Thank you to the LEVNT region for organising such an excellent conference.</td>
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<th>LEA federal news</th>
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<td>Online NAPLAN testing better for students [2 September 2015]</td>
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<td>Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP has welcomed research which indicates that students have responded well to online NAPLAN testing rather than paper based. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) findings released today show the outcomes from three research activities related to NAPLAN online. Under the National Assessment Surveys Online Programme (NASOP) the Australian Government provided $9.2 million to ACARA undertake comprehensive research to underpin the development of NAPLAN online. Read the full media release</td>
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<th>AITSL eNews [26 August 2015]</th>
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<td>'Demonstrating evidence of impact' is a phrase that’s increasingly heard in discussions around quality in education. This issue of eNews joins the debate with a position paper on initial teacher education that seeks responses from the profession and we have views from a practising Principal in a guest blog. There’s also a new set of real life videos that exemplify teaching practices for classroom readiness. In addition, Professor John Hattie tackles the issue of a year’s worth of progress for a year’s worth of schooling and mounts some stimulating arguments about what works and doesn’t work in education. And, of course, there’s even more for you in this major issue of eNews. Read the full eNews</td>
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<th>Tempers flare as religious instruction classes get the axe [The educator, 25 August 2015]</th>
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<td>The Victorian Government’s decision to remove Special Religious Instruction (SRI) from regular class time as of next year has drawn the ire of religious providers, who warn that the state’s schools will face an exodus of students as a result. Chaplaincy organisation, Access Ministries, is the main provider of religious instruction. Its spokesman, Rob Ward, said the decision had eroded “equality and opportunity” for students. &quot;The decision seems to emphasise secularism at the expense of faith,” Ward told The Age, adding state school parents who could not afford, or chose not to send their children to faith-based schools would suffer. Under the changes, weekly 30-minute SRI classes will be moved to lunch time or before and after school, making way for new content on world histories, cultures, faiths and ethics, and respectful relationship education. Read the full article</td>
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<th>Pyne launches Learning Potential App [21 August 2015]</th>
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<td>The Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, today launched a great new mobile app to encourage parents to get more involved in their</td>
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children’s education. Mr Pyne said the free Learning Potential app is available to download now on Android and Apple devices, and is packed full of great articles and informative videos, tips and suggestions. “The Learning Potential app offers inspiring ways for parents to become more engaged in their children’s learning at any age – from high chair to high school,” Mr Pyne said.

Read the full media release

**Independent schools are top performers**

[20 August 2015]

The Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) has issued the second in a series of evidence-based infographics affirming the value of independent schooling.

AHISA’s first infographic presented research confirming academic ‘value adding’ by independent schools out to Year 12. The second infographic illustrates data from the OECD’s 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012, which shows that students in independent schools rank with the world’s top performers. Students in Australian independent schools ranked second in the world in reading literacy, second in scientific literacy and sixth in mathematical literacy.

‘The OECD categorises Australia as a high-quality high-equity performer in PISA,’ said AHISA Chief Executive Mr Geoff Ryan. ‘Placing the raw mean results from independent schools surveyed for PISA among those for participating nations and economies, it is evident that independent schools are contributing substantially to Australia’s overall international ranking.’

Mr Ryan said it was important to note that the infographic compared raw mean scores only.

‘There is evidence that the socioeconomic background of students attending independent schools contributes to their high level of academic achievement,’ said Mr Ryan. ‘However, research on student academic achievement in Australia out to Year 12 shows that students at independent schools exceed beyond expectations, even after allowing for socio-economic background and for student ability.’

AHISA’s second infographic is titled **What the research evidence says:**