



March 2009

Independent Schools Education Association NZ

www.isea.org.nz

**REPRESENTING TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF IN
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

Welcome

Hi and welcome to our first e-newsletter for 2009.

This e-news is programmed to reach you in the week prior to the term break and we all wish you a satisfying Easter rest.

The year was launched with a flurry of media attention on independent schools. Most of the items focussed on the negative and to make matters worse many of the schools mainly refused to comment. As a result, a lot of misinformation was allowed to circulate in the 'news' vacuum. ISEA has met with fellow union leaders, ministers and other groups in an attempt to ensure that the facts about independent schools, as well as our position, are well known.

Recently, the new minister with responsibility for independent schools, [Hon. Heather Roy](#), confirmed the government's commitment to increasing the contribution to independent schools. [Click here to read](#) Heather Roy's Speech.

ISEA is concerned that just increasing the funding cap without targeting the extra money and that increase going into the school coffers. Whereas the scholarships would increase the rolls which CEO Grant Gillon actually viewed as a positive move. Particularly if the scholarship students were those that would not ordinarily attend an independent school.

However, any increase in independent school needs to flow through to reduce pressure on staff and provide teacher and support staff job security. And of course, any staff member that feels confident in their position can focus all their energies and professionalism on the students.

Look out for the launch of our new web based shopping site later in the term.

PS. This e-news includes pictures. If you cannot view the pics but wish to do so then you may wish to adjust your email account settings. A pdf file is also attached. To access past copies of our newsletters on the website, [Click here](#). Or to contact us email newsletter@ISEA.org.nz

From The President:

It has been interesting to observe the political scene over the past few months. The Government has been swift to implement a number of policies. Only time will tell of their effectiveness. We are encouraged by the decision to appoint Heather Roy, to the position of Associate Minister of Education with the specific oversight of independent schools among her various responsibilities. We are further encouraged

by the decision to allocate a further \$10 million to our schools, though the precise nature of that allocation has yet to be decided.

The Government has given instructions for departments to cut their expenditure by 10%. Under the circumstances of the current economy this would seem to be a sensible option, but it has created a climate of uncertainty in Wellington as to which projects are going to be cut and the implications that will have on state employees. We will keep you informed of the implications for our schools as soon as we are advised

In the meantime have a great holiday as you prepare for the second term.

Bruce Owen, President

Employment NEWS

Meal Breaks

This issue was covered in our February newsletter but is still creating concern around our schools. As from April 1, [\[Employment Relations \(Breaks, Infant Feeding and Other Matters\) Amendment \(08/58\)\]](#) the employer must provide the following breaks:

1. One 10 minute paid break and one unpaid 30 minutes meal break if the work period is from four to six hours. This applies to schools as well!
2. An extra 10 minutes paid rest break if your work period is from six to eight hours. And these breaks are repeated if you work longer than eight hours.



ISEA has received negative feedback from some schools about this new legislation but as one employer admitted recently, “the law is the law is the law”. The new legislation also requires employers to provide “appropriate facilities” for employees who wish to breastfeed or express milk. These breaks might be seen as inconvenient but can be easily complied with if duty and teaching timetables or rosters are developed to take these breaks into account.

For more information on models adopted by state schools [Click Here](#)

Interested in Health and Safety?



The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions provides FREE training to elected Health and Safety Representatives at Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 courses. These are available free to ISEA members and provide the knowledge and skills to perform the role effectively.

All courses are consecutive two day courses starting at 9.00am to 5.00pm. The courses are Department of Labour approved for employment leave. Contact your ISEA office for any queries.

If you register, both you and your employer will receive notification of a course date as they are organised in your region, approximately 28 days notice is given to both employer and the Health and Safety Representative.

Dates, venue and a course outline will be included in your invitation.

Due to the high demand for training, the CTU prioritises Health and Safety Representatives who have been registered on their database the longest.

Contact [ISEA](#) and arrange for us to register elected health and safety representatives, or [register direct on](http://training.worksafereps.org.nz) <http://training.worksafereps.org.nz>

If you have any difficulties in registering, email: reeneh@nzctu.org.nz

Upcoming Conferences

Check the [ISEA website](#) for upcoming conferences of interest including [NZBSA](#), [CTU Women's Conference](#), [SLANZA](#) and [Constanz 09](#).

Curriculum Support Days 2009



The PPTA and Ministry of Education sponsored Curriculum Support Days 2009 will be held at venues throughout NZ. Put it in your diaries now. The intent of the Curriculum Support Days is to assist principals and teachers in bringing together the different parts of the New Zealand curriculum within each specialist subject area.

The days will cover the curriculum from years 7 to 13, junior (Years 7-10) in the mornings and senior (Years 11-13) in the afternoons, but those participants who don't teach senior classes will be able to continue working on the junior curriculum in the afternoon.

[Click here to link to the PPTA page on Curriculum Support Days 2009](#). Keep watching this page for updates.

Click on the link below for the latest copy of the PPTA Newsletter that further explains the Curriculum Support Days 2009.

Watch for more information on format, dates and venues arriving at your school shortly.

[Click here for the latest Map of Venues and dates throughout NZ](#).

[Click here for PPTA Newsletter Number 2](#)

Benefits

Check out Card Plus' latest Fuel Card offer to ISEA members!

To print out the application form simply go to www.cardplus.co.nz, choose a benefit and log onto ISEA Member on the application form.

Membership

The more members that join ISEA the more services that we can provide to you. You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member. Please feel free to pass a copy to any other staff that you feel might be interested in joining ISEA. Or, you can pass them a membership subscription form. [Click here to access a membership form.](#)

The subscription period is for one year and can be deducted with each pay or if you prefer we can arrange payment by cheque or direct debit.

Correction to email address

If this e-newsletter has been incorrectly addressed simply reply to this email advising of the correction. Also, be aware that some spam filters remove email newsletters. newsletter@ISEA.org.nz

To unsubscribe

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act has taken effect. If you do not wish to receive our email newsletter about our website and other events, please [send an email](#) and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

NB. If you still wish to receive our emails you do not have to do anything

**Many thanks,
The Team at
Independent Schools Education Association NZ
newsletter@ISEA.org.nz**

Representing teaching and non-teaching staff in independent schools