

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

January-February 1996 Number 215

Council Members: American Montessori Society • Association of American Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S. • Christian Schools International • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12 • Solomon Schechter Day School Association • U.S. Catholic Conference • **Affiliated state organizations in:** Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

CSI Part of 25th Anniversary

As we celebrate CAPE's 25th anniversary, we continue our series of articles written by Directors of member organizations. This month's article is written by Sheri Dunham Haan, Executive Director of Christian Schools International, which is a founding member of CAPE.

CSI has 450 schools in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to advance Christian education and to support schools in their task of teaching students to know God and his world and to glorify him through obedient service.

CSI schools are known for their strong academic programs combined with thoroughly biblical education. The schools vary in size from 3000 to 20 students. Some are preschools only, though most have some combination of grades P-12. About 20% are high schools.

Christian Schools International has just celebrated its 75th anniversary. It continues to publish biblically-based teaching materials and textbooks for K-8, provides insurance and pension programs and tax-deferred annuities for member schools, and offers multiple services for school administrators and boards.

It looks forward to another 75 or more years of service, providing strong leadership and an outstanding roster of services to member and nonmember schools.

One-Stop Shopping

*By Sheri D. Haan
Executive Director, Christian Schools International*

I knew exactly what I wanted. The one that came with the house was a glaringly bad match. Neither the color nor the design fit the room. And so I began my search for a three-hole wall plate for a light switch. And I wanted burnished brass besides.

I immediately headed for the convenient one-stop shopping center which advertises that it caters to my needs and often surprises me by living up to its promise. However, on this occasion, the salesperson shook his head and suggested that I go to the lumberyard across town because that was the only place he knew of that carried specialty plates in decorator colors.

Because he sounded like one who knew a lot more about wall plates than I did, I obediently drove across town to the lumberyard. However, the lumberyard clerk shook her head and said that the only place she knew of that sold burnished brass was an electrical wholesale supplier downtown. In fact, she added, she had sent a lot of customers to that supplier.

Somewhat more skeptical, I drive back toward town and hesitantly entered the supply shop, ignoring the sign that informed me that it only dealt with wholesalers. The knowledgeable counter clerk called to his assistant to check bin B-3-K to see if there was an Amerock 420 in stock. An unseen voice bellowed that the lighting shop had

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Blue-Ribbon Secondary Schools Named

50 Private Schools are Honored

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley announced on February 8, 1996 the selection of 266 public and private secondary schools as Blue Ribbon Schools. "These schools are testimony to the successes we can have in American education if we work together to raise standards and focus on the basics of better schools, Riley said. "Each of them has demonstrated the key ingredients for excellence."

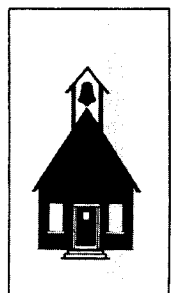
This year, 216 public schools and 50 private schools in 40 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Is-

lands, including a Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools in Cass Lake, Minn., will be recognized.

The schools were nominated by state education agencies, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Department of Defense. CAPE administers the program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education for private schools and nominated 103 schools for this year's program.

To be selected for recognition, a school con-

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ducts a self-evaluation and then submits a written application, including information on their progress toward achieving the National Education Goals. A review panel selects the most promising schools for site visits by experienced public and private school educators who submit reports on their findings. The review panel considers the reports and makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education, who announces the schools for recognition. Established in 1982, the program has honored more than 3000 elementary and secondary schools since its inception. There will be a national awards ceremony in Washington, DC later this spring.

CAPE is privileged to participate in this process and congratulates the following selected private schools: **AZ**, Xavier College Preparatory; **CA**, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville High School, Midland School, Notre Dame Academy, Notre Dame High School, Saint Francis High School; **DE**, Padua Academy; **DC**, The Lab School of Washington; **FL**, Berkeley Preparatory School, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, University School of Nova Southeastern University; **IL**, Carmel High School, Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, Marian Catholic High School.

IN, Lutheran High School of Indianapolis; **KY**, Notre Dame Academy; **LA**, Archbishop Blenk High School, Archbishop Chapelle High School, De La Salle High School, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Mary's Dominican High School, Vermilion Catholic High School; **MD**, John Carroll School, Kennedy Krieger Middle School; **MA**, Bishop Stang High School; **MN**, Trinity School at River Ridge; **NE**, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart.

NJ, Immaculate Heart Academy, The Montclair Kimberley Academy Upper School; **NY**, The Berkeley Carroll School, Dominican Academy of the City of New York, The Harley School, Rice High School, Sacred Heart Academy, St. Raymond High School for Boys, The Ursuline School; **OH**, St. Edward High School; **PA**, Merion Mercy Academy, Villa Joseph Marie High School, West Philadelphia Catholic High School; **PR**, Colegio San Jose.

SC, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, **VI**, Antilles School; **VA**, Hampton Roads Academy, Saint Gertrude High School; **WA**,

Holy Names Academy, Northwest School; and **WI**, Pius XI High School.

At this time the plans for the 1996-97 program have not been announced.

One-Stop Shopping

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taken the last package of four the day before.

Out of sympathy, the counter clerk took a city map and carefully charted a path back through town to a little lighting shop that's easy to miss — out near the airport. Something made me feel that I was getting closer. But the lighting center was not the place. The college student behind the desk instructed me that specialty plates were handled on an order-only basis and usually took a month to get. I smiled, thanking him. I understood why it took a month, because my simple morning errand had become an extended trip, maps and all.

I hesitated, but old habits are hard to break. So I asked the young man if he might know where I could buy one. He thought for a moment and then told me that the contractors' supply house out near the well-known one-stop shopping center might have one.

What did I have to lose? A new sense of adventure came over me as I headed across town once more. Wandering past all sizes, shapes, and designs of wooden fenceposts which I would have expected to see at the lumberyard, I made a mental note to remember this place if I ever needed to embark on an odyssey for fencing material.

Winding my way through aisles of stuff that would thrill the heart of Home Improvement's Tim, the tool man, I arrived at the section of items that was becoming all too familiar. And there it was. A three-hole, light-switch wall plate. In burnished brass besides!

Later, when I recounted my search to my family, my eighteen-year old son announced in his all-knowing tone, "Mother, you can buy almost anything today if you just know where to get it."

That afternoon, while installing the plate, which required a Phillips screwdriver, I couldn't help but reflect on specialty items. I'd put hours into searching for just the right wall plate. In addition, I needed a particular tool to install it. Specialized items and

specialized tools. Remarkably, education is like that, too.

Parents are increasingly crisscrossing their neighborhoods, shopping for schools that provide the very best match between their own values and beliefs, the sometimes special needs of their children, and strong educational programs. They search for schools that will shape their children's lives, affirm their gifts and educate them thoroughly. And they come to us, the private schools of America, long known for fulfilling a variety of educational niches with integrity and excellence.

That makes it all the more important that we proclaim the distinctive missions of our schools proudly. That we articulate them with clarity and conviction. That we open wide the doors and invite parents and their children to visit us and experience how we give life to our missions.

We need to acknowledge, both proudly and humbly, that we serve alongside all the schools of the nation and are vital participants in educating the nation's children. And with the same strong voice, we must celebrate and proclaim our unique and distinctive contributions.

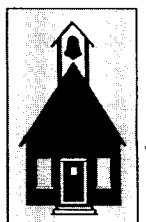
No doubt about it. It's that time of year when many parents begin to shop around for schools. Let's pull out all the stops and promote our schools for what they truly are — strong choices for children. One-stop shopping for parents.

Adapted from "Christian Home & School", published by Christian Schools International, Grand Rapids, MI.

Legislative Update

The Budget and Education

On January 26, 1996, Congress passed and the President signed another temporary Continuing Resolution for FY 96, P.L. 104-99, that slashes education by \$3.1 billion. This latest CR follows the same formula as the previous CR: education programs are funded at the lower of the House or FY95 appropriations levels, but no less than 75% of FY95



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levels. Under this new short-term funding law, Title I receives the fiscal 1996 amount the House approved for it, a \$1.1 billion cut or 17% below Title I school district grants in the 1995-96 school year. This continuing resolution expires March 15, 1996.

If Congress locks in fiscal 1996 funding for the Title I program at its current level, it would strip federal grants from nearly 10,000 schools and force layoffs of 50,000 teachers, the Education Department estimates. Other cuts in the continuing resolution include 25% from Safe and Drug Free Schools, 25% from Eisenhower Professional Development, and 25% from Goals 2000 among others. Of particular concern to private schools is the 100% cut for Title VI, formerly Chapter 2.

The Committee for Education Funding is a coalition of education associations and provides a strong and unified voice in support of federal education funding. CAPE is a member of CEF. A recent letter from CEF stated, "We have at most until March 15 to stop these unprecedented cuts in federal funding from going into effect for the full 1996 fiscal year."

FY97 Budget

Instead of the usual annual budget request, on February 5, the President sent Congress only sketchy information about how the Administration proposes to fund federal agencies and programs in fiscal year 1997. That's because some agencies — including the Education Department — are still without a fiscal 1996 appropriation. H.R. 2127, which contains the Education Department's fiscal 1996 appropriation has passed the House but remains stalled in the Senate. Consequently, the Administration is doing a two-part budget. Part one is the budget outline and part two, with greater details, would be made public the week of March 18th.

Telecommunications

"The Telecommunications Act of 1996" passed by overwhelming majority votes in the U.S. Senate, 91-5, and in the U.S. House of Representatives, 414-16. The legislation was signed into law on February 8, 1996 and includes specific provisions to ensure "affordable telecommunications ac-

cess" for America's schools and libraries. The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), in their announcement, said, "The primary benefit of this legislation to schools and libraries will be in reduced telecommunications rates estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to be worth \$3 billion per year in reduced operating expenses."

The education community's telecommunications coalition of which CAPE was a member worked hard to obtain affordable access to telecommunications services for students in elementary/secondary schools and for patrons of public libraries. The education community succeeded in: 1. preserving provisions for access, discounted rates that are affordable for schools and libraries and support for access where rates would otherwise be unaffordable; 2. retaining the INQUIRY provision which establishes a mechanism for periodic review and modification of Federal and State telecommunications regulations as need to ensure that "advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans (including in particular, elementary and secondary schools and classrooms) in a reasonable and timely fashion;" and 3. retaining provisions that recognize and encourage a non-governmental foundation to help support development of telecommunications infrastructure for schools and libraries.

The bill also would ban the dissemination of "indecent" material on the Internet and online services and would require television sets with screens of at least 13 inches to include special computer devices called "v-chips," which would allow parents to screen out material they did not wish their family to view. The cable and broadcast industry would have one year to develop ratings for sex and violence that would be electronically sent to television sets.

DC Appropriations and Vouchers

The House-Senate compromise on fiscal 1996 funding for Washington, DC, H.R. 2546, would provide \$5 million for scholarships of up to \$3,000 each for students at or below the poverty level, and \$1,500 for students beyond, up to 80% over the poverty

level to attend private schools. The Washington DC city council would have veto power over the vouchers. The bill also would authorize spending of up to \$7 million on the scholarships in fiscal 1997 and up to \$10 million in each of the following three years.

The House passed H.R. 2546, 211-201, on February 1, 1996. The Senate plans to take up the bill on February 27.

Tax Reform

The National Economic Growth and Tax Reform Commission led by Jack Kemp released its recommendation for structural tax reform on Wednesday, January 17, 1996. The report, "Unleashing America's Potential" does not explicitly call for the retention of the charitable deduction, yet it does call for encouraging private giving. Moreover, Mr. Kemp is quoted as saying that popular deductions for charitable contributions and home mortgage interest should be "on the table."

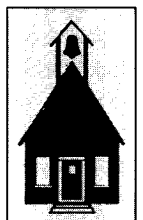
Independent Sector of which CAPE is a member monitors tax issues and provides information to members. In a letter to Kemp Independent Sector president Sara E. Melendez wrote, "On behalf of the 800 members of Independent Sector, I am writing to express our views on the value of the charitable tax deduction to the nation. We are very encouraged by reports that the Economic Growth and Tax Reform Commission is considering recommendations to retain the charitable tax deduction. We would strongly oppose any restructuring of our tax system that would not include a deduction for charitable donations."

Capenotes

► **The American Association of School Administrators has released a new study, Preparing Students for the 21st Century.** The project,

which involved a Council of 55 leaders in business, education, government, and other fields, focused on the knowledge, skills, and behaviors stu-

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dents will need to exhibit to be prepared for life in the new millennium. AASA executive director, Paul Houston reported, "Several cross cutting themes were echoed in nearly every part of the study, among them, communication, the need for increased support of education, ethics, technology, standards, and social and cultural understanding." Houston added, "What stands out is a cry for people to become even more civil in their relationships with each other and with society."

Copies of the 74-page publication are available at a single copy price of \$11.95. Discounts are available for multiple copies. Send orders to AASA Distribution Center, P.O. Box 411, Annapolis Jct., MD 20701 or call 301-617-7802

► **The Education Commission of the States** has released a new publication, *Bridging the Gap — School Reform and Student Achievement*. This report looks at what states have done to improve their education systems, what progress has been made, where gaps exist and what the next steps are. *Bridging the Gap* also examines the decade's hot education policy trends, including standards-

based reforms, charter schools, site-based management, school choice and state efforts to make schools safe and orderly.

ECS has also published, "Charter Schools: Clearinghouse Issue Brief" which presents a snapshot of issues around creating and operating charter schools. (January 1996, no charge). The full charter school report, *Charter Schools: What are They Up to?*, looks at the status of charter schools operating around the country — how they started, how they are funded and how they are organized.

To order copies or get more information contact the ECS Distribution Center, 707 17th Street, Suite 2700, Denver, CO 80202 or phone 303-299-3692.

► The Division for Church in Society and the Division for Higher Education and Schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has published "**Educational Choice: A Discussion Guide.**" ELCA is a CAPE member organization. The resource has been prepared to stimulate thought and discussion. A single complimentary copy is available from: Department of Studies, ELCA-Division for Church in Society, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631, 312-

380-2715. Multiple copies can be ordered at a cost of \$1.00 per copy, plus postage and handling, from Augsburg Distribution Center, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 129, Minneapolis, MN 55440, 800-328-4648.

PLAN TO ATTEND

CAPE will host the 6th annual Legislative Conference starting at noon on Tuesday, March 12, 1996 in Washington, DC. Legislative and White House briefings will prepare participants for a day on the Hill, March 13.

CAPE will celebrate its 25th anniversary at a gala reception Tuesday evening, March 12. For more information call CAPE, 202-659-0016.

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