



## "A Glance in The Rear View Mirror" - A Backwards Glance Towards A Forwards Vision

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"Before looking ahead to a vision for the future, we must acknowledge the mistakes we repeatedly make....."

Nearing the end of a decade as Principal, I am reluctantly facing up to inconvenient truths around my leadership, in the firm belief that I am not alone. From parents complaining about my spelling errors, from desperate delegation and managing children who behave like adults and adults who behave like children. I seek to encourage authentic self-reflection, as a necessary springboard for grappling with the future of education.

As Principal's we function in a global village; our experiences are common on whichever continent we may find ourselves. So saying, it is true that, 'Real leaders are continuously confronted by their own inadequacy, which they need to overcome on a regular basis.'

A stroke victim, at the age of 42, from which I have made a full recovery, I believe I have a Leadership message that is poignant and "lived through." So, having devoured Hanz Finzels: "The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make," and realizing that I was still making just too many of them, I began a journey of self reflection.

In particular:

1. Lighting, Fighting and Stoking Fires - a three decade journey in managing pupils
2. Authenticity: There is something more noble than Optimism
3. Forgetting the Forgotten Middle: The painful late career acknowledgement that there are hundreds of children between the best and the worst
4. The Advantages of Disadvantages: Turning my Timidity into a real strength
5. Values: Our Traditions and Rules have to reflect our values. If not, they must be changed
6. The "Bus" - Collin's "Good to Great" up against Chapman's "Everyone Matters." Polar opposites in managing educators.
7. Leadership: It is neither Top Down, nor Bottom Up, rather the perfect homeward-bound-flock-of-birds in "V" - Formation
8. Listen: "I need to really listen to you to hear the words you are not saying," Helen Keller