



14 June 2016

Tēna koutou katoa / Greetings to you all

The term commenced with a student roll of 138 students. We are unable at this point to accept students onto the school roll as classes are at their maximum size. We need to consider the health and safety aspect of a large number of students on the base site. We have established a waiting list that currently numbers ten students.

Thank you for participating in the board of trustees elections. We welcome two new members, Michelle Palmer and Mark Dawson. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Sinead Carnahan, Lisa Hortin and Puneet Joywho were previously members of the board. The new board is, Peter Coker, Mark Dawson, Graham Wood, Annette Burnett and Michelle Palmer.

I wish to acknowledge the PTA for their generous funding that enabled our students to attend the ‘Strike’ show. Not only did they pay for the concert but also for the travel to and from the venue. The work of the PTA is highly appreciated by the staff and the students.

I recently sent a letter home regarding the health of our students. We appreciate the challenges of keeping your child at home when they are unwell however if they are in school other students and staff are susceptible to catching the illness. Some of our students are very vulnerable to infections and of course if staff catch the illness that in itself has a ripple effect on the class.

### **Specialist Service Standards Review**

The Ministry Specialist Services Review team will be reviewing our specialist services during June 14, 15 & 16th. The team will be led by Mary Smith along with three reviewers.

The team will evaluate:

**Access:** Family and whanau and educators make informed choices using relevant up to date information about the range of service providers in their area.

**Engagement:** Children and young people, their families and whanau and educators are welcomed and empowered as partners in their relationships with specialists and specialist service providers.

**Assessment and Analysis:** All children and young people have ongoing and systematic and appropriate assessment that provides a range of data to inform programme planning and decision making.

**Programme Planning:** All children and young people have current documented and individual programme plans that contain meaningful learning programmes and promote achievement.

**Implementation:** All children and young people have regularly monitored individual programmes that are implemented in the context of daily activities, are age appropriate, motivating and meaningful.

**Review:** Children and young people have programmes that are current and relevant.

**Closure:** Closure processes are positive for children and young people and their families and whanau. Achievements are noted and celebrated and transitions are carefully planned.

**Follow up and reflection:** Feedback and reflection informs future practice and the ongoing development of future services. Reflective practice is demonstrated throughout service provision.

### **Child Protection Policy**

The board has developed a Child Protection Policy as required under the Vulnerable Children's Act. Included in this policy are the requirements under the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014, a chart for the reporting process of suspected or disclosed child abuse, and guidance for the identification of possible abuse or neglect. This policy will be available on our website by the end of this month.

We have had some key staff attend professional development in regard to the identification of possible abuse and intend to have professional development for all staff to ensure everyone can perform their duties under this policy.

We have also amended NAG 3 policy to include the requirements of the Act when appointing staff.

### **Early Learning Centre**

In line with the strategic goal to explore the provision of an early learning centre for preschool children on the autistic spectrum, Linda King, Megan Gare and I visited two early intervention programmes for children aged 3 - 6 who have a diagnosis of autism, during the second week of the school holidays. We visited the Irabina Autism Services in Melbourne and the AEIOU services centre on the Griffith University campus in Brisbane. Both centres made us very welcome. Irabina has been supporting families and providing services to children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder for almost fifty years.

The AEIOU model was sessional based with a funding structure that was less demanding on families however with similarities to the Irabina model.

The Te ora Hau Trust are willing to explore a building on their site for us to rent however we are unsure at this point whether such a building would meet the Early Childhood Building Regulations. We also need to consider staffing and finances including student generated funding, operational costs and rental to ascertain the viability of this initiative. This venture would be self-funded.

### **Satellite provision/base school rebuild**

The Ashgrove/Allenvale Satellite build is on target to open for the 2017 year. We have attended a number of meetings primarily in regard to property and will this term meet with the staff of Ashgrove School to further develop our relationship and understandings.

There have been some delays in the rebuilding of the Cobham/Burnside Schools where we will have a satellite unit however it is expected that Master Planning will commence July this year. 2018 is the target date. In regard to our new base school rebuild we have asked that we are informed of an approximate date we might expect to co locate/relocate. The Burnside High/Allenvale Satellite is work in progress. The Ministry and the Papanui Youth Development Trust have finally agreed to a lease agreement for a five year period for our TEC unit at the centre in Papanui.

I have been asked by the national office of the Ministry to participate in a project to develop a more strategic approach to planning and decision making for satellite units across the country. Since 2010, the direction of the Ministry property decisions have focused on upgrading or establishing new satellite units rather than rebuilding special schools, excluding the Christchurch special school network review.

### **TiqBiz – School Communication App**

We are pleased to inform you that we have launched a school app called TiqBiz. Many schools now use TiqBiz to send out updates, reminders emergency and notices. We have attached an information sheet to this notice with instructions on how to download the app on your iPhone, iPad, Android smart phone, Android tablet and Windows phones. The app can also be downloaded to your computer.

We will still be using Facebook, twitter and the website to communicate with you.

### **SESTA**

I have been asked by the national office of the Ministry to be a panel member for the procurement of SESTA Contracts from 2017. Of interest is that a number of the recommendations from the SESTA Reference Group that I chaired for Minister Kaye are now included in the new requests for proposals. In particular all vehicles will have mandatory in vehicle camera systems, mandatory telecommunications systems to include monitoring from a fixed location and an emergency alert and response system. This will significantly increase the level of safety for students and the drivers.

Thank you for the support you give to the school and to your children. We understand that the challenges that you can face can be overwhelming at times however if we can support you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are not only here to support your children's learning and achievement but to support our families too. I also want to thank so many of you who acknowledged my award this year. It has been truly humbling.

Ngā mihi nui / best wishes



Graeme H Daniel  
Principal