



25th July 2017

Tēna koutou katoa / Greetings to you all.

We welcomed our students back from the holidays and we are hoping that this term will see less illness that we experienced in term two. Our students are very fortunate to have the support of the staff across the school who believe in them as being capable lifelong learners. We have committed and generous staff who are strong advocates for our students and their families who seek to ensure the best for them.

We are privileged to have had Jamie Gordon and Cushla Boyd agree to selection onto the board. The board is now back to its full compliment. Graham Wood is the board chair along with Mark Dawson, Michelle Palmer and Megan Gare (staff representative).

Road Safety A parent has justifiably raised concerns about the safety of Aorangi Road with the board. Previous to this, the board attempted to have some pedestrian safety measures put in place however the Christchurch City Council withdrew interest when they heard that Allenvale School was to re locate. The board have written to the Council to ask for this matter to be reconsidered.

Christchurch ORS Network Representatives from the Ministry met with the three principals of the day special schools to discuss the network provision for ORS verified students. The future planning discussed equalising the rolls to a degree across the three schools. It also proposes two more double satellite primary units in addition to the Ashgrove Satellite and one secondary double satellite for Allenvale School.

There is also a proposal to consider a collaborative transition programme for 18 - 21 year old learners in either a school or community setting or in partnership with other providers. There are approximately 114 ORS verified students (July 2016), 11 (10%) in mainstream schools, 61 (53%) in special schools and 42 (37%) in specialist programmes.

The long term vision of the Ministry of Education is to create an equitable network of provision where learners can access their local school or one close by that can meet their needs. "Local school" means type of school (state, integrated, special character, special, full primary/contributing etc.), not necessarily the school closest to you.

If the proposed changes to the Christchurch Special School network is to be markedly different to the 2014 submission, I have recommended to the board that it requests that the Ministry undertake further consultation with the school community.

The rights of students with special education needs and disabilities to learn is what we must protect. This protection is far greater than the right to learn alongside their mainstream peers. Such a belief is perceived by inclusion protagonists as an infringement of their rights. However, what is a right may morally be the wrong thing to do.

University of Canterbury When in Wellington recently, I had the opportunity to speak to Professor Gail Gillon in regard to the fact that student teachers were not offered placements in special school settings. Undergraduates have very little education on how to support students with learning support needs. Within a week, personnel from the UC visited Allenvale and were impressed by the work of our staff and acknowledged that undergraduates could benefit from placement here under associate teachers.

The purpose of these placements is to give some additional skills to undergraduate teachers to enable them to be confident in understanding disabilities and to increase their skills in being confident in making

adaptations to the curriculum to meet all student's needs. Three third year student teachers have commenced a five week placement at Allenvale in term three.

Physical Restraint Guidelines I have been a member of this national advisory for the last two years. The guidelines came into law from July 1st 2017. Physical restraint can only be used by teachers and authorised staff.

A minority of students may require physical intervention to ensure they and others are safe from harm. If this is required, a behaviour support plan will be developed with parental involvement and informed agreement that will specify if restraint is an intervention to keep the student and others safe.

Currently we train staff in Safe Crisis Management (SCM). We have three accredited trainers. This training emphasises antecedent management practices. All staff are currently trained. The Ministry has developed a training package for schools called Understanding Behaviour, Responding Safely. Ministry personnel can deliver this training to schools at no cost. In addition, the Ministry can train staff who work with students who may require physical restraint, (actual and potential harm to self or others). Allenvale is transitioning to the Ministry's programmes. We intend to have our own accredited trainers.

As part of the new guidelines every incident of physical restraint will need to be filed with the Ministry of Education and provided to the board of trustees on a pro forma document. The purpose of this is for the Ministry to support schools when needed and to keep the board informed of the level of physical interventions in its school.

Staffing We welcome Bernie Mosen a teacher for room 14 Tuis, until the end of the year. Bernie has previously held a permanent teacher position here.

Cate Desmond has been appointed to the position of part time psychologist (.4 FTE). Cate will be familiar with a number of our families through her previous employment with *Explore*.

Helen Hillier has joined us as a part time Outreach Specialist Teacher.

Staff Only Day We will be closed for instruction on **Monday 25th September** for an 'Unconference' for all special education providers in Christchurch. I understand that these days can be challenging for our families however we have few opportunities to provide professional learning and development for all our staff at the same time. The school is required to be open for a specific number of days each year, staff only days are not counted in the days required for instruction.

Work and Income information. I am including a website to ensure that you are aware of any allowances that you may be eligible for. We don't always know what financial supports are available.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/>

Ngā mihi nui



Graeme H Daniel
Principal