

Newsletter 1 – Term 1 – Feb 2018



14 February 2018

Tēna koutou katoa / Greetings to you all

As we enter week three our students are well settled into the routines of their respective classes. It is great to have them back.

This year the school foci are, Leadership, Culturally Responsive Practice and Communication (student communication). We have engaged CORE Education to support the intent to grow leadership capacity across the school. This includes all senior staff, specialist services and teachers.

Allenvale School is a member of the Waimairi-iri CoL (Community of Learning) and through the CoL we will be supported to improve our culturally responsive practice. The CoL has appointed Cross School Leaders for Inclusive Practice, Culturally Responsive Practice, Numeracy and Literacy. These leaders will work with all schools in the CoL and with each school's in school facilitator.

The board will be meeting with senior Ministry of Education personnel at the end of the month to discuss the future of Allenvale School in particular the new base school capacity. The Ministry's intent is to equalise the rolls of the three special schools over time. For Allenvale this may result in a smaller student population in the longer term. This will not affect any student currently enrolled.

What is of interest is that there is increasing demand for entry into special schools across the country including in Christchurch. This may reflect the challenges that many parents face in accessing adequate and timely support for their children. The media has reported extensively on these difficulties. Principal Associations and Unions are demanding that the government address these issues.

Please note that there is to be a 'staff only day' on Monday the 7th May. The school will be closed for instruction on this day. All staff will receive professional development on Sensory Learning.

As you are aware this is my final term at Allenvale School having been principal here for ten years. The board did not appoint a successor last term however intend to re advertise again for interest in the position this month.

Ngā mihi nui

Graeme H Daniel
Principal