



## Canterbury and Chatham Islands Regional Newsletter 19 February 2018

### Kia ora,

This week we mark the seventh anniversary of the destructive February 22 earthquake. The anniversary is a stark reminder of the scale of the rebuild and also a chance to look forward and reflect how far the city has come. On Thursday our office and the wider Ministry team pay our respects to the people who died. Our schools, workplaces and households will also pause to pay their respects in their own ways.

We can see strong signs of progress and I am proud of the work that we are doing. Thank you to our schools, boards, principals, staff, teachers, students and their families for their hard work and commitment to education in Canterbury.

The Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins was at Timaru Girls' High School on Friday to officially open their new innovative classroom environment and upgraded gymnasium. While in Timaru the Minister had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the North and South Timaru Communities of Learning.

From this month Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako will receive their inquiry time once they have appointed their leader, rather than having to wait until their achievement challenges are endorsed and a leader has been appointed. The [latest Education Gazette has a news piece](#) on this, and for more details please email [leigh.fowler@education.govt.nz](mailto:leigh.fowler@education.govt.nz) in our office.

Congratulations to Villa Maria College which celebrated 100 Years with a weekend of activities. The centennial celebrations began with a grand opening and showcase reception; other activities included a family fun day, ball and special Mass. What a wonderful way to celebrate your past and present.

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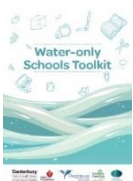
### Health Promoting Schools magazine

[The Health Promoting Schools Team](#) publish this magazine each term. The magazine is designed to highlight initiatives and activities at local schools, and discuss topics of interest to students, parents and teachers.



#### Highlights in Term 1 issue:

- Healthy Changes at Chisnallwood Intermediate;
- Haeata Community Campus partnering with Kimihia Adventure Programme;
- Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day; and
- Mindfulness in Schools on the West Coast



#### Water-only Schools Toolkit

[This toolkit](#) has been developed for schools to use as a quick and easy guide to how to become water-only. It contains information and resources to support your school along the way.

## Upcoming Events

### DigiAwards 2018 – Unleash your students' digital creativity!

The DigiAwards enable primary and intermediate students throughout Canterbury to showcase their digital skills and creativity to whānau and the wider community. Participation also allows students to strengthen their digital fluency and practice key competencies.

There are some exciting changes to DigiAwards this year where participants will either be able to use the DigiAwards theme, or create one of their own. Students are invited to be part of selecting the 2018 theme. [Register your students here »](#)

In addition, four FREE workshops for students will run throughout Canterbury to support high quality student-led creations. A FREE educator's workshop is open to teachers and learning assistants to explore how to integrate DigiAwards into the classroom programme. Details will be added to the [DigiAwards webpage](#) soon.

If you would like to know more, we are hosting an information webinar for educators on Wednesday 7 March, 3:30–4:30pm.

[Register to attend the webinar »](#)

### The Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards

These Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in early learning, primary and secondary schooling.

You can submit your entry now. Entries close at 5pm, Friday 23 March 2018.

[Here are some tools to help you start your entry](#)

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### Update from Canterbury Education Infrastructure Team

#### Christchurch Schools Rebuild

The programme is tracking well against the overall programme of works.

- 22 schools are now complete, with Waitaha school being the latest to complete
- There have been four school or building blessings / openings this year already: Cashmere High, Kaiapoi North, Kaiapoi High and Waitaha School.
- We are expecting more formal openings this term.
- Hornby High School, currently the biggest project in construction, is progressing well.
- Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery has commenced on site; this is a multi-storey development in the CBD

## Our central reception area – showcasing our schools

As the many of you who have visited our office will be aware, TV screens in our reception area run videos showcasing our schools accomplishments. We would like more of our schools' work available for our visitors to watch and invite you to send us digital copies of your students taking part in activities including cultural, sporting or musical events we could play in reception.

A reminder also that our building offers a great opportunity when you are in the city to work from our office on level 1. The space has a variety of work spaces, tea, coffee, toilets and WiFi. There is no need to confirm with us, just feel free to visit.

## Unjustified student absences

I understand that some of you, particularly primary schools are receiving requests for students to regularly take time out of school to attend sporting type academy training activities. We encourage you to talk to parents about the need for these activities to take place before or after school hours.

We appreciate that it is up to your school to make decisions about what is and is not justified and that you are applying this consistently across your school. We are aware principals are recording this absenteeism as unjustified absences, if parents choose to proceed with this.

You can find more information about [managing student absences on our website](#)

## Secondment opportunities to the Ministry

The Ministry of Education supports the education sector with advice, information and resources, as well as policy advice to government. We employ around 3,500 staff in our offices around the country, including around 1,600 in learning support roles.

The Canterbury Chatham Islands region is currently seeking interest from people who like variety and a challenge and would like to work with our fantastic regional team. We have a range of secondment opportunities and all these positions support the Ministry with improving educational achievement for all students/children.

If you are interested in talking to someone about the Ministry and what might be suitable for both your professional development and what the Ministry can provide, please contact Ann-Maree Fuller, senior HR advisor [ann-maree.fuller@education.govt.nz](mailto:ann-maree.fuller@education.govt.nz)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any ideas or issues. You can call me on 03 378 7345, 0274200251 or email me at [Coralanne.child@education.govt.nz](mailto:Coralanne.child@education.govt.nz) I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy this fortnight's bulletin.

Mā te wā

**Coralanne Child**

Director of Education for Canterbury