

Canterbury Regional News

04 April 2016

Kia ora,

The first term of the year is always a busy one, with a significant number of events. The annual Canterbury sPACIFICally PACIFIC Polyfest recently took place in Christchurch. It was great to see students on stage in their dazzling costumes with their impressive dance routines. There were many highlights at the festival and along with the amazing performances, the sun was shining and the community was out in force to celebrate the awesome Pasifika entertainment and delicious food in a Pasifika village atmosphere.

We recently hosted our first time principals at a workshop held at our Christchurch offices. Our staff really enjoyed meeting with you and we are looking forward to the continuing programme throughout the year. I would also like to thank you for the time and effort that you and your boards put into submitting your charters. Our senior advisors are always available for ongoing discussions and support around the challenges you have identified for 2016.

The child protection sessions held recently have proved very useful. The “How to recognise and deal with children and young persons’ exposed to or at risk of abuse’ workshop was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education, Child, Youth and Family, and Police, with the Christchurch Children’s team (workforce development) co-presenting with us. For those of you who were unable to attend, we will be scheduling more sessions throughout the year and invitations will be sent to principals.

Thank you to the schools that have sent in their school’s enrolment scheme review. Please note that the Education Act 1989 sets a statutory deadline of 1 May for completing the review. If you require support, please do not hesitate to contact your senior advisor.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



Creating an education network that inspires children to reach their full potential

sPACIFICally PACIFIC PolyFest 2016

The Canterbury sPACIFICally PACIFIC Polyfest was held on Saturday 19 March at Westminster Park and celebrated youth at their best. Polyfest is part of a series of sPACPAC events and activities to raise Pasifika student achievement. This was a great opportunity to see the young men and women who will be the future leaders of the Pasifika community.

The annual event brings Canterbury secondary school students together to showcase their talents with a series of cultural performances. They were outstanding and stood proud, with the pride extending to their friends and families, as they all celebrated their culture.



Shirley Boys High School performing

If you didn't get the chance to see our secondary schools performing at Polyfest 2016, then you can check out the official photos from the event by [clicking here](#).

The finale for Polyfest 2016 was performed by Shirley Boys' High School who dedicated an emotional performance to Tala Mailei, one of their own who died at the end of 2015.

Aranui High School performed for their final Polyfest following the closure of Aranui High School, Aranui Primary, Avondale Primary and Wainoni School to form the new Haeata Community Campus in 2017.



Aranui High School performing

Images courtesy of sPACIFICally Pacific Canterbury Polyfest 2016



Building a new and better future for education and for the community

sPACPAC (sPACIFICally PACIFIC)

sPACPAC uses Pasifika, identities, languages and cultures to raise Pasifika student aspirations and achievement in schools in Christchurch.

sPACPAC vision/aims for Pasifika secondary school students in Canterbury

sPACPAC aims to sow the seeds of Pasifika success so that we can **REAP** the rewards of the future by focusing on:

Reconnecting our education community with our Pasifika community

Education aspirations, collaborations and successes

Accelerating achievement using our Pasifika identities, languages and cultures

Pathways that lead to tertiary education, careers and business ownership

There are a series of sPACPAC (sPACIFICally PACIFIC) events and activities to raise Pasifika student achievement. For example, there is the Aneriueta (Teta) Pao-Sopoaga Speech Competition. This competition provides opportunities for Pasifika students from junior to senior levels in secondary schools to participate in the following languages: Cook Islands, Māori, English, Fijian, Samoan and Tongan, with the opportunity to gain NCEA achievement standards or unit standards.

The [school information pack](#) has more information.

If you are interested in learning more about Pasifika education and the Ministry of Education's initiative in supporting Pasifika success, read the [Pasifika Education Plan](#) or contact Mark.tulia@education.govt.nz



Putting children at the centre of their learning

Learning Community Cluster Leaders Hui

The first Learning Community Cluster Leaders Hui for 2016 was held earlier this term. This is a continuation of the same series that began in 2014 and have proved very valuable. These are an effective way to share ideas, discuss challenges, to hear from guest speakers and meet with Ministry staff.

We had a presentation from Ngāi Tahu or more specifically [Mātauraka Mahaanui's Mana Whenua Facilitators](#) about the work they will be doing over the next year. In essence, they will support and promote culturally responsive practice and any other work in our Learning Community Clusters (LCCs) that aim to improve engagement and outcomes for Māori. This will also include ongoing aspects of the cultural narrative work that many LCCs have already been a part of.

Letitia Fickel, Head of School, School of Teacher Education at the University of Canterbury presented some of the work currently happening at the college. We have been offered the opportunity to access interns based at the college for LCCs carrying out projects and other activities that could utilise their skills. There are conditions attached to this offer but the potential value to your LCC could be great. Please contact Tim Maxwell at the Ministry of Education Tim.Maxwell@education.govt.nz for more information.

Delving Deeper Conference

[Delving Deeper](#) is a conference where teachers talk with teachers.

It is a cross-sector sharing of great teaching practice, experiences and new learning for teachers in primary, intermediate and secondary school settings. Dr Julia Atkin will deliver the keynote address, followed by over 35 workshops facilitated by teachers for teachers.

The conference will be held at Riccarton racecourse on Friday 13 May and is available for all Christchurch schools. Registrations will open soon and schools will be advised.