

Canterbury Regional News

15 April 2016

Kia ora,

It's hard to believe we are at the end of term 1 already. I hope you will find some time to relax after what has been a really busy start to the year. This term the Ministry lost a loved and respected colleague Steve Hooker. Steve was a passionate advocate of New Zealand Sign Language and skilled supporter of deaf students and their families. Our thoughts are with his family.

Today a sod turning ceremony was held at Halswell Residential College to mark the start of its \$9 million redevelopment. At the completion of this project the institutional style accommodation blocks will have been replaced with new family style villas.

The new \$16.8 million West Rolleston Primary School in Canterbury had its official opening today. The school opened at the beginning of the year and includes the Waitaha School satellite, catering for students within additional learning needs. Staff and students have been exploring their fantastic new spaces this term. Today is an acknowledgement of everyone's collaborative efforts, and highlights the continued progress being made in Canterbury.

We continue to look for ways to better support you so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



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

Hangaia te Urupounamu Pāngarau Mō Tatou Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC)

DMIC is being implemented at Shirley School, Christchurch. Developed over the last 12 years by Associate Professor Roberta Hunter of Massey University, it is a culturally responsive pedagogy for teaching mathematics.

This year Associate Professor Hunter and her team are providing the first year of PD and in-class mentoring support to all Shirley School teachers. Research shows that when DMIC is implemented effectively there can be four years of achievement gains in one year, with a marked decline in bullying behaviours and a marked improvement in cultural identity for students. Hangaia te Urupounamu Pāngarau Mō Tatou includes an innovative partnership between the Ministry of Education, Ngai Tahu, Massey University and a Ngāi Tahu Kaumatua, Laurie Loper, who has provided a bequest to cover the 2016 costs of the project.



The first stewardship and governance meeting for the project was held on 24 March, the date of the first milestone. All partners were represented as was NZEI and the meeting was particularly special as Laurie Loper and a second Ngai Tahu Kaumatua, both living in Tauranga, were able to be present and to be honoured at the meeting. The school principal, Kylie Piper, reported that, while the change for teachers is challenging and stressful, already there is very positive feedback from students, families, teachers and the school leaders."



Putting children at the centre of their learning

On site at Haeata Community Campus

Ministry staff visited Haeata Community Campus last week. This was a great opportunity to catch up with Haeata Community Campus principal Andy Kai Fong on site and Hawkins project directors, Ian French and Ian Kendrick.

There have been anywhere between 80 and 300 workers on site every day where the new 10,500-square-metre, year 1 to 13 school is being built. Construction will be completed by December this year and is due to open at the start of 2017.

The schools senior leadership team have started in their roles. The team is undertaking to transform the face of education in the East of Christchurch by designing a school that will meet the individual needs of all students from Years 1-13.



Image: Coralanne Child, Andy Kai Fong and Ruth Jellyman

Having difficult conversations with parents

We recently ran two interagency workshops in Christchurch and some of the feedback received from both the schooling and early learning sector was how difficult it often was to have tricky conversations with parents when there was a concern for their child. These workshops highlighted the importance of being courageous and starting those conversations.

To assist with this, Children's Commissioner Dr Russell Wills, appears in a series of videos and an Education Gazette article, discussing the importance of teachers and other educators communicating well with parents and whānau when they have concerns about a child.

He also speaks to the Education Gazette about professional responsibility and where to get help developing the necessary confidence and skills. You can view the videos on the [Children's Action Plan website](#) and read the story in the [New Zealand Education Gazette](#). In the Education Gazette article Dr Wills notes that he thinks "teachers are smart. They're identifying these problems every day". It's the "What do I do about this?" where we need to do better. This is where these video clips provide some guidance.