

Canterbury Regional News

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Kia ora,

I am really looking forward to catching up with you at the Canterbury Education Sector Expo being held tomorrow night (01 December) at the Addington Events Centre from 5:00pm. This is a great opportunity to meet with your colleagues, support agencies and sector leaders to share and celebrate some of the successes and challenges collectively we have faced. This is also a chance for you to discuss the support and resources available to you.

Last week, the Minister of Education announced the latest schools forming or joining Communities of Learning. This announcement included 78 schools in Canterbury that have formed themselves into communities that will be collaborating to tackle achievement challenges that they identify for their children. This is a terrific development because it means that more of our students are in line to benefit from their schools sharing expertise and resources. In this newsletter there is information on the importance of the Communities of Learning.

With so many changes occurring in Canterbury, both in and outside the school environment we provide a diverse and comprehensive wellbeing and workforce support package for school employees. This includes additional provision to schools to cover relief teaching support so staff can attend meetings with EQC, local council and their insurance companies where there is no opportunity for the meeting to be held outside of the employee's usual work time. There is more information in this newsletter on wellbeing and workforce support available.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us; we are always happy to hear from you.

Mā te wā,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



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

Communities of Learning

Making a Difference

Communities of Learning are the 'engine room' of Investing in Educational Success (IES) and have been designed to respond as flexibly as possible to different communities needs. Communities of Learning choose their own educational goals based on the needs of their students, and share their own resources to meet those goals.

Communities of Learning are intended as a way of strengthening collaboration in order to raise student achievement. Communities work together to identify, develop and meet their specific achievement objectives, supported by the Ministry as required.

The communities will engage in a variety of activities and the benefits include reduced isolation of teachers, better informed teachers, and academic gains for our students. Communities of Learning are a powerful approach to: supportive and shared leadership, collective creativity, shared values and vision, supportive conditions, and shared personal practice.

United in our commitment to raising student achievement, we will see the benefits in Communities of Learning that we see in our Learning Community Clusters which includes:

- Enhanced educational and social benefits for your students
- Enjoying shared professional learning and leadership opportunities
- Teachers opening up their practice with colleagues across schools in ways that stimulate improvement
- Opportunities to share scarce resources
- Appreciating a more robust assessment of your students' achievements
- Smoother transitions across student pathways
- Enhancing relationships between schools and ECEs
- Realising - you're not alone!

Wellbeing and workforce support

The school workforce is an integral part of our schools and as Canterbury continues to deal with the effects from the earthquakes, one of our main priorities remains the continued support to staff.

The Ministry of Education is aware that much has been asked of our workforce in the aftermath of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. It is important to access the support needed and we recognise the importance of offering assistance to deal with any difficulties at an early stage.

All state and state integrated schools in the Christchurch, Waimakariri and Selwyn districts can access this support. (Outline of support available on the following page).



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

Wellbeing and workforce support (continued)

The table below highlights what support is available, it's purpose, who it is for and how you access it.

What	Purpose	For	How to access support or information
Schools' Employee Assistance Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching/Counselling either as an individual or part of a group Workshops on "CV and interview skills", "uncertainty and change" and "building resilience to stress" Customised programme tailored to an individual's career transition requirements, which may include career assessment, preparation of a CV, networking and job search strategies (Require principal/BoT approval – prerequisite is attendance at CV and interview skills workshop) Personal and/or professional coaching/support or financial advice for individuals. 	Whole school or Individual	For further information or to book Employee Assistance contact Trace Church at: Trace.Church@eapservices.co.nz 03 348 0854 0800327669
Principal mentoring	Professional support for principals	Group or individual	Contact your Principal Association
Teacher retraining opportunities	For teachers choosing retraining as a surplus staffing option in priority areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> te reo Māori Pasifika languages special education 	Individual	Contact TeachNZ on 0800 165 225
Relief teaching support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief funding for schools where higher than expected teacher absences are occurring or for the provision of additional teacher support Relief funding to enable staff to attend EAP workshops, EQC meetings, etc. 	School	Complete Christchurch Teachers Support Package Application Form and send to: Christchurch.Workforce@education.govt.nz (Timesheet template available from the email address above)
Non-teaching administrative support	Funding where additional salary costs are incurred to enable staff to attend EAP workshops, job interviews, EQC meetings etc	School	Complete Christchurch Teachers Support Package Application Form and send to: Christchurch.Workforce@education.govt.nz (Timesheet template available from the email address above)
Staffing support	Short-term release time or additional staffing to assist boards in the development of curriculum redesign in response to environment (earthquake rebuild) and pedagogical practice	School	Contact your school's Senior Advisor

We are here to help. If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing christchurch.workforce@education.govt.nz