

# Canterbury Regional News

25 September 2017

## *Kia ora,*

We have come to the end of another busy term. I hope you all manage to get some time to relax during the break, ready for another jam-packed term ahead. As always please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Canterbury team when you need help and support.

Thank you for your feedback from our last newsletter where we added some tips regarding the Education Act Update. Many of you were especially interested in getting some more information on cohort entry. Boards must take all reasonable steps to discover and consider the views of community groups and those needing to be consulted with, including parents of current and prospective parents, staff, early childhood providers in the local community and a wider community group if your school wishes, such as other local primary schools and Kāhui Ako

Schools can fully adopt cohort entry after they've consulted and I have included information for schools looking to introduce cohort entry [here](#). NZSTA also continue to update and advise you through newsletters and their website, I have attached their [cohort entry to school factsheet](#).

Cohort entry start dates are advertised on [our website](#). If your school introduces cohort entry, the earliest a child can start under the cohort entry policy is term 1, 2018. Schools are required to give at least one term's notice to the community to ensure those who are affected by the change are given a chance to adapt.

Entries for the 2018 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards are now open. Winning programmes can have life changing results for learners and the financial benefits can help schools and early childhood education (ECE) me ngā kōhanga reo. The Awards recognise great collaboration, and help create brighter futures for our children and young people. For more information about the Awards and how to enter visit [our website](#) or email [info@pmawards.education.govt.nz](mailto:info@pmawards.education.govt.nz).

Mā te wā,

**Coralanne Child**

*Director of Education for Canterbury*



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

## **Moderation 2017**

### **Ongoing Resourcing Scheme and Extension, School High Health Needs Fund**

This is to inform you that a decision has been made to retain the Ministry of Education's contribution towards teacher aides for students in the above schemes at the same level for the 2018 school year, as it was for the 2017 school year. Students whose funding has already been agreed for next year or who have an agreed review date, will not be affected by this decision. Students who received extraordinary funding in 2017 will return to their previous funding level for 2018.

We acknowledge that there may be a small number of students whose needs have changed, for example they are transitioning to a new school. Should you feel a student's needs may have changed please contact your key specialist or key contact to discuss. This includes students who may no longer require the level of contribution they currently receive. Please be aware that we will be running a moderation process in 2018 which may affect the funding for terms 3 and 4, 2018, if that is the decision of the moderation panel.

#### **What you need to do:**

To ensure your school's teacher aide funding remains accurate, we need to know if:

- An eligible student is absent from school for four weeks or more.
- There has been any change in circumstances associated with this funding (for example, if a teacher aide is away and cannot provide the agreed support or student illness).
- An eligible student has transferred to or from your school.

If you have updates please contact fund manager Kaye Hyams on 03 378-7734 or [kaye.hyams@education.govt.nz](mailto:kaye.hyams@education.govt.nz)

#### **Please note:**

Students with School High Health Needs funding expiring at the end of this year or at any time before the end of next year will only have funding reconfirmed to the point at which their verification expires.

**Schools will still need to reapply for verification at the appropriate time.**



*Putting children at the centre of their learning*

## Assistive technology

Assistive technology (AT) is specialised equipment and technology which students with additional learning needs use in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn.

To be able to apply for assistive technology a student will:

- be enrolled in compulsory education
- have a specific learning need and have difficulty following the curriculum using standard classroom technology
- be supported by one of our learning support services like:
  - Ongoing Resourcing Scheme
  - Speech-Language (Communication) Service
  - Severe Behaviour Initiative
  - Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour
  - Service for students with moderate sensory impairments and physical disabilities
  - School High Health Needs Fund
  - Special Education Grant (SEG)

Further information regarding Assistive Technology and application forms are available on [our website](#)

Any applications or queries regarding Assistive Technology in Canterbury can be directed to:  
[AssistiveTechnology.Canterbury@education.govt.nz](mailto:AssistiveTechnology.Canterbury@education.govt.nz)



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

## Canterbury DigiAwards 2017

This year's Canterbury DigiAwards had the theme Manaakitanga and were proudly supported by Grow Waitaha.

These awards enable primary and intermediate school aged children throughout Canterbury to showcase their digital skills and creativity to whānau and the wider school community. Participation allows students to gain digital fluency and practice communication, creative and collaboration skills.

Thank you to all the students and teachers who took part. The numbers of entries grow every year and again the entries were of a high standard, congratulations to everyone involved.

To see the 2017 DigiAward category winners and place-getters please go to the [Grow Waitaha website](#).

## Two new schools to open

Establishment of a new school in Rangiora has recently been approved:

- Establishment of **Rangiora West Primary School** (572) in Christchurch – Year 1-8, gazetted 24 August, school will be open for all year levels in term 1, 2020.

New Primary School in Halswell to open in 2019 – formal establishment announced July 2017:

- Establishment of **Halswell West Primary School** (579) in Christchurch – Year 1-8, gazetted 10 July, school will be open for all year levels in term 1, 2019.