

Ministry Bulletin for

SCHOOL LEADERS

He Pitopito Kōrero

ISSUE No. 83 | 2017 DECEMBER 4

In this issue

Message from Iona Holsted

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's hard to believe it's almost the end of 2017. I remember writing to you this time last year introducing myself as the new Secretary for Education.

Looking back over the past year, we've shared some great successes. This year saw continuing growth in the number of schools joining Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako, and the most comprehensive update of the Education Act in 30 years.

We also met challenges along the way, including emergencies such as the Edgecumbe floods, Cyclone Cook and the Port Hills' fire just to name a few. These affected students, teachers and schools, with some of you needing to move to other locations so children could continue their learning. I admire the agility and resilience you demonstrated!

I've been fortunate to have had opportunities to meet with many of you since I stepped into this role at the end of last year. Your passion for education and your dedication to the children and young people you work with have been inspiring.

I know that 2018 will be another busy year, and with the new Government it's likely there will be a number of changes in the education sector. The Ministry of Education is working with the Government to implement its priorities, and we will continue to keep you informed and involved in this.

I wish you a well-deserved break with your friends and whānau this holiday season.

Ngā mihi nui

Iona Holsted
Secretary for Education



▶ Critical need to know and action

1. State integrated schools must provide audited annual attendance dues accounts to us. [Circular 2017/08](#) explains the requirements for submitting accounts. It replaces [Circular 2015/10](#)
2. **On 20 December**, the 2018 Operational Funding Entitlement and January Instalment Notice will be available via the [School Data Portal](#) Read instructions on how to access the Portal on [our website](#)
3. Expedited police vetting for urgent recruitment. **Read more...**
4. Read new [Guidelines for the provision of pastoral care, guidance and counselling in secondary schools: Te Pakiaka Tangata Strengthening Student Wellbeing for Success](#) that we developed with representatives of the NZ Association of Counsellors (NZAC), PPTA, NZSTA, NZ Secondary Principals Council (NZSPC), and SPANZ.
5. In the next week, we will send you advice on the payroll report availability for year-end financial reporting. The intention is to get the complete package to you earlier than in previous years.

▶ Heads up

1. Information for parents and students: tertiary education – **fees free** and **student support increases**. **Read more...**
2. **Access to school rooftops** – advice for minimising children climbing onto your school roof. **Read more...**
3. Advice for **asbestos removal** during building works. **Read more...**
4. **Reminder: The Wellbeing@School student survey** is **free of charge until December 2018**.
5. **New Teaching for Positive Behaviour resource**. **Read more...**
6. **New ERO report Keeping children engaged and achieving in upper primary school: Teaching strategies that work** explores specific strategies schools have used to improve achievement.
7. The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (**PIRLS**) **NZ Report** will be **released on 5 December**. [You will be able to read the report here](#)
8. **'Walking the talk' – matters in the use of evidence for transformative education looks at the use of evidence for equity, excellence, belonging and wellbeing**
9. The latest [Property News \[PDF\]](#) includes updated guidance on sleepovers in schools, weathertightness, 2018 maintenance grant rates and more.
10. Advice for schools **purchasing** Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD). **Read more...**
11. New Digital Technologies & Hangarau Matihiko **curriculum content release update**. **Read more...**
12. Teach NZ 2018 [Kupe](#), [Early Childhood Education](#) and [Māori medium scholarships](#) are now open. **Read more...**



13. Registrations are now open for schools wanting to participate in the [VLN Primary School](#) in 2018. [Find out more and register your interest](#) or contact primary@vln.school.nz
14. There have been updates to the [Changes in education page](#) on our website.
15. **Tuia First Encounters 250** marks the first meetings between two cultures that have defined what Aotearoa has become. **Read more...**
16. Encourage your boards of trustees to enter the **2018 Prime Minister's Education Excellence in Governing Awards**. **Read more...**

▶ **General information**

1. New **Education Resourcing System (ERS)** to be introduced in 2018 will simplify the way you apply for funding and access resourcing information. **Read more...**
2. FYI our national office in Bowen Street, Wellington will close at the end of the business day on Friday 22 December and reopen at 8am Wednesday 3 January 2018. [Key contact details are on our website](#)

▶ **Regional news**

- ▼ Tai Tokerau
- ▼ Auckland
- ▼ Waikato
- ▼ Bay of Plenty - Waiariki
- ▼ Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu
- ▼ Hawke's Bay - Tairāwhiti
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▶ **Communications/Events**

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Critical need to know and action

Audited annual attendance dues accounts

State integrated schools must provide audited annual attendance dues accounts to us. [Circular 2017/08](#) explains the requirements for submitting accounts. It replaces [Circular 2015/10](#)

Operational funding entitlement and January instalment notice

On 20 December, the 2018 Operational Funding Entitlement and January Instalment Notice will be available via the [School Data Portal](#) Read instructions on how to access the Portal on [our website](#)

Urgent police vets available

The Ministry has reached an agreement with NZ Police to allow for 5000 expedited police vets per annum for two years for early learning services and schools. This service is only available in genuinely urgent circumstances.

We worked with sector representatives to establish criteria as follows:

- An urgent police vet **is only available for** schools and early learning services needing to urgently recruit new, core children's workers in a critical or crisis situation. For example, an urgent police vet can be requested to recruit staff to:
 - support a learning or behavioural need for a currently enrolled or newly enrolled student
 - cover unexpected or extreme staff sickness
 - provide support in a crisis or traumatic situation.
- Urgent police vets are **not available for**:
 - teachers who hold a current practising certificate (as police vetting is undertaken by the Education Council)
 - recruitment of non-core children's workers
 - 3-yearly renewals/periodic re-checks of core or non-core children's workers
 - unpaid staff eg volunteers.

If a school or early learning service identifies a police vet as urgent, it can submit the request as per the usual process, entering **EDUCATION URGENT** into the 'Agency Reference' field of the online vetting request form. These police vets are expected to be processed in 2-5 working days. Urgent police vetting is available now.



We will work with the Police Vetting Service and sector representatives to evaluate the uptake and keep you informed.

New guidelines for pastoral care

Read new [Guidelines for the provision of pastoral care, guidance and counselling in secondary schools: Te Pakiaka Tangata Strengthening Student Wellbeing for Success](#) that we developed with representatives of the NZ Association of Counsellors (NZAC), PPTA, NZSTA, NZ Secondary Principals Council (NZSPC), and SPANZ.

Payroll report availability

In the next week, we will send you advice on the payroll report availability for year-end financial reporting. The intention is to get the complete package to you earlier than in previous years.

Heads up

Tertiary fees free and student support increases

Information for parents and students: tertiary education – fees free and student support increases

From 1 January 2018, eligible students will be able to access one year fees-free tertiary education and a \$50 a week boost to student allowances and living cost loan limits. Visit the [education website](#) for more information about them.

If a student, parent or whānau asks you for advice on how to access these initiatives, you may refer them to the following websites:

- [StudyLink](#) - for queries around StudyLink applications
- [Inland Revenue](#) – for queries around student loan repayments and how to manage them
- [Careers New Zealand](#) – for independent information and advice about planning for further study and career
- [New Zealand Qualifications Authority](#) – for queries around meeting qualification requirements towards further education

You may wish to post this information on your website for your students, parents and whānau to access.

The Ministry of Education continues to work with government agencies and the Minister to finalise the details. New updates will continue to be posted on the [education website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



Access to school rooftops

You may have read recent media reports about children climbing onto school roofs, with one of these incidents resulting in a fatality. In all cases, children have been able to find ways to access roofs. These incidents often occur outside of school hours. School personnel and boards of trustees are advised to check for points of potential access to school rooftops, particularly in advance of the upcoming holiday period.

Actions that could be taken to minimise the likelihood of children climbing onto roofs include, but are not limited to:

- making sure appropriate warnings to students from teachers and/or signage are in place
- ensuring items which could be used as to climb onto roofs are not located adjacent to school buildings (eg rubbish bins, water tanks or playground equipment)
- asking neighbours to report any cases of children on roofs.

Advice for asbestos removal

Building refurbishments are often done over the school holidays. Sometimes this work involves asbestos removal. In these cases, you must ensure:

1. [A licensed asbestos removal company is used](#)
2. The asbestos removal company must have an Asbestos Removal Control Plan in place
3. WorkSafe NZ has been notified (if more than 10m² of asbestos is being removed)
4. You have notified everyone who may be affected by the works. This includes:
 - school staff, students and parents
 - anyone at or in the immediate vicinity (eg neighbours along boundary fences)
 - anyone occupying buildings in the immediate vicinity (eg after school care programmes or community groups).

We've developed [guidance and templates](#) you can use to communicate with your community about any building works

[Read more about managing your asbestos risks](#)

Wellbeing@school student survey

Reminder: [The Wellbeing@School student survey](#) is free of charge until December 2018.



New Teaching for Positive Behaviour resource

By now you should have received copies of a new resource, Teaching for Positive Behaviour. It has been written for teachers in all New Zealand schools and kura to help them support the behaviour, engagement, participation and learning of children and young people. It includes sections on creating a supportive learning environment, encouraging reflective thought and action, facilitating shared learning, and providing sufficient opportunities to learn.

Each section has a range of strategies for teachers to use along with an example of effective practice. The resource also includes activities designed to support staff professional learning and development and links to further information. There is also a self-assessment tool at the back.

This resource would work well with the [Wellbeing@School toolkit](#)

To order additional copies of Teaching for Positive Behaviour you can order online from www.thechair.minedu.govt.nz, phone 0800 660 662 or download from our TKI website <http://pb4l.tki.org.nz/PB4L-School-Wide/Support-material>

New ERO report

New ERO report [Keeping children engaged and achieving in upper primary school: Teaching strategies that work](#) explores specific strategies schools have used to improve achievement.

PIRLS NZ Report

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) NZ Report will be released on 5 December. [You will be able to read the report here](#)

Walking the talk

'Walking the talk' – matters in the use of evidence for transformative education looks at the use of evidence for equity, excellence, belonging and wellbeing

Latest Property News

The latest [Property News \[PDF\]](#) includes updated guidance on sleepovers in schools, weathertightness, 2018 maintenance grant rates and more.

Purchasing BYOD

If you have or are introducing bring your own devices (BYOD) into your school, you may wish to provide parents and your school community with online safety advice for buying and using these devices. Parents are often thinking about buying new devices for their children for Christmas and



Netsafe and CERT NZ have teamed up to provide some tips for parents and schools. The advice covers what to think about when buying devices, how to set them up and how to get students off to a safe start online by protecting themselves and their personal information.

[Read more about BYOD on the Netsafe website](#)

More information

Netsafe can provide free and confidential online safety help, guidance on using technology safely for learning and advice on how to best prepare for harmful online incidents before they happen. Contact Netsafe by calling 0508 NETSAFE or emailing help@netsafe.org.nz or visiting www.netsafe.org.nz

DT & HM update

The new Digital Technologies & Hangarau Matihiko curriculum content will be **released on 14 December** and will be available from the [Technology](#) and [Hangarau](#) sections of our TKI website.

For schools and kura teaching years 1-10, the content can be accessed from 2018, with full use expected from 2020.

Three reports resulting from the consultation, which we ran earlier this year prior to finalising the curriculum content, are now available on our [website](#)

These reports: reiterate the rationale for the new curriculum content; outline the changes we made to the curriculum content as a result of the feedback we heard; and outline the resources and supports that will be available for teachers and kaiako to help them make use of the new curriculum content and introduce it into their teaching and learning programmes.

Teach NZ scholarships

Teach NZ 2018 [Kupe](#), [Early Childhood Education](#) and [Māori medium](#) scholarships are now open.

The ECE and Kupe scholarships **close on 23 February and 5 March 2018**, respectively. TeachNZ Māori Medium (Primary) and Te Reo Māori (Secondary and Wharekura) close on **Monday 5 February 2018**.

Find out more about scholarship eligibility criteria, opening and closing dates on the [TeachNZ website](#).

VLN Primary School registrations open

Registrations are now open for schools wanting to participate [the VLN Primary School](#) in 2018. [Find out more and register your interest](#) or contact primary@vln.school.nz

Updates to Changes in education web page

There have been updates to the [Changes in education page](#) on our website



Tuia - First Encounters 250

Tuia – First Encounters 250 is a Tier 1 Cabinet-mandated commemoration of the arrival of James Cook and the Endeavour, accompanied by Tahitian chief and navigator Tupaia. It marks the first meetings between two cultures that have defined what Aotearoa New Zealand has become. Those meetings also set the theme for Tuia – First Encounters 250: Dual Heritage Shared Future.

Tuia – First Encounters 250 will culminate in a series of major events in 2019 and is being supported by a nation-wide education programme led by the Ministry of Education. We are calling this ongoing programme of work **Tuia – Mātauranga**, and we want you all to know about it.

Tuia – Mātauranga

Tuia – Mātauranga will be an exciting and significant programme which captures and reflects the theme of Dual Heritage Shared Future. It is about identity, language and culture, which is relevant to all of us because for children and young people to be successful learners they need a strong sense of self, of where they come from and to be encouraged to be curious and inquiring both within the classroom and outside the school gates.

The national focus for the two year period leading up to the commemorations, and beyond, provides a great opportunity for wide participation by children and young people, their parents, grandparents and broader community including early childhood centres, kōhanga, schools, kura and tertiary institutions, in a range of events and activities that will encourage them to think about the future of our nation while learning about their heritage and that of others.

Tuia - Mātauranga will develop with input from the sector and the wider community over coming months. It will include the following:

- **Developing new learning resources** including stories nominated by communities, to support teaching and learning across early learning services through to secondary in both Māori and English medium.
- **Making existing resources more accessible** to children and young people, teachers and communities.
- **Developing teaching and learning guidance** for students, teachers and communities.
- **Providing event guidelines** to help children, young people and local communities with events they may be planning in the lead up to the commemoration.
- **Influencing existing education-related events** to reflect the themes of Tuia: First Encounters 250.
- **Designing and delivering a national student competition** across various age groups.
- **Promoting the commemoration** directly to young people and community organisations, as well as, by working with schools and through web and social media channels.
- **Exploring a touring or virtual exhibition** of student work themes of Tuia: First Encounters 250.

We expect it to adapt and evolve as we incorporate everyone's ideas.

Our vision is that children, young people and the families, whānau and 'aiga will take a leading role in galvanising their communities to engage with Tuia - Mātauranga. We envisage this happening through rich dialogue, the gift of stories and the power of activities, events and interactive apps that open children and young peoples' minds to new ways of learning related to themes of strong productive relationships, caring for the environment, voyaging and navigation, science, technology, astronomy, innovation and mātauranga Māori that can help with shaping their future and our nation's identity, language and culture.

We don't just want you to know about it, we also want you to let us know what it means to you so we can incorporate ideas that are of value to the wider community into the scope of the programme. So please email us your thoughts at Tuia.matauranga@education.govt.nz

We will share more with you as we build the programme. [In the meantime, find out more here](#)

Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards

The **2018 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards** celebrate effective and inspiring governance. As the year nears its end, reflect and celebrate the achievements of the board of trustees of your school and encourage them to enter the Excellence in Governing - Awatea Award. This award celebrates governance and management that creates the conditions for leading and teaching that improve and sustain outcomes for all children and young people.

Go to the [PM Awards website](#) for further information on how to prepare your entry and to download the [entry form](#) Entries close on **Friday 23 March 2018**.

If you have any questions, email info@pmawards.education.govt.nz or call 0800 PM AWARDS (0800 762 927).

General Information

Education Resourcing System

New **Education Resourcing System (ERS)** to be introduced in 2018 will simplify the way you apply for funding and access resourcing information. [Read more...](#)

Ministry's national office holiday closing dates

FYI our national office in Bowen Street, Wellington will close at the end of the business day on Friday 22 December and reopen at 8am Wednesday 3 January 2018. [Key contact details are on our website](#)



Regional News

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- ▼ Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast
- ▼ Canterbury and Chatham Islands
- ▼ Otago, Southland

Tai Tokerau | Hira Gage



Tēnā koutou katoa

With the end of year drawing to a close and the festive season about to begin, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued commitment and the amazing work you do to support our tamariki, mokopuna o Te Tai Tokerau.

This year has been particularly challenging with changes in the education system and more to come in 2018. You have managed the changes with style and grace, focused on what is best for our kids and making a real difference in each of their lives. Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

Changes in Education

The Government is planning a range of changes across a wide number of areas of education policy and practice.

The Ministry of Education is working with the Government on these changes in areas such as replacing National Standards, making some changes to the existing Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako model, reviewing all partnership/charter schools and implementing the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017.

NCEA Review: The Ministry will review the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) in 2018 and will ensure it supports a quality, comprehensive schooling system.

Cohort entry: The Minister has said that in 2018 he will amend the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017 to limit cohort entry to children over 5 years of age.



Tertiary education - fees free: We are working with other agencies to make sure that one year fees-free tertiary education comes into effect by 1 January 2018.

National Standards to be replaced: We're working with the Government on its policy to replace National Standards and Ngā Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori with a new system that better acknowledges a child's progress and focuses more on developing key competencies for all learners.

Boards are asked to note that the National Administration Guidelines (NAGs), relating to their own planning and reporting processes, their reporting to parents and students, to the Ministry of Education, on National Standards, remain in place until officially changed.

We'll keep you up to date about these and other changes in education [on our website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

It's a good idea to check these pages regularly and I will endeavour to highlight them in our regional bulletin.

In the meantime, and whilst the various policy changes are being worked through, our advice is that all education providers in early learning services, kōhanga reo, schools, kura and tertiary, should continue to use and to implement current policy settings and practices until we notify you that these policies and practices have officially changed.

Equipping students with skills for Digital Technologies & Hangarau Matihiko learning

Technology is changing fast and our education system needs to grow and adapt with it. We are changing how we equip our children and young people to participate, create, and thrive in this fast-evolving digital world. You will find key information [on our website](#) and in these factsheets:

- [Factsheet – What students need to know \[PDF\]](#)
- [Factsheet – What parents need to know \[PDF\]](#)
- [Factsheet – What business needs to know \[PDF\]](#)

Mental Health Social Investment Initiatives

In August 2017, the Government announced a \$100 million mental health social investment package. This document summarises the initiatives with a focus on prevention, early intervention and resilience-building through our schools and early learning services, as well as those that will improve access to mental health services for children and young people in need.

- A summary of all of the initiatives in the mental health social investment package is available on the [Ministry of Health website](#) and
- A paper written by the Prime Minister's chief science advisor that informed the development of the package is available [here](#)



Ministry offices during Christmas and New Year

All of our offices will close at 4pm on Friday 22 December. Whangarei office will reopen on 3 January with limited staff. Kaitaia and Kerikeri offices will reopen on 15 January.

On behalf of all our staff, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a restful holiday and the very best for the New Year.

Ngā mihi mō te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

Feel free to call me on 09 436 8914 or email me at: hira.gage@education.govt.nz

Hira

Auckland | Isabel Evans



Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

Meri Kirihimete and season's greetings to you all.

This is my last update for 2017 and I want to thank you all for your hard work and commitment over this last year. Your efforts make a real difference in the lives of our tamariki and it is so appreciated by all of us here at the Ministry.

We know that there will many new challenges (and some old ones!) awaiting us in the new year, so I hope you all get to have a much deserved break and to spend time with family and loved ones. I am very much looking forward to doing the same.

Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour year 11+ funding update

All schools with students in years 11+ will have now received an email from us confirming the amount allocated for your school in 2018. In order to access the funding, you will need to complete a Funding Proposal Form outlining how the funding will be used, by **8 December**.

If you have any questions or concerns or you have not received this email, please contact Fundmanagement.AK@education.govt.nz

Recruiting teachers to New Zealand

We have had really good feedback from some of you about the flyer that went out in the Education Gazette last month. In case you missed it, [you can view it online](#)

City Rail Link – Primary School art project

Last month you will have received an email from City Rail Link inviting you to be part of an exciting art project that will involve your school's designs being incorporated into one of Auckland's new train stations.

The deadline for expressing your interest in this project is **15 December**. Please email sonya.leahy@CityRailLink.govt.nz before then to secure your spot.



Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards

A reminder applications are open for the [Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards](#) with entries closing on **23 March 2018**.

The awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in early learning, primary and secondary schooling in the areas of: engaging, leading, teaching and learning and inclusive practices.

We can all be very proud of our region's strong record of success in these awards.

- Manurewa Intermediate School - Excellence in Engaging | Atahāpara Award and Prime Minister's Supreme Award | Takiri ko te ata, 2017
- Waitakere College - Joint Winner, Excellence in Teaching and Learning | Atatū Award, 2017
- McAuley High School - Excellence in Engaging | Atahāpara Award and Prime Minister's Supreme Award | Takiri ko te ata, 2016
- Rangitoto College, Excellence in Governing | Awatea Award, 2016

We encourage you to consider entering your school or kura for the 2018 Awards.

For more information see the [Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards website](#)

2018 Ministerial Youth Advisory Group

Minister Hipkins has now announced the names of the twelve young people who will take part in the 2018 Ministerial Youth Advisory Group. Congratulations to our three young Aucklanders who will be part of this exciting new initiative:

- Shaneel Lal, Otahuhu College
- Bevan Xiao, Long Bay College
- Geniqua Samupo, Avondale College.

It would also be great to remind students aged 14-18 they can sign up at any time to take part in the [Online Youth Forum](#). There is a range of topics up for discussion, including the future of work, student wellbeing, which education priorities matter and perspectives on technology and the use of digital tools in learning and assessment. The insights from both groups will be shared with the education agencies.

Recruiting now for Incredible Years parents courses in 2018

Incredible Years is a 14-session programme for parents of children aged 3 to 8 years. Parents come together each week and learn ways to help promote their children's social and problem-solving skills. Parents also develop approaches to use at home for challenging behaviours, such as aggressiveness and ongoing tantrums.

The programme coaches parents in ways to:

- make time to play and spend time with their children and let their children lead the play
- encourage the behaviours they would like to see, through setting clear rules and boundaries and using praise and encouragement
- use consequences selectively such as ignoring, loss of privileges and time-out to calm down.

Resources are provided free to parents and there is no cost to attend. If you have families of students aged 8 and under that you think would benefit from these courses next year, see below for the locations.

Organisation	Start date	Location	Contact name	Contact email/ phone	Time
Family Works Northern	15 Feb	St Peters Church 7 Harrison Road Mt Wellington		admin.lesliecentre@fwn.org.nz 09 639 2016	9.30am – 12pm
Creative Learning Scheme	27 Feb	13-15 Gladding Place Manukau		09 917 5472	9.30am – 12pm
Creative Learning Scheme	27 Feb	13-15 Gladding Place Manukau		09 917 5472	5.30pm – 8pm
Franklin Family Support Services	Late Feb Date TBC	Pukekohe	Colleen	admin@familysupport.org.nz (09) 238 6233	Morning
Franklin Family Support Services	Late Feb Date TBC	Pukekohe	Colleen	admin@familysupport.org.nz (09) 238 6233	Evening
Ministry of Education	Feb	Henderson	Linda Marieskind	linda.marieskind@education.govt.nz	TBC
Ministry of Education	Feb	Albany	Linda Marieskind	linda.marieskind@education.govt.nz	TBC
Ministry of Education	Mar	Papatoetoe	Bennie van den Berg Lisa Thom	027 292 5325 09 265 3052	TBC
Ministry of Education	Mar	Takanini	Sue Hamilton Piripi Davis	09 265 3103 09 638 0275	TBC
Ministry of Education	Mar	Onehunga	Cecilia Meleisea Tavita Tofi	09 638 0289 09 265 3024	TBC



ESOL news

We recently awarded 95 Teaching English in Schools to Speakers of Other Languages (TESSOL) scholarships to primary and secondary teachers throughout New Zealand and 50 of these are for teachers in Auckland. These teachers will be a valuable resource in our schools and Kāhui Ako for other teachers wanting to know about working with English language learners. There are hundreds of teachers who have previously been awarded one of our TESSOL fees scholarships, providing essential information to schools and Kāhui Ako about best ESOL practices. We wish these teachers all the best with their studies.

Governor General pays a visit

On Monday 20 November, Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy and her husband, Sir David Gascoigne visited [Al-Madinah School in Mangere](#)

The Governor-General spent time at the school, speaking at assembly, handing out prizes and meeting with students from groups including the school's Young Enterprise team and GrowingNZ Innovation Challenge team.

Feel free to call me on 09 632 9333 or email me: isabel.evans@education.govt.nz

Wishing you a safe and relaxing break over the holidays.
Isabel

Waikato | Paula Rawiri



E rau rangatira mā tēnā koutou katoa i tēnei wā o te Pōhutukawa.

Nōku te Reo, Nōku Te Ao

The Nōku te Reo, Nōku Te Ao Kōhanga Reo Expo was a celebration of 35 years for Te Kōhanga Reo -1982 to 2017 - and was led by Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust. The (pictured) mokopuna from Te Kōhanga Reo O Te Teko

were among the thousands who came to commemorate this significant milestone at the Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton. Celebrations were held from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 November and included a huge range of presentations, performances and exhibitors. It was awesome to see how many people came from all over the region to tautoko this amazing event.



Inclusive Education website

An advisory group of representatives from schools, the RTLB service, early learning services and kōhanga reo, Ministry for Children Oranga Tamariki, NZSTA and parent groups has been



established to support the implementation of a new service model for learning support. At a recent meeting, the group highlighted that behaviour is a critical issue being faced by all. The group discussed the need for educators to have access to information and strategies to enable them to effectively manage situations themselves. As we talked about these issues, it became apparent that not everyone was aware of the [Inclusive Education website](#)

This website contains a wealth of information aimed at principals, SENCOs and teachers. There are specific classroom strategies and information to help teachers understand and support students with a wide range learning needs, as well as a large number of videos, assessment tools and guides. It's an amazing resource and I'd encourage all of you to explore it further if you have not yet done so.

Secondary School Employer Pathways (SSEP)

I'd like to acknowledge the effort and success of Smart Waikato, the 12 high schools and more than 100 employers who participated in SSEP this year. The initiative involves local businesses from priority sectors working with year 9 and 10 students and teachers to demonstrate how their subjects apply on the job. The feedback from participants has been fantastic, as you can see in [these videos](#). I'm very excited about the planned expansion into more schools in 2018 (with the ultimate aim of having the programme available to all high schools in the region) and the opportunity it will give our rangatahi to be exposed to real work environments so they can make informed subject and career choices for their future.

To help our work in this area, we have recently appointed Bevan Smith and Margaret Paiti as our principal advisors secondary tertiary.

Centrally-funded PLD hours

The Waikato region Allocation Panel, that comprises of principals and board chairs from a range of schools, kura and Kāhui Ako, met recently to consider PLD proposals.

The Panel considered a large number of proposals in this round. Every application received is reviewed against established criteria (primarily how well it aligns to national and regional education priorities) and thoroughly discussed before final recommendations are made to me for approval. As part of this process, the panel undertake a joint moderation across several proposals to ensure fairness and consistency. I am pleased to say that 50 individual schools and kura and 11 Kāhui Ako or school clusters will receive support from the Ministry of Education.

Closing dates for the submission of proposals for 2018 will be published shortly.

For further support with PLD proposals or questions, contact:

- Tracy Hansen tracy.hansen@education.govt.nz
- Christine Jeffs christine.jeffs@education.govt.nz
- Grace Marsh grace.marsh@education.govt.nz

Teacher-led Innovation Fund (TLIF)

Round 4 of the TLIF opened recently and proposals are due by **22 February 2018**.



This fund enables groups of teachers (including those in Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako and early learning services, ngā kōhanga reo) to carry out innovative projects, exploring practice and developing new practices to improve progress and achievement for children and young people. If you're thinking of applying, now's a good time to start planning potential approaches with colleagues and any external experts you hope to work with.

Further information about TLIF can be found on our [website](#)

Investing in Educational Success and a focus on the secondary to tertiary pathway

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank you for the great work that you have completed throughout 2017, especially within Kāhui Ako. It is exciting to see how many of the Kāhui Ako have developed and progressed forward in one way or another. We now have a total of 25 Kāhui Ako across the Waikato. One of the constants has been the element of change that is being continually explored.

We too are in the process of change internally within our team. Bevan Smith, who many of you know and have worked so well with, and was the first lead advisor for IES, now has a new role. He has been appointed to one of two new regional roles within the Waikato team as principal advisor secondary tertiary, along with Margaret Paiti who has recently joined the Ministry. Some of you, especially the secondary sector, will already know Margaret and others will remember her from her role 10 years ago as the MOE Pasifika Co-ordinator.

In the New Year, for Kāhui Ako, Chris and Christine will continue to be your contact points along with the individual key Ministry of Education Contact person for each Kāhui Ako. We are all only too happy to support you as you continue to develop and shape your individual Kāhui Ako, and to support educational pathways for children and young people and communities.



Pictured here is the team – Jean Paterson manager education with leadership responsibility for these two portfolios, Chris and Christine as the IES lead advisors and Bevan and Margaret as the principal advisors secondary tertiary.

This will be the last He Pitopito Kōrero for 2017 so I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy festive season. Thank you for all the support that you have given me and our team here in the Ministry of Education. We look forward to connecting with you in 2018.

Feel free to call me on 07 850 8924 or email me at: paula.rawiri@education.govt.nz

Pai Mārire
Paula

Bay of Plenty - Waiariki | Ezra Schuster



Talofa lava and Kia ora

Christmas and the summer holiday season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the hard work that goes on every day by office staff, teachers' aides, teachers, senior staff and principals to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. Our children are the better for it and you can be proud.

There have been a number of significant achievements throughout the Bay of Plenty-Waiariki – too many to mention. Please take the time to have a break over the holiday season with family and friends and we look forward to another great year ahead in 2018.

I will be on leave from Thursday 21 December and back in mid-January 2018 spending time with my children, wife and extended family in NZ, Australia and Samoa.

Can I encourage you to read the key notices and information in the bulletin and my updates below.

Cohort entry

The Government made the decision to change the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017 in 2018, to limit cohort entry to children over five years of age. Any school that has already had a cohort entry policy approved, that includes entry prior to five years of age, will be able to implement that until the Education Act is amended. Our website will be updated once the policy review has been finalised.

Retiring principals and staff

This month I'd like to honour Chris Broadhurst retiring as principal at Omokoroa Primary, Ray Scott who is retiring as principal at Aquinas College and Deb Epp as retiring principal at Mokoia Intermediate.

Chris Broadhurst - after 47 years of teaching, Chris is retiring as principal of Omokoroa School. Chris has relished the opportunity to be principal for 21 years, seeing the roll triple to 300. His highlights include the annual year 8 ski trip to Whakapapa and the build of a heated school pool and dome. Chris will continue his role over the summer break to support the new principal, Mr Pentecost, who will be taking the reins at the end of January 2018. Chris is looking forward to time out, planning to spend time with his five grandchildren and following his interests. He will continue his passion for maths by keeping his hand in teaching with some part-time maths tutoring. Chris will be missed by the supportive school community.

Ray Scott - after seven years as principal of Aquinas College, Ray is retiring at the end of 2017. Ray has been an educator for 37 years, including 18 years as a principal at both St John's College in Hamilton and seven years at Aquinas. Formally, Ray was a teacher and leader of science in both Christchurch and Te Puke schools. Ray enjoyed a sabbatical in 2014 whereby he and his wife travelled to Europe and Rome, professionally growing in Catholicism and 21st Century



learning. The highlight of his career has been the building of relationships with teachers and students, of which he will miss when he leaves.

Deb Epp - Mrs Deborah Epp is retiring at the end of 2017 after 12 years as principal of Mokoia Intermediate. Deb's whole career in education has spanned many years including several years as deputy principal at Rotorua Girls' High School. Deb has a wide range of interests in education from her work supporting students at risk as a guidance counsellor to her curriculum passion for science. Deb's recent sabbatical focussed on engaging students in science contributed significantly to the Eastern Rotorua Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako achievement challenge.

While Deb has spent many years advocating for children needing support and extra awahi, Deb is nevertheless looking forward to enjoying some family focussed time as well as pursuing her other interests.

We also have Shelley Fitness, principal of St Michaels Catholic School in Rotorua who is taking up the Principalship of St Patricks Catholic School in Taumarunui.

New appointment and vacancies

Anna Hayward has been appointed in the new role of Eastern Bay of Plenty manager based in Whakatane. This is a new Ministry leadership role to support the growing demands of the eastern part of our region. Anna will be well known to many of you, as she has been the service manager in our Whakatane office for several years and did a great job. Anna starts in her new role at the start of term 1, 2018. This gives us until the end of this year to recruit her replacement, a Whakatane based service manager, as well as a permanent senior advisor to also be based in Whakatane.

The advertisement for the service manager role has been up for some time and the senior advisor is also up this week with interviews and appointment early 2018. You can find these vacancies and others on our [Careers Centre website](#)

Our office hours over the break

All our offices will close on Friday 22 December in the afternoon and will be open again from 8.30am Monday 8 January 2018. Our Whakatane and Tauranga offices will have limited staff until Monday 15 January.

Also, feel free to call me on 07 3498309 or email me at ezra.schuster@education.govt.nz if there is anything you'd like to discuss with me.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Ia manuia
Ezra Schuster



Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu | Jann Marshall



Kia ora koutou

As the year quickly draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your valued contribution and commitment over the past year to raising student achievement and supporting children and families in our region.

Office hours over the Christmas break

The Palmerston North, New Plymouth and Whanganui Offices will close at 4:30pm on Friday 22 December and reopen at 8am on Wednesday 3 January.

During this time, if you need to contact us regarding a traumatic incident please call 0800 848 326.

If you need to contact us about a property related issue please call 0800 372 4357. Your call will be answered by Cove Kinloch who are the Ministry's emergency contractor.

A story about a writing group

This is the time of year when schools reflect on the progress made by students and inquire into the practices that have enabled excellent results. Many teachers will have known the joy of having priority students make accelerated progress this year and some will have been involved in Accelerated Literacy Learning (ALL).

I sometimes have the privilege of seeing Impact Reports from schools involved in ALL, ALiM (Accelerated Learning in Mathematics), and MST (Mathematics Support Teacher). I'd like to share one with you. It is from a writing intervention with nine boys and six girls in years 4 to 8, who were all below or well below the writing standard. Two teachers participated in the programme. The writing group was held four times a week from 8.40am – 9.15am. In this case, 14 of the children made accelerated progress as measured by asTTle scores (with an average 78 points improvement).

"Students were all interviewed prior to the programme starting. In their eyes they hadn't experienced much success as writers nor could they see the purpose for writing. They all have limited knowledge of the world outside of their community; building topic specific vocabulary was a key focus...."

Despite the impressive asTTle statistics about progress, I was interested to see that, in the teachers' eyes, the students' gain in confidence from the beginning to the end of the project was the most noticeable improvement. Teachers noted that students started to believe in themselves as writers and were keen to contribute and even organise sessions.

They believed the key to the success of the programme was ensuring students understood the purpose of the writing and that they were motivated to write based on the shared authentic learning experiences. These experiences were built around student interest, promoting motivation and engagement. All students had a say in content delivery.

Students were sharing their pathways with one another, reflecting on their work and making comparisons between the beginning and the end of the programme.



Many thanks to Brigitte Luke and the team at Rahotu School for sharing their story.

If your school would like to be involved with ALL or ALiM, you can express interest via email to sylvia.howieson@education.govt.nz

Professional Learning and Development (PLD)

Our region's Area Allocation Panel met on 27 November to consider professional learning applications from 35 schools, kura, and Kāhui Ako. We are contacting schools from 4 December about allocations for 2018 and beyond.

If you would like to apply for Ministry funded PLD at your school, information can be found at our [website](#). Applications for the next round are open until **16 February 2018**.

I hope you all enjoy some rest and relaxation during the coming Christmas and New Year's holiday.

If you need to contact me, do not hesitate to do so on 06 349 6315 or email me at jann.marshall@education.govt.nz

Ngā mihi
Jann

Hawke's Bay - Tairāwhiti | Roy Sye



Tēnā koutou

Christmas and the end of the year are almost upon us and it's certainly been a big year! We have seen the commencement of the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017, we have had a change of Government, new Ministers and a number of policy changes have already been announced for 2018.

In our region we have 133 schools who are now members of one of our 19 Kāhui Ako and our regional Ministry whānau has grown to better respond and support you.

This time of year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past year, and there have been many. Notably; William Colenso picking up the Excellence in Leading Award as a joint winner at the 2017 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards, Tairāwhiti's successful hosting of the National Primary Kapa Haka festival, Hasting's Boys' High School winning the National Secondary School Rugby Competition and a number of schools celebrating their 150 year Jubilees. However I am also aware this year has not been without its challenges and I wanted to thank you all for stepping in to support other schools, kura and colleagues at times of need. I know they truly appreciated it.



Enjoy the upcoming break, it is certainly well deserved and thank you for your professional commitment and continued support to inspire our tamariki.

Meri Kirihimete!

Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako

We recently held our second Kāhui Ako leaders hui. Attendees representing 11 Kāhui Ako from across Hawke's Bay met to share and discuss their successes and challenges. The theme for the day was 'ways to improve communication and how to build positive relationships'. There was a speaker from NZSTA, guidance on how to share learning information safely, information on strengthening local iwi and hāpu relationships and information on the new Local Curriculum Design Toolkit.

The 'Open Space Event' enabled the attendees to share their experiences and ideas and support one another. The next forum will be held in term 1, 2018.

If you would like further information about the above or have any questions about Kāhui Ako please don't hesitate to contact one of our lead advisors - Barbara Bristow, Carys Lloyd, Lynne Maguire or Rosina Shandley.

Traumatic Incident workshop

We held a workshop with a group of principals from across Hawke's Bay to discuss the findings of the Trauma Response Review we recently completed. The review had included wider discussion with schools and Ministry staff about their experiences with Traumatic Incidents. With an increase in traumatic incidents across the region it was a great opportunity for principals to share experiences, ideas and resources. We received constructive feedback which will help inform future practice. A further workshop is planned with a wider group of principals. A huge thank you to those that participated in the review and those that attended the workshop.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Two weeks ago we helped coordinate a teacher professional development and learning day around STEM subjects with Activate Tairāwhiti. The day started with breakfast with Nano-Girl, Dr Michelle Dickinson, then attendees visited local industries in forestry, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture and science labs to grow their understanding of potential career pathways for students. The day was so successful that we are now exploring a similar format in Hawke's Bay. We are hoping these workshops will spark interest in STEM subjects and provide our learners with a pathway into employment by authentically connecting the sector with local industries.

Incredible Years Programme

Incredible Years is a research-based programme that aims to increase children's social skills at home, early childhood education (ECE) me ngā kōhanga reo and school. It has also been found to be helpful in reducing aggression and behaviour problems.

Four Incredible Years programmes will be offered to parents in Hawke's Bay in the first six months of 2018; day and night parent courses will be held in both Napier and Hastings. For more



information about the programme visit [The Incredible Years website](#)

To register interest please [complete this form](#) and return it to vikki.jones@psec.org.nz

Get to know us



Sharon Blount - staff profile

My role: I am a principal advisor secondary tertiary.

Why I'm here: 6 November 2017 – When an opportunity arose in an area of education that I am very passionate about I jumped at it. I have spent a number of years working as a facilitator in the private sector and working with schools offering vocational and career guidance to students.

What I enjoy most: Friendly working environment as I have only been here a couple of weeks!

In my non-work life: I am a member of the Spirit of Napier Lions Club.

If I could trade places with any other person for a week, I would be...

My youngest daughter who is at Victoria University – I realise now that I did not take all the educational opportunities available to me at university when I was younger and it would be great to be immersed in the university ways for a week (not the partying though!!).

Feel free to call me on 06 833 6898 or email: roy.sye@education.govt.nz

Ngā mihi
Roy

Wellington | Erika Ross



Kia ora

This is the final bulletin for the year – a year that has been even busier than most. I would like to thank you, your boards and staff for all your commitment and hard work supporting the young people at your schools and their families. What you do makes a difference – often in ways you will not even know until many years later when a young person may come up and tell you what it was that you did that changed their lives. I hope you are all planning a great holiday and time to recharge the batteries for next year.

I have appreciated working with some of you already since my return to Wellington and over the next year hope to meet with you all. Until then, on behalf of all the Wellington regional team may I



wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Leadership changes

There are a number of principals departing or retiring from our schools at the end of this year. I'd like to take the opportunity to say a very big thank you and farewell to:

- Geoff Sheppard from Kuranui College
- Gerard Tully from St Patrick's College, Silverstream
- Grant Miles from Chanel College
- John Russell from Naenae College
- Martin Isberg from Wainuiomata High School
- John Taylor-Smith from Miramar Central School
- Pearl Murti from Wainuiomata Intermediate School
- Peter Ahern from St Joseph's School, Upper Hutt

Our sincere thanks to you all for your years of service and dedication to educating the young people in our region. I wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

Winners of Fair Go Ad Awards

Congratulations to Chanel College, Masterton, for their '70's Inspired Landline' ad that took out the secondary schools award. The challenge this year was to make an ad about something that came out in the 1970's and make it cool and relevant to your mates today.

The ad was a quirky take on trying to reinvent landline phones back in to popular use. Well done Logan Turbman-Wallace who put together the entry with a group of fellow year 10 students. Sponsors Cannon Digital provided the prize of \$2,000 cash and over \$8,000 in a digital media package for the school.

Watch [Fair Go - On Demand](#) for the award presentation.

Minister's Youth Advisory Group members

Twelve young New Zealanders have been selected to take part in the new Ministerial 2018 Youth Advisory Group. Representatives for Wellington are:

- Abby McRoberts - Aotea College
- Liam McLeavey - Waiopahu College
- Watene Campbell - Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna.

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group will enable young people to have more influence on the education system and issues that affect them and offer young people aged between 14 and 18 years old, the opportunity to share their experiences of our education system, as well as ideas



about any improvements we can make.

To learn more about the members visit [My education, my voice](#) on our website.

[Registrations of interest are still open for the Online Youth Forum](#) that will discuss and test the perspectives of the advisory group. Please encourage your young people aged between 14 and 18 to sign up.

The group's orientation day and first meeting will be held in February 2018.

If you have any questions or want to know how you can get involved, email the Youth Advisory Group and Online Youth Forum secretariat at youth.voice@education.govt.nz

The 2018 Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards

A reminder applications are open for the Prime Ministers Education Excellence Awards. Entries close on **23 March 2018**.

The awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in early learning, primary and secondary schooling.

The award categories are:

- Excellence in Engaging – Atahāpara Award
- Excellence in Leading – Atakura Award
- Excellence in Teaching and Learning – Atatū Award
- Excellence in Governing – Awatea Award
- Education Focus Prize – Takatū Prize
- The Prime Minister's Supreme Award – Takiri Ko Te Ata

Winners of the four categories and focus prize will each receive a package including a trophy, certificate, a financial award of \$20,000, and a professional development opportunity. The Supreme Award winner receives a package including the Supreme Award Trophy, a certificate, an additional financial reward of \$30,000 and an opportunity to represent New Zealand Education.

See [the Prime Minister's Awards](#) website for more information.

Keeping your place safe and secure

A reminder to make sure your school or kura is secured during the Christmas and summer break. Don't give opportunists a chance to break into your property and steal or damage valuable teaching and learning resources. Keep your digital devices in particular locked in a secure room and out of sight.

Emergency contact

Please make sure I have your current mobile phone details and that of your board chair. In any



emergency I use these numbers to contact you and identify the support that you may need. You can send you and your board chair's mobile phone number and email address to Mata Gilbert at mata.gilbert@education.govt.nz

In addition, if you are a state school and if your school is damaged as the result of a disaster such as fire, flood or extreme weather - contact the emergency response coordinator. In our region this is **Cove Kinloch - 0800 372 4357**. They provide a 24 hour, 7 days a week service to manage emergency calls. If your school is integrated, you will still need to contact your proprietor.

Ministry offices during Christmas and New Year

All of our offices (Lower Hutt, Masterton, Porirua and Otaki) close at 4pm Friday 22 December. Lower Hutt will reopen on Wednesday 3 January 2018. Masterton, Porirua and Otaki offices will reopen on Monday 8 January but all calls will be answered by Lower Hutt office from Wednesday 3 January.

Kind regards

Erika Ross

erika.ross@education.govt.nz

Ph: 04 463 8668 Mb: 027 509 0430

Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast | Kathryn Palmer (Acting)



Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

I want to thank all of you who have shared your educational achievements and challenges with me whilst I have been in the role as acting Director.

On 22 January 2018, Derek Lucic starts in this role and I will pass over the mantle for future development. My last responsibility will be to brief Derek across the areas of work and feedback you have given me. Kāhui Ako is a strong feature across the region and how it is shaping collaborative leadership and educational development within your local communities.

May you have a relaxing holiday break and be refreshed for the new year of education 2018!

Principal farewells

As the year comes to an end it is time to farewell the following principals:

- Murray Hewson is retiring as principal of Witherlea School after more than 27 years!
- Alister McCosh, principal of Picton School, is leaving after more than 10 years of service. Alister has a long relationship with Picton School having also been a student at the school
- Dave Sullivan has been the principal of Ward School for two years and is moving to be the principal of Picton School



- Nicola Minehan has been acting principal of Hokitika School
- Shane Baillie is leaving Ross School after more than nine years as principal to take up the principal role at Hokitika School
- Jillian Porter has been acting principal at Enner Glynn School this year
- Sharon Prestidge has been an acting principal at Mapua School during part of this year and we look forward to welcoming back Neil Chalmers full-time at the start of 2018
- After 26 years at Havelock School, Ernie Buutveld is retiring as principal. Ernie has also been president of the Marlborough Principals' Association and for many years on the National Executive of the New Zealand Principals' Federation's where he served in 2009 and 2010 as its national president
- Jane Wills, principal of Maitai School for three and a half years, is leaving at the end of 2017 to take up the role as principal of the Central Regional Health School in Wellington
- Judy Elvidge is leaving Paroa School after three years as principal. Judy has enjoyed being a principal on the West Coast and is now looking forward to moving to Canterbury
- Pip Grey, principal of Spring Creek School, is leaving after 17 years at the school. Pip has been principal for the past four years having previously been a teacher and deputy principal. Pip is moving to the assistant principal role at Nayland Primary School
- Richard Baker has been acting principal at Golden Bay High School this year.

An acknowledgment to you all and the contribution you have made to education.

Staff update

I am pleased to announce that Robyn Patterson will be starting as the Ministry's principal advisor secondary tertiary for this region on 11 December.

During the past 19 years Robyn has worked for Primary ITO assisting students and other adults entering the workforce, planning and seeing their apprenticeships and training through to completion. This involved working with students, employers, training providers, schools and support agencies. Robyn has enjoyed seeing people achieve more than they thought possible and the difference this has made to their lives.



Robyn is looking forward to working across the region to support pathways for students and young people.

Kind regards

Kathryn Palmer

0274 332126

kathryn.palmer@education.govt.nz



Canterbury and Chatham Islands | Coralanne Child



Kia ora

We've worked on a range of projects with many of you this year – we appreciate all your support and efforts. Please enjoy your well-deserved break with loved ones, keep safe and we look forward to a new and exciting year of opportunities in 2018.

This is our last newsletter for the year and our office will be closed from 5pm, Friday 22 December until 8am, Wednesday 3 January 2018.

For any urgent matters please:

- Contact **School Support Limited** on **0800 111 775** for emergency responses to property matters ie fire, flood, extreme weather or email tony.haswell@schoolsupport.co.nz
- Call our **Traumatic incident support team** on **0800 848 326**.

A reminder that teachers from early learning services, ngā kōhanga reo, schools, kura and kāhui ako are encouraged to apply for round 4 of the [Teacher-led Innovation Fund \(TLIF\)](#) by **22 February 2018**. This funding enables groups of teachers to explore new and innovative practices to improve learning outcomes in the classroom.

After three years, Grow Waitaha in Canterbury has now touched just about every school in greater Christchurch, even the schools whose buildings did not require rebuild or repair. Through this project we continue to support schools and the ongoing engagement is proving to be effective, ensuring the benefits of the renewal programme are understood and carried through into the community. [Read more about Grow Waitaha](#)

Getting help for students with special needs from the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service

Teachers from the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (Outreach Service) can travel to schools in their local areas to support students in the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS). To get support, the students must be enrolled in their local school and with the Outreach Service.

A specialist teacher works as part of the student's support team, this includes their class teachers, special education staff, support staff and family or whānau.

[Read more information about the Specialist Teacher Outreach Service](#)

Youth Advisory Group

Twelve young New Zealanders have been selected to take part in the new Ministerial Youth Advisory Group.

Congratulations to Okirano Tilaia from Cashmere High School, Brodie Cross from Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu | Correspondence School and Kate Morris from Darfield High School. This is a



great opportunity for you to get involved and champion the youth voice in education.

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group will enable young people to have more influence on the education system and issues that affect them and offer young people aged between 14 and 18 years old, the opportunity to share their experiences of our education system, as well as ideas about any improvements we can make.

[Read more about the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group](#)

[Read the Minister of Education's press statement](#)

Students as teachers: collaboration at Linwood College

In the latest Education Gazette, Linwood College PE teachers Natasha Powell and Rosanna Katene talk about attending the 2016 Physical Education New Zealand conference and share some great ideas for encouraging interaction between junior and senior students. [Read the full story](#)

InTouch, Kia noho tata

The latest issue of the Muscular Dystrophy New Zealand In Touch, Kia noho tata Magazine features a story which discusses how starting school is a significant milestone that requires lots of preparation for families living with a neuromuscular condition. The article also has tips for making school days the best days. [Download and read a copy of the latest issue](#)

Water remissions/charges

As you will be aware from previous bulletins, Christchurch City Council are no longer giving remissions for excessive water usage, having implemented a new policy in July. They have installed new meters across the network and are now issuing monthly bills. This should reduce the amount of excess charges as it gives much earlier notification of an issue and a chance to remediate a problem.

Christchurch City Council expect that all users are monitoring their water usage themselves and will identify a problem early and address it before they receive a bill. If you do identify a problem, please email will.rowson@ccc.govt.nz and delwyn.harrison@ccc.govt.nz and they will record that you have an issue and are actively dealing with it, and as such they will not charge.

They will only consider remissions relating to costs incurred before July, and only if there is evidence of the leak being investigated and addressed before the excess charge was issued. Water charges are based on usage which is above a schools allocation. This will vary depending upon the schools Capital Value (CV). While this does mean a school with a higher CV will have a higher allocation than a school with a lower CV, this is addressed as part of the annual water rate charge from Christchurch City Council.



Three schools of roughly equal size are detailed as an example here:

School 1	School 2	School 3
CV – \$8.75m	CV – \$5.65m	CV - \$4.5m
Water Rates - \$3.5k	Water Rates – \$2.3k	Water Rates - \$1.8k
Water Allocation -12.9 m3	Water Allocation – 8.3 m3	Water Allocation – 6.7 m3

As you can see, the Water Rates and the Allocations do actually work out to be equitable.

If you require any further information, please contact your property advisor.

I wish you all a wonderful end of year and please do not hesitate to contact us.

Feel free to call me on 03 378 7345 or email me at: coralanne.child@education.govt.nz

Mā te wā,
Coralanne Child

Otago, Southland | Julie Anderson



Kia ora koutou

This is the last bulletin for 2017 so I want to thank you for the work you do every day in making a difference to the learning of the children and young people in your schools and Kāhui Ako. Your influence extends to the parents, families, whānau and communities you serve in striving to ensure our young people get the very best education and life opportunities. Leading schools is a complex and challenging job but at this time of the year, I hope you get some time to reflect on the positive progress of your students and enjoy the end of year celebrations. THANK YOU!

I also would like to acknowledge the work of Roxburgh Area School and its community in managing the damage from the flash flooding in the area last week. This is an excellent example of a local community pragmatically and positively working together in the wake of significant damage. It is also a timely reminder about emergency contacts, and I have outlined some of these below.

Professional Learning and Development (PLD) update

The Area Allocation Panel has been busy this year, and I wanted to share with you a summary of PLD allocated this year. Across Otago and Southland there have been:

- 132 applications approved (either fully or partially) across 5 allocation rounds
- More than 70% of the schools in our region have been allocated PLD hours
- 25 approved applications were for Communities of Learning or clusters of schools



- 13,534 hours were allocated in 2017 for approved allocations. Some of these applications extend into 2018 or 2019.
- The average number of hours approved for an individual school allocation (excluding inquiry hours allocation) was 101 hours. For a Kāhui Ako or cluster group, the average number of hours allocated was 200.
- 23 applications were approved for inquiry (at an average of 25 hours) – of these, 16 schools or clusters used the inquiry hours to successfully develop a further proposal and received additional hours.
- Applications covered a variety of focus areas, and many applications had multiple foci. Writing was the priority area most commonly sought, with 55% of approved applications including a writing focus. This was followed by digital fluency (36%), reading (33%), maths (32%), cultural responsiveness (15%) and science (14%).

We will continue to allocate PLD next year, using the same Area Allocation Panel approach. There will also be additional professional development available to support the new Digital Technologies curriculum and we will provide an update in this area early next year.

If you are thinking of submitting an application for consideration next year that is for additional hours, or a continuation or extension of existing PLD, please submit this as a new PLD journal and include your responsive feedback in this. The Panel will be looking for evidence that you have evaluated the progress made against your original goals, why they weren't fully achieved and what you expect to achieve in a new or continued PLD plan.

The first allocation round for 2018 will close on **Friday 9 February**. Please contact your education advisor if you would like to discuss your proposal further.

Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako update

It has been a busy year for Kāhui Ako, particularly those working through establishment and implementation processes. At this stage, no formal changes to the Communities of Learning model have been made but there are likely to be some changes in 2018. Kāhui Ako with achievement challenges waiting to be endorsed have been given the option to proceed under the current policy settings, with the option to review or change challenges as changes are made (particularly in relation to National Standards). If Kāhui Ako do proceed, any employment decisions would need to be continued until the fixed-term arrangements end. Alternatively, Kāhui Ako can 'wait and see' what policy settings may change in 2018.

I would also encourage all Kāhui Ako to connect with all of their boards and school communities around their achievement challenges and continue to foster the wider engagement and contribution from communities. Your Community of Learning lead advisor can help support this – please contact them if you wish to discuss this further.

Finally, a reminder to all Kāhui Ako about change management opportunities – if you feel your Community of Learning would benefit from a change manager to support a particular aspect of your development, please contact your Community of Learning lead advisor. This could



encompass organisational change management and planning, governance coaching or project management and planning.

Education Act Update

Minister Hipkins has signalled that in 2018, the Education (Update) Amendment Act 2017 will be amended to limit cohort entry to children over 5 years of age. Prior to any amendment, schools that have agreed on, or are considering or consulting on the introduction of cohort entry can continue to do so. If you wish to discuss the process, or have any questions about this, please contact your education advisor.

Refugee resettlement

Dunedin became a refugee resettlement centre in 2015, and welcomed its first former refugees into the city in March 2016. To date, we have welcomed 76 families across 10 intakes, including 127 students and young people now enrolled in schools or training programmes, and 58 children under 5 (306 people in total). Seventeen schools have now enrolled students. The initial coordination of support for these families in schools has now evolved into what we are calling the 'Dunedin approach', with a refugees programme coordinator overseeing the placement and transition across the schools, and coordinating bilingual support. I would like to thank Carisbrook School for leading the formation steering group and acknowledge Angela Watts for the outstanding support she has provided as refugee programmes coordinator.

As resettlement has evolved, we are supporting Dunedin schools through the development of an enhanced cluster model for 2018. This acknowledges some of the challenges that an increased geographic spread of resettlement has produced, and will build upon the current structures and strengths of the current model. We know that there will be another five intakes next year, which are planned to include the maximum of 30 people. We don't know what family groupings or children each intake consists of until a few weeks prior to arrival and sometimes the location of housing isn't confirmed until the last week. This means schools in the local area often don't have a large planning window, and I acknowledge the challenges this presents but thank you for your responsiveness to date.

Next year, Invercargill will receive its first intake as a newly established resettlement centre, and we look forward to working with schools and other agencies in that area to develop an 'Invercargill approach.'

Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Last week Diane Fenika, southern regional manager from the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, along with some of her staff, were in Invercargill and Dunedin to meet with community, local organisations and other government agencies. This was an opportunity to reconnect with local Pasifika priorities and discuss how this Ministry can support local and regional initiatives.

Connecting across the Pasifika network in Oamaru, the importance of language learning and how to foster this, the potential opportunities that exist in the digital space and cross agency collaboration were discussed.



Contacts over the holiday break

The Dunedin office will close at the end of business Friday 22 December and will open again on Wednesday 3 January 2018. The Invercargill and Cromwell Offices will reopen on Monday 8 January 2018. However, please note that there will be fewer staff available in the first few weeks.

If there is an incident at your school over the holiday break and you need property support, please contact:

School Support Limited – 0800 111 775 or email tony.haswell@schoolsupport.co.nz

The traumatic incident phone will be covered also over the holiday break – contact is as per usual – 0800 848 326 (0800 TI Team).

Meri kirihimete and season's greetings from all the team here at the Ministry of Education. We hope you all have a well-earned break over the festive season and enjoy time with your whānau and friends. We look forward to reconnecting with you in the new year and continuing to work together to ensure excellence and equitable outcomes across all schools and Kāhui Ako in our region.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any issues or ideas. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi mahana
Julie

Email: julie.anderson@education.govt.nz
Direct Dial: 03 471 5217
Cell phone 027 836 4846

Events

15-16 JAN 2018	Online Learning in International Education 2018 Conference, Auckland
25 JAN 2018	Teachers Matter Conference Day 2018, Palmerston North
26 JAN 2018	Teachers Matter Conference Day 2018, Auckland
15-16 FEB 2018	Scholarship of Technology Enhanced Learning (SOTEL) Symposium
18-21 MAR 2018	SPANZ Conference 2018, Queenstown
9-11 APR 2018	2018 Flexible Learning Association Conference, Palmerston North