



10 July 2013

**To Parents, Whanau, Caregivers, Staff, Students and Supporters  
of Christchurch East School**

**Warm Greetings,**

Term 2 is drawing to a close and we have had yet another eventful term at School.

At this time of year, with the cold weather and short daylight hours, it can be a trying time. As often happens, we have noticed increased health-related issues within the School, both with students and staff, and I am also aware that for many in our School community this is a tough period as we face a third winter after the earthquake events, with many people still living in homes with damage and continued uncertainty about the long-term future. As a community I believe that it is important we continue to support each other as much as we can.

***Commissioner Activities***

I continue to work closely with the School Principal and the Ministry of Education to ensure that the governance of the School is effective. During this term, the focus has been on ensuring that the activities in the Annual Plan have been implemented and are being monitored. In particular, there has been a focus on Teaching and Learning, and continued implementation of the School's Curriculum.

***School Activities***

As mentioned, this has been a busy term. Some highlights for the term have included:

- Team Koru (Junior School) attending swimming lessons at Aquagym
- Team Kauri (Senior School) being involved in the inter-school Winter Sports programme at Hagley Park. Our teams have performed very well.
- 3-Way Learning Conferences have been completed. These are a wonderful opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet with teachers and students, and gain a very real understanding of what the students have been involved with, how their teaching and learning is progressing, and upcoming activities.
- Staff have been working hard on the assessment of students so that we can understand achievement levels and focus attention where required.



### ***Parent and School Community Evenings***

During the early part of the term we invited parents and caregivers to attend meetings that outlined the strategic direction of the School, as well as providing more information about the School's Curriculum. Information was shared on programmes that show how we can work together to lift student achievement. The meetings also provided a wonderful opportunity to gain some feedback from parents and caregivers. I thank all of those who attended these positive and productive meetings.

### ***Christchurch East School PTA***

The PTA has continued to work hard to develop activities during this term. The recent disco is an example of the wonderful events that this group can organise for the School. I again strongly encourage you all to support your PTA by attending their events and meetings.

### ***Community Consultation***

I am currently working with the Principal to develop a process to conduct a wide-ranging consultation of the School community. The purpose of the consultation will be to gather feedback on a range of key matters affecting the School. This information will be used for consideration by the Commissioner and any incoming Board in shaping future decisions regarding the School. We will have further details on the nature and timing of the consultation during Term 3.

In closing, I thank you again for your continued support of Christchurch East. The School continues to develop in a positive way and I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that together we can take Christchurch East School into an exciting future.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rondel', is written in a cursive style.

Michael Rondel  
Commissioner, Christchurch East School