



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

**Warm Greetings,**

As the first Term for 2013 draws to a close, it is timely to provide an update on activities that have been happening at the school during this first term and to let you know of some activities planned to occur in Term 2.

***Commissioner Activities***

I have continued working closely this term with the School Principal and the Ministry of Education to ensure that the governance of the School is effective. I have also attended a very productive meeting with the PTA.

As outlined in my update last year, a plan has been developed of matters to be addressed to allow the School to move back to self-governance (that is, to return to having an elected Board of Trustees). Progress has been made in a number of areas and plans are in place for actions in these areas.

During this term, a number of key activities have been completed. This includes a review and update of the School Charter and Annual Plan, which were submitted to the Ministry of Education within the required timeframes. An updated financial budget has also been developed and the annual financial statements and audit process are also in progress.

***Board of Trustees Election***

The month of May this year is when most schools will be holding elections for a new Board of Trustees as part of the normal three-year election cycle. As Christchurch East School has a Commissioner in place, there will not be an election at the School this May.

The Secretary of Education will make a decision on when an election is to be held. The exact timing is not known at this point; however, I am hopeful it will be later this year. When it is deemed the right time for an election, a very clear communication process will be put in place and Trustee awareness sessions will be held for those who might be considering standing for the Board.

***ERO Review***

As I outlined in my newsletter in December 2012, the Education Review Office (ERO) conducted a review of the school in November last year. The report of findings from this review was issued earlier this term and is available for anyone to review on the ERO website or can be made available from the school if you would like a copy.

Overall the report was favourable. There were some areas for improvement and these have been incorporated into the Commissioner's action plan. The main area for focus is lifting student achievement, and myself, the Principal and all staff are very focussed on this.

***Christchurch East PTA***

As mentioned, I have met with the PTA Committee. The School is lucky to have a dedicated group of parents who are working hard to re-establish the PTA, hold regular events and grow the membership. I believe that a strong and effective PTA is a very important part of any school community. I strongly encourage you all to support your PTA by attending their events and meetings.



***Parent and School Community Evenings***

During the early part of Term 2, we will be holding meetings to provide information on activities at the school, and information about how, together, we can work to lift student achievement. Further information will be provided early in Term 2 and I encourage you to attend these meetings.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for your continued support of Christchurch East School. The school continues to be in a truly unique position within the heart of our city and I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that together we can take Christchurch East School into an exciting future as our city develops.

Kind regards

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

Michael Rondel  
Commissioner

15 April 2013