



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

Warm Greetings,

As we progress towards the end of the year, I wanted to provide an update on activities that have been happening at the School from a governance perspective and to outline some recent developments.

Commissioner Activities

In the role of Commissioner I have been working closely with the School Principal and the Ministry of Education to ensure that the governance of the School has been strengthened.

Initial activities included meeting with a range of people in the School community including some parents, staff (both current and former) and former Board of Trustee members and their advisers. I have also attended a meeting with the PTA. These meetings provided a valuable insight into the strengths as well as issues that had arisen at the School and also provided a range of suggestions of areas that the School could improve.

This has allowed me to develop an outline plan of matters to be addressed to allow the School to move back to self-governance (i.e. return to having an elected Board of Trustees). The plan addresses the following areas:

• Employment	• Curriculum and Assessment
• Communication	• Health & Safety
• Finance and Property	• Board Systems and Processes
• ERO Areas for Improvement	• Preparation for an Election

During the past months I have had at least weekly meetings with the Principal as well as fortnightly meetings with the Ministry. Progress has been made in a number of areas above and plans are in place for actions in all areas.

ERO Review

For two days during the week of November 5th, the Education Review Office (“ERO”) were on-site at School performing a review of actions that had been taken to address the matters that were raised in the report that was issued following their full review in 2010. Whilst we await the report from this review I can report that the initial feedback is as follows:

“Since that last ERO report, the school has had several meetings with ERO, and the board and principal have been reporting from time to time to ERO about developments in the school.

ERO acknowledged the work that has been done in developing the school’s curriculum, and monitoring the progress of students at risk in their learning. The school has been through a period of high staff turnover and families moving in and out and this has created challenges, along with the ongoing stress that families and staff are under due to the earthquakes.

Within the next two months, ERO will publish a progress report based on the priorities set in 2010: lifting student achievement, curriculum leadership and management, managing change and sustaining improvements. ERO is likely to continue working with the school to monitor progress over the next one-to two years.”



As soon as the final ERO report is received I will ensure that the School community is notified and the report is made available. Any areas for improvement will be incorporated into the Commissioner's action plan to ensure they are addressed.

Update on Activities within the School

The Principal and staff have been working hard in a number of areas and these have been reported to both ERO and the Ministry. They include:

Implementation of the curriculum: Further progress has been made with implementation of the Christchurch East School curriculum. This has included the implementation of consistent school wide themes in classrooms and learning celebrations. Teachers and students at all levels in the School are now actively working with the curriculum.

Raise student achievement: Students continue to progress in all areas of the school. Updated assessment results indicate that achievement has lifted across all levels in relation to the targets outlined in the School Charter and Annual Plan and also against National Standards.

Managing the journey for staff: Senior staff have worked on a program to provide a wide variety of engaging learning experiences for staff both in and out of the classroom. These have included a number of "Values Sessions" which have incorporated the School's values into opportunities to allow staff to both learn and socialise. These activities have assisted with staff developing relationships and a team approach to teaching and learning.

Activities for the Remainder of the Year

The remaining few weeks are an extremely busy time for all at Christchurch East. As the year draws to a close all staff are working hard to complete the teaching and learning activities required for the year and to ensure all assessment and reporting is performed.

I am currently working with senior staff on planning for the 2013 year. This includes a review of the School Charter and Annual Plan, staff planning and financial budgeting. There is a strong focus on ensuring that all planning and reporting requirements are met to a high standard.

Before the end of this term I will provide a further update on activities and developments within the School.

In closing I would like to thank you for your continued support of Christchurch East. The School is 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
Michael Rondel
15 November 2012