



Newsletter April Term 2, 2023

Kia ora tātau

Staff Changes

At the end of last term we farewelled Laura Calder who was a member of our team for just over seven years. Over that time Laura built and maintained positive relationships with our kura, kaiako and whānau; working alongside them to facilitate improved outcomes for mokopuna. Coming from a secondary school teaching background, Laura supported our team members to develop their confidence in working in secondary contexts. Laura is now a Deputy Principal at Wellington Girls' College.

At the end of Week 4 this term we will farewell Kirsten Reid who has accepted the position of Deputy Principal at Naenae Primary School in Lower Hutt. Kirsten has brought knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to her role in supporting kaiako to raise the achievement of those mokopuna who have not made the gains we would have hoped for. Naenae Primary is fortunate to have Kirsten on their staff.

It is a credit to the RTLB service that schools recognise the significant skills and experience Resource Teachers have developed in their roles; through working in your schools and completing the Post Graduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching endorsed in Learning and Behaviour at Massey University.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Sharron Guy and Tony Kirby as they are both retiring. Sharron has been an RTLB for many years and a Practice Leader in the Cluster since the transformation 10 years ago. Sharron's contribution to education over the years has been significant. Sharron's strategic, big picture thinking and her significant practice expertise will be missed.

Tony's career in education has been extensive, including time with the Ministry of Education. Tony's calm, kind, empathetic and passionate approach to his mahi and every person he comes into contact with will be greatly missed; as will our ability to seek his wise counsel whenever needed.

New Appointment

We are very excited to let you know Lisa Prior has accepted a position as RTLB in Keryn King's team. Lisa will join us from 31 May. Lisa is currently an ESOL Specialist & CRT Teacher at Thorndon School. Lisa has a Master of Professional Language Studies in Language Teaching and is responsible for funding applications to MOE, staff PLD and the teaching of around 100 priority ESOL learners, Years 1-8.

Lisa's background includes Lecturing at the Centre for Refugee Education in Auckland.

RTLB Learning Support Funding

Thank you to Sue Clement, Principal of Te Aro School; Annette Blackley, SENCO from Johnsonville School; and Meera Balaji, LSC from Porirua East who have been on the Funding Committee for the last two + years. We appreciate their commitment to attend regular meetings which took them away from their busy work in their schools.

Last term I sought Expressions of Interest from senior management, SENCO and LSCs to participate on the Funding Committee this term. Last week we met with interested staff to discuss how we can ensure equity of access to funding and how committee members can maintain an equity focus. Those who expressed an interest will have the opportunity to participate in a Funding Committee meeting this term.

Child Matters PLD



Around 55 school leaders from 26 of our Wellington schools attended one of two days PLD on Child Protection training with [Child Matters](#) last week at Northland School. We have heard lots of good feedback from the staff. They saw it as a great opportunity to understand the impacts of trauma and abuse on their students and what actions to take. Moyna was a skilled presenter and led some really valuable discussions.

IYT Trained Teachers

We strongly encourage teachers who have attended IYT training to attach a behaviour plan to their requests for support. We expect they will have applied what they learned during training before seeking additional support from our service. Attaching the plan will allow our practitioners to understand what has already been tried.

RTLB Resources

We would appreciate it if you could check your shelves for any resources that belong to our cluster. Please pass these on to RTLB as you see them in your schools so they can be returned to our resource bank.

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