

NCRTL B Newsletter

Haere mai, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu and welcome to the second edition of our NCRTL B newsletter!



Term 2 2016

Important Dates

25 th July	Creating Safer Schools. Child Matters. Kaiapoi North School, 9-4
22 nd August	Referral and Intake Meeting
27 th – 28 th July	Session Six – Incredible Years Teachers Programme
18 th August	Provisionally Certificated Teachers – Community of Practice
19 th August	SENCO Network Meeting

General Update

Welcome to the term two RTLB Newsletter.

This newsletter arrives just in time before the end of the term! Most of you have heard about the recent loss my mother, which has resulted in the need to re-prioritize my world somewhat this term. I do want to thank all of you for the messages of sympathy, flowers and support that I have received over this time.

This term we continue to see an increase in the complexity in the referrals that we have received. This often requires a multi-agency approach to supporting families. So it is disappointing to receive information from Wellbeing North Canterbury that the Strengthening Families Service is no longer available for new referrals and that Barnardos are not accepting any new referrals until the end of August. However I have ongoing confidence that close relationships between agencies that support schools across North Canterbury will continue to work together in the best interests of the children.

On a really positive note, we are receiving some really encouraging feedback and outcomes from the project work that we engaged with in schools. The IYT team has completed 5 sessions with one to go. The PBL School wide schools have engaged in 4 teams day sessions and are well underway reviewing their systems. The TA training this term received extremely positive feedback and we are planning another session next term based on the Incredible Years strategies. The Provisionally Certificated Teachers community of Practice had a session with Megan Watson from Woodend School around Inclusive Education.

Our Mission

Through innovation, collaboration and excellence, we will enhance teacher practice and school capability to improve student outcomes



Inclusive Education Workshop

On the 20th May representatives from 18 of our cluster schools gathered for the Inclusive Practices workshop that was expertly facilitated by Judy Cochrane, Julie Roberts and Liz Sio-Atoa. The feedback from the day was positive and teachers commented that the information they received was valuable and appreciated the roast lunch!

Over the day we looked at the new Inclusive practice resources, unpicked inclusive educational concepts (including differentiation and adaptation) and focused on planning for all students from the outset. This included Universal Design for Learning, student voice and barriers and motivators.

Inclusive education is more than just teacher practice. It is ensuring that all students are made to feel welcome at school and are able to take part in all aspects of school life. Diversity is respected and school-wide practices also respond to students' different needs, skills, interests, cultures and backgrounds. This was well illustrated by the creation of a whatu pōkeka (babies blanket) made out of paper feathers with each of us writing statements about "I know I belong because.. And I feel valued when.."

The RTL B are committed to work alongside teachers to support inclusive practice through our interventions. So it is exciting to see an increase in class and teacher referrals, with a focus on planning for diversity for all students. It

is encouraging to hear about the work that is being done in some schools specifically up skilling staff.

There are many exceptional resources to support our journey towards a more inclusive educational environment. If you want to discuss these, please don't hesitate to get in contact. Here are some helpful links below.

inclusive.tki.org.nz

nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Inclusive-Practice-and-the-School-Curriculum

<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkN4-nRw9zw>

<http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.V2d1E1e-rdk>

Students with High Learning Needs and In-class Support Funding

The Government's budget promise of providing more funding to support student learning has resulted in an increase of students who can access In-class support funding from 17 to 25 across North Canterbury. These children were identified through the usual RTL B referral process (year 3 and above) and the team provided assessment data for moderation. The schools and caregivers were then notified and will receive the 5 hours

per week directly from the MOE. As I have been known to say, "it's not about the funding, it's about the plan" the RTL B stay involved to support the development of the collaborative plan, ongoing monitoring and support with transition stages.

In a usual year, moderation only occurs in October where we establish whether the students identified continue to meet criteria (level 1 in both numeracy and literacy) and

whether we have spaces to include new students that have been identified. If we identify students who meet the criteria but we have no spaces available, these students can be supported through LSF. More information can be found at <http://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/in-class-support-funding-for-students-with-special-education-needs>

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou
 Kelly Watson – Cluster Manager

North Canterbury RTL B Service Presents a Workshop on Child Protection.
 Please RSVP to ncrtlb@gmail.com by Wednesday 6th July



CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP
 "Creating a Safe School"

About the Workshop:

Schools play a key role in the lives of children, and those who are working in schools are in a unique position to notice if something isn't right with a child. It is vital to be able to recognise physical signs and behavioural indicators that children may be living with abuse or neglect.

Everyone who has contact with children needs to know what to do if they are worried about a child, where to go to get help and have the confidence to take appropriate action to protect children.

This workshop focuses on creating a safe school environment by providing participants with the tools and knowledge to protect children in their care.

"I think that this course would be of enormous benefit to other beginning teachers or teachers in general. Our training in no way prepares us for the realities we face in the line of work we do. We are often a first port of call and our action or inaction can have huge consequences.

When I am now faced with situations I feel more reasoned and able to look at all possible explanations before making a balanced and informed opinion." **Teacher, Te Awamutu**

Length: 9am - 4pm

Date: 25th July

Location: Kaiapoi North School

(Maximum of 30 participants)

Topics Covered:

- The concept of vulnerability and factors that contribute to vulnerability, risk and child abuse.
- The context of child abuse in New Zealand.
- The signs and indicators of the different types of child abuse and neglect.
- The impact of child abuse on educational outcomes.
- The Vulnerable Children Act and implications for Schools.
- The importance of effective Child Protection Policies, procedures, and safety check requirements for schools.
- Collaborative approaches to child protection.
- Developing consistent and safe behaviours that protect children, staff and the school.

This workshop will involve small and large group discussion, lecture and case studies.

Participants are also encouraged to share their ideas and experiences.

For further information contact **Tracey Goodrick — Training Advisor**
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www.childmatters.org.nz