



Matthew Tofia

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44 Rutherford Street, Caversham, Dunedin 9012

Newsletter

July 29th 2022

Term 3 No.1

From the Desk of the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to term 3 at school. We have made a fantastic start to the term and the students have all settled in well to the new term. Our students, staff and buildings have all held up well to the terrible weather and we look forward to some sunshine!!

We welcome to our staff Theresa Braun who is the new teacher in Kowhai. Theresa is a special needs teacher trained in Germany and has recently been tramping through Europe and Nepal. In 2020, Theresa did her final year posting as a student teacher in Kowhai class. It was beautiful to see the students come up and greet her.

We welcome Kim (Totara), Ewan (Totara), Toni (Pikopiko) and Sylvie (Kowhai) to our fulltime support staff. They have all been doing an excellent job in class. In term 3 we will also have University and Polytechnic students doing postings in our classes. We wish them all the best with their studies and their time at Sara Cohen School.

Building work has begun on the Concord Satellite. We have moved the junior classes into the Concord School hall. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped in setting up the temporary classrooms. This will be short term pain for long term gain. The expected time of completion for this building work is in term 4. Once the building work is completed we will have increased capacity for new students in the junior classes and a state of the art facility.

I have had good news on the progress of the new build. A contractor has been appointed and the Capital Works team and contractor have been working through the contractual negotiations. Once this is completed, building will begin.

Our gym has a new piece of equipment. We took possession of a treadmill at the end of last term. This completes the equipment purchases and we now have a fully kitted out gym for our students to train in.

We are planning a parent evening with a North Island based lawyer, Nan Jensen for 24th of August. Nan will cover topics around legal, welfare and guardianship issues for care of people with special needs. This will include power of attorney and management and protection of assets. I strongly encourage you to attend this evening. We will have child care available and will serve dinner. Please read the accompanying notice in this newsletter.

SCHOOL OFFICE

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We continue with our Covid response. This includes surveillance RAT tests and enhanced hygiene measures. Sickness is prevalent in our community, so if your child is unwell then please keep your child home. Staffing sickness has been a major issue for us. We will try our best to remain open and continue face to face learning for our students.

Have a fantastic weekend and I hope that you all keep warm.

Regards

Matt

If snow threatens the viability of safe transport of students and teachers to and from school, especially from Dunedin's hill suburbs or with the closure of the northern or southern motorways, a notice about a late start or cancellation of school for the day will be made over the following radio stations from 7.00am:

- **Radio More FM - 97.4 FM** and www.morefm.co.nz - [Facebook](#)
- **Radio Dunedin – 1305 AM or 99.8 FM** and www.radiodunedin.co.nz - [Facebook](#)
- **Radio The Hits – 89.4 FM** and www.thehits.co.nz - [Facebook](#)

Term Dates 2022

**Term 3: Monday 25th July – Friday 30th
September**

**Term 4: Monday 17th October – Wednesday 14th
December**

Parent Information Evening:

Nan Jensen – Barrister and Solicitor, Quinlaw

Nan has been involved in the disability sector since 1998, in governance, advisory, support parent, advocacy and employee capacities. Two of her four children are on the autism spectrum, and she decided to study law after taking a successful arbitration case against the Ministry of Education to retain ORRS funding for her son. She was admitted to the bar in 2012 and specialises in disability law. She lives in Te Kowhai near Hamilton with her husband, Søren, their children and their dog.

Wednesday 24th August

6:00pm - 9:00pm

In the meeting room at 38 Riselaw Rd

This seminar will be of interest to you if:

- **You worry about the long term welfare of your young person with a disability when you die – who will support them to make decisions about their personal care and welfare? And who will understand their needs and make decisions about their personal and physical welfare on their behalf if they are unable to do so?**
- **You need to understand the difference amongst welfare guardianship, power of attorney, property management and how a Trust may be useful for managing property**
- **You need information about the relevance of a Will and Letter of Wishes and how these might be useful**
- **You are concerned about managing and protecting assets or income of your young disabled person**
- **You are considering a family trust or sole beneficiary trust for management of assets**

We are pleased to be bringing Nan to Dunedin to present this seminar for our community. Nan is a specialist in the area of legal frameworks around disability and disability rights. We are exploring the possibility of running a second workshop during the day if this may be more accessible to you and your family and we will be in touch soon to check which times may be more suitable for you. Please consider this workshop - they are very popular and provide a wealth of helpful information.