

Update for parents from Board Chair & LSM

NZSL Link <https://vimeo.com/345983699>

Dear Parents and caregivers,

This is a courtesy update to let you know how we are progressing the exciting changes happening in deaf education at present.

The Merger Team are now in place with Alan Curtis appointed as Change Manager, a role that will see him manage the merger of van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centres, into one new organisation. Over the next 12 months, this team will work through aligning internal policies and procedures to enable us to operate as one. This exercise will also allow us to review these to ensure they are still current and effective.

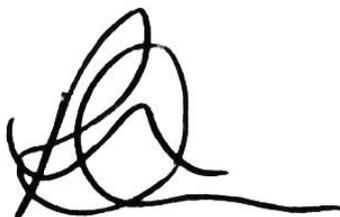
The next significant activity of the Merger Team will be the appointment of the new Executive Principal. We aim to have the position advertised during Term 3, with the process managed by an external recruitment firm that specialises in senior educational appointments.

It is important to note that the two principals, Louise Roe, KDEC, and Bernie Mulcahy-Bouwman, van Asch DEC, will continue in their principals' roles until July 2020.

Whilst the Merger progresses, be assured that our students' educational needs and wellbeing are constant and paramount.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with our alignment and merger activities and appreciate your ongoing participation and support.

Kind Regards



Rachel Douglas
Board Chair



Terri Johnstone
Limited Statutory Manager

A message from our Principals

NZSL Link <https://vimeo.com/346280303>

Hello everyone,

As we approach the end of the school term, we wanted to take the opportunity to let you know about some of the shared work that has been happening across both Deaf Education Centres.

Christi Yoshinaga Itano at KDEC

It is important that our staff refresh their skills and learning. Recently, we were very excited to host international expert, Christi Yoshinaga Itano at KDEC.

Christi comes from Denver, Colorado which has a reputation for great outcomes for DHH students. This may be because of their systems-wide approach, high expectations for all DHH and their balanced approach yet good rigour regarding communication. Her workshop was broad, ranging from culture to the use of LENA (an I.T. tool for coaching parents on language input to their deaf child). Over the two days of her presentation, Christi maintained a balance across the areas of spoken and sign language.

She discussed the challenge of lifting DHH children out of poverty and she shared international and NZ demographics of DHH students, compared to the demographics of Teachers of the Deaf. The international mismatch of culture and living experiences for some DHH students and the professionals who work with them was stark. She reported how in some countries, this mismatch is addressed through paraprofessionals from a similar culture and life experience, being trained to communicate with DHH children and coach their families and community. The exposure of families to DHH adult models was another powerful strategy for all families, no matter what their ethnic background, to lift their awareness of the potential of their children. A large number of staff, from both DEC's attended both days and found the session informative and thought provoking. We look forward to seeing how this learning impacts teachers and students moving forward.

Education Review Office (ERO) Visit

Last week, ERO visited KDEC to review ongoing progress for both Centres.

The ERO team, Michelle Irving and Julie Moor, met with both Principals and Curriculum leaders across the two centres. They spent considerable time focused on the KDEC school, as was the plan for this visit and were very pleased with the staff leadership and the energy they observed from all staff. ERO observed a big culture shift which prioritised relationships, respect and trust. They were also pleased to see that a national structure is now in place around teaching and learning and commended our student-centred way of working. As principals, we met with both reviewers and we are delighted that their feedback was so positive and encouraging. While the focus of this visit was primarily around KDEC, ERO observed a deliberate and strategic focus towards lifting capacity and capability of the two Centres by the leaders of both DEC's.

We are grateful to our staff from KDEC and van Asch DEC's who prepared so well for the visit and who continue to work hard to build relationships and develop joint projects as we progress towards one new organisation.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable break with your whanau and look forward to speaking to you again next term.

Kind Regards



Bernie Mulcahy-Bouwman

van Asch DEC Principal



Louise Roe

KDEC Principal

Combined Board of Trustees for Kelston Deaf Education Centre & van Asch Deaf Education Centre

Board of Trustees Election

NZSL link <https://vimeo.com/345830977>

Declaration of Parent & Staff Election Results

Parent Representative Votes:

In respect of Kelston Deaf Education Centre nominations		In respect of van Asch Deaf Education Centre nominations	
AIOLUPOTEA-AIONO, Sina	78	BLAIR, Katya	107
COPPAGE, Rachel	84	DE HEER, Anthonie	70
SKINLEY, Crystal	77	POWELL, Denise	98
YANG, Jennie	70	WETZEL, Dawn	55
Invalid Votes			3

I hereby declare the following duly elected

Sina Aiolupotea-Aiono, Rachel Coppage, Crystal

Skinley Katya Blair, Anthonie de Heer, Denise Powell

Staff Representative Vote:

CLIFFORD, Krista	74
SCAMMELL, Jillian	43
SINCLAIR, Chris	21
Invalid Votes	0

I hereby declare the following duly elected

Krista Clifford

Signed
Jill Le Prou
Returning Officer

