



## Sara Cohen School

Teaching students with diverse needs

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May 18 2012



From the desk of the Principal

Tena Koutou Katoa, Greetings to all

Principal: Raewyn Alexander

It seems as though winter has sneaked up on us this week and yet we have two weeks to go before the official start. Because of the sudden cold snap, staff and students have reaped the dubious reward of becoming ill and having to have time off. This is a good time to remind everyone that if vomiting and diarrhoea affects a student then they must remain at home for at least 24 hours after the last attack. This is a Ministry of Health guideline.

Warm jackets and hats really need to come to school at this time of year. Classes continue to access the community throughout the winter and it becomes difficult when adequate warm clothing is not available. This is especially important when coming away from the swimming pool when students may still have wet hair and are moving from a warm humid environment out into the cold.

The announcements this week from the Minister of Education have the teaching profession up in arms about the unrealistic wish to bring in performance pay for teachers. While we all want the very best teachers in our schools, we already have robust systems for appraisal and there is room for the principal to ensure that underperforming teachers come up to an appropriate standard. Principals can not sign off a teacher's re-registration unless a number of criteria are

met. Using National Standards and NCEA results is not a way of judging a teacher's performance, after all, in schools such as ours, no student reaches National Standards or NCEA. Are we going to have enforced standards for our students that they will magically reach because the government says they should? One of the wonderful things about teaching and teachers is the collegiality that exists. The sharing of ideas and resources and the willingness to help each other when we ask for help will disappear if payment is based on how good we are perceived to be. Teachers will enclose themselves in their own classroom and will be much less willing to share their great idea.

Who judges at what stage the child learns or masters something. A young 7 year old may suddenly master reading, but not because they are 7. It will be because they have been immersed in books at home and at school, they will have watched other children reading and they may have found their niche within kapa haka or music and suddenly all the rich experiences they have had come together thus enabling them to succeed at reading. It is not just one teacher who has made this child succeed so who do we reward?

With that thought, have a great weekend. Next week's newsletter will be our first big one for the term.

Raewyn

**Happy Birthday Happy Birthday**

**Ethan turned 7 this week. Hope you had a great day.**



Please remember these important dates:

Friday June 1 : Staff Only Day

Monday June 4: Queen's Birthday holiday

Friday June 29: last day of term

Monday July 16 : first day of term 3

Clothing suitable for winter at school:

Warm jacket

Hat and scarf, gloves or mittens

Long trousers

Closed in shoes or boots



Slippers may be kept at school to be worn in Classroom.

Students attending MARC or work experience **must** wear suitable footwear and clothing.

Gumboots should not be worn to school or in classrooms but are needed for working in the garden or with the horse manure.



### **Cancellations and postponements:**

Snow or ice may mean that schools start late or may be closed for the day.

The decision is made by principals who live in hill suburbs and is based on the safety of children getting to school and whether staff, who live all over Dunedin and surrounds, can get to school.

**All local radio stations** broadcast the information from 7am. If you are in doubt please listen We are included in 'all primary and intermediate schools in Dunedin and Mosgiel'.



***Future Directions...***

***The Board of Sherwood warmly welcome you to share your thoughts, ideas and vision so that together we can shape and guide Sherwood's strategic direction for the future.***

**Time: 5.30 pm Where: Haven Lounge  
Date: Tuesday, 29 May 2012 Salvation Army  
575 Princes Street  
DUNEDIN  
Light Refreshments Provided**

***RSVP no later than Friday, 25 May 2012***

***Phone 488 4926 ext 4***

***E-mail: [manager@sherwood.org.nz](mailto:manager@sherwood.org.nz)***

***Text: 021 0825 0049***

***Please let us know of any dietary requirements***

**Carers Wanted**

At the moment I know of at least two families who are looking for Carer Support workers to offer their services to new families.

Neither family has had a break from their child over night for some years. Both children require full time care and to have all their basic needs met by an adult helper.

If you know of someone that might be interested please ring me at school. Raewyn