

Carlson School Newsletter

Dear families and whanau

Reflections from the Principal

There's something special about Carlson School. Some may say magic, others spiritual or in today's vernacular, awesome. But whatever it is, those who learn, those who serve (lead, teach, govern, provide therapy or support or resources) and those who visit, know it to be real.

At the start of the day fifty three students arrive at Carlson Base School or one of our satellites at Oranga Primary and Waikowhai Intermediate. Most students arrive (in Total Mobility Vans to accommodate their wheelchairs) happy to see their classmates and the staff. Their journey may have taken up to an hour. That's Auckland traffic!

At Base School the magic starts at the entry where we are met with displays of student's art work, our school mission 'To learn, to enjoy, to engage' and a notice board covered with bright pictures from our school newsletter, show -casing teaching and learning at our school. Our sound system provides a range of music to greet everyone as they arrive. It sets a bright tone for the day. Students are greeted individually as they arrive and they remain in the foyer with their friends until school starts.

At the start of the day our central courtyard area is clean and tidy and mostly empty. As the day progresses outside activities and music start to appear; water play, sand trays, table top switch- operated toys, skittles, colourful mobiles and ball games. These activities and many others provide stimulation and fun for our students. They promote individual and team participation and are linked to the current terms' study topic.

'The Big Tree Garden' named by a former student Manuele Teofilo is like a piece of paradise. Gardens flourish with colour, perfume, texture and shapes. The mix of shade and sun enables enjoyment all year round. Our second garden area is set up for outdoor learning for our younger students where they can explore and create, play and learn.

Our classrooms buzz with teaching and learning. We have the largest group of students with 'Very High' physical and complex learning needs in this country. We respond to this challenge with an unrelenting belief that all our students are learners. We take that belief and turn it into a reality through a range of strategies. We work closely with our families to develop an Individual Education Plan for every student.

We encourage innovation and celebrate success of students and staff.

We ensure our staff are equipped with the most up to date international pedagogy (approaches to teaching and learning), resources (especially technology) and opportunities to collaborate with others. We provide '*world class education*' for our students. Therapeutic experiences of dance, drama, music, movement and art therapy add richness to the curriculum. We have a strong bicultural and multicultural commitment to honour our students' respective heritages.

Contd overleaf

Our students are well served by professional and support staff. Programmes are personalised and flexible to reflect student health and well-being. Carlson students are happy, connected learners who are supported to be involved in the school and wider community. Students value their friendships and over time develop a strong sense of belonging.

Our approach to staff appraisal is via 'the spiral of inquiry' method. Staff identify a problem or improvement that could be made. They then explore the hunch, develop and trial an intervention and review its success. This has proved to be highly motivating and successful method of improving practice for our staff, and consequent learning for our students.

'The high quality learning environment is well resourced and reflects the school's emphasis is on joy, hope and celebration.' ERO. 2017

Thanks ERO you have captured our essence.

This is the final Carlson yearbook as next year we merge with Sunnydene Special School and become Central Auckland Specialist School. We will likely stay on our respective Base and satellite sites for two years until a new Base School is built.

For me personally, I will be leaving Carlson at the end of the year to take a new direction in educational leadership and change management consulting. Words cannot describe the role of Principal at this very Special School. It has been an honour to serve all who have been connected with Carlson over the past seventeen years. It's time for new adventures.

I wish you all well as Central Auckland Specialist School takes shape.

He aha te mea nui o te ao

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

Kia Kaha

Faye Philp

Principal

Student of the moment

Vince Amosa

For being so helpful around the school collecting laundry and doing odd jobs for his teacher
Awesome work
Vince!



Significant school dates for this term...

7th December:	Graduation Assembly
12th December:	Staff farewells
12th December:	Bev's Farewell
14th December:	Faye's Farewell
14th December:	Final Carlson Day
14th December:	Last Day for 2017.
	Christmas Celebration and Santa Visit.

Room 5

30 November 2017

There's no escaping it, everywhere you look the signs of Christmas are here!

The room 5 students were very keen to start their Christmas celebrations early, asking to set up their tree some weeks ago. They worked together to decorate the classroom and their tree. Everyone had a go at turning on the lights and of course, putting a present under the tree!

Miracle: Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas!

Sarai: I'm excited about Christmas and the holidays!

Jordan: I'm looking forward to Christmas presents!

Ronnie: I want to go to a Christmas show!

Nikita: Happy Christmas!

Vince: I'm looking forward to all the Christmas parties!

Everyone in room 5 would like to wish the Carlson Community a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays.



Merry Christmas Everyone

St Marys College Choir and Orchestra visit

Last Wednesday we had a visit from the St Marys College Orchestra and some members of the choir. A wonderful musical event enjoyed by all.



Thank you Go Baby Go

Last Friday, Go Baby Go visited with an amazing gift of, not one but two BMW cars for our junior students. As you can see they have been a hit with the students. Thank you Go Baby Go for this generous gift for our school.



Community News

30 November 2017

Jo Kersey

Jo Kersey a Child and Family Life Skills Specialist from The Blind Foundation has recently visited the school as she is working with one of our students. Jo works with young people who are blind, deaf blind or partially sighted and her role at The Blind Foundation is to support the students at home and school to learn techniques to make everyday tasks easier and to explore different environments.

For more information, please contact the school office.



Disability Connect

EDUCATION LEGAL ISSUES

INDIVIDUALISED FUNDING (IF) INCLUDING RESPITE

LIVING OPTIONS SEMINARS

PLANNING FOR ADULTHOOD WORK AND INCOME
SUPPORT SEMINARS

INDIAN FAMILIES SOCIAL GROUP

CULTURALLY DIVERSE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

CHINESE AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

TRANSITION SEMINAR

Parents' Support Group Meeting

2018 timetable TBA soon



**Merlin's Magic Wand
Children's Charity**

Here's a fantastic opportunity for your children and their families to experience the magic of a Merlin's attraction SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's for free!

You or the families can apply online

<https://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/aus-nz/>

It's that easy!

Applications to be made via our website. Applications subject to all children meeting Magic Wand's criteria.
*Full list of attractions on 2nd sheet below

Useful Websites:

Disability Connect:

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

Wilson Home Trust:

www.wilsonhometrust.org.nz

Parent to Parent:

www.parenttoparent.org.nz

Dance Therapy:

www.dancetherapy.co.nz

Spectrum Care:

www.spectrumcare.org.nz

Raukauri Music Therapy Centre

www.rmtc.org.nz

Epilepsy Foundation:

www.epilepsy.org.nz

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