



van Asch
Deaf Education Centre



Kelston Deaf
Education Centre

Principals report – 15 May Board Meeting:

Combined Acting Principals Report

- Lisa Sharman, KDEC
- Sarah de Heer, van Asch DEC

Health and Safety - Covid-19:

Key dates:

26 March	Alert Level 4 commenced – schools closed
28 March – 15 th April	School holidays two weeks
15 April	Term 2 begins (distance learning)
22 April - 11 th May	Alert Level 3 lockdown period
3 July	Last day of Term 2

- Both Van Asch and KDEC Senior Leaders meet 2-3 times a week to discuss our ongoing preparation and planning for dealing with changes to alert levels considering public health and Ministry of Education requirements.
- Dedicated email address for staff who may have concerns, questions or need advice on what to do when we move from Level 3 to Level 2. These used as discussion points at Senior Leaders' meetings.
- Alert levels committee meeting at least twice a week – Health and Safety, HR, Executive Officer, two Acting Principals and both DEC Residences leaders - planning in place for each Alert level – clear expectations and guidelines created, translated and shared with staff and parent community.
- Regular updates on Kelvan, and weekly emails from both DEC Acting Principals.
- Register for vulnerable staff kept informing planning for return to work.

Online/Remote Learning

A variety of rich and diverse online and remote learning has been taking place in all areas of the school since we moved into Alert Level 4. Teachers in all areas have worked hard to engage with their learners and their whānau in lots of different ways. This has been led by Senior Leaders of each area of the school to work with their teams to best meet the needs of their learners in conjunction with other schools programmes, if necessary. We are very proud of the variety of activities that our teachers are working on, improving their skills in different platforms and methods of delivery.

ECE – regular staff meetings to plan programmes, Zoom meetings with other professionals, use of Facebook and Storypark (app) to share resources and learning ideas, resources created and shared

with families/whānau (songs, stories, art activities), 1:1 zoom/phone call/video call with families to provide individual support, group zoom sessions attempted, use of MOE hard pack resources, iPad distribution for families in need.

Enrolled Students – regular Zoom meetings to share and support teachers and staff on remote teaching and learning; Teachers, TAs and EI interpreters work together to create different ways to engage and connect with learners; MasterChef, Yoga, NZSL story telling; use of Seesaw (app) which is popular with the learners and whanau; iPad were sent home to students who needed; use of Youtube for short videos showcasing staff and students; joining mainstream classes of partner schools.

Regional Students – NZSL Hubs using Flipgrid to record learning; zoom sessions with Hub members; 1:1 sessions using flipped pedagogy where lesson is sent out prior to connecting face-to-face; use of slideshows to aid learning conversations; use of shared documents to record learning and give feedback; contact with mainstream schools for access to classes and support materials to work on with caseload students; Assist services operating via phone/video consultations.

Specialist services – regular contact with teachers to support with resources and ideas for remote teaching and learning; joining group zoom or 1:1 sessions with individual students; Uses Seesaw app to uploads activities for students with additional learning needs; KDEC counsellor checking in with students and monitoring at risk students; Pastoral meetings still held to discuss students at risk; resource making to support mainstream teachers and students; regular contact with families/whānau; PD support for other staff within the organisations; work on resources to support Kordia TV initiative; NZSL tuition ongoing for students, families and staff; connections with other specialists in other organisations to support DHH students collaboratively.

NZSL Teams - Every week the NZSL team continue to create News video clips and this is shared on KELVAN and DEC's Facebook page; joining is with group zoom sessions; 1:1 sessions with individual students in regions; weekly NZSL pre-NCEA zoom sessions with NZSL students

As a result of this, we are inquiring into this area of practice, as we see this as the way of working that is sustainable into the future. Louise Roe is heading this inquiry work, and other Senior Leaders of the Teaching and Learning areas are supporting.

Staff/student well-being

- Deaf staff meetings for both DEC once a week - importance of checking in wellbeing of Deaf staff and sharing any information or concerns they may have. Keeping close contact with deaf staff every week were appreciated by all. Have up to 30 - 40 deaf staff on ZOOM meetings each week.
- Regular Zoom meetings with team/staff keeping in contact. Senior Leaders monitor staff well-being, or those that needs more support were checked in more regularly.
- Students' well-being monitored by their teachers and are reported for any concerns to the Wellbeing and Pastoral Care committees.
- All staff are responding very positively to the current working conditions, and Senior Leaders are encouraging and modelling good working practices.

SALT Team Inquiry Summary/Teacher only day

See attached report from Louise Roe.

Placement and Admissions:

KDEC - All placement visit and school visit are postponed until term 3. Letter to parents have been sent out informing of the changes due to Corvid-19 lockdown.

VADEC – no placements during this time.

In-reach courses:

These are currently run at van Asch only. Immersion courses (regional students coming together for a week of learning on site at van Asch), Assessment visits (families coming to van Asch site for an assessment week by specialist teachers) and Preschool Residential Courses (up to 3 families attending van Asch site for a week to connect with the EIC team for intense intervention and to join with group sessions) have all been put on hold while van Asch is in Alert Level 3. The teams around these are working with families who registered to offer remote input for Assessment Visits and PRC. Immersion is being coordinated through RTDs and setting up remote opportunities for connections.

Having these resume as in-reach courses will be dependent on Government and public health guidelines around regional travel and safety for our staff and any visiting families. The teams are working on contingencies around this for different alert levels and continuing to work on other ways to deliver content remotely. Communication to key referrers (AoDC, RTD, all van Asch staff) and to families has been sent with contact information of key people for enquiries.

Staffing changes

- Lisa Sharman - Acting Principal KDEC
- Sarah de Heer- Acting Principal van Asch DEC
- Daniel Greenwood – Acting Head of School KDEC
- Laurinda-lee Grady – Team leader for (Residential) van Asch DEC

Merger:

Letters of confirmation have all been sent and mostly returned. Some staff still in negotiation around these with the Change Manager. Report form Establishment Committee is this is all going to plan and working out well. Strong presence of the HR Lead in all communication with staff and working on problem solving situations as they arise.

First tranche of job advertisements this week.

ERO readiness review:

Meeting with ERO on Tuesday 5th May to present and talk to Readiness Review panel. Keys messages are the strategic thinking of each Senior Leader for their area, and overall function of the team and priorities for Term 3 and 4. There is a strong focus on systems and pathways, with a Teaching and Learning focus in all areas including practice reviews and developing national ways of working.

Teacher Aides salary revision


- The job description of Teacher Aides has been reviewed and a new position introduced. The intent of this has been to develop a career pathway – to recognise skill set and experience of TAs working in Deaf Education
- Voluntary participation in an NZSLPI to assess NZSL skill level has been agreed on.
- There will be three annual allowance rates beginner/intermediate/fluent
- Two new job descriptions were shared for feedback in 2019
- Using feedback supplied the job descriptions were amended. This also involved input from the NZEI. A working group was formed, this included a representative teacher aide from both KDEC and VDEC.
- Teacher Only Day - The second draft of both job descriptions were introduced to both DEC Teachers Aides and Educational Associates
- NZSLPI - 11 staff have expressed an interest to complete the interview assessment
- Feedback has been requested on the job descriptions and role title.
- Padlet app was emailed out to all TA/EA to vote for a title for the new role
- Due date for feedback is Tuesday 12 May. Next working group meeting Thursday 14 May.
- All feedback will be discussed, and a plan created to move forward.

Poroporāki of both DEC's

- Committees set up in both organisations to prepare for the poroporāki of both van Asch and Kelston Deaf Education Centres.
- Week 11 of Term 2 is the week tagged for this (22-26 June)
- Important celebration ritual to mark the end of these organisations for the staff, students (past and present) and community to share thoughts, memories and respect to the work that has gone on over the last 140 years.
- Important for staff to mark closure, so that the launch of the new organisation can be celebrated.
- Committee's looking at different ways for people to contribute at distance, including a possible time capsule idea, video messages and other artefacts that can be added to the virtual museum.
- A small gathering, as public health requirements will safely allow, will also be looked at in both places. This can be livestreamed for others to attend.

REMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

<p>Masterchef : Teacher in Tu Kokiri showed her class how to make 4 different dishes for Mothers days "breakfast in Bed!!"</p>	<p>Students were lucky to have a Zoom meeting with one of the interpreter team on TV during Government announcements</p>
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<p>Ormiston Primary School ZOOM meeting</p>	 <p>Using Flipgrid to record learners' work</p> <p>Flipgrid set up to record learning at one of the NZSL Hubs</p>
<p>Engaging with a regional student in a language session via Zoom using PowerPoint to support</p>	<p>NZSL Hub group Zoom session</p>