

News & views



Truro Street, Christchurch 8
Voice/TTY (03) 326 6009
Fax (03) 326 5346
e-mail:
info@vanasch.school.nz

CONTACT PERSONS

Chairperson,
Board of Trustees
Dyanne Bensley

Principal
Ian Cocks

Associate Principal
Marie O'Brien

Deputy Principal
Tess Hillmer

Executive Officer
Lynne Ferguson

Residential Manager
Paul Scammell

Regional Coordinators
Bernie Mulcahy
Niel Pouwels

Audiologists
Paul R. Peryman
Neil Heslop

Specialist
Resource Teachers

Reading/Writing:
Michele Yonetani

Visual Communication:
James Townshend

Speech/Language
Joanne Lake

NZSL Resource Coordinator
Paul Buzzard

Technicians
Tony Dwyer
Phil Henderson

Library
Margaret Hunt

TERM 2 2004

MP Youth Representative to promote Deaf issues in Parliament



In August, I will stand in MP Ruth Dyson's position for two days as a Youth Representative in the Beehive. Seeing myself getting ready to be involved in this neat challenge, I want to give my thanks to Mr. Ian Cocks, Marie O'Brien and Ruth Dyson, for giving me this opportunity to represent the views of young Deaf people.

To express this, I am about to voice support for a Bill that could see New Zealand Sign Language becoming our country's third official language. Also, when I first came to VADEC, I learnt about some of the students' late confirmation of deafness in their childhood years. This made me realise that routine screening tests should be done on every newborn baby, so as to cut deaf diagnosis time. This will be the second topic I will raise in the Youth Parliament.

The NZSL Bill has finally landed in the Parliament, after almost 20 years of unsuccessful attempts. Ruth and other supportive MP's have all been showing their respect and hope in bringing support to our Deaf community. I am very grateful for this.

So watch out everybody, I'm going to show that Deaf can do anything, except hear, and most important of all, as our School motto says, "let the Language flow".

Lauren Slaven

(more on NZSL Bill pg's 3-4)

In this issue

- MP's Deaf Youth Representative
- NZSL Bill
- vadec drama production
- Principal's Report
- Farewell Leigh Mackintosh
- vadec Whare blessing

From the Principal

Board of Trustees

I would like to congratulate the two newly elected parent representatives on the Board of Trustees, Denise Kilpatrick and Robyn Williams. Both Denise and Robyn came into office on 18 July 2004, the day after the Centre's Annual meeting. Welcome onto the Board Denise and Robyn. We are all looking forward to working with you and sharing the expertise that you bring to the Board.

At the first Board meeting after the Annual meeting, the Board farewelled Fiona Can who decided not to stand again in the recent election. We have all really appreciated the contribution Fiona made and the commitment she has shown to the Centre over the years.

The position of Chairperson must be considered and, if needed, voted on at the first meeting of the Board after the annual meeting each year. Dyanne Bensley was reconfirmed as Chairperson and Jill Taylor was declared Deputy Chairperson. A very sincere thank you to Dyanne for taking on the role of Chairperson yet again and for her ongoing commitment to the Centre.

Whare

A Whare Wanaka Advisory Committee has recently been established at the Centre. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board on establishing a Whare Wanaka in the Recreation Room next to the Hall. The proposed alterations to the Recreation Room were outlined at the group's first meeting and a plan was put in place to bless the building.

The blessing took place on 6 June. The ceremony was held at 6 am and was followed by mihimihi and a hakari. 100 people attended and feedback to date had been very positive. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mama Kumeroa, Lloyd Ellison, Ritchie Tahana, Heather Benbow and all the many other members of the Centre's staff and community who supported the ceremony.

125th Jubilee

Plans are progressing well for the 125th Jubilee celebrations in March 2005. A marquee has been secured for 10-14 March from Hirequip to accommodate the up to 800 people we are expecting to attend. A budget has been developed based on projected numbers. Registration packs have been sent out to a number of people, and a link to the Van Asch website link developed by Oliver Ferguson is almost complete. Regular Jubilee planning meetings are continuing. If you have not received a registration pack please send an e-mail to 125jubilee@vanasch.school.nz and we will send you a registration pack.

Wellington Plan

A meeting was held recently with the Ministry, the Principal of Newlands College, Grant Jones, Niel Pouwels and Ian Cocks to discuss the plan to develop a Deaf resource centre at Newlands College. The Ministry of Education have recently agree to make available \$360,000 to provide suitable space and parking for the resource centre. The existing plans for the Deaf Resource Centre have

needed some modification to accommodate this budget. Both the van Asch and the Newlands College Boards of Trustees have agreed to these modifications and the process of consulting with architects has begun. Thank you to parents and professionals in the Wellington area for their patience over the last two years as we have worked with the Ministry to being this project to a reality. We will have a better idea of the timeline for the completion of the project over the next few weeks.

Education Review Office Review of Regional Services

As you will recall the Education Review Office reviewed the Early Intervention Centre, the Base School and the Residences in February. The review of the Centre's Regional Services took place from 21 to 29 June. The following two priorities formed the focus of the review: our local curriculum (NZSL/Deaf Studies, speech-language and literacy), and the Centre's self-review process as it relates to the regional structure. I would like to thank those staff in Christchurch, Wellington and New Plymouth who met with the reviewers and hosted them on school visits. I was present at all the meetings with the Reviewers and itinerant staff and was enormously impressed with their level of professionalism and the clear commitment and passion that they showed for the work they do with deaf and hard of hearing students. More important, so was ERO. In the preliminary feedback they have provided to the Board ERO made the following comments.

- The Centre has well developed and coordinated services
- There are good management and administrative systems that have extended the support available to students and staff via specialist resource staff
- Teaching and support is of a **high quality** that is appropriately targeted to
 - Improve skills in students' preferred mode of communication
 - Allow students to access the New Zealand Curriculum and the Centre's local curriculum
 - Assist teachers
 - Support parents
- The features of this support are
 - In depth assessment
 - Skilful engagement of students
 - Interventions focussed on students' needs and interests
 - A balance between inclusion and withdrawal
 - Effective use of a wide range of resources and
 - Significant support for teachers and families
- The strong professional leadership from the Centre's senior management and team-work among staff are critical factors to the successes of services. This includes the significant role played by the Specialist Resource Team.
- The quality relationships between Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf and students create an environment that is conducive to learning
- The Board is increasingly representative of the spread of communities served the Centre, it is supportive, it operates well and with the assistance of the Principal and senior management has developed a good framework for the delivery of regional services.

• The range of self-review strategies the Centre uses promotes a reflective culture and leads to the ongoing improvement of services. However they have suggested that we look to increase the focus on evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of services and their impact on student achievement. They made the comment that existing information could be better used to promote the Centre's successes especially the excellent feedback that we have been receiving from the parent and classroom teacher surveys.

The reviewers are likely to recommend that we look to extend the scope and focus of self-review practices to better determine the impact of student achievements, their well-being and their access to the New Zealand Curriculum and the Centre's local curriculum.

I must emphasise that the following are preliminary findings and await their confirmed report, but I would be surprised if what appears above does not form the content of the report. The process now is that the reviewers will complete an unconfirmed report over the next month and the Board will have the opportunity to provide them with feedback before the report becomes confirmed.

As you can imagine, we are absolutely delighted with the outcome. Congratulations, to everyone involved in providing our regional services. Please take this as affirmation of the excellent work that you do. This comes on the heels of similarly positive reviews of the Early Intervention Centre, the Base School and the Residences.

Cochlear Implant Services

The results of a review of Cochlear implant services in New Zealand carried out by the Ministry of Health were released recently. The following recommendations will go to the Minister:

• That a single funding body is to administer cochlear implant services in New Zealand. The funding body involve a collaboration between Health and Education. The funding body will call for tenders to provide candidacy assessment, device programming and habilitation services.

• That two agencies, one for North and one for South be the primary providers of Cochlear Implant services in New Zealand. The agencies may provide the services directly or contract them out to a provider or providers

• That the agencies' boundaries be the same as those for the van Asch and Kelston regions

• That the tender documentation for cochlear implant services is developed and advertised in early July.

• That agreements with the successful agencies be completed in December 2004

• That the existing service continues until the new format becomes effective in July 2005

Minimal disruption to existing services is anticipated.

The Board has agreed to support the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust in submitting a tender to provide cochlear implant services in the South Island and lower half of the North Island and is keen to establish an agreement with the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust to provide paediatric candidacy assessment, device programming and habilitation services.

Welbourn Sensory Resource Centre

With an increase in the number of itinerant teachers working in the Welbourn Sensory Resource Centre, the amount of working space available is inadequate for the Itinerant Teachers of the Deaf based in New Plymouth. The Ministry has recently allocated funding for the refurbishment of a suitable alternative facility to house the itinerants. The Ministry has been asked to nominate schools with additional space that could be used for this purpose.

New Zealand Sign Language Bill

The first reading of the New Zealand Sign Language Bill occurred on 22 June. A webcast of the bill's introduction to Parliament was arranged at the Centre for interested staff and students. The purpose of this bill is to promote and maintain the use of New Zealand Sign Language by:

- Declaring New Zealand Sign Language to be an official language of New Zealand
- Providing for the use of New Zealand Sign Language in legal proceedings
- Empowering the making of regulations setting competency standards for the interpretation in legal proceedings of New Zealand Sign Language
- Stating principles to guide government departments in the use that they should make of New Zealand Sign Language in the promotion to the public of their services and in the provision of information to the public.

Copies of the bill can be purchased from Bennetts Government Bookshops. The Justice and Electoral Committee is inviting public submissions on the Bill. The Centre is in the process of making its own submission but members of the public are welcome to make their own submissions. For further guidance on making a submission, the publication Making a Submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee can be found on the web site at www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz. The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 30 July 2004**. Submissions should be addressed as follows:

Helena Strange
Justice and Electoral Committee Secretariat
Parliament House
WELLINGTON

*Ian Cocks
Principal*



Ruth Dyson visit to Senior High School

by Zachary Best

We had a special forum in the Senior High School because at 2.10 Hon. Ruth Dyson came and visited us so we can ask her questions about the NZSL bill which had its first reading on June 22.

The bill has gone to committee for further investigation and people can make submissions. If your son/daughter or anybody in your family or that you know is Deaf then I personally challenge you to read the attachments and make a proposal as we are doing one ourselves and send it to the government and challenge them to agree with it. For those who have a computer and an Internet please do check out the web site www.odi.govt.nz

On the 23 June in the Press newspaper it tells you about how it will change the Deaf community and the awareness of how Deaf go through everyday. Also it came up that the ACT party MP Gerry Eckhoff has a hearing loss from when he was little and was often teased by the government about it without them realising that he was actually Deaf!!

Many thanks



NZSL as New Zealand's 3rd official language

by Mark Berry

NZSL as NZ's 3rd Official language sounds great.

It is not fair if hearing people can understand what Deaf people say but Deaf people don't understand what hearing people say.

A lot of hearing people don't understand that signing is a real language. Hearing people will be more aware of Deafness if NZSL was our 3rd Language.

The easy way for deaf to communicate is signing. I am sure that everyone who is related to or knows Deaf people are willing to have NZSL as NZ's 3rd Official language.

For you who don't know what are NZ's 1st and 2nd Official languages, they are 1st English, 2nd Maori, Government propose to have 3rd language NZSL. If that happened 50 years ago, some people, for example, Ivan Curry, mightn't have gone to jail. He went there through communication problems.

I hope the proposal will happen.



Ruth Dyson visit to Senior High School

From the Regions . . .

Junior KIT Day.

On 20 May we attended a musical 'Songs of the Sea' at Capital E at the Civic Centre in Wellington. It was about a variety of sea creatures like, fish, starfish, seahorses, crabs and jellyfish. We watched the show and went onto Wellington's wharves and enjoyed the lovely sunny day. We played at Frank Kitt's Park and looked at the ships and helicopter. One of the helicopters took off while we were watching.

Regards Janet Wilson



Friends

A castle made sounds.
A Big Green Dragon made water squirt on my face.
I played Neil at Golf. We had Fun.

*Allen Rayner,
Redwood Primary School.*



South Canterbury KIT-Day

South Canterbury had their second KIT-Day for the year at Timaru Main School (which will merge with another school at the end of the year). 9 children from Timaru, Ashburton, Fairlie and Tekapo attended. The theme for the day was "The Life of Helen Keller". With the help of Nirvana Graham, the story of her life (which included a visit to New Zealand) came alive and got the group really interested. Each student picked one event of her life and drew a picture about it. These pictures were compiled into a book. Here is one page of the book:

Helen Keller was born in America in 1880. She was a happy healthy baby.

By Virginia Casey



On **Keeping In Touch** day 40 deaf students came for a KIT day. It is very important for the deaf students to come and meet their friends because they are lonely in their school. There are no other deaf students in their school.

I went to MacDuffs mini golf and driving range. I meet some deaf students and we didn't talk much. We just said "Hello." I really had lots of fun. I have a new friend, her name is Rachel. I supported her because she was a little upset. I told her to be patient because she was annoyed. I was just looking at another girl playing golf.

*Katherine Hickson,
Burnside Primary School,
Year 6.*



KIT Day at Freyberg High School

When I heard about KIT Day I felt excited, but when I got there I was nervous because I did not know any children.

Then I met Jahlia and Tia. They are twin sisters. The rope games were fun and the 4 square was quite hard.

At 2 o'clock we went to the Freyberg Swimming Pool. We had some relays and an egg and spoon race. After that we had free time.

At KIT Day I learnt some sign language when I watched other children signing.....'easy', 'hard' and 'work' and I signed to Gail and she said "good girl". Maybe when I grow up I will be a signing teacher!

*Taliha Olson,
Age 7,
Central Normal School,
Palmerston North.*



The Flight To Australia

In May I'm going to Perth Australia because I am going on holiday to see my Auntie. Her name is Mandy and my Uncle's name is Steve, they are my favourite Auntie and uncle. They buy me really cool teenager clothes from a shop called Target for my birthday. At their house they have a swimming pool out the back and it looks really cool. They have a dog called Max, he is a Jack Russell dog and loves getting his photo taken. He really loves the pool because he has his own boogie board. Max likes to jump in the pool and he always jumps on to his boogie board. Apparently my Auntie and Uncle are getting married in Auckland and I am the junior bridesmaid, it will be a lot of fun. When I fly over there it is going to take me eight hours to get to Perth but we stop in Auckland with Nana and Granddad for a day. The next day they will drop me off at the airport and then I will be on the plane to Perth.

My Grandparents will be home from the airport before I get to Perth. I will be so glad that I made it to Australia on my own as I really want to see what its like. I will be so happy because they live across the road from the beach and I will be able to go across the road to the beach. I know what we are doing in Perth for the first few days, we'll be shopping, buying clothes for mum and driving around sightseeing. Mandy and Steve will tell me all about Perth, that will be fun. Some nights we will be going to restaurants or having dinner at their friends house so that I can get to know them before Mandy and Steves wedding. There will be a boy who will hold my hand and follow me around on the wedding day, but not to the toilet! We have to dance together so that will be fun, I cant wait.

*By Amelia Stewart
(yr. 7)*

MY VISIT TO AN INDIAN SCHOOL

I was fortunate to visit an Indian School whilst I attended a Deaf Cricket Meeting in Lucknow, India.

The first school I visited in Lucknow was an 'oral' primary to secondary school and it was closed for the holidays.

A Deaf Indian told me that the majority of Deaf schools teach orally.

Another school I visited catered for 16 years old to 25 years old. It was similar to VADEC's Senior High School. They do not have Deaf teachers but have a Deaf director (Principal or CEO in our terms). Most of the students live in the local area, and some come as far away as Nepal or South India. The majority of students came to this school when they failed in the 'oral' system. This school teaches students job skills, such as printing, sewing, photography and engineering. They also provide essential learning in written English, mathematics and computers. In each classroom, they have up to 20 students to one teacher. All of the students respect their teachers, and never talk back. They appreciate learning at their school. In Indian culture, education is a way out of poverty. Their resources are either few or old, e.g. a sewing machine is powered by foot peddling, just like your grandmother used to have to. They only have four computers in the whole school and three of them are out-of-date! They do not have many text-books, eg four students share one book. One other interesting thing to note was that the school teaches young woman how to present themselves in a positive way and to show their potential as future wife.

If you want to know more or ask me question?
Email me at
pollyanna@newlands.school.nz
or fax me (04) 474 1340.

To any interested Deaf Cricket Players,

There will be World Cup Cricket tournament in India on November 2005. If you are over 55dB and able to play cricket, please contact me. nzdeafcricket@hotmail.com
or
fax (04) 977 4268.

Thank you, Pollyanna

The boy in the bed

The ten year old brown sandy haired boy is snuggled in bed with the window wide open for the air to breathe. The yacht above his head made a shadow on the dark wall. Then there were two lights beamed on the wall then they slowly flew down to the boys face, then there was a whisper "Is he the one?"

"I'm sure he's our one" said another whisperer then in a fright the boy woke up his brown big eyes were terrified.

"Who's there?" then the boy saw two men, two big giant men, one was blond hair and deep blue sea eyes and a small head, the other had black hair and green blue eye, they both a police uniform had on and the policemen had the cigarette smell on their clothes. The boy notices their teeth were very stained as well.

"Who are you?!" I said

"Us? Ummm...." Said the man with blond hair who looked a bit shifty. By golly Mum and Dad will be mad when they found out two men were in my room, thought the boy.

"Name... Gary and Sean" said the blond one "what's yours kid?" asked Sean with black hair.

"Josh, Josh Sims" he said as he slowly got out of bed in my blue pyjamas.

"Why are you in my room anyhow?" he asked as he pointed his finger at them. "Umm I hate to break it to ya kid but ya Mum and Dad has been killed in the night and so me and Sean has to take ya now." Said Gary in a sad whisper, "but... but" his whole life came crashing down.

I was shocked by the news as he couldn't believe someone would do that "what happened?"

Like every kid Josh loved his Mum and Dad, Josh had no brothers or sisters so his mum and dad would play with him. He remembered how he would bake with his Mum and help his Dad with work but now? "Look Josh, it's very complicated.

"Do you have any family?" asked Sean "no I don't, why? "Because then we would have passed you to them" replied Gary. "Any friends?" asked Sean "Yes" Josh said as he thought about Joey his best pal.

"Who" asked Sean as he stared writing all this down. "Joey Shore" "ok our job is done. Come on kid."

*By Jaime Dowdle,
year 10,
Central Southland College,
Winton,
Southland.*

Mairehau High School Formal

On Saturday, 12 June, I went to my school formal. I learnt to write clear text messages in literacy class. I asked Alex to come to the formal with me. She said "yes" – phew! I had to text Alex a lot! I bought tickets for Alex and I – Wow! Expensive but I didn't care about the money.

I wore a very very nice suit, I looked so grown up! I made phone calls using a communicator. I called some florists and bought Alex a corsage. It had small, white orchids and looked lovely. Alex looked beautiful. We had some photos taken and then went to a friend's house for pre-drinks. Some of my friends went in limos - lucky!

The formal was at Ridges Hotel in town. Everything was so posh. It was very relaxing. We had more photos and some of my friends taught me to dance. The dancing was crazy and I couldn't hear the songs! There was lots of nice food – I ate until I was really full! I went to the after party and got home at 8 o'clock in the morning! The formal was so much fun but I was really tired.

By Matthew Findsen



Emma Brightwell, year 13 Hastings Girls' High School looked absolutely stunning when she attended her school ball "A Night at the Oscars".

Outward Bound...

Outward Bound was awesome fun!

We went tramping, staying overnight in the bush in tents, went sailing (though we had to row most of the time!), I passed a high ropes course, which was fantastic for me as I have a terrible fear of heights. We had to go solo in the bush – for some people this was scary, but for me I was just totally bored because I wasn't used to not having anyone to talk to! But it was good having the chance to sit on your own and think about what's been happening around you lately. I also went rock climbing, I didn't make it up to the top, I had to abseil down after climbing up about three quarters. I was pleased with what I had done at Outward Bound.

I made some new friends, and am still in contact with some of them. It was a fantastic experience.

If anyone is thinking about going, I recommend that they go! It's a great place to go to!

Emma Agnew



Emma Agnew with her friends at Outward Bound



A Funny Day

One Monday night it was late and the two friends called Amy and Grace, were together in the bedroom in the Castle, playing music, reading books and playing games.

The bedroom was big with purple pink on the wall. There was a double bed with pictures of Pooh Bear on the cover and lots of spongy pillows. The room had a T.V. and a stereo.

Amy and Grace went to sleep. In the morning Grace woke up. Amy was too late. Amy was asleep. Grace shouted "you are very late. Hurry up. We are going to school". The girls got ready for School and ate their breakfast. Amy was a little bit fat with brown hair. She wore make-up and was pretty. Grace has skin as smooth as glass. Grace has blonde hair, no pimples and wore make-up. They were very special girls because they flew to school laughing and were happy and talking. They looked behind them and there were lots of birds. They arrived at school and the birds came in all the classes and pooped on the floor, desks and all over the children's books.

The school was very very huge school on the hill. It had 6 stories, there was high blue wood on the walls. All the children fly to School. The girls flew home and the birds followed the girls. And then all the birds flew away and the girls told Mum and dad what happened at school. The end!

*By Eliza Butcher,
Year 9,
Central Southland College,
Winton,
Southland.*

STAGE CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Tom Angel, aged 16 years, is a Year 12 student at Papanui High School. He has a profound hearing loss and received a Cochlear implant when he was eleven years old. His school subjects are: English, Physical Education, Drama, Catering and Classics. He plays in the Senior A Basketball team and has been a regular competitor in Rock and Roll at local and National level for the last eight years. He and his partner have won numerous awards.

This year Papanui High School decided to enter the Stage Challenge competition which has been staged throughout New Zealand for the last eleven years. It is a competition open to primary, intermediate and secondary students.

Students are responsible for the entire production - theme, direction, music, choreography and costume. Sixty Papanui High School students from Years 9 - 13 took part in this musical / dance presentation. Tom was part of the small team who choreographed the dances and stage movements and he took a leading role in the dance sequences showing amazing talent.

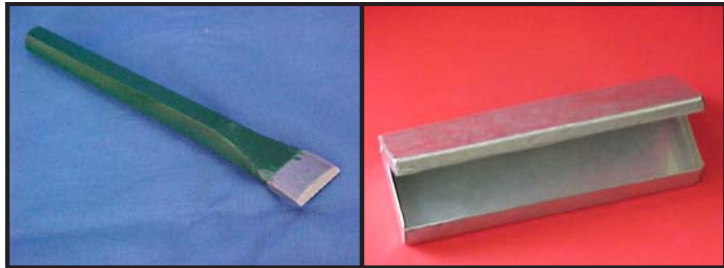
The four judges on the night awarded Papanui High School nine awards. One of those was The Spirit of Stage Challenge Award which best reflected the school who demonstrated the most friendliest and pleasant atmosphere through out the day. After their performance Tom was one of four students who came back on stage to answer questions about their Stage Challenge experiences.

Next year Tom is planning to not only direct but also take a leading role in the second Papanui High School Stage Challenge production. Stage Challenges are presented over three nights and are definitely worth attending. Congratulations and well done Tom!!!!



Tom Angel (3rd from left) performs in the production he helped choreograph

Daniel Chute year 12 Havelock North High School has worked hard in metalwork to make a cold chisel and a tool box.



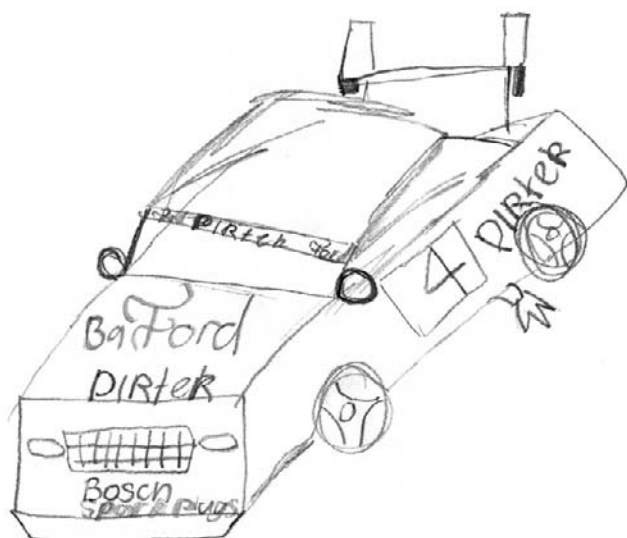
Congratulations to Daniel who also achieved his Gun Licence at the end of this term. Well done!



My Birthday

I went to a movie.
 The name of the movie was the Cat in the Hat.
 I went to Deborah's house.
 Deborah is my teacher.
 Deborah gave me a torch.
 The colour of the torch is purple, yellow and black.
 Nicky gave me a book, paper and a rubber.
 Nicky is my teacher too.
 I have a tea set with cups.
 My Mum gave me the tea set. My grandma gave me some clothes. She gave me two tops and three pairs of pants.
 Mr. Dickie, my teacher, put all the clothes on me.
 Deborah thought I looked like a pink snowgirl.
 Everyone laughed at me.
 I felt happy.

*By Shaquille Newton,
 Aged 7,
 High Street School,
 Dunedin.*



Marcus
 Ambrose

Marcus Ambrose - V8 Supercars

My name is Marcus Ambrose. I am a Ford Racer. My girlfriend cleans my car. She makes it nice and shiny. It is blue and yellow. It is very fast, it goes 300km on the straight line. My friend fixes my car and it can go very fast with brand new wheels. Sometimes pit people on my team fix my cars body when the track is wet and I spin off and crash into the wall!
 I never hurt myself because I put my safety plastic on my windows.
 I am a Bathurst racer in Australia.
 I came 1st!

*By Kerrin Hodges,
 Year 7,
 Collingwood Intermediate School,
 Invercargill.*

Cross Country

On Wednesday on the 26th May the whole of Grasmere School had Cross Country running and we went around the farm. I was about to fall in the mud or poo, but it was lucky that I didn't fall. I was last with my friends because I felt like I was going to be sick. When I was running it was cool. A lot of people I saw were puffing.

*By Aleisha Putt,
 Year 4,
 Grasmere School,
 Invercargill.*

Nicole Musson,
Year 7,
Our Lady of Fatima school, has been learning about personification recently.
She wrote...

In the Forest

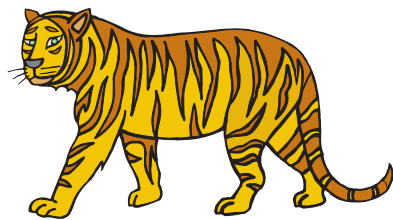
I stepped into the forest. The ground sank down beneath my feet. The trees whispered around me and the wind began to sing. The rivers to my right, were running around the boulders that blocked their way.



Poems:

Black
Black is a dark night
Black is a dull day
Black is a cold rice pudding
Black is an evil colour.

Tigers
Tigers are mean
Tigers are growling
At daytime
Tigers go prowling



Harry Musson,
Year 5,
Our Lady of Fatima School.

I went to P.M.P. today
and I saw Mrs Harvey.
I saw Mrs Havenaar helping at P.M.P.
We jumped over the skipping rope.

I am going up the water tower on Sunday
because I haven't been up there.
I think I will see my old house.

I have got a new book. It is called Mr. Happy.
He lived in Happyland. He is yellow and round and fat. He is always happy.

Reece is coming to my new farm today because
Reece said yes. He is going to play trains with me
and on the bike.

By Callum Lines,
Year 2,
Invercargill North School.



The Chocolate Factory

Last Tuesday I went to the Chocolate Factory and watched movies and someone making chocolate. We went inside the house. We got chocolate because we had been good. My grandparents went too because they like the Chocolate Factory. That was fun. At the Chocolate Factory I saw lots of chocolate.

Bradley McKenzie,
Year 2,
St Theresa's School,
Invercargill.

How to make Hot Chocolate Milo

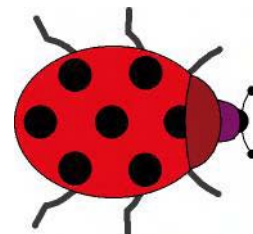
1. Get some milk and put in a cup.
2. Put 3 teaspoons of milo powder in the cup and mix with the milk.
3. Put the cup in the microwave for 1 minute until hot.
4. You can put 100's & 1000's, chocolate hail or some marshmallows on top.
5. Drink it all up. Yum.

By Kerrin Hodges,
Year 7,
Collingwood Intermediate School,
Invercargill.

Ladybirds

Ladybirds have six legs and ladybirds have black spots. They live in New Zealand and the ladybirds were going to my house. The eggs were coming out like babies and then the babies were growing up into the ladybirds.

Dorne Kini,
Year 6,
Clifton School,
Invercargill.



Netball

I am playing netball. Mrs Coyle is my coach.
I am happy when I play netball.

Sharna Brownlie,
Edendale School,
Southland.

Regional News

Well done **Eliza and Jaime!**

Central Southland College (Winton, Southland) took top honours at the Otago/ Southland Stage Challenge final in Dunedin on Friday June 18, with a most unusual performance.

It set the Invercargill schools review to music. Central Southland's stage show "**Lessons in Education**" was a pointed take on the schools review and featured 77 pupils, including Eliza Butcher (year 9) and Jaime Dowdle (year 10), who performed as students, politicians and money to contemporary tunes as "We're not gonna take it" and "Where is love?"

There were 12 schools in the competition and more than three months of preparation had gone into the school's third Stage Challenge attempt. The judge said Central Southland's performance stood out because it was "an entirely original theme, done in an exciting, vibrant and intelligent way."

Congratulations to **BEN WEBB** for selection to play NZ Mens Deaf Basketball and **NATHAN GILMER** for athletics, selection for Deaflympics next year in Melbourne. GOOD LUCK AND BEST OF LUCK FROM Pollyanna, Tania, John-Paul and all of your Deaf-mates in Deaf Resource Class at Newlands College



Nora (centre) with her friends Shyara and Tia at the farm.

Nora Hita, aged 7, at Peterhead School was **Merit Marvel** on 21 June. She wrote a 1 page story about a farm visit. Last year Nora was only happy to write one or two words by herself. Well done Nora.

From the Specialist Resource Team!

What a busy term it's been! We have had 3 preschool courses this term, with 6 families from Palmerston North, Otago, Nelson and Wellington. We've also worked with another 3 families from Wanganui and Wellington who visited for an assessment week, and as usual we've continued to work on new resources and have travelled all around the region to support staff, deaf students and their families. We all also attended a workshop presented by Harry Hood.

James has been extremely busy, visiting Hawkes Bay, Wellington and South Canterbury. He's presented courses on Notetaking, Maximising Visual Teaching, and also working with Michele and Olwyn on a course called 'Transliteration – an approach to teaching reading to deaf students'. As well as that he and Paul have produced the first interactive DVD, which is on classifiers in NZSL. This has the advantage of being able to be played on the Itinerant's new laptops. They've also begun work on a level 1 and 2 Fingerspelling video. Paul's visits have been to Wellington and around Christchurch this term.

Joanne has travelled to Nelson, Southland and Wellington this term, and has presented courses on Stone's Stages of Conversational Development (a tool for the analysis of a student's language sample) in each of these areas. Evette has worked in Palmerston North and Christchurch. She has also presented a course on oral language sampling, and

has been doing some work with preschoolers in the van Asch Early Intervention Centre.

Olwyn, Sue and Michele have been working on Formal Retell Forms to complement the PM Benchmark Kit 2. These will be available soon on CD and as a booklet. Olwyn and Sue have visited Itinerants around Christchurch to support them with written language evaluations. Olwyn and James have also presented the Transliteration course to on-base staff.

Michele has visited Hawkes Bay, Wellington and Palmerston North. She has presented a parent workshop in Palmerston North this term, following a very positive response to the Preschool Parent Course held earlier on in the year. This time it was tailored predominantly to those with youngsters in their first year of school and the topic was "Beginning Literacy." She feels that it is always heartening to see parents involved and interested in their child's education as it makes such a difference, and helps support progress in the classroom. For Teachers of the Deaf with signing students, she has taken the Transliteration workshop further afield, to a small group in Wellington. Michele and Jane also went to Auckland to continue work on the joint writing project between the two deaf education centres. An update will be following in the next issue of "News & Views."

Have a great holiday everyone!
James Townshend, Paul Buzzard, Joanne Lake,
Evette Griffiths, Olwyn Sparks, Sue Beaten and
Michele Yonetani.

Base School News

Early Intervention Centre

Our Early Intervention Centre's philosophy is that parents are their child's best teachers. Here is some evidence of the lengths they will go to!!!



Denise taught Jake to call her (to wake her up)-"Mum!"



Dellany taught Will about "under"



Bridget taught Zoe about the parts of her face

Primary School News

We have been very busy in Room 2. We also have made our own little drama of the Three Little Pigs. The Three Little Pigs was a great success, with Alan starring as the Big Bad Wolf and Tyler as a little pig who built his house of bricks. Alan's experiment with the flowers transformed the white flowers to blue, red and green. Tyler made popcorn. Tyler, Alan and Jaecob made jelly. They thought that green jelly was the best! Alan's mother came to teach us how to make Malaysian New Year cake which they ate up even though it was quite different from anything the students had eaten before. This was part of our learning about different celebrations that people have like Christmas, Easter and Queens Birthday. We even sent a message to The Queen on her official website. Alan was really interested in the story about Janet Stokes parents in the floods this year and drew a wonderful picture and wrote a story after seeing the photos of the mud that was left after the water went down. Letter of the week was so exciting. We were curious to see what Jaecob would bring next - a nurse's uniform?, tents?, orchids?

Stuck in the mud

The car mud stuck. Wheel can't turn round.
Chair is stuck under the garden, it looks short.
You can't sit on the chair. Mud. Lots and lots mud.
The fence is broken. The mud pushed it over.
by Alan Yap





Tyler as the little pig and Alan as the big bad wolf

Argo Ride

On Tuesday morning after breakfast I went on the Argo. In my group I had Kylie, Nikki, Margaret and me. There were five seats in the Argo. The Argo went very fast and did lots of spins. We all had to hold on to the bar. We went to the river, mud and grass/hills. I got mud all over me. It was a one hour trip, I felt green about the gills because it was spinning fast.
Kaitlyn Gulland



On Tuesday I liked the argo ride the best. It was really fun and it was a rough ride. I rode with Samuel, Saxon, Tyrone and Marg and the driver. We were spinning around in the river and up the hill was really bumpy and in the mud and we had a little jump. We spun around in the mud and drove in the river and the tree had fallen down and we couldn't go through. It was blocked. We came back where we started but we kept on going around. The argo can float in the river and the river was little bit deep and we came back and we stopped. It was really really good fun.
 THE END
Sam Ellery

At camp we went for a walk in the bush.
 We played on the trampoline.
 We walked beside the river.
 At night we watched T.V.
 and played some games.

Damaris Muthamia



High School News

Farewell Leigh Mackintosh

Leigh
lovely, cool
Going to Australia
sad, missing van Asch

by Kamau Hawea



Leigh Mackintosh's farewell party

We started with interviews just 4 days before her farewell party (which she knew nothing about) *What was your most embarrassing moment?* She started teaching in Room 11, and loved her cupboard because she could escape to there!! Anyway, one weekend, she spend all weekend to work on their lesson on Monday. But on Monday morning all her students said that is boring as they did that before. That made Leigh throw the books and go into the cupboard and yell at the top of her lungs. Then went back and started on a new lesson. The students didn't know why Leigh went to the cupboard as they all were deaf. *We also asked her why she used and how did she get that word "Sausage"!!* She said she found it in a book during teaching at Linwood Deaf unit, she used it on students and they all seemed to like it, so it stuck in her mind. But there was another reason to it, she sometimes forgot their names so she replaced it with "sausage." She was happy to have a shared lunch with the cake which Yvonne made (beautiful), diet coke (her favourite) and some other food and drink. Followed up with her final assembly. We made speeches, drama, powerpoint, gifts and cards. Then the questions came, then she had to go. **BYE LEIGH, WE WILL NOT FORGET WHAT A SAUSAGE YOU ARE**

Mark Berry

At Friday 25 June 2004, Room 21 and 20 had a party. Leigh cut her cake, we had lots to eat and drink. Then we went to the Conference Room and said "Farewell" to Leigh and told fun stories. I was videoing. We had a great time at Leigh's farewell.

by Harry Boon



The Importance of being Earnest

'The Importance of Being Earnest' is an hilarious adventure of two dashing young bachelors, Jack and Algernon, and the deceptions they use as they search for love.

The story is set in upper class English society at the end of the nineteenth century.

Jack sometimes finds country life dull and boring. Whenever he is bored he pretends to be his fictitious brother, Ernest, and goes to visit his friend, Algernon, in London. In London, Jack becomes smitten with the beautiful Gwendolen, Algernon's cousin.

Meanwhile, his playboy pal, Algernon, is in the country falling for Jack's young and beautiful ward, Cecily. He is also using the name 'Ernest'. Chaos breaks out when the two 'would-be' Ernests find themselves face to face, and have to explain to the ladies who they really are...



Oscar Wilde wrote some of the funniest lines in English Theatre. Translating this hilarious comedy into NZSL has been an interesting challenge for all of us, and coming at the time when we see the first reading of the new bill in Parliament, it is even more poignant.

Once again this years production has been a real team effort. The cast have worked closely together supporting one another and finding ways to try and portray their lines as effectively as possible. I would like to commend them for this.

I, personally, and the production as a whole, have also had incredible support from the Board of Trustees and the staff and parents, without whom a show such as this could not go on.

I would especially like to thank my Producer, Jane Peterson, for her encouragement and support throughout.

To all those involved backstage and at front of house, and to our group of voices who give sound to our hands - a unique skill for which we are very grateful - I would like to say thank you.

*Heather Benbow,
Director.*



Drama Profiles

Heather Benbow – *The Director*

Heather Benbow is a very busy but wonderful senior teacher working with the Deaf students in the high school. She has been involved in Drama for many years and has directed a variety of different dramas ranging from Shakespeare to musicals such as “Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat”.

Heather really loves drama.



Gemma Dye – *Lady Bracknell*

Gemma has been involved in 6 different dramas at van Asch Deaf Education Centre. She feels really confident, proud and brave to be in this drama performance. In this next drama, Gemma will be playing as Lady Bracknell, who is the mother of Gwendolyn. As a Year 13 student, Gemma has a wide range of interests at van Asch Deaf Education Centre. Amongst these are sports, cooking and talking to friends.

Chanelle Topliss – *Cecily Cardew*

A very well motivated year 13 student at van Asch Deaf Education Centre, this is Chanelle’s second year at this school as well as her second year being involved in the drama. She is acting as Cecily, Jack’s ward, who falls in love with the woman hunter Algernon.

Having done Stage Challenge in 2001, Chanelle was encouraged to take the major acting role. This year, Chanelle is doing Geography and other compulsory subjects.

She is eager to develop her talents in Art.



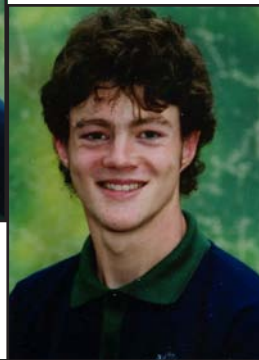
Tarsha Takarangi – *Gwendolen Bracknell*

This is Tarsha’s first drama. She is excited to be involved with the van Asch students and act as one of the major characters Gwendolen, who is Lady Bracknell’s daughter. She is Mr Jack Worthing’s love. Being at van Asch Deaf Education Centre for her first year, Tarsha is keen to improve her Maths, English and Physical Education skills (also known as Adventure Based Learning Skills).

Mark Berry – *Jack Worthing*

Playing the main character of Jack Worthing who pretends to be Ernest in the city and Jack in the country, Mark is an experienced actor who has performed in the school’s previous dramas. He is very excited to take one of the leading roles for this year’s “The Importance of Being Earnest”.

Mark is a Year 11 student and wishes to return to van Asch Deaf Education Centre next year. Currently, his interests are Arts, Maths, English and Typing.



James Berry – *Algernon Moncrieff*

James is a Year 12 student acting as the ‘womaniser’ Algernon in the city and Earnest in the country. He pretends to be a brother of Jack Worthing when he is in fact, a real brother to Mark Berry! James has a range of interests at school such as Maths, Arts, New Zealand Sign Language, Technology and Physical Education. James has been involved in all the school production in recent years.

Zachary Best – *Reverend Canon Frederick Chasuble*

Having acted in the television series “The Tribe”, and “The Christmas Carol” at school last year, Zac will be acting as the Reverend Chasuble, a quiet and polite gentleman. Zachary is a fifth former at van Asch and is hungry for more education. Zachary is enthusiastic about being involved in this year’s drama. The best thing is that Zachary is enthusiastic and he has an interest in everything in this school.



Lauren Slaven – *Governess Laetitia Prism*

A nervous but excited Year 13 Lauren is happy to act as Miss Prism, who teaches poor but sweet Cecily Cardew German Grammar and Geology. At her old school, Lauren took a leading role in “Forward Kickback” but explains that this year will be a very challenging year, as sign language is involved (Lauren is very oral). Her favourite subjects are Digital Photography and Art, as well as socialising with the deaf students.

The Whare Wanaka Blessing

In the chill of the early morning of Sunday June 6th, 100 people gathered to bless the initial stage of a Whare Wanaka to be developed at the Centre.

Visitors included local BOT members and members from the North Island. Mama Kumeroa, and Trish Laing brought family and friends. Pauline Maioha and Tyrone Te Tau came too making the event significant for students. Riki Pitama contributed as a representative of Ngai Tahu.

Students put their hearts into the event and our thanks go to Mama Kumeroa, her mother Mere and Pauline Maioha for all they did to prepare students for the event. Local staff, in particular Ritchie Tahana, Heather Benbow and Lloyd Ellison, spent hours in food preparation for a sumptuous breakfast.

A significant day for all involved with the Centre and the Deaf Maori Community, the blessing was followed by a wonderful and warming mihi and haka.

Congratulations to all involved in the event.



Obituary

Dr David Stewart (1954-2004)

It is with sadness that many of us, as New Zealanders, learned recently of the unexpected, early death of Dr David Stewart.

David died on June 6th at his home in Mason, Michigan.

David packed so much into his lifetime. Fortunately for us he took time out of his busy professional schedule to make trips to New Zealand. On two different occasions he contributed to the professional development of educators of deaf children here especially in the area of NZSL. Some of his research at the time looked at the use of ASL and English based forms of sign language.

For deaf and hearing teachers his visits were inspirational.

Two special memories of these visits. David had a huge commitment to his family and on his first visit, was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and their children. That summer two of the Stewart children outgrew their double push-chair and David and Elizabeth decided to leave it behind in Summer. For many years afterwards the vehicle transported pre-schoolers on Residential Courses to and from the village and was a regular reminder of David and his family.

On his later visit David wanted to locate an original wooden violin case. I found one for him, it was very original but very worn out and very much in need of repair. He was delighted with it and packed it carefully for his trip home. It was for the family music room. David said this room in his house as his favourite, he described sitting there in its silence, his eyes feasted on musical instruments and images of music making.

David Stewart made a huge commitment to Deaf Education. He taught and worked with families of deaf children for 25 years graduating with Diploma in Deaf Education in 1978, Master of Arts in 1982, and doctorate in Education in 1985. He was Professor and Director of Graduate Deaf Education programmes at Michigan State University. He wrote six books and contributed to journals and research publications. He was a keen ice hockey player, coach and administrator. He received several scholarly awards including the Chair of Deafness Studies at University of Alberta. He was also on the B.O.T of Gallaudet University.

That every child has a special strength and can attain their goals and aspirations was David's strong belief. His own life was a wonderful example of this.

All who knew him will sadly miss Dr David Stewart. Our sympathy to Elizabeth and to their children Rachel, Rebecca, Jennifer, and Michael.

Marie O'Brien

(Ref: CISS press release. My thanks to Janet Stokes for locating this!)

Farewell and our Best Wishes to **Leigh Mackintosh**, who will spend the next 12 months in Western Australia, with her children and husband Bill, who is farming there.

Notices

Telecom School Connection Programme

You could help the students in the van Asch Deaf Education Centre region – both on base and regionally - by becoming a sponsor of van Asch under the Telecom School Connection programme.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO BE A SPONSOR.

All you have to do is nominate our school. Then when you make any National or International calls through Telecom we'll be able to benefit from a donation from Telecom.

The money will be put towards things like computers, fax machines and internet connections and many other information and communication technologies.

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

Register as a new sponsor or change the school you support to van Asch Deaf Education Centre. Sponsor forms can be found on the Telecom website www.telecom.co.nz/schoolconnection under 'school stuff' and then 'school tools and forms'

The Board and students really appreciate your support.

Victoria University of Wellington

CERTIFICATE IN DEAF STUDIES: TEACHING NZSL

Applications for study in 2005

- Course for NZSL Tutors, education workers, other fluent signers
- One year of study in 5 x 1 week blocks. Part-time students also welcome.
- Six modules:
Deaf Culture & Community; Linguistic Structure of NZSL; Language Learning; Principles of Teaching NZSL; Materials for Teaching; Teaching Practicum
- Fees for 2005: approximately \$3,400 plus travel and accommodation.
- Scholarships (6 @ \$1200 each) for Deaf students
- Applications close November 1st 2004

For information contact David McKee,
fax (04) 463 5640,
Email: david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz

**Produced by
van Asch Deaf Education Centre
Truro Street, Sumner,
Christchurch 8.
Voice / TTY 03 326 6009
Fax 03 326 5346
e-mail : info@vanasch.school.nz**