



Tuesday 2 August 2011

Dear Staff, Parents and Deaf Community.

During the July school holidays the Ministry of Education contacted the van Asch Board to ask if we would consider accommodating Redcliffs School on part of the van Asch site for the remainder of this year while safety issues with regard to their school site at Redcliffs were worked through.

Redcliffs are currently sharing the Sumner School site but this was a short-term arrangement until further information on the cliff face was gained. This exercise and remediation work to the cliff is taking longer than initially thought.

The Board has considered this request and has agreed to accommodate Redcliffs school on the van Asch site for the remainder of this year. We are confident that we have space for the following van Asch Services to continue here.

- The Early Intervention Centre,
- Audiology Hearing Aid Services,
- Residential Accommodation
- Specialist Resource Teachers
- Resource Teachers of the Deaf
- Library
- Media Centre
- Hearing Aid repairs
- Computer technician
- Administration Office
- Technology Services
- Whare as a meeting space and for class use.

Over the next three weeks the Ministry will repair buildings that have Earthquake damage so both Redcliffs school and van Asch services can be sited at VADEC. The Ministry will support us to move van Asch staff to new areas around the school. When these spaces are confirmed a map will be made available on the VADEC website showing the location of van Asch services and Redcliffs school.

As van Asch students are already being provided with schooling programmes off-site for the remainder of this year, the greatest impact of this change will be for the van Asch staff. The Board is very mindful that this change comes at what is already a challenging time for staff and their families. Dyanne Bensley our Chairperson and I fully appreciate the added pressure this will bring but it is something that we believe is important to do in supporting our local school community.

In turn, we are very grateful to Wharenui Primary, Hagley Community College and Mairehau High School in supporting our students at this difficult time.

Kind regards

Bernadette Mulcahy-Bouwman  
Principal