

NZACS The Whiteboard



FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora NZACS Whānau,

We have had a somewhat different start to the school term at Hamilton Christian School. Unfortunately, a positive test of E. coli in our water supply for the north end of Hamilton has resulted in all schools in this area being closed for two days.

To put that into context, there are 24 million litres of water in the reservoir for the area, and a test resulting in a very minor presence of E. coli has affected thousands of people, businesses and schools.

This situation prompted me to reflect on my own life, our school, and even our association. The proactive nature of the council and the community of schools in identifying the issue and implementing a cumbersome process to prevent the bacteria from affecting people is commendable.

As I consider this in terms of my spiritual walk, or in my profession as a teacher, do I go to great lengths to prevent something microscopic in my life, in my classroom, from affecting myself or those in my care? I hope that my answer would be a resounding yes, and it is at first, but I cannot tell you the last time that I sat in silence waiting on the Lord to answer such a question for me. From our own perspective, I know it is easy not to see the microscopic, because it is microscopic after all.

NZ Association for Christian Schools

Term 4 2025

In this edition:

- *From the Chair*
- *A Journey To Waitangi*
- *2026 Leaders' Conference*
- *Emerging Leaders Course 2026*
- *Showcasing the Exec*
- *Article – Serving in the Pacific, Changing Lives at Home*
- *Term 4 Prayer Diary*
- *NZACS & other Resources*
- *Professional Development*
- *Sponsors*



FROM THE CHAIR continued...

Our lives are often so busy, particularly for those of us involved in education, that we only have time to deal with aspects of our own growth and all that happens in our classroom, which is often the loudest. And this is important; however, it could be that the metaphorical stomach pain is a result of something microscopic.

Our lives are often so busy, particularly for those of us involved in education, that we only have time to deal with aspects of our own growth and all that happens in our classroom, which is often the loudest. And this is important; however, it could be that the metaphorical stomach pain is a result of something microscopic.



Blessings,

Shaun Brooker

Chairperson, NZ Association for Christian Schools

Principal, Hamilton Christian School

A JOURNEY TO WAITANGI

This is an amazing opportunity for investment by your school into your authentic bicultural journey, a chance to ask and discuss the difficult questions with a group of people who are passionate about Jesus. With just those from our group on the tour, and with the opportunity to hear the key stories from local story tellers, this will be a personalised opportunity for professional learning and development, with a Christian focus.

For more information and to register please [click here](#).

NZACS LEADERS' CONFERENCE



We are excited to let you know that planning is underway for our next Leaders' Conference in Queenstown. Numbers are limited, so we would appreciate it if you were able to give us an indication of how many people you would like to send by **Friday 10th October** (end of Week 1, Term 4). This will help us determine if we need to look at allocating spaces, or if we will be able to include everyone who wishes to attend.

Heritage Hotel, Queenstown

Speakers:

Paul Campey - Resolve Consulting, Australia

Dr Darren Iselin - Director of Research & Innovation, Christian Heritage College, Australia

Please can you give this some consideration (along with your budgeting for 2026) and complete the following form: [2026 Anchored Leadership - Conference Expression of Interest Form](#)

New Zealand Christian Schools Emerging Leaders Course 2026



Who is this for?

The Emerging Leaders Course is intended for anyone who is in the early stages of their educational leadership journey at a school in the New Zealand Association of Christian Schools. Participants need to have a genuine area of responsibility in the school where they can apply the new learning and grow through practical experience. Participants need to be passionate about their own growth as a leader in order to make the most of the learning opportunities they will take part in.

What's involved?

Participants will take part in two two-day workshops in Terms One and Two. Each workshop day will have a different theme, and participants will be given reading materials and podcasts to learn from in their own time. Participants will be involved in a Professional Learning Group, so they can learn alongside and from their peers from other schools. These groups will be facilitated by a mentor, who also leads in a Christian School.



What are the themes and who is teaching?

Day One: ***Yourself as a Christian Leader - Laidlaw College***
Participants will explore what it means to be a leader with faith guiding their approach. Participants will explore wellbeing, and understanding yourself as a leader. Participants will also learn the principles of mentoring and taking part in a professional learning community.
Day Two: ***Pedagogical Leadership - Laidlaw College***
Participants will explore what culturally responsive leadership looks like and how to explore and lead pedagogical shifts.
Day Three: ***Team and Culture - Leadership Lab***
Participants will learn about team dynamics, building and maintaining team culture, difficult conversations, and managing groups.
Day Four: ***Where to from here - Leadership Lab***
Participants will learn what it means to engage in continuous learning and growth, and how humility and mindset allow for this, along with strategically implementing change.

Dates

Term 1:

5 - 6 March

Term 2:

30 April-1 May

Venues

The Term One two-day workshop will take place in Auckland and the Term Two two-day workshop will take place in Christchurch. Participants will all stay together the night before the workshop starts and the night between workshop days. The opportunity to stay together and build relationship with other leaders is an important element of the course.

Cost and Registration

Cost: \$1100 per participant for the year. This includes catering, accommodation, full day workshops, follow up materials, a mentor and professional learning group. Schools are encouraged to contact NZACS for financial support if the costs are prohibitive for your kura.

To register: fill in this [form](#)
Please note this will only run if we have a minimum of 20 participants.



SHOWCASING the Exec

Each edition of The Whiteboard has a brief bio on an Executive member, to help you get to know those serving the Association.

Mark Richardson | Principal | Aidanfield Christian School

Kia ora,

It is something of a surprise and a privilege to be the most recent addition to a role on the Executive of NZACS.

I am first and foremost a follower of Jesus, a husband to Ruth (a teacher at our school) and a father to our two boys. Joel is 20 and studying at UC. Luke is 19 and about to study at UC. As a family we love to travel and spend the summer camping. I find great pleasure in fishing, running, skiing, boating, periodically studying - and food. Our family serve at HOPE Presbyterian but I have a mixed bag of Pentecostal, Reformed, Baptist influences through my years of church commitment. I have worked out my purpose beyond my family is Christian Education.

I have been involved in Christian education since 2001 where I started in the Head of Middle School role at Middleton Grange School. I came from a State full primary in Christchurch, where I spent a couple of years teaching year 7 and 8 students. I had recently returned from two years living and teaching in London, England. I was at a point of thinking teaching was not for me when I was asked to fill in a Year 7/8 class for half a year. I had told the principal I did not want to teach anymore but he convinced me to work there for half a year. It was in the state system that I found my groove and a love of teaching, an expression of leadership – and a decision to never work in Christian education! It seems people make plans and God directs their steps. In 1999, I heard of a position at Middleton with a focus on developing a year 7 to 10 middle school, and the structure fascinated me. It was not Christian Ed that drew me to Christian Ed, it was how a school structure could be used to advance learning for a challenging group. I applied and won the position and have become a passionate advocate for Christian Education and what we can do through our schools ever since.

In 2007, I was asked to fill an acting principal role at Canterbury Christian College. The school was under the guidance of an LSM and on the brink of closing for multiple reasons. I have been there ever since. It is a privilege to be a part of a fantastic staff and Board team who have developed the school in every single aspect of its function, including changing the name to Aidanfield Christian School in 2009, growth from 130 students to a current roll cap of 450, rising to 550 by 2030, and the development of a thriving international programme. We have led through the challenge of school restructuring and revitalisation, earthquakes (hundreds of them), and pandemics. We have collaboratively developed an across city model of working as a collection of Christian schools in Christchurch that is based in sacrificial relationship and professional challenge. And – we have been humbled by God's faithfulness and blessing over these years.

Introducing our new Secretary – Rhonda Thorpe

Greetings everyone, my name is Rhonda and I have just started as the Secretary for NZACS. I am married to Donovan (a chef ☺ and Kitchen Manager at College House) and we have two girls - Mia (21) currently in the USA working, and Jemma (19) who is at UC. I have been in and around Christian education and integrated schools since 2009 working at Hillview Christian School, Aidanfield Christian School and for the last nearly 6 years with The Christian Schools Trust who have four schools here in Canterbury. I also work for the Association of Integrated Schools Aotearoa NZ (AISNZ).

I am excited to add another 'hat' working for, and being involved in supporting Christian schooling through the work of NZACS.

Please feel free to get in touch if there is any way I can be of assistance secretary@nzacs.nz.



Serving in the Pacific, Changing lives at home

By Dr Shannon Black

Across School Teacher, Bethlehem College

*The NZACS Executive invites association members to contribute articles and reflections to **The Whiteboard** publication. The purpose of such articles is to promote thought and information for other association members. The thoughts and position of the contributions reflect the beliefs of the author and not necessarily the beliefs of the executive.*

"They are so generous, even though they have so little"

"They include everyone, no matter their age or gender"

"I'm definitely going to try to bring some of what I have learned back to the playground at school"

These are some of the comments made by the 13 students from Bethlehem College, Tauranga, after visiting the Solomon Islands for a Service and Missions Trip in April. Our students had the privilege to witness and participate in many of the heartfelt Easter celebrations hosted by the South Seas Evangelical Church. Our sharing of waiata during services was warmly received, highlighting to students both who they are as New Zealanders and their place in the wider Pacific.



Apart from attending local church services, sharing testimonies and joining a youth group sports day, we also learned more about the work of various parachurch organisations in the Solomon Islands. From World Vision's desire to combat family violence and the effects of climate change, to the provision of crucial medical services in remote island areas by the Red Cross, our students were touched by many inspirational Solomon Islanders. It was such a delight to be a part of handing out Easter shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. The look on the faces of the children was pure delight!

Our students also enjoyed interacting with local children at Florence Young Christian School. Here they presented skits; taught a few maths classes; demonstrated the use of donated science equipment, which the school had previously not been able to access; read with a class of students struggling with literacy and made some good friends.

Our students also enjoyed interacting with local children at Florence Young Christian School. Here they presented skits; taught a few maths classes; demonstrated the use of donated science equipment, which the school had previously not been able to access; read with a class of students struggling with literacy and made some good friends. A particularly impactful event for our year 13 girls was when they presented a lesson on feminine hygiene to the senior girls at the school. We were also able to leave these students with reusable sanitary kits, prepared by Days for Girls, NZ. The Head Girl of Florence Young was almost in tears as she described the impact these kits would have on the girls. Often female students would have to take a significant amount of time off school because they did not have access to sanitary products.



After two weeks away, we all returned home. Tired, jet lagged and determined to be more grateful for all that we have been blessed with. One student spoke about how the experience had cemented her desire to go into Human Rights Law, another began investigating options to pursue Discipleship Training School with YWAM. Grateful parents expressed their gratitude for the incredible transformation they had seen in their children. We give all thanks to God for the opportunity to be a part of his work both in the Solomon Islands and our own hearts.

By Dr Shannon Black, Across School Teacher, Bethlehem College



Term 4, 2025 PRAYER DIARY

Week starting Monday 6th October

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & STAFFING

Pray for school leadership to be filled with wisdom, unity, and vision as they guide the school community. Ask God to lead the hiring process and bring the right people into every staff position — those with both the skill and heart to serve.

Week starting Monday 13th October

HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Yrs 1-13, 967 students)

At Hamilton Christian School, we have been very blessed with many new students and staff. Our roll has grown from 440 in 2020 to over 1000 for next year. This growth has been a catalyst for stronger sports teams, more subject choice for our students, new buildings (24 classrooms with four more this term) and more opportunities for employment. We are so blessed to be able to provide Christian Education for so many more families; however, growth can also be painful at times.



Praise Points:

- the opportunity to provide Christian Education for so many more families, the incredible staff who God has gifted us with, the provision of new learning spaces and the opportunity to shine His light in sports and the creative arts.
- that all our teaching staff had the opportunity to attend this year's Flourishing in the Classroom conference at KingsWay School.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for; God to continue to provide for our staffing needs, new classrooms and gymnasium that we are needing.
 - Our new school board and for our school proprietors.
-

Week starting Monday 20th October

MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Yrs 1-8, 120 students)

Praise Points:

- the acceptance of our application to grow into Year 9 in 2026 and Year 10 in 2027
- permission for roll growth from 120 to 150 in 2026 and 180 in 2027
- for an excellent relationship with the Ministry of Education
- for provision of finance for the first stage of building inclusion
- having a full roll and lots of interest to be part of the school

Prayer Requests:

- keeping retention of Year 8 students for Year 9
- the provision of staff through this roll growth
- provision of finance in the building stages to follow
- the development of a very God centered curriculum throughout the school with curriculum change and roll growth



School Presiding Member turning the turf to signal the start of building developments.

Week starting Monday 27th October

KINGSVIEW SCHOOL (Yrs 1-8, 65 students)

Praise Points:

- Significant growth in our junior years which means that in our Y1-Y8 school over half our students are Y3 or less. Great for our school culture and giving us some certainty moving forward.
- A supportive and enthusiastic new School Board.
- A reinvigorated Land Trust who have 5 members and are much more engaged.

Prayer Requests:

- For staffing that right people, fill the right roles at the right time.



Week starting Monday 3rd November

STUDENTS SITTING NCEA EXAMS

Pray that students sitting their NCEA exams would experience peace, mental clarity, and confidence. Ask for strength during preparation, wisdom to recall what they've learned, and to remain calm under pressure.



Week starting Monday 10th November

MANUKAU CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Yrs 1-13, 287 students)

Praise Points:

- We are thankful that all our classes are full at every level, with a strong waiting list across the school.
- We praise God for the school's growing reputation within the wider community, including among non-Christian families, and for the opportunity this provides to share the gospel through Christian education.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for wisdom and smooth implementation as we restructure our school to include Year 7 and 8 within our high school, requiring adjustments to our programmes and staffing.
- Pray also for our senior students as they sit their Cambridge examinations and consider their next steps beyond school—that they would seek God's guidance for their future.



Year 13 students who attended the *Forum on the Family* Conference hosted by Family First towards the end of Term 3.

Week starting Monday 17th November

TOTARA COLLEGE (Yrs 1-13, 75 students)

Praise Points:

- Full roll
- Great teaching staff. Fully staffed and good relievers when needed.
- Great students

Prayer Requests:

- We have a Tahiti trip coming up in week 8 for French language students
- Continuation of, and increase in, the impact we have on the Dannevirke community



Students cooking up a storm at a recent fundraising dinner. They also achieved NCEA food technology credits.

Week starting Monday 24th November

RICHMOND VIEW SCHOOL (Yrs 1-13, 345 students)

Praise Points:

- For a good relationship with our proprietor, the Elim Church Blenheim
- For the growth of the school to include year 10-13 students over the last 7 years
- For strong community and family support
- For wonderful, dedicated staff

Prayer Requests:

- To strengthen the culture and special character of the recently added Middle and Senior schools
 - For increased confidence among students to serve in the wider community
 - For the school to effectively share the hope and peace that only Jesus can bring
-



Week starting Monday 1st December

LAKE TAUPO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Yrs 1-13, 117 students)

Praise Points:

- Our Year 7–13 students growing in courage as they share their personal **GMiL** (God in my Life) moments during chapel.
- Our senior students initiating and leading prayer by the school gate this term.
- The growth we are seeing across our school community.
- The amazing staff God has provided to meet the needs of this growth.
- The passion and drive of our new Board members.
- The dedication and heart of our new Proprietor representative.



Singing the Lord's Prayer in Māori at Tūwharetoa festival.

Prayer Requests:

- God's guidance and provision as we enter a new building phase.
- Access to surrounding land to support our expansion.
- Favour with the council as we submit and progress our building plans.
- Strength, peace, and clarity for students sitting exams.
- Retention of our senior students as we look ahead to 2026.



Communion with the junior school

Week starting Monday 8th December

For staff — thank you for your dedication, patience, and care. You've worked hard to guide, support, and inspire, often going the extra mile. May God refresh your spirit, restore your energy and fill your hearts with peace and gratitude. Take the opportunity to recharge and return refreshed for 2026.

For students — well done for your effort and perseverance. You've learned, grown, and achieved so much this term. Spend time with the people who matter, and come back ready for new challenges and opportunities.

For all - As we all step into the holidays, may it be a season of peace, refreshment, and gratitude — a chance to pause, reflect, and prepare for the good things to come. May the Lord bless and keep you, protect you in your travels, and prepare you for 2026.

Let this holiday be a reminder that every season – work and rest alike – is a gift from God.

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who Love Him,
who have been called according to His purpose."*

ROMANS 8:28



Website:
www.nzacs.nz



Contact:
+64 3 741 1123



Email:
secretary@nzacs.nz



Post: 30 Acacia Ave, Upper
Riccarton, Christchurch 8041, NZ

NZACS Website - Vacancies

A reminder to check the [VACANCIES PAGE](#) on our website.
Throughout the year a number of positions need to be filled within our network.
Please prayerfully pass these on.



NZACS WEBSITE

sponsored by

www.rocketspark.com/nz/
www.creationfilms.com



NZACS Resources

We would love for you to make use of all the resources that are available for your staff, leaders and teachers. <https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/>

[This is a password protected site, so please ensure you sign up to gain access, as this will be verified with your school/organisation.]

CATEGORIES

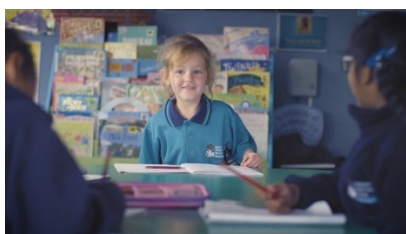
- Christian Teacher Development
- Inclusive Education – Classroom
- Leadership Development
- Service & Mission
- Bicultural Practice
- Student Wellbeing
- Curriculum
- NZACS – Conference Key Note Speakers
- University Courses
- Links to other Organisations



Promotional Videos

Available for you to use in the promotion of Christian Education to your community and beyond. There are bite size social media clips, or longer length videos available to choose from.

TEACHER VIDEO



<https://vimeo.com/648419275>

STUDENT PROMO



<https://vimeo.com/651436170>



Digital Brochure

WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Designed to encourage parents to think about key precepts underlying Christian Education.



Check out our [NZACS FACEBOOK PAGE](#) to keep connected to our community, for conversation & discussion points, ideas & news and vacancies. Don't forget to Like, Follow & Share



INFOODLE APP

Have you seen the Infoodle APP?

This will give you quick access to the contacts of other Christian Schools, our latest newsletter, and other items – all from the comfort of your phone/device.

We can also send you push notifications of important events such as conferences, meetings, etc.

IT IS FREE! Download on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

Connect to [nzacs] New Zealand Association for Christian Schools



ROBUST DISCUSSION

Do you (or does someone you know) have an area of passion or expertise that you would like to share, or around which you would like to encourage robust, helpful debate?

We are keen to have members contribute articles or viewpoints.

If you have a topic you would like to see some discussion around, or a viewpoint you would like to share, please contact: secretary@nzacs.nz

\$100 per article will be paid for selected articles. Selection is at the NZACS chairperson's discretion. The recommended article length is 600-700 words.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary
Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Secondary)
NZ Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways

Bachelor of Social Work
Bachelor of Counselling

Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Practice
Master of Professional Practice
Postgraduate Certificate in Responding to Trauma

CAREY

STUDY at Carey

WWW.CAREY.AC.NZ

Wanting to grow in your love for God, God's word, God's people, and God's mission? We would love to have you journey with us.

Interns at Christian Schools

Here's why partnering with **Pathways Bible College** is a win-win for everyone.

AN OPPORTUNITY
TOO GOOD TO MISS...

WIN + WIN
FOR YOUR SCHOOL FOR YOUR INTERN

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

- ✓ Investment in **student growth**
- ✓ Increased **people resources**
- ✓ Encourages **teaching** as a **career**
- ✓ Systems put in place to ensure **student wellbeing**

- ✓ Alignment of **unique traits & passion** with a **missional purpose** in a school context
- ✓ **Indepth biblical & theological study**
- ✓ **Practical school operations experience**
- ✓ **Personal mentoring & pastoral care**
- ✓ **NZQA accreditation** for future study

KEY BENEFITS

1 A HEALTHY BALANCE

- 16 hours pwk in school context
- 16 hours pwk study
- 6 one-week long block courses at a beachside camp setting (Sun-Fri)
- Students have school-based mentors and Pathways College support staff
- Students are police checked
- Staff participate in student's spiritual & personal growth
- Opportunity for school staff to be supported as they grow in their expertise with supervision and/or mentoring.

2 POSSIBLE CONTEXTS FOR SERVICE

- Sports Days
- Sports Coaching
- Cultural events
- Missions events
- Camps
- Administration
- School assemblies
- School productions
- Reading support
- ESOL support
- General teacher assistance
- Running small group activities
- School devotionals
- Supporting teachers on playground duty
- Setting up equipment
- Providing extra tuition
- Library support
- Helping students with diverse needs.

CONTACT

Dr Francine Bennett, Principal
E francine@pathways.ac.nz

Request an information pack
E info@pathways.ac.nz

W pathways.ac.nz



"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 4 14-16



Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa

Our Vision

To advocate for and relationally support members towards excellence in Christian Early Childhood Education in the best interests of tamariki.

Our Mission

Connecting, building capacity and ensuring continuity in the best interests of tamariki, members, whānau and community from a Christian kaupapa.

www.ceceaa.org.nz



Shining Lights Trust and Big Book Publishing have some amazing resources available for schools. Check out their websites and get in touch, they'd love to help you be a shining light in your community.

Reasons for Faith – WhyChristiansBelieve.nz | NZ Bicultural History – BigBook.nz

NZACS SPONSORS

*We are very thankful for the attendance and support of our sponsors at Conference.
Please remember to give them an opportunity to quote!*

GOLD SPONSORS

At Te Rito Mioha we turn passion into profession.



Begin your teaching journey with our:

- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)
- Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary)

Find out more: www.ecnz.ac.nz

YOUR UNIFORM | OUR PASSION

We're passionate about quality.
Bring your ideas to life on any item.
www.thebrandmakers.co.nz



THE BRAND MAKERS

SILVER SPONSORS



We design trusted, fit-for-purpose furniture products that are built to last for generations to come. Specialising in quality NZ and Australian made furniture, we're passionate about creating the best learning spaces for both staff and students.

So, if you're after furniture that's durable, hygienic, vibrant and you want to make a positive impact on our community, contact us.

www.sebelfurniture.com/en-nz



cbm's (Christian Blind Mission) mission is to end the cycle of poverty and disability.

Your support will give the miracle of sight-saving cataract surgery to more adults and children, like Krind.

LEARN MORE



BRONZE SPONSORS



www.educatedfurniture.co.nz

Educated Furniture has over 26 years' extensive furniture experience, providing the perfect balance of quality and value, along with innovative solutions for today's schools.

We cover all areas of the school; classroom, ILE, staffrooms, libraries and other specialist areas.



If you are aware of any businesses who would be interested in sponsoring NZACS, please contact the Executive via secretary@nzacs.nz