

# NewsFirst|08

THE FIRST-TIME PRINCIPALS PROGRAMME

He Hōtaka mō ngā Tumuaki hou

FEBRUARY 2008

## KIA ORA TATOU

Greetings and best wishes for your new Principalship and also for a highly enjoyable and successful 2008.

This newsletter will provide some basic information to help you get started in the First-time Principals Programme and also give you one or two things to ponder about.

## NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jillian Lunn TTC, Grad Dip Ed Lead, MEd Lead (Hons) to the position of Associate director FTTP.

Jill was previously a Leadership and Management facilitator with Team Solutions in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland. Jill retains some of this work in combination with the First-time Principals Programme position.

Jill recently worked in Hong Kong for 2 ½ years supporting local Chinese teachers in two large schools involved in curriculum change.

Prior to this she was Principal of Melville Primary School in Hamilton and was responsible for leading her team in the development of many initiatives focussed on catering for the needs of her diverse school community.

Jill began her teaching career in Gisborne and has taught in many different rural and city schools in both Gisborne and Hamilton.

## RESIDENTIAL COURSES

Please enter into your 2007/2008 diaries the dates and location of the two residential courses.

**Residential One:**  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 to**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 –**  
**Auckland (3 days)**

**Residential Two:**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 to**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008-**  
**Auckland (2 days)**

## RESIDENTIAL COURSE ONE

This course entitled *Starting Your Leadership* has been designed to develop your capability to lead learning in your school. Particular attention has been paid to the impact of the new New Zealand Curriculum on your role and responsibilities in 2008. Our keynote speakers will deliver complimentary messages about instructional leadership.

**Viviane Robinson** will develop the theme of how the leadership of the principal is fundamental to student achievement.

**Mary Chamberlain** will speak about the implications of the NZ curriculum as a vehicle for meeting the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century students.

**John Hattie** will provide you with clear indicators of the interventions that have the greatest positive impact on student achievement.

**John Edwards** will explain how the vision is transformed into a reality.

**Angus Macfarlane** will focus attention on ways of ensuring that students with some of the greatest untapped potential (Maori) benefit from their experience of school. The Keynote sessions are supported by workshops and case studies. In addition you will be able to select from a range of optional sessions designed to meet specific interests or requirements.

The residential will also provide a wonderful opportunity to network with other principals.

In the March Edition of NewsFirst08 there will be detailed information regarding the arrangements for Residential Course One.

## FIRST-TIME PRINCIPALS PROGRAMME SUPPORT MATERIAL

Detailed information on the First-time Principals Programme (FTTP) will be posted to you by the end of this month. This will be in the form of printed content and labelled dividers. Please place these in a ring binder or lever arch file dedicated for the FTTP. Over the next eighteen months these dividers will enable you to collect and keep track

of the material linked to the main components of the programme.

Most of the information you receive from us will be digital. We suggest that you store the digital files in a folder on your laptop/desktop. Within this folder we suggest the following titles for sub folders:

- Administration
- Residential Courses
- Mentoring Programme
- Portfolio
- Online Learning
- Research and Assessments
- Professional Readings
- NewsFirst 08
- Miscellaneous

## SALTAL

This is the acronym for a questionnaire - Self Assessment for the Leadership of Teaching and Learning. This provides the basis for much of the FTTP. It is a baseline survey that will be used to focus your energy on the areas in which you and your mentor feel it would be advantageous to concentrate your attention.

The questionnaire should be completed by you ONLINE via the FTTP website [www.firstprincipals.ac.nz](http://www.firstprincipals.ac.nz) as soon as possible. It is accessed in the FTTP website under the 'Research' heading button on the blue left hand toolbar. For further instructions please refer to the Welcome Edition NewsFirst08. When completed print a copy of your SALTAL. This will be used by you and your mentor to prepare your Professional Learning Plan (PLP) during the School Based Visit.

## ALLOCATION OF MENTORS

The process to allocate mentors has begun.

The FTTP team will send you an email that includes your mentor's biography and their contact details.

Your mentor will be making contact with you during February or early March. One of the first things you will do together is to arrange the date for the initial mentoring activity, the **School Based Visit**. At this time your mentor will spend a day with you working through a range of activities that will help to establish the direction of your professional development.

## MENTORING SUPPORT

Your mentor has been contracted to provide regular ongoing support for you. This support can be done via the telephone, Skype or email. If you need assistance, no matter the size of the issue, we ask you to contact your mentor. They enjoy their role and gain immense satisfaction from the knowledge that they can be of help.

If you have a concern about your mentoring programme or mentor you should confidentially contact either the Director ([John Locke](mailto:j.locke@auckland.ac.nz)) if you are a secondary principal or the Associate Director ([Jill Lunn](mailto:j.lunn@auckland.ac.nz)) if you are a kura or primary principal

## MENTORS' TRAINING

We are fortunate to have the services of expert and experienced Principals who are keen to be mentors. At the end of January mentors attended training here in Auckland. The focus of the training is on the development of skills that will both support and extend First-time Principals.

## BOT CHAIRPERSON AND MOE LETTER

Attached to the email that will notify you of your mentor will be copies of two letters sent to your BOT Chairperson.

In the first letter we ask your BOT Chairperson to consider the goals you set in the FTTP to be those for your 2008 annual appraisal. The rationale behind this letter is to reduce the pressure on you by only having one set of goals each year.

## IS THIS YOUR SCHOOL?

### School A



### School B



If you think you recognize your place please email [j.locke@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.locke@auckland.ac.nz)

John would also welcome your favourite photographs of your schools to feature in NewsFirst08.

Warm regards  
John Locke and the FTTP team

**John Locke (Director) & the First-time Principals Programme Project Team**