

Newsletter of Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Incorporated ➤ *Champion of Families with Deaf & Hearing Impaired Children*
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from the team at APODC. We hope you had an enjoyable break over the Christmas holidays and are looking forward to what 2010 brings. Check through the newsletter to see some of the exciting things that we have planned for Term 1, plus see the photos of how we finished 2009 in great style!

2009 SUCCESS STORY:

Lynn Chen, a member of APODC, proved that hard work pays off when she received an Academic Excellence Award at the end of 2009. These awards are given out each year by NZ Federation for Deaf Children (NZFDC). They recognise outstanding achievement in Years 9-13 by a Deaf or hearing impaired student.

Lynn (pictured right with NZFDC President, Judith Sosich) was the winner of the Margaret Cooper Trophy for Year 12.



Well done Lynn, and keep up the good work!

APODC Events coming up ...

Sat 27 Feb	COFFEE GROUPS <i>Central/West Auckland:</i> 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Henderson <i>South Auckland:</i> 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau
Sun 7 Mar	APODC PICNIC 10am-2pm at Totara Park, Wairere Rd, Manukau
Thurs 18 March	KDEC SPORTS DAY 10am-2pm, Waitakere Sports Stadium. More info coming soon.
Wed 31 Mar	APODC nomination forms due back
Mon 12 Apr	TIP TOP FACTORY TOUR 10:30am or 11:30am, 113 Carbine Rd, Mt Wellington
Sat 17 Apr	COMBINED COFFEE GROUP 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau

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 and much more!

APODC kindly supported by



APODC Family Camp Totara Springs: Nov 2009

With activities for teams, families, individuals and a special workshop for parents, there was something for everyone over the weekend.

Most importantly, connections were made, both between kids and adults. Check out the photos and what people had to say ... and then be sure to plan to attend our next one in Nov 2011!



"Cool! On the go! LOVED it!"

"Wonderful quality and variety of activities – well suited for all ages and capabilities"



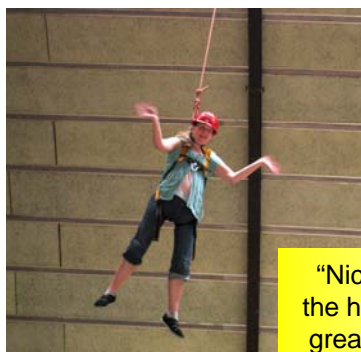
"I don't feel like I'm alone any more! Now I know people I can contact when I need help."



"Fantastic food – especially loved the slice we had with Sunday lunch – and the hotcakes from breakfast!"



"Great value for money"



"Nice to hear what other parents go through and the help that is provided. Everyone is doing such a great job. There is so much care and love shown. Thank you again."



"Everyone loved it from what I've heard and seen. Our family is already looking forward to the next one."



2010 : What's On Offer?

It's the start of a New Year and a good time to consider how you can make 2010 great for your child's education and development. Kelston Deaf Education Centre (KDEC) are offering some great Courses (and your child doesn't need to attend KDEC to benefit from these).

PRE-SCHOOL

Not sure where to send your child to Pre-school?

KDEC's **Pre-School Intensive** lets you experience the range of services they offer.



<i>Pre-school Intensive</i>	Term1:	22-24 March
	Term2:	17-19 May
	Term 3:	16-18 Aug
	Term 4:	8-10 Nov

For further information, contact Shona Jones.
ph 827 4859 or email shonaj@kdec.school.nz

SCHOOL

If your child is in a mainstream school, let the teacher and Principal know that there are courses that can help them teach hearing impaired children – and then encourage them to attend!



Course for Teachers of Students with Hearing Loss

- Covers basic audiology, support services, communication & classroom management, hearing aids and awareness of language development.
(\$50 for 1 person, \$25 for each extra person from the same school)

South:	4, 5 or 8 March
Central:	15 March
West:	2 March
North:	22 February

Listening, Language & Literacy Course for Teachers of Students with Hearing Loss

- Covers how hearing impaired students learn language & literacy and gives practical classroom ideas
(\$50 for 1 person, \$25 for each extra person from the same school)

South:	13, 14 or 19 May
Central:	7 May
West:	23 March
North:	5 May

For further information or an enrolment form, contact Anne Shorland at KDEC
ph 827 4859 or email annes@kdec.school.nz

NZ SIGN LANGUAGE for FAMILIES

GOOD NEWS!

Kelston Deaf Education Centre is running NZSL classes this year in 2 locations: South Auckland (Manurewa) & West Auckland (Kelston). This is something APODC has been asking for, and many of you have expressed interest ... so, now it's time to sign up!!

The family classes run from 7-8:30pm, fortnightly (4 sessions per term). This is a wonderful opportunity to learn a new language and for family members of a Deaf or hearing impaired child to develop their NZSL communication skills. Parents and extended family are very welcome to enrol.

Contents of Course:

Everyday routine	Animals – zoo/farm
Food	Numerals concept
Common words	Fingerspelling
Everyday use	Colours
Deaf Culture	Basic Sign Vocabulary
Feelings/Emotions	Special Events
Story telling	Family
PM Reading	

Cost: \$30 per family, per term
(Note: the class is for adults only)

South Auckland: Beginners Level: 7- 8:30pm

Venue: Randwick Community House,
Manurewa

Term 1 dates: 16 February, 2 March, 16 March
(Tuesdays) & 30 March.

West Auckland: Intermediate Level: 7-8:30pm

Venue: Kelston Deaf Education Centre

Term 1 dates: 15 February, 1 March, 15 March
(Mondays) & 29 March.

To Register: If possible, please register before the classes start each term. Further information and registration forms are available online at the KDEC website, www.kdec.school.nz, or contact Anne Shorland at KDEC (ph 827 4859, email

-3- annes@kdec.school.nz

What's happening in DEAF EDUCATION in 2010?

There is so much going on in Deaf Education at the moment! We have summarised a few of the key processes here, and have additional information available for anyone who would like more detail.

NZSL Action Plan

The Human Rights Commission is supporting a group of Deaf community stakeholders in early discussions on how to make sure NZSL is promoted and maintained, as stated in the NZSL Act.



In the past, Deaf community groups and people have identified lots of problems and lots of things that need to happen to make sure their language can grow stronger. An NZSL Action Plan is being developed that will include the most important things that need to happen for NZSL. Because everything can't happen at the same time, the Action Plan will focus on the most important things for the Deaf community for the next few years. Then, in 5 years time, it can be reviewed and new goals set.

A survey is underway to find out the key issues (many of you will have been asked for your thoughts). We'll keep you posted on the findings and the Action Plan.

Special Education Review

Have your say...

The government is carrying out a Review of Special Education. The review is about doing a better job with existing funds, rather than establishing a case for more funding.

Special Education is about ensuring that children and young people who require additional supports are able to participate in education and achieve to their potential.

The Review will consider key issues such as:

- access to schools
- quality of workforce
- accountability, price & volume of services
- how to address these within existing funding
- advice on how to put into operation the additional funding for the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Schemes (ORRS) i.e. the \$51 Million over 4 years that was provided in Budget 2009

Your feedback is important. Included with the newsletter is a feedback form "Have your say – 10 key questions". Please take the time to fill it in & return it to the Ministry of Education by **19 March**.

National Plan

The National Plan focuses on the Education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children and young people in NZ. It has been developed over 7 years by Deaf Education Aotearoa NZ (DEANZ) whose vision is to ensure that every child who is deaf or hearing impaired in NZ gets a fair, quality and effective education.



The National Plan is child/family centred and founded on the desire and belief that deaf and hearing impaired children and young people have the same right to access education as their hearing peers.

The National Plan should be finalised at the April 2010 Deaf Education Forum meeting and thereafter approved by the Ministry of Education – which is great news for our children's education!

KDEC Update

This is the latest news of KDEC's current property projects:

- Primary satellite unit at **Oteha Valley School** opens Term 1, 2010. Students will relocate from the Takapuna Primary satellite unit.
- Primary satellite unit at **Kelston Primary School**: The new unit has been approved and is now in the planning for development stage.
- Development of the satellite unit at **Ormiston Senior College** is on schedule to open as part of the new senior college in 2011.
- Interim satellite unit accommodation at **Mission Heights Junior College** has been established for students in the Year 7 – 10 groups. Interim satellite provision will begin in Term 1, 2010.
- A new satellite unit for **Kelston Boys' High School** has been approved. Planning for development will begin in Term 1, 2010.
- Development of a **Resource Centre** (Hub) for Resource teachers of the Deaf – sited on the Ormiston Campus: A submission for this project has been approved. Planning discussions will begin in February.
- **Archibald Road site**: Gathering of data and information related to the future redevelopment of the Archibald Road site has begun and will continue during Term 1, 2010.



Want to know more?

Further information about any of these topics (and more!) is available from APODC. Contact Sue, email enquiries@apodc.org.nz or ph 307-2922. Soon, the information will be accessible from our website – watch the newsletter for this exciting development!

HELP & SUPPORT for your family

Work & Income NZ

Child Disability Allowance

A payment (weekly rate, non-taxable) is made directly to the parent or guardian when the child lives at home and requires constant care and attention. Not means tested.

Contact Work and Income New Zealand, Ph 0800 559 009
Deaf Link free-fax 0800 621 621

Childcare and OSCAR Subsidy

Available to provide financial assistance to low-income families. Means tested. Contact Work and Income New Zealand (see details above).

Ministry of Health

Carer Support Subsidy

Full-time parents or caregivers of a child or person with a disability can apply for funding to pay for an alternative caregiver to give you 'time out'. This allowance is not means tested.

Contact Ministry of Health,
Ph 0800 281 222 (then '1')

Speech-Language tests available thru APODC

The Sentinel Trust has sponsored a number of professional speech-language tests that can be used by a qualified speech-language teacher working with your child. These tests are extremely expensive and very difficult to get access to as there are not many available in Auckland.

The tests are currently held at the office of Ann McElwee, Speech Language Therapist, Ph (09) 630-8255 and are available for rental on a nominal donation basis. Leave a phone message if the answerphone is on.

DISCLAIMER: "While every effort has been made to make sure the information is accurate, the editor and APODC take no responsibility for any views expressed in this newsletter. The views expressed in this newsletter are made by the people who contribute the articles."

NZ Federation for Deaf Children



Being a member of APODC entitles you to the following subsidies and assistance through NZFDC:

Assistive Equipment

You may receive 50% of the purchase price or \$200, whichever is the lesser amount, on certain items. Criteria apply.

Tutor Fee Assistance

Financial assistance is available if your child is Y7-Y13 for subjects leading to NCEA levels 1-3. Criteria apply.

John & Betty Rose Scholarship

Available to deaf students attending tertiary institutions who are up to 21 years of age. Applications close on the 1st of March each year. The scholarship is worth \$1,000/successful applicant.

Joining NZFDC is FREE

If you have not already registered your family with NZFDC, it is worth doing so. You will be sent a Family Kit full of useful info, books, CDs etc (worth \$?), plus get regular updates through their newsletter.

NZFDC Contact Details

Ph 0800DEAFCHILD
(0800 332 324)

Txt 027 214 6901

Email deafchildren@xtra.co.nz

Post PO Box 18-868
New Brighton
Christchurch

Website www.deafchildren.org.nz

Registering and updating your family details can be done online. Application forms and updated are also available from the website.

It costs just \$10 a year to be a member of APODC. And think of all the benefits you get from belonging!



✓ assistive devices subsidy via the NZ Federation for Deaf Children Inc.

✓ annual APODC Scholarship entry

✓ free or subsidised events and social get-togethers

Regardless of when you joined, fees are due at the beginning of each calendar year. If you haven't yet paid for 2010, please send your \$10 to APODC, PO Box 11-762, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542 or pay pay directly by internet banking into our ASB account 12-3011-0757651-00 (be sure to put your last name as a reference)

Deaf Aotearoa NZ

Deaf Aotearoa NZ is committed to providing quality services to all Deaf people in New Zealand. Some services they provide:

- Equipment
- Info & Advice
- Job training programmes
- and much more

Check out their website for more info www.deaf.co.nz

Auckland:

1836 Great North Rd
Avondale
ph 820-5038

South Auckland:

19 Charles St
Papatoetoe 2025
ph 279-9038



Check out how to use NZ Relay and make phone calls to or from a Deaf person.

www.nzrelay.co.nz

The APODC Team



It's the start of a new year and time to start thinking about how involved you could be at APODC this year. The committee is looking for people who can volunteer a few hours each month to help with the running of the group.

Benefits of being on the Team:

- **Learning-** you will learn far more about issues that affect your deaf or hearing impaired child than you ever would by just turning up to events or workshops. There is a wealth of expertise within the committee and you would have regular access to it!
- **Participation-** by being on the team, you can bring your ideas on what APODC should be doing – and then help to make them happen 😊 You will also get the opportunity to attend relevant conferences, seminars & workshops.
- **Fun & Friendship-** you'd be surprised how much fun it is to be with other like-minded people, all working together towards making a better life for our deaf and hearing impaired children.

Are you interested or know someone who might be?



Great! We would love to hear from you and answer any questions. You can either contact Sue or talk with one of the committee members at an event.

Then, once you are ready, you can fill in and return the nomination form included with the Advocate. (Note: You can nominate yourself or your spouse/partner, but the second nomination must be from outside your family. Again, Sue or the committee can help you to get this filled in.)

Nomination forms need to be returned to APODC by 31 March 2010, so that names of nominees can be circulated to members before the Annual General Meeting..

Note: The Annual General Meeting will be held early May 2010 (date and venue still to be confirmed).

Quick Update from America

At the end of 2008, Fallon Simchowit was awarded the APODC Annual Scholarship (worth \$2,000) to go towards an America Field Service (AFS) exchange programme.

She has now been in America for 6 months and is loving it! Our next edition will hopefully show some photos with an update from her. In the meantime, she is being kept very busy: attending Kansas Deaf School, playing volleyball, basketball & cheer-leading, trying new activities (like swimming in the snow!), experiencing a different culture, and overcoming the challenges of learning and using American Sign Language.



The BIG event?

The APODC committee is looking for ideas on where to hold our big Term 3 event. If you know of any good venues that can be booked out for a group of 120-150 people (like we did at Kelly Tarlton's in 2008), please let us know.

World Deaf Youth Camp

If you are a **Deaf youth aged 10-12**, then this is an opportunity you will want to look at!

The 2nd World Federation of Deaf Youth camp is happening in Venezuela from 1-8 August. As well as meeting other Deaf children from around the world, you will have heaps of fun. They plan to visit tourist attractions, theme parks, beaches, castles, parks and more ... plus have workshops, games and courses. It will be truly unforgettable.

It is free to attend, you only have to pay for your own flight ticket. HOWEVER, only 2 people can attend from NZ.

NZFDY will be sending out nominations forms soon so that anyone in NZ that is interested can be considered for these positions. (No nominations can be sent directly to the organisers.)

More information about the camp can be found at

www.wfdys.org/camp2010



2009 Christmas Party



Remember back to the terrible rain we had last December? Well, luckily it stopped the night before our Christmas Party so we were able to go ahead outdoors!

As in 2008, the Party was at Kelston Deaf Education Centre & we are very grateful for their support & help in making it happen.

Everyone enjoyed the day, with Santa being an obvious highlight for the kids!



Golden Heart Scholarships

Variety – The Children’s Charity wants to help Kiwi kids reach their lifelong dreams in education, music, art and sport through its Gold Heart Scholarship programme.

Applications opened on Feb 1 for the programme which provides talented Kiwi kids who are sick, disabled or disadvantaged with funding and matches them with a mentor to assist them to reach their goals. Mentors this year include cricketer Shane Bond, Olympic swimmers Liz Coster, Helen Norfolk and Dean Kent, and former NZ champion athlete turned TV presenter Jayne Kiely.

The Variety Gold Heart Scholarship fund makes available a maximum of \$5,000 per year for up to 3 years to help children with special needs fulfill their dreams. This could include assisting with tuition fees, personal development, coaching, and the purchase of training equipment, travel or accommodation.

Applications close March 31. For more information and an application form, ph (09) 520 4111 or visit www.variety.org.nz



Wine & Cheese @ the library



Towards the end of 2009, Kelston Deaf Education hosted a Wine & Cheese evening for APODC at their Library. It was an opportunity for us to see what resources they have & learn about their online system. If you’ve never been there, it is worth a visit to see their collections of:

- Toys & games
- Books
- DVD’s
- NZ Sign Language resources (books, DVD’s etc)
- Parent resources
- Deaf culture & research

And if you like what you see, you can join up for a small yearly fee, or its free if your child is enrolled at KDEC or one of their Deaf Units.

The KDEC library is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 4:30pm and anyone is welcome to go & browse. You can also search the catalogue or see new resources at the KDEC website www.kdec.school.nz (click Resource / Library then Media Centre).



APODC EVENTS...



SUNDAY 7 MARCH, 10am - 2pm
@ TOTARA PARK

It's time to kick off the New Year and enjoy the sunny weather with a picnic at one of South Auckland's favourite parks. There's a cool adventure playground for the kids, free supervised outdoor swimming & paddling pools and plenty of grass to play on. It's going to be a fun day and a good way to connect up with others from APODC.

Meet at : Totara Park carpark
End of Wairere Road
Manurewa

Bring: Lunch
Swimwear
Sports / Ball games



Note: We will not be providing any sausages this year, but there is a coin-operated BBQ by the pool if you want to use it.

No need to RSVP, just turn up with your family and look for the APODC signboard.
If the weather is bad, text Sue on 021 2600 792 to find out if it's cancelled.



Coffee Groups

Parent coffee groups are a great way to meet other mums and dads while the children play. We have two planned for the first few months of 2009.

Saturday 27 February

South Auckland

10am-12 at Manukau Chipmunks
Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau

West/Central Auckland

10am-12 at Henderson Chipmunks
Lincoln Rd, Henderson



Saturday 17 April

Combined Group @ South Auckland

10am-12 at Manukau Chipmunks
Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau

Entry is FREE for families with full membership, Associate members with no hearing impaired children are welcome to attend at their own cost.

Bring a friend for free:

If you know of other families with hearing impaired children, invite them along! They can attend one coffee group for free without being an APODC member.



Tip-Top

Factory Tour

Now there's another reason to look forward to the next school holidays ... a tour of Auckland's famous Tip-Top ice-cream factory!

Date: Monday 12th April
(2nd week of school holidays)

Time: 10:30am or 11:30am
Each tour lasts for 1 hour.

Cost: \$2 per person
(includes a free ice-cream each)

NZSL interpreter available.

However, there is no wheelchair access and also no pushchairs allowed.

Tour numbers are strictly limited to 45 people so those who RSVP first will get in! So that others don't miss out, please only RSVP if you can definitely make it.

Email: enquiries@apodc.org.nz

Or phone 307-2922 & leave a message

