



P.O. Box 17622  
Colenso Street, Christchurch 8840  
Telephone: (03) 326 6546  
Facsimile: (03) 326 7003  
Email: admin@sumner.school.nz  
**Principal: Stuart Cameron**

2 August 2018

## **Re Principal Position at Sumner School**

Kia ora,

It is a tremendous privilege to be able to write a letter of support for the vacant Principal's position at Sumner School. After a decade in the job, I'm in the fortunate position to be able to provide some unique insights into what is a very special school.

First and foremost, Sumner School is a fantastic place to work and learn. The students are truly amazing and I am constantly impressed at what they are able to achieve. They are polite, well-rounded and motivated learners who continue to thrive in this environment.

We are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff and a dynamic Leadership Team who have the children's best interests at the centre of all that they do.

The Sumner community is the heart of our school. Our parents are fully invested in their children's learning and are extremely supportive and willing to help in anyway they can. This level of support is exemplified by our PTA who do a wonderful job of connecting our wider community through various fundraising and 'funraising' activities and events throughout the year.

A strong partnership exists across the seven kura in the Aupaki Kāhui Ako. This association creates opportunities for our staff and students that we couldn't provide individually and offers many opportunities for leadership growth. This relationship has also enabled us to collectively strengthen relationships with our local iwi.

Beyond this, Sumner has established several connections with schools internationally which has culminated in regular exchanges and overseas learning experiences for our teachers and students to Australia, Samoa, Vanuatu and the United States.

Throughout my time at Sumner, the Board of Trustees have been incredibly supportive of me as a leader and have encouraged me to grow both personally and professionally. The current Board is a talented group of parents who are proactive and fully committed to the school's *Vision for Teaching and Learning*.

The new Principal will be taking over at an extremely exciting time in the school's history. Under the umbrella of the Christchurch Schools' Rebuild Programme, a significant upgrade to all the school buildings is now underway and is due to be completed in August next year. This will enable collaborative teaching and learning to be delivered in flexible spaces throughout the school.

To complement the physical changes, we are in the process of developing a future-focussed curriculum that will provide authentic learning opportunities for all and includes a growing focus on Positive Education and the wellbeing of students, staff and whānau. Part of this process will involve working with the Board to review our current *Vision* through consultation with all stakeholders.

I wish you all the very best for the appointments process. Rest assured that if you are successful, you will be fully supported and have the opportunity to lead a fantastic school filled with wonderful people.

I am happy to be contacted directly if you would like any further insights and/or a tour of the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. W. Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stuart Cameron