



Sunnynook *focus*

LEARNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

Sunnynook Celebrates the 40th Ruby Anniversary.

We are now halfway through another school year and everyone I am sure is looking forward to spring and summer.

We celebrated our school's Ruby 40th Anniversary along with our Book Week Festival costume parade. The children looked excellent in their costumes and I know we all enjoyed a piece of cake to celebrate our birthday. In the picture we see the Anniversary Cake being cut by present pupils Quentin Pao and Briar Takairangi (in wolf mask) alongside Kay Barker and Debbie Fullam foundation pupils of the school. Parents and past pupils/teachers who visited on the day took the opportunity to view the archives and classrooms.

The management and staff of Sunnynook School continue to provide our children with a happy, safe and enjoyable learning environment and I am pleased and proud to say that we have extremely dedicated and high quality teaching staff. To make a school run efficiently you also need good administration and ground staff, and again our office administration team and ground staff make sure the school runs efficiently and is well maintained.

We continue to see strong growth in our roll and are seeing far more New Entrants arriving, and we look to achieve our school roll target by the end of the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their outstanding effort in helping fund-raise for the school. There is a small team actively involved in the PTA and they play an important part and sometimes thankless task in helping the school. I would urge the school community to help the PTA, as they need your support.

It is also a good time to thank parents and teachers who are volunteering their own time to help coach, manage and support the school sports and cultural teams. If it was not for volunteers, our children would not have these opportunities.



CURRICULUM

The teachers of Sunnynook continue to develop their learning through the Extending Higher Standards Across Schools contract as part of the Arataki Cluster of local schools. This cluster is one of about 53 throughout New Zealand that are focusing on extending the abilities of their pupils. This year the cluster of schools have had key teachers working together to develop consistent writing exemplars, to share expert practice and to spread this across their school. The results have been very positive in writing and over the next two years the focus will move to Reading and then Mathematics.

PROPERTY

Over the remainder of the year we plan to start the refurbishment of the Junior block, with all the rooms in this block having a make-over. This is part of the school's Five Year Property Plan and has been budgeted for. We are aiming to have no disruptions to classes during this time.

Sunnynook School was fortunate to receive a grant of \$15,000 from the ASB for new book shelves in our library. The new shelving is expected to be in place by the end of this month, and will improve the flow and space available in the library. The new shelves will be full of the new books donated to the school from the Book Week Festival.



BOT: UPCOMING ELECTIONS



At the last BOT elections we had some Board Members who stood for an 18 month term. This means that we need to hold an election to elect two more parents for a further 3 years term.

Notices will be coming home regarding this election over the next two to three weeks with Voting Day being 12 September 2008. The Electoral Roll is available at the school office.

Please consider standing for the Board, it is not an onerous task and gives one an insight as to how a school is run. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Board and school community to our two retiring Board members, namely Dianna Harris and Ivan Dunn. Dianna and Ivan have worked hard and contributed greatly over the last 18 months.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Funding of State Schools has always been a hot topic, and with the national elections coming up I thought you might be interested in how a State School is funded and where we receive our funds from.

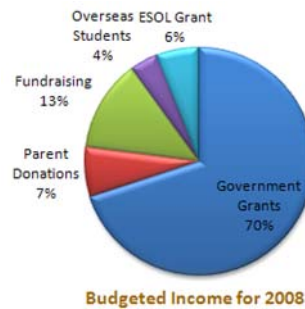
The School Board is legally responsible for the financial management of its school and each year receives a grant from the Ministry of Education, which is based on our student roll. The Board sets a Strategic Plan and a budget is developed from the grant to allow the school to fund the Strategic Plan. Apart from teacher salaries, this grant is expected to pay for budgets such as postage, telephones, ground maintenance, building maintenance, administration, teacher sick leave (when the school needs to employ a relief teacher), staff professional development needs, ACC levies, energy requirements (coal and electricity), school cleaning, North Shore City Council rates and other running costs of a school.

Unfortunately, it is a simple fact that the grant from the Ministry does not cover the full running costs of a school and this is the reason all schools in New Zealand are forced to supplement the Ministry Grant with other forms of income.

The graph on the right shows where our money comes from to help with the day to day running of Sunnynook Primary School.

BUDGETED INCOME FOR 2008

The Board's task is to ensure that the money raised is used to provide our children with the best schooling available, in teaching staff, facilities and school activities. If you have any questions the Board is more than happy to answer them.



Regards,
Richard Allan
BOT Chairperson

Board of Trustees:
Richard Allan: Chairperson
Maurício Vás: Treasurer
Adrian Munt: Property

Ivan Dunn: Community
Dianna Harris: Personnel
Manju Naran: Staff Representative
Peter Mulcahy: Principal

SCHOOL HALL

In regards to the school hall, we are facing a couple of issues which has necessitated in us taking another look at the hall upgrade. As you are probably aware the plan has always been to upgrade the existing hall to accommodate the entire school roll.

To achieve this, the goal was to incorporate Room 6 into the hall, as this was the only way we could increase the hall size without going over the schools square meterage. It is extremely important that we do not increase our school square-metre floor plan as this is against Ministry of Education regulations.

In addition to the school size, the Government this year announced new class ratios of 1:18 (and next year this will be 1:15) for New Entrant classes. Sunnynook is seeing a huge growth in our New Entrant roll and with the new class ratio, this means the school will need to review its classroom organisation. We currently have two rooms available, one of these being Room 6, which may be needed as a full time classroom sometime in the next year or so.

If we the "school community", increase the school hall size and it goes over the school's current allocated square metres, then we would have to fund-raise the money ourselves, which would cost between \$600-800,000. The school would then be required to pay all future maintenance costs for the hall and would not be

entitled to any extra funding in our Government Grant.

These two issues have made us take a step back and the Board now needs to decide on what is the best solution for the school. It is very important that we do not make a decision which will affect the school financially in the coming years.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Thank you all for the response to the recent school survey. Nearly 50% of the survey forms were returned, which is a very good return rate. The replies clearly show that we have a mandate to continue looking into introducing a school uniform.

I would like to be clear on why the Board has started to investigate a school uniform, and the simple answer is the school has been getting more and more requests for uniforms from parents, especially for New Entrants or Junior School. The Board decided to canvas the school community as we feel this is an important issue and has a long term effect on the school and our children.

As this is an important matter, we are not going to rush the process as we need to be sure that when or if a uniform is introduced, it is cost effective, durable and children will want to wear it.