

SUNNYSNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ▶ GREETINGS TO ALL
- ▶ EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE REPORT
- ▶ BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS 2010
- ▶ SCHOOL HALL UPDATE
- ▶ LETTER TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FROM ERO
- ▶ FUTURE ACTION

Board Of Trustees Newsletter Sunnynook *focus*

LEARNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

*Sunnynook Primary School
gets a positive report from
the Education Review Office*



GREETINGS TO ALL

Welcome to the last Board of Trustees newsletter for 2009. As it is the end of the year we can reflect on some of the achievements and events of 2009.

A very positive event in Term 3 was the school review completed by Officers from the Education Review Office (ERO). We are delighted to include the positive Community Report from the ERO team at the end of this newsletter.

In 2009 the teachers were involved in the last year of professional development of the EHSAS cluster of local schools. This training has enhanced our children's reading and writing achievements over the past three years. In 2010 our school will be the Lead School for an ICT Cluster of local schools. The teaching staff will be focusing on the integration of computers into the classroom to provide the best e-learning opportunities for your children.

In Term 4, with the help of a dedicated Uniform Committee, the new school uniform was unveiled; with the new Sunnynook School uniform being introduced in 2010. The uniform will be phased in with Year 1 to 4 in the uniform by the start of Term 3.

Throughout the school year, the Board Property team has worked on a number of projects. We have replaced the fencing around the top of the school, completed the external painting of the Administration block and upgraded the interior of the junior blocks. During the Christmas holiday period the rest of the school exterior will be painted. In 2010 we will see the Senior block internal upgrade completed, as well as a renovation of the Swimming Pool area and a refurbishment of the toilet blocks across the school.

As always, the Board would like to thank the school community for their help and participation in the school over 2009. We would especially like to thank our hard working PTA team who have put on some wonderful events throughout the year, concluding with the School Fair last month. I am sure you will all agree that this was an excellent event and the PTA should be very proud of their achievements. The school could simply not survive without help and dedication of the parents and the School community, whether this is helping at the fair, sports days, walking school bus, road patrol, or attending class trips.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Last term Sunnynook School was audited by the ERO and we are very pleased to announce that our school has received a positive review. We have re-printed a copy of the summary letter that has been written by the ERO for the Parents and Community.

The School Management and Board were given the option of having our next review in 4-5 years. The Board made the decision to request our next review period to be in 3 years, as we believed 4-5 years was a little too long considering there would be a new Board in place.

The ERO report will be posted on the Sunnynook School webpage.





UPDATE:

EDUCATION REVIEW

OFFICE REPORT

Last term Sunnynook School was audited by the ERO and we are very pleased to announce that our school has received a positive review. We have re-printed a copy of the summary letter that has been written by the ERO for the Parents and Community. The School Management and Board were given the option of having our next review in 4-5 years. The Board made the decision to request our next review period to be in 3 years, as we believed 4-5 years was a little too long considering there would be a new Board in place.

Board of Trustees Elections 2010

In May 2010, there will be elections for positions on the Board of Trustees. I would urge all parents or guardians to consider putting your name forward to become a Board Member. I can promise you a rewarding experience that will give you a better understanding of how the New Zealand Education system is run. There will be four positions up for election next year.

SCHOOL HALL UPDATE

The School Board thought it was an opportune time to update the school community on what is happening with the School Hall. The Board's preferred option has been to extend the current hall, by utilising room 6 and extending the hall around 10 metres into the senior court area, but after investigating this further we found that an estimated cost to complete this would be around \$500,000. Our second option was to build a canopy out from the hall and have bi-fold doors extending out. This would cost around \$200,000 to complete.

Our third option is to build a completely new hall, which would accommodate the entire school roll as well as being planned for future proofing to accommodate school growth. The cost for building a new hall is approximately \$900,000. All three options will cost more than what the M.O.E. has allocated us. We are unable to access any further money from the government, so any additional money needed will need to be raised by the community.

When it comes to a major decision like this, the Board sees our responsibility as not only being for the pupils at school now, but for the children who will follow over the years to come. We need to be looking ahead 10-20 years and ensuring that whatever decision we make now will benefit these pupils. As our funds available from the M.O.E. for the hall will not cover any of the options, the board has decided to re-allocate this money back into the school general funds and it will then be used on projects aimed at improving the school.

The current Board's preference is to future-proof the school hall so we have decided on the third option of building a new hall. Because this is such a major project for Sunnynook School and the local community, we would like to start a separate Hall Committee, who will have responsibility for managing the total process. We would like to invite any interested person who would be willing to make the time and effort in being involved on the Hall Committee to contact the school.

To the Parents and Community of Sunnynook School - 20 November 2009

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Sunnynook School.

Sunnynook School, on Auckland's North Shore, has a history of positive ERO reports and students continue to receive a high quality of education. Relationships between teachers and students are very positive and encouraging. Staff work well together, sharing ideas, and seeking and offering support. Classroom environments are supportive and stimulating. Classrooms are well resourced and teachers display educational resources and students' work attractively to support ongoing learning.

School leadership is effective, well informed and reflective. Senior managers use high quality self review to guide improvements in school systems and processes. Self-review has a clear focus on improving learning and recent reviews include student assessment and reporting to parents. The principal has a strong interest in curriculum and student achievement and evaluates the impact that individual teachers are having on the achievement of students in their class. Performance management systems focus on ongoing improvement and links between appraisal and professional development are clear.

Senior managers have good systems for knowing about and reporting on student achievement in reading, writing and numeracy. The information available indicates that students, including Maori and Pacific, are achieving well, often at levels that are above national age-related expectations. Junior students often make accelerated progress so that those that do not perform well in early assessments catch up with their peers.

This report evaluates systems and practices that enhance student achievement in

writing and reading. Literacy teaching has been the focus of professional development in the school for the last 3 years. Teachers use effective strategies to teach reading and writing, including strategies that encourage students to know about and manage their own learning. Senior managers are now in a good position to use teachers who are models of good practice to support others to improve their teaching.

ERO also evaluated a number of areas of national interest and finds that the school is making good progress towards implementing The New Zealand Curriculum. The school provides an inclusive education for students with high needs, caters well for international students, and complies with the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students. Progress is being made in promoting success for Maori and Pacific students.

Senior leaders recognise the importance of maintaining the benefits of professional development. ERO recommends that senior staff now document what is expected of teachers in their literacy teaching and continue to monitor the extent to which these expectations are met. ERO also recommends that systems for monitoring the progress of individual students be further improved. The Board of Trustees is keen to maintain a regular cycle of external review, and ERO agreed to return in 3 years.

FUTURE ACTION

ERO is confident that The Board of Trustees can govern the school in the interest of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report. ERO is likely to carry out the next review in 3 years.

Regards,

Richard Allan - BOT Chairperson

SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lyford Crescent, Sunnynook, North Shore City 0620 - Tel: 09 420 6534 & Fax: 09 410 4052
Website: <http://www.sunnynook.school.nz/> Email: principal@sunnynook.school.nz

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

Stanley Park: Community
Jeremy Lambert: Personnel
Manju Naran: Staff Representative
Peter Mulcahy: Principal