

# SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Board Of Trustees Newsletter

# Sunnynook focus

- ▶ GREETINGS TO ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
- ▶ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE
- ▶ CURRICULUM
- ▶ FINANCE
- ▶ SCHOOL POLICIES
- ▶ CO-OPTED BOARD MEMBERS
- ▶ PTA

LEARNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

*Sunnynook Primary School  
now has a newly elected  
Board of Trustees members.*



### Greetings to all Parents and Caregivers

This is the first report for 2010 from your new Board of Trustees. It has been another busy half year of school life and the second half promises to be just as eventful, educational and fun filled as the first.

The big event for the Board of Trustees has been the election of new board members back in April. It was pleasing to see a good number of parents (and grandparents!) put their names forward for election. As a result four new members were elected to the board. The new board is now made up of the following members and responsibilities:

- Richard Allan:** Chairperson
- John Russell:** Community
- Colin Leslie:** Property
- Phil Unsworth:** Finance
- Jeremy Lambert:** Personnel
- Stanley Park:** International
- Rachael Findlay-Clarke:** Teacher Representative

Kelly Bates continues her invaluable contribution as Minute Secretary, and, of course, Peter Mulcahy works with the board in his role as school principal.

It is early days for the new board, having had just two meetings as this newsletter goes to print. However, we have hit the ground running and are determined to ensure the continued smooth and effective running of the school for the benefit of pupils, teaching staff and parents alike.

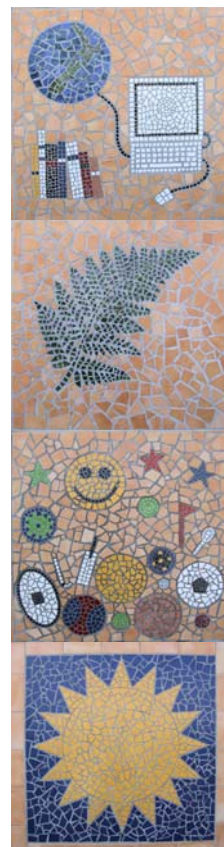
We are your board, elected by you to represent your voice in the governance of the school. Our role is exactly that, one of governance and guidance. Our role is not an operational one. We do not involve ourselves in the day to day running of the school. This responsibility falls to the principal and his talented team of teachers, administration and support staff.

The Ministry of Education lists five components of school governance:

1. Accountability to the crown and community for improved student progress and achievement.
2. Recognizing and enhancing the particular characteristics of the school
3. School compliance
4. Allocating decision making responsibilities
5. Keeping the school 'on track'

Our relationship with the principal and staff is one of cooperation and shared leadership so that together we can achieve the best results for our school and our children.

As I said earlier we are your board and as such we feel strongly that we are open and accessible to you. To that end please feel comfortable in contacting any one of us through the school office if you have any matters relating to our particular portfolios that you would like to discuss. As our faces become more familiar to you over time please do stop and say hello as we pass in the school grounds, picking up our kids, at sports events, and other school gatherings.





## UPDATE: NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTED

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### School Improvements and Maintenance

The new year started off with a fresh new look to the school as a result of having been repainted over the summer holidays. It is great to see the new school colours appearing not only in our school uniform, but on the buildings and classrooms we work in as well. It reinforces our sense of community and belonging. The school presents itself to a very high standard - not just the buildings, but the surrounding play areas, swimming pool, and sports fields. The cleanliness and maintenance of these areas are a credit to all those involved.

Other works to be completed this year, as part of the 10 year programme, are:

1 - Installation of pool shade. This will be in the form of three, large shade umbrellas. These have several benefits :

- They can be used to shade different areas – flexibility
- Can adjust the amount of shade provided
- They are shower proof
- They can be kept safe from vandals and weather when not in use
- They will be a good visual amenity and add colour to the pool area

The provision of pool shade has been made possible through the fundraising efforts of the PTA through the school fair, and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation to them for their great contribution. This work will be completed before the start of term four.

2 - Refurbishment and upgrade to the toilet blocks. This will see major upgrade to all toilet facilities in the school, including the pool changing sheds. The work will commence during term three and will be done in sequence so that bathroom facilities are available to all pupils and staff at all times.

3 - Site works – Concrete and drain channels. Old drainage channels in courts outside rooms 10 – 12, and in the main court area will be removed and replaced with new concrete. Damaged concrete between the adventure playground and staffroom will be removed and replaced with new concrete. This will remove any potential future hazards and ensure a safe playing environment for the children.

4 - Cabling. Rooms 1-6, 21-22. New electronic and data cabling and power points will be installed during the next school holidays.

5 - Senior block refurbishment. Work on this will be carried out over the next school holidays to bring the classrooms up to a higher standard.

### Curriculum

The Curriculum Map outlining the achievement objectives over the next two years for the junior, middle and senior schools has been drafted and is now being finalized by the teaching team.

You will have heard a lot of talk in recent months about National Standards. The school and teaching staff have been working consistently on these; attending training sessions and developing the standards for the core subjects, as well as doing a lot of work on developing the best report format to enable parents to best interpret the results of their children's progress. The school is already complying with the new requirements by providing two reports per year. The old school report format is still being used. This will be supplemented by verbal reporting on your child's attainments against National Standards by the teachers at the parent teacher interviews. More work and training is being undertaken by the teaching team over term three with the aim of having the new report format in place for the end of year reports. The board and teaching staff believe this has been the best approach to ensure the best standards, assessment tools and reporting formats are achieved for the pupils and parents alike.

### Finance

The financial accounts to the end of year 2009 have been audited and a positive report furnished by the auditors BDO. The current year's accounts are in good shape with income and expenditure year to date tracking well.

### School Policies

School policies are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they accurately reflect the environment in which the school operates. The review process is currently under way and a number of school policies have had amendments

made and have been signed off by the board. Further work is yet to be done on these and once completed this will be communicated to the parents.

### Co-Opted Board Members

Every school board should try as much as possible to represent the ethnic diversity and gender mix of the community that it represents, by having a cross section of personnel from all groups. We are lucky to have Stanley Park as a board member, reflecting the Korean and Asian sector of our community. However, the Board is still predominantly white, male dominant. As a means of addressing this imbalance the board does have the facility to co-opt new members, and it is this board's intention to do that. We believe it would be good to have more female members, and those from other ethnic groups within our community. The board would welcome any input and suggestions from the community on this matter.

### PTA

The school is lucky to have such an active and well run PTA. The PTA fulfils an important function within a school, not just as a means of fundraising, but by adding to the social fabric and community spirit of a school. Our PTA organises a number of events through the year – the quiz night and school fair being two standout events amongst them – which give the school community an opportunity to come together not just to make some money, but to have fun and enjoy each other's company. Last year's school fair was a huge success, one which the current PTA hopes to repeat. Planning has already begun and I would urge all of you, as the event draws nearer, to become involved in some way to help make this year's event an even greater success.

Regards,

*John Russell - BOT Community*