



SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Board Of Trustees Newsletter

Sunnynook

focus

LEARNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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Greetings to all Parents and Caregivers



It is hard to believe another school year is drawing to a close. Typically for Sunnynook Primary School it has been a year filled with activities and events to enhance our excellent education programme. I am sure you will all be pleased with the progress your children have made this year, and with the safe and happy environment in which they are able to learn and develop.

Standards – the speed of implementation, the lack of clear guidelines and standards, the extra workload on teachers. We have voiced these misgivings to the Ministry in a clear and responsible manner, while at the same time continuing to develop the National Standards programme in school. We can assure you all that the school has met all its requirements under the Act and will continue to do so, while at the same time lobbying the Ministry for the improvements we feel are essential.

Teaching Staff

There will be some new faces on the teaching staff in 2011. Two of our respected teachers, Pam Smith and Shirley Livingston have retired this year. We thank them for their special contribution to Sunnynook Primary School over many years of service and wish them all the best in their new lives away from teaching. Thanks and appreciation also to all the other teachers who are moving on to accept new challenges and opportunities. We wish you all the best of luck.



National Standards

You will have heard a lot of talk and news items about National Standards during the year. Our teachers have worked hard this year to adopt and adapt to the National Standards programme. Your child's end of year report is another step in this process. A lot of work has gone into producing a report on your child's progress that both meets the requirements of National Standards and which is meaningful and easy to understand for parents and pupils. Like many schools in our community and nationwide, we have some misgivings about the National



UPDATE:

B.O.T. GOVERNANCE

We started the school year with freshly painted school buildings. Throughout the year other improvements have been made as part of our ongoing maintenance programme. This includes the upgrade of toilets across the school. Shade cover has been installed over the swimming pool.



The school has signed up for an upgrade of our I.T. cabling network as part of the School Network Upgrade Programme – this is subsidized 80% by government funding and only available to 240 schools nationwide. Four new offices are to be created in space currently occupied by toilets in the junior and senior blocks. The cloak bays will not be altered.

An annual inspection of the school boiler has been instigated and the first inspection carried out. A programme of asset maintenance and checks has been put in place to ensure the ongoing safe functioning of the boiler.

Safety cushion fall under the playgrounds has been upgraded.

The net financial position of the school is sound with income and expenditure in line with budgets. At the time of writing parent donations were slightly down on the 2009 year. Funding grants by the M.O.E for the 2011 year will be based on an increased school roll of 430. The BDO Spicer auditor has visited the school to complete pre-audit systems checking to ensure school funds are being spent appropriately.

As part of an ongoing review process, several school policies have been amended and updated. These include International Students Policy, Financial Management Policy, Employee Health and Safety Policy, School Uniform Policy, Child Abuse Policy, Staff Appointments Policy, Taha Maori Policy, Technology Policy, Maths and Statistics Policy, Gifts Policy.

(Further information on these or any other school policies is available through the school office).



2010 Highlights

There have been some great fundraising and other activities throughout the year. Many of these have occurred with the help of our parents and community and your ongoing support and involvement are greatly appreciated. Some of the highlights for 2010 include the 24 Hour Famine during which the kids raised over \$500, the Math-a-Thon which raised \$11,000, the Chocolate Campaign \$7,800, the Quiz Night, and the School Calendar.

An outstanding success was the School Gala held in early November. This was a great fun filled day for the school and community. As a result the PTA was able to present the school with a cheque for \$20,000! This money will be used to provide data projectors for each classroom. A great effort.

We are very fortunate to have such good parent involvement in school life and to have such a proactive PTA. But you can never have too many helpers and so we would urge all of you to get involved and help out in any way you can. The rewards are great and you have a lot of fun along the way!

The Middle School put on a first rate production called "Colours of Aotearoa". 'Sunnynook's Got Talent' showcased some excellent musical skills during the school gala, and the "Cushion Concert" was a great success.

On the sporting side we had a successful school athletics day, and other successes both individual and team in the sporting arena, including two North Harbour Reps from the Hockey 'B' team. It is encouraging to see such a high level of participation by pupils in team sports such as netball, mini ball, flippa ball, hockey, soccer, rugby and cricket. A special thanks to all teachers and parents who help out with these teams. The school also benefited from a new government initiative called The Kiwi Sports Fund. The fund is intended to encourage more pupils to participate in team sports and to help them develop their sporting skills. This year we used the fund for two activities: Playball, aimed at improving basic movement development skills

and techniques, and Water Safety Module, covering life jackets, survival techniques, drowning recognition, surf beaches and other areas.

Another highlight has been E-Learning. This year the teachers began a three year professional development programme in computers and information technology. They have been able to integrate these new ideas into the children's learning, with the development of websites for students to publish their stories, high quality graphics, recording stories on Garageband, and using the internet to get the latest knowledge.

The new school uniform has been a success and it is good to see all the year 1-4 pupils looking smart in the school colours. The parent volunteers on the uniform committee have done a great job of developing the uniforms and running the uniform shop – well done!

Congratulations - And last, but by no means least, a special mention of our year 6 students who have excelled academically, on the sports field, and creatively: Academic achievement – Eda Tang, Speech – Kirstin du Plooy, Technology/ICT – Britney Montile, Visual Arts – Eda Tang, Performing Arts – Reanna Zhou, Sports Achievement/Girl – Danielle Bound, Sports Achievement/Boy – Byron Smith, Sportsmanship – David Meki / Cameron Spurling, Citizenship – Yana Minkova. Congratulations - a great achievement!

To all our Year 6 students who are moving on to intermediate school we wish you the best of luck and success. Your six years at Sunnynook will have prepared you well to meet the new challenges and opportunities ahead. In time as you look back on your days at Sunnynook Primary you will have many happy memories. To all parents, caregivers and families, we wish you a very happy Christmas time and a safe and fun filled summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

John Russell

SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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