



# SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## Board Of Trustees Newsletter

# Sunnynook

# *focus*

LEARNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

### Welcome to all parents and caregivers

The Board of Trustees would like to extend to you a warm welcome for the second half of the school year.

The first half has been an intense and full on two terms for the school community, parents, caregivers, students and staff alike. Not only on an educational level, but culturally and in the sporting arena as well. With the shortening of the 3rd and 4th Terms to accommodate the Rugby World Cup, we anticipate the remainder of the scholastic year to be even busier for our school.

It was with much regret that the Board accepted the resignation of its Chairperson, Richard Allan. Richard has been an integral part of Sunnynook School's Board of Trustees for the past four and a half years, and has proven himself to be an invaluable Chairperson. Jeremy Lambert is our new Chairperson. Currently the Board is made up of the following members and their assigned responsibilities:

- Jeremy Lambert: Chairperson/Personnel
- Phil Unsworth: Finance
- Colin Leslie: Property
- Jane McKenzie: Community
- John Russell: Community
- Stanley Park: International
- Rachael Findlay-Clarke: Staff Representative
- Peter Mulcahy: Principal

The Board's role is not an operational one which involves itself in the day to day running of the school. Peter and his team of teaching, administrative and support staff hold this responsibility. Ours is one of governance and guidance stipulated by the Ministry of Education. The Principal, staff and Board work together to focus on achieving the best possible results for our children and school.

This year, to help us with our Strategic Planning for the next 3 years, a survey has been sent home to every family. This was your opportunity to comment on the education, facilities and future development of our school community.

As a group we would like you to feel that you can contact the Board or any individual member of the Board with your comments, concerns or any questions you may have. This may be done through the school

office. It is our intent to provide a face to our names, with a photo gallery in the very near future, for easier recognition. Undoubtedly you may see us dropping off/collecting our children, on the sideline at sports supporting teams and/or getting involved with fundraising and PTA events.



2011 Travelwise



2011 Senior Cross Country

## School Improvements and Maintenance

Over the past 12 months the proposed works outlined in last year's community letter have been completed. This involved:

- The installation of the pool shade, which the children have benefited from during their course of swimming lessons in the first term.
- The refurbishment and upgrade to the toilet blocks.
- Most of the site works involving concreting and drain channels. A concrete grinder is being hired to smooth areas which may be considered a tripping hazard and removable straps for drain covers are currently being set up to prevent child access.
- The Senior block has been refurbished.
- One of the largest projects the school has undertaken is the fibre optic cabling to all classes to facilitate a major upgrade of its computer network with a School Network Upgrade Project (SNUP). With the replacement of the old cables Sunnynook will be ready for the Ultra fast Broadband connection. Each classroom has had an upgrade of data points and electrical wiring to cope with the extra computers. SNUP has left space in the network for growth in technology for at least the next 10 years.

## Curriculum

In 2010, the New Zealand Government introduced National Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics for children in Years 1-8. The National Standards support the New Zealand Curriculum. The standards set clear expectations about what children need to know and be able to do in reading, writing and mathematics in the first eight years at school, to support their learning in all curriculum areas. These are designed to help schools better understand their students' learning needs through providing clear learning goals and information about students' progress and achievement. In turn, this will help schools and teachers make more informed decisions about how the school curriculum is planned, used and reviewed.

This has been reflected in the last reports (Achievement or Progressive) sent home in July. Using a variety of information about the child's learning, teachers have made an "overall teacher judgement" for each child in relation to the National Standards, which provides the foundation to work out each child's next learning steps.

Sunnynook School is the Host School for the Arataki ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Professional Development Cluster, involving Wairau Intermediate, Target Road School and Forrest Hill School. We have a three year contract with the New Zealand Ministry of Education to provide the skills and opportunities for teachers and students in our four cluster schools to learn through ICT.



The Sunnynook Board of Trustees and Parent-Teacher Association have supported this project through the purchase of equipment. At the start of Term 3 nearly every classroom will have a permanent data projector with mimio interactive whiteboard, two iMac computers and teacher laptop, with the support of 20 iMacs/eMacs in the Computer Suite. This is the beginning of a comprehensive 3 Year Plan to build up ICT hardware across the school for students and teachers.

Our teacher's goals are to integrate e-learning effectively into their practice creating an innovative and exciting learning environment for all students. Teachers have been supported in this project through the Learning@school conferences, contact with ICT leaders, specialist meetings for new software and hardware, and in a variety of other professional development opportunities.



## Extra Curricular Activities

Our Sunnynook students and teachers participate in a multitude of sports and activities throughout the year. During Matariki, the School Choir and Kapa Haka group performed at the combined schools Matariki Festival. Both groups performed brilliantly, with Mrs. Yolanda East training the choir to a very high standard. The Kapa Haka group was proud to open the evening with their waiata and the boy's haka was especially strong.

## PTA

To date the PTA has been working at full throttle with the organisation of in-school and community events as well as the all important role of fundraising. Last term the children were involved in a school wide Math-a-thon, as well as participating in the ever-popular school disco. The quiz night held earlier this month proved to be a resounding success with friends, family and parents having a great evening. For this term, the ever-popular chocolate fundraiser is currently running. As the last school term is so short, our successful school fair will not be held this year, so please, please get behind any or all of the activities organised by our PTA. The school benefits significantly through this dedicated team with their hard work and enthusiasm, so your support is always greatly appreciated.

## Jane McKenzie - Community

### SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Board of Trustees:

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