



BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

June 2008

Staffing:

The Board recently celebrated Mrs Tracy Mudd becoming a fully registered Teacher, and Mr Nevan Bridge on obtaining his Degree in Education. Congratulations to you both! A warm welcome is extended to Susan Harris who is assisting with a child with learning needs. We would like to acknowledge the hard work that Chris McCarthy has put into the *SMARTEEZ* Programme during her time as Supervisor – she will be missed and we wish her well for her ventures North.

Thank you to the teachers who continue to strive for the best in their classrooms and whose success we see in the children's learning, their responsibilities and in their positive playground manner. I recently attended a school assembly and was reminded of all the happenings, in and out of school, where the pupils of Nelson Park were represented. There are many initiatives happening where pupils are given the opportunity to participate actively within the school, for example Choir, sports, Kapa Haka; mentors, councilors, leaders; library monitors, Environment Group, and chess. Equally, there are teachers and staff who give of their time to ensure these events occur for our children. More recently Alison Rendle and Bronwyn Peacock prepared the school choir for the *Kids for Kids* concert with Suzanne Prentice in which the choir did the school proud. And we cannot forget John and his team who keep the school in excellent condition, and all the Support Staff, which includes Office Staff, Librarian, and Teachers Aides. All Support Staff do a great job in supporting teachers delivering quality learning in classrooms and our Office Staff deal not only with all things "admin" BUT attend to the sick and injured and field numerous inquiries. Thank you all!

Professional Development:

The Board have met with Carol Tipene from the Ministry of Education who is working with us on a new Governance Manual which will streamline the policies we are required to have. The manual will also have an induction section which will hold useful information for incoming trustees and what is required at the time of elections.

Two Board members will attend a four day School Trustees Association Conference in Christchurch in July to keep abreast of changes affecting boards. Information from the workshops and keynote speakers will be shared at a board planning session in Term 3.

Strategic Plan:

The 2008 Charter has been presented to the Board for discussion. The Charter sets the goals that have been developed as a result of consultation with the school community as to the future direction of the school, analysis of student achievement data and focusing on "Our Future Direction".

There are four strategic goals that have guided us over the last three years:

1. To have a high level of achievement in Literacy;
2. To have a high level of achievement in Numeracy;
3. Students empowered to make healthy and positive lifestyle choices;
4. Enhance teaching and learning through access to information and communication Technology by empowered staff.

The Charter and Strategic Plan will be reviewed this year. The new plan will see us through to 2011. Surveying the community as part of the new Charter and Strategic Plan will see a questionnaire, together with a personal approach by all board members, early in Term 3. Results of the questionnaire will be brought back to the board for discussion.

A copy of the Charter is held in the office.

Recently the School Trustees Association reported on the findings of a survey on *"How the world's best performing schools come out on top"* where it was identified that high performing school systems maintains a strong focus on student achievement and improve instruction by consistently doing three things well:

- Getting the right people to become teachers.
- Developing these teachers into effective instructors.
- Putting in place systems and targeting support to ensure that every child is able to benefit from excellent instruction.

As a board we also have a role in supporting the drive to high student achievement, primarily by ensuring the board maintains its focus on student achievement through the effective use of high quality data by which improvement and achievement can be monitored.

Such data is reported to the board on a regular basis. Teachers, together with the Management Team regularly collate and review the findings.

Maori Communication and Consultation:

In Term 1 2008, Phillippa Smith was appointed onto the board as a representative of the Maori community, after consultation at the Nelson Park School Hui in August 2007.

Benita Mareikura, a parent of the school, has kindly offered to contribute to our newsletters and has submitted the following:

Whanau Panui:

Kia Ora Koutou and welcome to the first entry for 2008. As part of the Maori Community for Nelson Park School we wish to continue posting upcoming events for everyone to enjoy. Please feel free to contact the school office if there is a community event you would like added to the school's regular publication.

Upcoming Events:

Matariki 2008. This is our unique Maori New Year. It's a seasonal occasion to mark the end of the harvest, a time to celebrate throughout June to mid July. It's about the "new year" planting season, new beginnings when we can rejuvenate ourselves. Matariki is a time for reflection and remembrance, as well as joy so we are keen to involve everyone in communities and families throughout New Zealand. What is the actual New Year day? June 5th 2008.

Whanau Community Events:

Friday June 27th, 5-8pm. Heretaunga Flaxmere Matariki Festival, Free entry. Entertainment, food, fireworks. Flaxmere Park, Wilson Road, Flaxmere. Jolene Morrell Ph. 8795907 home.

Friday July 11th, 7pm. Te Whanaganui a orutu matariki, Wearable Arts. Kahungunu Wearable Arts. National Aquarium of New Zealand, Napier; Marie Edwards Ph 8782150.

Property:

The construction of the outdoor classroom will begin soon, with a proposed completion date to be by the end of the July holidays. This will be an important aspect for the transition to school and will have three areas, including a water feature. Certified Builders will be doing the construction as they have quoted us a great price, and most donate their time to raise funds for the community. We are grateful to Carters who are supplying the building materials at cost. The Friends of the School have donated \$11,000 from the Fun Fiesta, with the remainder coming from school funds.

Exterior painting has now been completed and looks fabulous. It is planned to have lighting installed on the roof to highlight the bell tower – a feature of the school.

The Napier City Council has sent its plan for alterations to Jull Street which includes improved drainage, parking provision and a left-hand turning lane. Whilst the board realizes that parking is an ongoing problem, we have been assured that painted lines will ensure tighter parks and the left hand lane will help reduce traffic build up as you exit onto Kennedy Road.

New kerbing will be added to the "grassed" area under the trees outside the school and will result in fewer parks. The work will get under way in June/July and the Council has asked that we utilize the Kennedy Road crossing where possible, the new parks, and the parking area inside the main gates to the left towards the cricket pavilion. They also ask that we avoid parking behind the school hall.

On the subject of parking, there continues to be a problem with parents collecting children after school in McDonald Street and parking in a way to cause danger to children coming out the gate. We have also had neighbours complaining of very inconsiderate parking, blocking their driveways. Please do consider others when parking in McDonald Street. Mr Bridge is working with the Police to find solutions to making this area a safer place for our children.

Friends of the School:

Thank you for the continuing work that you strive to do in order to fundraise for the school. Thank you to the community who support them also. What a wonderful link to the community that the *Pukeko Post* has made. Well done!

Donations:

Thanks must go to the following organizations for their generous donations towards the Playground Project:

Friends of the School; Pub Charities; The Kingdom Foundation;
The Lion Foundation; Sanderson Trust; Eastern & Central Community Trust;
Endeavour Community Trust; and the Southern Trust.

We are excited about the ongoing developments happening at the school that not only enhance children's learning, but add pride to Nelson Park School.

Kerry Hansen
Chairperson
Board of Trustees

