

# Greetings from the Board of Trustees



It is hard to believe that it is the last week of the first term already. How quick the year seems to be moving along.

There are a number of important issues the Board will be dealing with this year and we will continue to face these with the interests of our students and school community as our focus.

## Elections

Firstly we have BoT elections which will be held early next term. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the education of the students at our school and help to make it the best it can be. Nominations for parent representation will be called for soon. We ask that you consider this important function and the contribution you could make. More information on nominations will be available closer to the election but can already be found on the parent notice board next to the staff room or on the following link;

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Boards/EffectiveGovernance/BoardElections.aspx>

If being a representative is just not for you, we would still encourage our whole school community to participate, by voting during the election.

## National Standards

The Board is busy coming to grips with the new National Standards. The National Standards are intended to provide a nationally consistent means for explaining and responding to a student's progress and achievement in the key areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

Many of you will have had your first experience of these during the recent Parent/Teacher interviews, with new reporting on the progress of your child. Members of the Board have taken the opportunity to attend training on this important change in the measurement of our student achievement against the New Zealand Curriculum.

## Finance



We are pleased to report that our Draft 2009 Annual Accounts have been submitted for audit and we do not anticipate any matters of concern arising from that process. Our Principal, Leanne White and her management team manage the day to day operations of the school in a professional manner ensuring that a little goes a long way.

We have set our operating budget for the current financial year and are well into the swing of 'business as usual'.



A huge vote of thanks goes to the Oxford Crescent School Home and School Committee for their considerable efforts in fundraising for the 'nice to have stuff', which cannot be purchased from government funding. A focus for this year is new playground markings. The students have been considering designs for new games and old favourites. The senior school has visited another school in the region to help consolidate their ideas. Thanks also to the parents and community that support these fundraising efforts.

Another way in which parents/caregivers can help us to keep our children engaged and enriched during their time at school is by making your school resource fee donation. We rely on these donations to provide the extras that help to make our school a vibrant and stimulating place to be.

For a number of years only around half of the school families have paid the resource donations. We realise there are a number of constraints on family budgets but do ask that you consider paying this year's donation. There are a number of options available to lessen the immediate impact on family finances. You can discuss these with the helpful ladies in the office. Please be aware that if you do pay in full before 31 March 2010, you can claim one third of the donation back in your income tax return for the 2009/10 financial year.

### Comings and Goings

As many of you will know our ever reliable caretaker, Dennis Grover, retired towards the end of this term. We would like to thank Dennis, and acknowledge the terrific job he did for our school over the past several years. He has served our students, staff and the wider school community well. We will miss Dennis and wish him all the best for his retirement and future plans.



As one door closes another opens. We would like to welcome Bruce Aitken, as our new caretaker. Bruce is already becoming a familiar face, as he settles into the routines and tasks of this important role for our school.

From all of the Board of Trustees we wish you a happy and safe holiday break and look forward to a busy and productive second term.



31 March 2010