



# OXFORD CRESCENT SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

## TERM 4 – NOVEMBER 2010

### Greetings from the Board of Trustees

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

There have been a number of important issues the Board has dealt with this year and we will continue to face these and other challenges with the interests of our students and school community as our focus.

Of particular importance and controversy this year, has been the implementation of the National Standards. The advice to the Board is that these standards provide valuable markers in a student's learning lifecycle. They enable teachers, children, parents, families and whānau a clear idea of where children are at in their learning and what they have to do next. The Board's view is that we will continue to support this Government initiative and provide appropriate levels of assistance to Leanne and staff as we move into the future.

Another matter I have been approached about relates to the way in which parents use the drop off bay on Oxford Crescent. It is important to remember that this bay was constructed to enhance the safety of the students getting in and out of vehicles. It is not appropriate to park on the yellow lines, and if the bay is full then it is time to find a park elsewhere. Remember as parents we set the example. Like it or not we are often role models to our children and others.

Therefore as role models to the children, when asked by concerned parents and/or teachers not to double park, and to move on, there is no need for excuses just time for action. Of course, the most appropriate action when asked to move on is simply to find another park away from the drop off bay. I am sure I can rely on all users of the drop off bay to follow these simple rules.

From all of the Board of Trustees we wish you a happy and safe holiday break.

**Your Board of Trustees is pleased to report to you as follows:**

### National Standards

This year we have been using the National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

We have:

#### Trialled plain language reporting using the Ministry report forms.

These have undergone changes throughout the year as we have further developed our understanding.

#### Introduced student-led conferences.

We had intended to introduce these this year even before the implementation of National Standards. There is more work to be

done in this area as we would like to see our students take a more active role.

#### Moderated teachers' expectations and understanding of the standards.

This has been a significant part of our professional development. Teachers have met regularly to discuss their understanding of the National Standards they use at their curriculum level.

#### Developed Overall Teacher Judgements.

When moderating, teachers consider a number of things including formal tests, assessment, observation of the student and conversations with the student. They use the information they have gathered to make an overall teacher judgement as to where the student sits in relation to the National Standard.

#### Rewritten our Board of Trustees reporting formats.

We are currently working on rewriting the reports to the Board. We are using the data we have gathered on our students' progress and achievement against the National Standards. We will use this information to frame our targets for 2011.

We would like to thank the staff for the commitment they have shown to making this initiative work for our students this year. We will continue to develop this work further in 2011.

*Leanne White - Principal*

*Merilyn McKenzie - Deputy Principal*

*Marianne Coldham - Assistant Principal*

### Policies

One of the Board's roles is to review and update all school policies on a regular basis. This year we have moved from a five to a three yearly review cycle, meaning all school policies are reviewed at least every three years.

This review process involves the teachers reading and suggesting changes to a selection of policies, then each board member reads the policies and notes any suggested changes. The Board then holds special meetings where only those policies are discussed and changes are made as necessary. These meetings are also an opportunity to discuss how the policies are working for the school and whether they are still relevant and meeting the needs of the school community.

## **Policies Cont'd:**

As a new board member these policy reviews have been a useful insight into the running of the school, it is a big learning curve!

This year we have managed to discard a few policies as no longer relevant, amalgamate and simplify some and up date others. Examples of some of the policies worked on are the: Health and Safety, Home and School Committee, Shady School and Vandalism Policies.

*Kerry Weston*

## **Finance:**

Christmas is fast approaching and the holidays will soon be upon us again... time sure is flying by!

What's happening in the world of finance here at Oxford Crescent School?

Along with the day to day financial management of the school we are beginning work on our operating budget for 2011. It's never an easy time trying to balance the needs of everyone with the reality of the funding available but please rest assured that we aim to do the very best we can with the resources that are allocated to us.

The Home & School Committee continue to work this term towards achievement of their fundraising goals. Please do support them wherever and in whatever way that you can as they do a fabulous job in working to provide our children with additional resources and facilities that are simply not covered by our school operating grant. The new playground markings are a recent example of this fundraising work and I'm sure that you will all agree that they look just wonderful! The children are certainly very pleased with them and they are being well used.

Many thanks to those families who have supported the school through payment of the school resource fee donation. While we do appreciate that it is a voluntary payment we would encourage everyone to seriously consider making a contribution to ensure that the time spent by our children at Oxford Crescent School is the best that it could possibly be. A number of payment options are available, do feel free to come into the office and discuss with the staff there.

*Vivienne Lowe*

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

## **COMMUNICATIONS LYNNETTE TONKIN**



Hi, my name is Lynnette Tonkin. I am Mum to Devin Year 5 and Paige Year 3 both attending our wonderful school here at Oxford Crescent.

This is my second term on the BOT having been reelected as one of your Parent Representatives in the 2010 elections. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved at a Board level of our School and work with such a great team.

Outside of the school, I am the -Director of Treegifts.co.nz Ltd an online gift company. The business has kept me busy now for 5 years and is still continuing to grow. Being a Marketer by profession I love all things creative and if there is a creative project anywhere you will usually find me with my hands in helping out!

Over the last year I have assisted with the Parent Tutors in Reading Programme along with being the Year 3 Netball Coach for the talented Bluebirds team. I am always so impressed the way that the children at Oxford Crescent whom are involved in sporting activities conduct themselves both when listening to their coaches in the learning process and outside of the school at events. This is a direct result of the respect for others instilled in our children not only at home but in our classrooms by the teaching staff at Oxford Crescent.

In my spare time I can be found sailing on Wellington Harbour, climbing the nearest tall peak or simply trying to force myself to sit still for 20 minutes – a feat I am yet to achieve!

If you do see my car out the front of the school (its the one with the big Tree on it!) , please do stop and say hello, I'm always free available to chat.