

Roydvale School Board News

July 2010

Welcome back to Term 3. We trust you all had time to enjoy the improved weather we experienced over the holidays.

The new Board have been in place for a couple of meetings now. Key areas of responsibility have been allocated as follows:

Chairperson and Personnel - Michael Harris
Policy and Strategic Planning - Andrew Robertson
Community Liaison - Tim Sprott
Finance - Nicola Bargh
Property, and Health and Safety - Andrew Panckhurst
Staff Representative - Rebecca Playle

Policy and Strategic Planning

Policy and Strategic Planning is a new role that has been created to ensure we fulfil our governance responsibilities concerning the school's policy and strategy matters. This area will consume a considerable amount of the Board's time throughout this year and the early part of next year, as we review the school's strategic goals and direction, ensuring these link to the school vision.

National Standards

We are navigating our way through the implementation of the National Standards. There is much debate about whether the "Standards" will improve outcomes for the children, and we expect the debate to continue for some time. In the meantime, Paul and his team are integrating the new requirements into the comprehensive testing programme that is already operating at the school. We wish to emphasise, while testing at different intervals records achievement levels, this is only at a single point in time. The records staff keep for individual children are key to seeing our children progress throughout the year at their pace and in the areas of priority for them. Your child's progress in relation to the standards will be discussed at the July Parent/Teacher interviews.

Like the previous Board, we are focused on a trend of improving achievement levels for all individuals, and benchmarking their performance against expectations and/or standards.

Curriculum

We appreciate the significant effort that Paul, Rebecca Playle, the school's management team and teaching staff have made with developing the school vision, values and mission statement that started back in 2006. They have now integrated this with the New Zealand Curriculum to create the Roydvale Curriculum. Our school curriculum provides a local perspective of how we are going to implement the New Zealand Curriculum, and achieve the Roydvale vision. Priority will be given to student achievement in literacy and numeracy while also covering the other six curriculum areas. Information meetings about the Roydvale Curriculum are planned for later in the year.

Paul recently reported the Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) and Supplementary Tests of Achievement in Reading (STAR) results that were completed in Term 1. These showed the vast majority of our children are performing very well when compared to national norms. STAR tests for reading showed 98% of children in Year 3-6 were achieving in the average, above average or outstanding categories (The national norm is 77%) while the Maths PAT tests showed 91% of children in Year 4 - 6 were achieving in the average, above average or outstanding categories (The national norm is 77%).

Property

Andrew Panckhurst will be busy over the coming months as we start developing the five year property plan due to be submitted to the Ministry of Education next year.

We are aware of the need to replace the path leading into the School from Roydvale Ave, and to evaluate the viability of the pool. Some of the capital expenditure (including the pool) could be a significant cost to the school, and we will seek comment from parents and other stakeholders later this year, as we prioritise our capital expenditure.

Five year plan priorities for the Ministry are:

1. Health and Safety

2. Infrastructure
3. Modern learning Environments
4. Discretionary Projects

As you will be aware a new classroom is currently under construction, where the sand pit once was. The classroom is funded by the Ministry of Education as part of the reduced staffing levels for Year 1 classrooms which came into effect last year. The construction is expected to be completed by the start of September, while most importantly (from the children's perspective) a new sandpit will be available for summer!

Education Review Office (ERO)

In August we will have the ERO team at the school. The aim of the review is to help improve the quality of teaching and learning in the school. It confirms good practise, helps the board of trustees and principal establish priorities and creates momentum for change. We look forward to this review to share the great progress the previous Board, Management and Staff have made since the last review.

Staff

On the 13 August Samir Yousuf leaves Roydvale to head overseas to teach. Samir has been at Roydvale for eight years and has made a great contribution to the school over this time, not only in his classroom teaching but in his leadership and development with sport in the school. We wish him, his wife Jo and son Ollie well for the opportunities that lie ahead.

From the Board of Trustees