

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

Thanks to everyone who has helped the school this year. A special thanks goes to the staff and management team who are truly dedicated to achieving the best outcomes for students and the wider school community.

To the year 6 students leaving us this Friday, we wish you all the best for the next chapter in your schooling. We hope you leave Bellevue with good memories, good friends and a great start to your education.

The current Board was elected at the end of term one. We have worked together to form a cohesive group that has the best interests and learning of all our students as the main focus.

We continue to place importance on the ready availability of ICT tool to enhance student learning. All classrooms now have a ceiling mounted data projector and xtenda box computer which offers six independent screens to each class. We introduced the mathletics programme in term two and this has made a marked difference to student enthusiasm and confidence in themselves as mathematicians.

Student achievement results continue to show the majority of students are achieving at and above the national norms.

Building work in 2011

Our school is growing. Bellevue school has in recent times had significant roll increase in. This year we commissioned another year 1 classroom by relocating our after school program to the hall annex and moving our middle team around to create the space.

Based on current and expected enrolments we have been granted funding from the Ministry of Education to build TWO new classrooms next year. We have just got started on the planning process and will let you know more about plans and timeframes next year.

In addition to new classrooms, we will also hope to upgrade the school perimeter fencing and gates. This will make the school safer for our students by fencing off the driveway and parking areas from the walkways, securing the full perimeter and allowing us to close gates during the day. These enhancements will be fully paid for by the Ministry.

Paving the bottom block is to begin on 5 January. This will even out the current surface and provide more all-weather space for our senior students.

National Standards

If you listen to the radio, watch TV or read the paper you would know that the implementation of National Standards have been quite topical. I feel it is important that I let the school community know how Bellevue School is treating this issue.

National Standards is a new government policy setting aspirational standards in the areas of reading, writing and maths. These are designed to be used as signposts that give teachers, children and whānau a clear idea of where children are at in their learning and what the next learning steps are.

Our Board is committed to ensuring we bring about the introduction of the National Standards in a way that meets the timelines outlined by the Ministry and provides the best outcomes for our students, our parents and caregivers, and of course our teaching staff.

This year (year 1) of National Standards we have been supporting our teachers and management team through professional developments in the standards and have been assessing the students against the new standards. The first school report measuring against these standards was the mid year report. We had

significant positive feedback about the newly designed school report and in particular the section on what the next steps were for each student and how you can assist them at home. The final school report for the year continued with this format and was issued last Friday.

The final assessment does not represent any single test but rather takes into account a range of assessments and observations together allowing the teacher to make an overall judgement of where the student sits against the standard. Our teachers are more than happy to discuss these results and provide some of the examples of work they have used to help make these judgements.

This year the results will be used to help us to plan our targets for 2011. We are required to send our 2011 plan to the Ministry early next year and we will be required to report our results against these targets to the Ministry in 2012.

Overall our school is making steady progress towards the full implementation of National Standards and we will fully meet our obligations. If you would like to learn more about National Standards then please either visit the Ministry's web site (www.moe.govt.nz), talk to your teacher or speak to Jan our principal.

Fundraising - join our FUNdraisers team

Our school FUNdraiser team is an important part of the school. The FUNdraisers ensure our students and teachers get the extras that we come to expect in a thoroughly modern school such as we have here at Bellevue. In recent years they have raised funding to support the roll out of new computers, extendable boxes for each class, blinds, projectors and many of the other little things that really make a difference.

They need help. The FUNdraisers need a new leader and can always do with more members. If think you can help out at all please let Rama know. Every bit of help is appreciated.

From the entire Board we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back after the break.

Robert Monteith
Darren Beauchamp
Una O'Grady
Rama Smith
Michael Warwick
Jan Win
Margaret Hesketh