

# BOARD NEWS

March 2010

We've had an exciting start to 2010 with the ICT Suite up and running! The official opening was a fantastic event that provided an opportunity for the school to thank the many people who contributed to the creation of the Suite.

Thanks also to those that helped organise the event and congratulations to the children, teachers and of course Louise Green, who challenged themselves to conduct a ceremony that demonstrated the School's commitment to te reo and tikanga Maori. Special thanks to Cathy Curtis who is our Maori Leader.

## Farewell and Welcome

- Farewell to Jo Heyhoe who has been our Librarian for 15 years.
- Best wishes to Amy Miller who is on Parental Leave from Term 2.

Jo and Amy were both honoured at assembly last week. Jo commented that her family's association with Khandallah School dates back 65 years! We would like to wish Jo all the best for the future and best wishes also to Amy for her baby's arrival. We'll see lots of Jo, we're sure, and Amy is planning to be back at school in 2011.

Next term we welcome Jane Furnish who starts as our new Library/Resource Manager.

## Board of Trustee Elections

Nominations are now open for the Board election and close at noon on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Four parent representative positions are up for election in 2010. As we now have split elections, the remaining parent-elected board members (Steve Ware, Catherine Cooper and Peter Boniface) will continue in office until their terms are completed in 2011.

It isn't too late for anyone interested! If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being on the Board please contact any of the Board members, listed at the end of this newsletter. The new Board will take office on 14 May and its first meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

## 2009 Annual Report

We are currently working on finalising the school's 2009 Annual Report which is due at the Ministry of Education by 31 May. Last year we published the full report on our website and produced a summary version which was distributed to all parents.

We are intending to produce a shorter community version again this year and want to continue to improve the information we provide. We would really appreciate feedback on the Annual Report summary. Was it useful last year? What would make it better? Please e-mail [bot@khandallah.school.nz](mailto:bot@khandallah.school.nz)

## Charter

The school's Charter was rewritten last year based on feedback from a number of community engagement sessions. The 2010 Annual Plan has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Lead Team and Board. Once the 2010 Annual Plan is finalised it will be included in our Charter and we will make the complete Charter available to the community.

## Policy Development

Draft Board policies on Health and Safety and Personnel are on the school website and open for community consultation. Please e-mail any comments to [bot@khandallah.school.nz](mailto:bot@khandallah.school.nz) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## Education Review Office

We are now expecting our ERO visit in mid Term 2. This will make Term 2 a very busy time for the school,

but we are looking forward to some feedback on the progress the school has made over recent years.

### Property Update

Our initial priority in 2010 has been dealing with urgent drainage work required across the bottom field, outside the administration block and down the Clark Street pathway. Aside from dealing with necessary maintenance, priorities for 2010 will be:

- Continuing with the repainting of the school exterior;
- Upgrading the D Block heating system;
- Scoping the work required for upgrading the swimming pool.

### School Donations

Donation requests were sent out in February. Thank you to those that have already paid donations! As you know these help to fund initiatives like Reading Recovery, the ICT Coach and teachers aides for each syndicate and we simply could not have these extra resources without the vital funding we receive from parent donations.

Last year 70% of donations requested were received. This year we'd like to think that even more of the school community will contribute.

### Traffic Safety

You will all have seen the "Travelling Safely to and From School" leaflet. We are still concerned about traffic problems occurring in Woodmancote Road and the safety of the crossing at Box Hill. The Board is drafting a formal approach to the Wellington City Council to request a review of traffic management initiatives around the school to ensure we have the safest possible infrastructure.

However, we also need to remind everyone that many of the problems stem from the driving behaviour of our own community. Please review your own actions and always consider the safety of the children whenever you are driving or parking in or around the school.

### National Standards, Assessment and Reporting

At the parent information evening in February and in the subsequent newsletter insert, we outlined our process for introducing National Standards and invited community feedback. We've tried to make lots of information on National Standards (from all

perspectives) available to the school community. The Board and teaching staff have participated in initial training on National Standards and we are continuing to develop our understanding on how the standards will work within our school.

The Board has signed the community pledge requesting that the standards be trialled. This is consistent with the Board's stated position on National Standards, in that we have serious concerns about the development and implementation of the standards and believe that a trial or slowing down of the implementation process would be beneficial. As we progress further with working on implementation of the standards at Khandallah School we will be surveying the parent community to get your feedback - probably in Term 3.

### Board Meetings

The Board meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the staffroom and meetings are open to the public. Dates for the next two meetings are 29 April and 20 May, when the new Board takes office. The new Board will set meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

### Communicating with the School

If you have any concerns or questions please contact your child's teacher, syndicate leader or the Principal. It really is best to make contact early if you are worried about something, so that it can be addressed. However we do ask that you remember the School's Values, including Respect, and to always be fair and polite in dealings with our valuable staff.

### Board Contacts and Portfolios

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