

Board News - Term 1 – 2011

With Term 1 nearly finished, it seems a bit late for welcomes, but if this is your first Board News, then welcome to the Ngaio School community. It is proving to be another busy and exciting year. The Board welcomed the following teachers to Ngaio School this term:

- Nigel Firman teaching year 5/6 in room 16
- Lauren Ketchen teaching year 5/6 in room 18
- Sara Hamilton teaching year 3/4 in room 14
- Chris Bailey teaching year 3/4 in room 8

ERO Visit

The Education Review Office visited Ngaio in November 2011. The school was highly praised for outstanding leadership, teaching and student achievement. The report was extremely positive and if you haven't had a chance to read a full copy of the report, we recommend you do so. The full ERO report is now available on the ERO website: www.ero.govt.nz.

Gala

Let me start by thanking the PTA and the Ngaio community for a spectacular Gala and a stunning result for us and for a Christchurch school/s. Gala day was superb, and it was really impressive to see all the hard work of the Gala Committee and the broad participation from the community. At our March Board meeting we sent our congratulations and thanks to the Gala Committee so capably led by Ben Pitchforth and strongly supported by all the Gala volunteers. A special thank you also to Christina Barley who worked tirelessly as the staff representative on the Gala Committee.

The school is already enjoying new ICT equipment made possible from 2010 Gala funds. Teachers and students lucky enough to have an electronic whiteboard in their classroom already report that they add significant value to classroom learning. Datashows, screens, class PCs and laptops are valuable resources that the school could simply not afford without the generous support of the community.

Student Achievement and Reporting

Student achievement across the school is tracking well and progress made last year is continuing into the new term. The programmes started last year, and the extra resource for early testing and remedial action is proving effective. This year the School's focus is on consolidating these gains.

Building Project

Construction of the new classroom between Rooms 4 and 5 is now complete. The upgrading of the resource room across the hall from the new classroom is underway with floor strengthening and should be ready to go after the holidays.

Work has begun on the upgrade of the office/staffroom and administration space. This project is scheduled to take 13 weeks. Liz, Denise and the office staff have moved to our library, and you will have noticed that the hall is no being utilised as a staffroom and satellite library. This is a challenging way to work and the Board appreciates the patience and flexibility teachers and students are displaying as the project advances.

Finally, over the Easter break the lower netball court will be resurfaced with all-weather surface and new seating will be installed around the court. A huge thank you to the PTA who successfully acquired a couple of Grants and have contributed \$25,000 towards this project.

School pool

The Board is continuing to evaluate how to get the most from this valuable resource. We continued to fund in-pool instruction from Keith Spry instructors and all junior school students and less confident senior school students have had lessons in Term 1. All parents whose children benefitted from the in-school swimming instruction will be surveyed again to assess the value of this approach.

Roll Growth

Roll growth continues to be one of the Board's biggest challenges. We are on track to have a roll topping 550 by the end of this year. Our predictions indicate that this roll is likely to continue to grow steadily for a number of years yet. The Board is working closely with the Ministry to find ways to manage these challenges, and will keep you informed of any progress made. We will also again apply to the Ministry to review our enrolment zone.

Reporting

The first three way conferences with teachers, parents and children are now complete. We have received useful feedback on the reporting format and we will be developing that this year in line with our written reporting incorporating National Standards.

Charter

Thank you to all the parents who gave us their valuable written feedback on our new draft charter. We also received feedback at a consultation evening earlier this month. The Board will be finalising the new Ngaio School Charter at the end of this term and it will be communicated next term.

Website

We are continuing our work on upgrading the school website and will keep you informed as to our progress.

Finally

Our final Board meeting for the term is on Thursday 14 April at 7pm in the Hall. Please feel free to come along or to contact me to share your experience of the school.



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