



# Board of Trustees News

## Churchill Park Primary School

**BOT NEWS – May 2010**

### Newly Appointed Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 19 May. This was the first meeting of the newly constituted Board following the May election for 3 new parent representatives. The Board would like to thank all those that voted with the voting rate well above the national average.

With the new Board established we would like to say a special thank you to outgoing Chairman, Peter Hay. Peter has served the school community for six years with three of those years in position of Chairman and during that time was an extremely supportive Board Chairman and leader.

We are also pleased to advise that Jenny Watson was unanimously voted as Board Chair.

Below is a brief introduction to your three newly appointed parent representatives together with an introduction to the two parent representatives who were elected at the last mid-term elections and are currently 18 months into a three year term.

The Board also comprises Liz Gunn as Principal and a staff representative, Jenny Bryan. Minutes are taken by Katrina Richards.

#### **Jenny Watson**

A re-elected Board member, Jenny has three children at Churchill Park- Cameron in Year 8 and Claire and Finlay in Year 5. Jenny has worked in the health sector in clinical research, marketing, HR and management roles. More recently Jenny has applied her energy and skills to a number of voluntary organisations including a previous term on the Churchill Park Board of trustees which she has greatly enjoyed. Jenny is looking forward to leading a very competent and committed Board for her term as Board Chair.

#### **Karen McDonald**

A re-elected Board member, Karen has three children at Churchill Park – Sam and Callum in Year 6 and Daniel in Year 1. Karen has been on the Board for 3 years and was Board Secretary for most of that time. She is now the Board PTA representative. Karen is a Senior Solicitor at Chapman Tripp and has 15 years' experience as a commercial and litigation lawyer. She advises the School on a range of issues relating to contractual obligations, employment issues and policies, health and safety and potential disputes. Karen's skills will continue to be a valuable and useful resource for the Board and the School.

#### **Frances Turner**

Newly elected to the Board, Frances has two children at Churchill Park – Kate in Year 8 and Alex in Year 5. Frances's brings over 20 years of corporate experience, particularly in implementing IT systems, with companies such as Ernst & Young and Carter Holt Harvey. In recent years, Frances has used her business skills as an arts manager in the NZ dance industry and was most recently a trustee of the NZ Dance Festival Trust. Frances is currently engaged in a new arts management role, doing strategic and business planning towards the development of a new company and in her spare time, does funding and financial management consulting work on a freelance basis for businesses and non-profits.

### **Raelene Lock**

Raelene has three children at Churchill Park – Jamie in Year 5, Macayla in Year 3 and Ryan in Year 1. Raelene has been on the Board for the past 18 months and holds the role of Board Treasurer. Raelene is a chartered accountant and has worked for a variety of large and small accountancy and other firms throughout New Zealand.

### **Justine Gunn**

Justine has been on the Board for the past 18 months and currently holds the role of Board Secretary. Justine has one child at Churchill Park – Sam who is in Year 2. Justine is currently Senior Counsel at Telecom New Zealand Limited and has over 15 years of experience in commercial law with a particular expertise in IT law. Justine brings legal skills, enthusiasm and energy that will help Churchill Park School continue to grow and prosper.

## **The Role of the Board**

### **What is a school Board of Trustees?**

Every state and state-integrated school in New Zealand has a board of trustees. Boards bring families, communities and schools together to work for a quality education for our children. The board of trustees is a Crown entity. It is the employer of all school staff and sets the school's overall strategic direction. The school's principal is the board's 'chief executive' and manages the school operation in line with the board's policies.

The membership of the school board includes elected parent representatives, an elected staff representative and the principal.

### **What do trustees do?**

School trustees have a very important role in making sure every child achieves their potential at school. Here are some of things they do:

- Work with the principal and consult with staff, students and the community.
- Set the educational goals and strategic direction of the school.
- Monitor progress and let parents know how the school is progressing against its annual targets and how well students are achieving.
- Decide how the school's funding will be spent.
- Select the school's principal and support the development of all staff.
- Ensure legal compliance including health and safety.
- Manage risk.

## **New Zealand National Standards**

Below is a summary of frequently asked questions regarding National Standards. There has been significant discussion about National Standards and the Board, Principal and teaching staff are working hard to work through the processes and implications for implementing Ministry of Education (M.O.E) requirements. We encourage parents to take an active role in understanding the new standards and invite you to attend the evening being held to inform our school community on the New Zealand Curriculum Standards and assessment process on **Thursday 3 June at 7pm in the ICT Suite.**

### **What are National Standards?**

National Standards support the New Zealand Curriculum by providing reference points that describe the achievement in reading, writing and maths that will enable students to meet the demands of the New Zealand Curriculum. They are intended to provide nationally consistent means for considering, explaining and responding to student's progress and achievement in years 1-8. The standards have been designed so that a student who meets them is on track to succeed at NCEA Level 2

### **Why have National Standards?**

National Standards have been designed to give teachers, children, parents, families and whanau a clear idea of what children need to learn and show where they are at in reading, writing and maths. When everyone understands where they are at, then everyone can be clear about how to best support their learning – both at home and at school.

### **How will students be assessed?**

No single source of information can accurately summarise a student's achievement, it is important to draw on multiple sources. Teachers will make their 'overall teacher judgements' using their knowledge of each student and suitable assessment information. This will be used to set learning goals.

### **How will this be reported?**

Each school is responsible under the M.O.E National Administration Guidelines (N.A.Gs), to report to parents in plain language and in writing at least twice a year. The Churchill Park Principal and Staff have worked hard to incorporate the National standards reporting requirements in to our standard student report document.

### **How will the Board support the school in implementing National Standards?**

The Board will provide all the necessary support required by the Principal to ensure that the assessment and moderation process (the process of achieving consistent quality assessment) is sound and robust. The Board will analyse assessment sources and data and undertake a self review to ensure that Churchill Park is effective in our support for student learning and families.

### **How can I get more information about National Standards and how it affects my child?**

The M.O.E. website (see below) has information on national standards. 'Googling' 'national standards' will give you a variety of sources and discussions on national standards also. The Principal and staff at Churchill Park operate an open door policy and always encourage parents to discuss any concerns directly with them.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks to Liz and her committed teaching staff for all of the hard work and extra hours of discussion, planning and documentation that has been required of them over the last few months to prepare for the implementation of National Standards at Churchill Park.

*(sources: M.O.E The Boards role in National Standards Document 2010)*

*<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/YourChild/ProgressAndAchievement/NationalStandards/Introduction/FAQs/NationalStandards>.*

## **Environment Update**

The Board received an update on school environmental initiatives that support the NZ curriculum for ecological sustainability. We were excited to hear that Churchill Park had recently been awarded a prize for the "Best Integrated Project" by Wai Care. This was awarded for the wetlands development. We are also very pleased to hear the school has secured further funding from the Eastern Bays Community Board discretionary fund to progress Stage Two of the wetlands development. This includes a structured teaching area, further planting and interpretive signage. The Community Board acknowledged the importance of the area to both the school and wider community. Thank you to Victoria Travers and Liz for their successful submission to the Community Board. The Board is looking forward to being involved with the planting projects on Earth Day Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Property Update**

The new Administration is taking shape according to the timeline with gib lining and plastering soon to be completed. That will be followed by painting and kitchen fitting next, and then floor coverings and blinds to finish. The expected date for completion is the end of Term Two. Teaching and Administration staff are very excited about having more spacious premises and our small teaching and support groups of students will

finally have some dedicated space to work. Our thanks go to the hardworking Board property committee who have kept the project on track along with Robert Palmer, the project manager.

## Have Your Say

Want to support something being proposed in this newsletter? Want to disagree? As the Board of Trustees representing you, we value your input. Put your words of concern/interest/idea to the Board, C/- the School Office or email [office@churchillpark.school.nz](mailto:office@churchillpark.school.nz) Attention: Board of Trustees Chairperson.

Alternatively, please feel free to contact any member of the Board to raise topics of interest or discuss any concerns.