



# Red Beach School

## The Big Picture..... From the Board of Trustees

Term 3 2009

### Mid Year Academic Reporting

Twice a year the School has in depth testing in the core areas of reading, maths, writing, speaking and listening. This is core business to any school and it helps to reassure us all that the school continues to head in the right direction. While ongoing testing and review is a constant classroom activity, school wide testing and benchmarking is undertaken more thoroughly twice a year.

The Board was very pleased with the recent mid year results and congratulate the staff and leadership team on these mid year results. Our targets are very high compared to national comparisons and the results are again a credit to everyone involved.

While the measuring of group wide results gives some solid feedback, we continue to focus on the individuals needs. The overall goal is to ensure that each child is achieving to their own potential, rather than satisfying any country wide grading system. But more on that question later.

Red Beach School continues to pioneer more accurate ways with the use of e-asTTle, for some testing. This online testing system is an excellent tool which assesses our children's abilities in literacy and numeracy from Y4-Y6, as compared to the national norms. We are lucky to be able to access this new system that will in time, be able to provide personalised feedback about your child's progress in subject areas.

Some of the key data that was highlighted to the Board recently was:

Subject	End Yr Target	Where Are We Now
Reading	92%	91% achieving at or above
Writing	85%	86% achieving at or above
Listening	95%	95% achieving at or above
Speaking	95%	95% achieving at or above
Maths	92%	94% achieving at or above

### How Might National Standards Affect RBS?

National education standards have been in the news recently. Government reforms mean primary and intermediate schools will have to measure the progress of all children against nationally set benchmarks from next year.

This possess some interesting questions, one being, is it the correct job of the teacher to teach to the required end of year test.

The discussion highlights the clash between ability-based learning as we use now and age-based standards. Showing improvement over time, and not being required to report against standards tends to make more sense. National standards may bring in levels that are much too low for some and much too high for others.

### Join Us for the **Moulin Rouge Ball and Auction** Saturday 29th August

Get your glad rags on and join us for a fun filled evening of entertainment, dancing and music. This is a community event for parents and staff, past and present. Special guests Lisa Crawley, recent finalist as Nora Jones in TV's 'Stars in your Eyes' and local heroes Barbara Kendall and Jonny Williams make up part of the exciting line up. Tickets are \$50pp and include a delicious supper and dessert.

## School Improvements Continue

The way a school is funded for property and space is very interesting. Each child that is in the school zone is allocated funding that is to be used for property development. Unfortunately the funding provided by the Ministry doesn't even cover building costs to provide the most basic of space. A funding deficit of 20% is a common thing to see.

The 5 and 10 year building planning that is going on at the moment is a pretty crucial time where school building and maintenance priorities are set.

The priorities that will be addressed in this funding cycle are:

- refurbishment of older classrooms 17&18 at a cost of approx \$115,000
- School security upgrade at an approx cost of \$9,000
- The development of a new staff room which includes specific meeting spaces
- Drainage improvement of the field
- Fitness trail around the school
- Change boiler from coal to gas at an approx cost of \$65,000
- Continuation of landscaping and overall beautification
- Addition of more shading for sun protection.

It is very much a fluid environment with funding these priorities, some things must be done more urgently than others, and of course some items crop up unexpectedly.



### Ongoing Work In Progress for the Board of Trustees at the moment:

- Presentation and review of mid-year academic reporting
- Review of policies and planning of the property area
- Discuss and formalize the 5 and 10 Year property priorities
- Review of workplan HR audit
- Review of Health & Safety
- Ongoing planning for Board succession in 2010
- Revisit of 2008 ERO recommendation report

Board of Trustee meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. These are public meetings so please feel free to attend if you wish.

If you'd like to give any feedback or information to your Board we can be contacted on [BOT@redbeach.school.nz](mailto:BOT@redbeach.school.nz)

### Red Beach School Board of Trustees

Chair: Jane Finlayson      Principal: Lesley Tait  
Deputy Chair: Malcolm Haggerty

Parent Elected Members: Andrew Mount, Lance Wakerley, Antony Wentworth  
Acting Principal: Sarah Martin      Staff Trustee: Denise O'Reilly