

September 2009

Campbells Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The kowhai at the front gate has already bloomed and faded. Spring seems to have well and truly arrived – earlier and warmer than ever, it feels. And like all things seasonal and cyclical, this is an appropriate time to report to you on what the Board has been considering during the winter strategic planning exercise we undertake annually.

Strategic Planning

Every year the Board takes time out to reflect, discuss and plan for the future. This year has been no different. Since our last strategic planning exercise, we have had the useful contribution of an Education Review Office (ERO) review of the school and also the invaluable input from both teachers and parents through surveys into the quality of service we provide, and aspects of the school environment at Campbells Bay School. This ensures we have a variety of inputs into assessing the performance of the school, and reveals patterns, trends and issues to be addressed.

The ERO review was undertaken in October 2008 with a theme of continuous improvement. With the implementation of the new curriculum due for 2010, this theme has been a consistent mantra as we focus on introducing this change throughout the school. The new curriculum vision at Campbells Bay School is ‘Growing learners for life. Learners for life are effective: communicators, thinkers, self managers, and citizens who strive for excellence.’ The school is well prepared for the start of the new curriculum in 2010, thanks to the invaluable work of Teresa Burn and her team who have started from the bottom up and developed a curriculum - for our school, by our school. It has been tested through 2009, and we are very well prepared as we can be for the roll out next year.

The expansion of technology at Campbells Bay continues, as we increase the number of digital classrooms in the coming years. It is anticipated that Year 5 will be completed in 2010, and Year 4 in 2012. It has been identified as an area that will require growing financial support to appropriately train staff and fit out classrooms.

Student achievement has been a major focus of the school, and as will have been seen in the new Student Achievement Guide, constantly being refined to improve the processes by which the school measures and reports on the progress of students. ERO highlighted the shift to focus more on personalised learning, and targeted strategies are being developed to better meet the needs of students to achieve their full potential. This, of course, requires monitoring to ensure we are effective in this.

A major feature of CBS's organisation today is classroom release time (CRT) for teachers, which provides the school with the opportunity of specialist teachers for classes, eg art, drama, dance and music. ICT also has a teacher assigned, as more classes have become digital. In addition, there are increased hours for teacher aides to work with children on specific programmes based on need. Teachers are also released from classrooms for particular responsibilities, such as sport and cultural activities.

Campbells Bay has an extremely high calibre of teaching staff, and we are ever appreciative of this fact. The work load on teachers is significant, and with the change of curriculum, likely to create further demands on their time and energy. We acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of all our staff, and through your awareness and support, as well as CRT, hope we have a smooth and positive transition through the coming year.

A new area of performance assessment that the latest strategic plan specifies is that the Board measures and assesses its own performance - to ensure that the implementation of the strategic plan is being undertaken in a timely and effective manner.

Energy Efficiency Audit

The Board has instigated an investigation into energy efficiency measures CBS could take, as schools can potentially save 10-20% of energy costs by using energy more efficiently and using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. An energy audit will shortly be undertaken to identify and prioritise a work plan of energy saving measures CBS could instigate over time, such as lighting, insulation, pool heating, technology energy use, as well as heating classrooms.

The confirmed CBS Strategic Plan 2009/10

This available on line (ultranet.campbellsbay.school.nz – under Board). Your comments and feedback are most welcome.

Uniform

We cannot forget to mention the introduction of the compulsory school uniform which is also fast approaching. We hope you have taken time to view this on the school's website. There will soon be opportunity for viewing, fittings and ordering the uniform at school. We thank all those who have assisted in the process of reviewing, selecting and overseeing production of the uniform. It has contributed enormously to the outcome.

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