

Campbells Bay School Board of Trustees

Newsletter

December 2009

As we approach the end of the year, the Board of Trustees would like to take the opportunity to wish all those associated with Campbells Bay School a very happy Christmas, a well-earned break after a busy year, and a peaceful and safe holiday.

At Campbells Bay our success as a school comes from the body of families that support the students and the school throughout the year. This is evident in any activity the school undertakes – the generous and willing contributions are everywhere. Be it parent help in classrooms, Waterwise instructors, community forest weeding, lunchroom, discos, library, resource room, class trips, walking school buses, road patrols... the list is endless. But more than that, our children arrive at school ready and prepared, willing to learn and to participate positively in school life. This is an enormous contribution to the business of the school, and the results show it. Campbells Bay students consistently outperform the national average and the standards set for “schools like ours”.

There has been much mention of the new National Standards in the media recently. As a Board we believe that the most important measure is the progress of each individual child and how we as a school can contribute to their learning by setting relevant and realistic targets. Campbells Bay students have many learning advantages and most already achieve well in excess of the national standard. Therefore the school will continue with its business, will meet and exceed the Standards as required by the Ministry of Education and also continue to refine student assessment to determine the next learning steps for every child throughout their years at CBS.

Of course the results at CBS could not be achieved without our superb and professional body of teachers. They provide quality instruction and guidance to our children with clear and appropriate reporting back to our parents, the calibre of which would be hard to match. We acknowledge dedication of our teachers and the standards they set along with their willingness to adapt and continually improve the service that is provided by CBS. This year has seen the growth of technology in the classroom, the refinement of reporting systems to parents and caregivers, the preparation and trialing of the new curriculum which is due to be implemented next year.

In the context of continually striving to improve our performance, the annual survey of teaching staff was undertaken at the beginning of this term. This survey aims to ascertain how teachers feel about the school and the environment in which it operates. It considers many aspects, including the adequacy of resources, level of work pressure, encouragement of innovation, levels of professional support, participation in decision

making processes, and so forth. The Board are delighted with results this year which show that generally, the school has improved in most areas when compared to last year. Even better, in the 16 years this survey has been undertaken, ALL areas have shown good improvement. It indicates a school where there is good rapport between teachers and students, students are respectful and self-disciplined, teachers are well supported both in resources, collegially and professionally, and that teachers have sufficient freedom and encouragement to be innovative and be involved in decisions. All the while teachers have also been continually improving their performance outcomes. We are delighted and deeply appreciate the commitment of teachers at CBS.

For the year ahead the Board is undertaking a review of the Information services /technology available in the school and has budgeted for increased expenditure in hardware and training to keep CBS abreast of the rapidly changing requirements in this area.

Next year will also see the unveiling of the compulsory school uniform for CBS students. Based on the existing uniform, there will not be a significant change in appearance, apart from the fact that all children below Year 5 will be wearing it, and throughout the whole school by 2012. We appreciate the time and effort people have made to order the new uniform at this very busy time of year. The compulsory uniform was the result of very strong support from those parents/caregivers whose children will inherit the new system.

We thank you for your support in this introductory phase. We also thank those who have worked hard in developing and implementing the new uniform code. Every effort has been made to ensure the uniform as cost effective as possible.

In conclusion, we wish all the Campbells Bay School community a happy and safe holiday and joyous celebrations for this end of year. We look forward to the challenges of the coming year and thank you all for the support you have provided the school throughout 2009.

Roger Jarrold (Chair)
Michael Holderness
Mary Pottinger
David Cairns
John McGowan
Duncan Millward
Liz Brooks