



LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS [14/12/2009]

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Another great year comes to a close - thank you!

This is the final newsletter for 2009 and I take this opportunity to thank the children, staff and the Elmwood community for what has been another very successful year.

As the school year comes to an end this week, we begin our farewells to a number of our community who will be ending their ties with the school. There will be those parents of our Year six children, as well as some PTA and Board members moving on to new associations with either the two Intermediates or private schools close by. While it is always a busy time of year with end of year activities that involve these people, it is important that we take some time to acknowledge their contribution to the school over a number of years. We are also saying farewell to a Year 6 teacher, Glenn Knight, who is transferring to Napier. Glenn has contributed much to this school over the past 4 years both as a classroom teacher and as our sports coordinator. Best wishes to Gerardine Baxter and to her husband Ian who are expecting their first child in February. Gerardine will have all of 2010 on maternity leave to enjoy the experience!

I expect for many of you the School Production, "*The Tree*", held in the Town Hall last Wednesday evening, highlighted the high levels of participation and opportunity the school offers in many aspects of learning. Looking back over 2009 there are also many exciting moments that have been captured in the School Annual Magazine. Once again we can feel a sense of pride in the school and its wonderful community spirit. The sporting successes, the superb musical events and the many educational and cultural achievements of the children demonstrate the reality of the high levels of motivation, commitment and dedication of the school staff and community. We have a wonderful culture at Elmwood Normal School and it is one we all ought to be proud of.

Tomorrow afternoon we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children. Congratulations to all the Year 6 children who will be receiving awards and a leaving certificate. For almost all of them, they have been part of this school for six years and part of the Elmwood Normal School family. Elmwood Normal School has been their main learning world and they will look back in years ahead with fond memories of the experiences that made a big difference to where they are at today. The music, the drama, the sports and cultural activities along with the everyday learning in the basic curriculum areas have all contributed to the learning package they have enjoyed at Elmwood Normal School. There have been many added activities providing for them some very specialised and exciting learning opportunities.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Claire Peacock Price and the members of Elmwood's PTA, for their energy, commitment and wonderful support throughout the year. To our Board of Trustees thank you for carrying out your important role of governance with such enthusiasm. There has been a much work achieved by the BOT in 2009 particularly in the property and financial aspect of their work. The BOT are now

excited about the new building developments ahead in 2010. Work on a new administration area, extensions to our existing library and new spaces for two resource facilities linking the library and the classrooms within the main block will start in February.

All the staff join with me in wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas with family and friends.

Kevin Gooch, Principal