

Our Board of Trustees

Parents will soon be sending their voting papers into the Returning Officer, for BOT elections in the envelopes provided. Voting papers will be posted out to parents on 28 April and will need to be returned by 7 May before 12 noon. Votes will be counted on 13 May and results will be published on our school website www.elmwood.school.nz, the Returning Officer's website (www.cesl.org.nz) and The Press newspaper.

The school thanks those who are standing for election and we wish them well in their bid to become involved with the governance of the school. The following parents are standing for election:--

- * Cymon Allfrey
- * Robyn Brunton
- * Hamish Evans
- * Linda Gibbs
- * Mike Hickford
- * Lisa Preston
- * David Shearer
- * Simon Wynn-Thomas

I take this opportunity to thank two of our current Board members who are not seeking re-election: Catherine Costelloe and Helen Bradley. Catherine Costelloe has been a Board member since 12 April 2006 and was elected chairperson from the November. Catherine has been an outstanding leader of the Board and the school thanks her for her commitment to the governance role during this time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Helen Bradley for her work and strong support, during her time on the Board.

The Elmwood School community has always been fortunate to be well represented by people who have the motivation and drive to take the governance role involved in education seriously. Those who have served on the Board know that involvement is more than just attending a monthly meeting and once elected the reality of the role differs somewhat to what is often perceived. Although serving as a Board member is a voluntary community responsibility it most certainly does require a significant commitment of time, energy and skill. Being a good employer requires a wide range of expertise from within Board members not only for good governance but also to ensure that the school staff feel valued and supported whilst also firmly respectful of the importance of their role in educating the children. The lines of communication, responsibility and accountability are two way and both employer and employees need to feel confident that they are working in a partnership that brings the quality education that we all strive for.

Those parents who accept Board of Trustee responsibilities bring their knowledge and skills to contribute to the culture of the school environment. It is their chance to make a serious contribution to the school's direction, strategic planning, policy making and education priorities. It is challenging, its hugely exciting because its about children, and it's rewarding because community expectations are realised through the effectiveness of its education governors and the teachers they employ.

While the role sounds rather daunting new members of the Board will receive considerable guidance from the principal and the re-elected members to make the transition period a smooth one. Further, school Boards throughout New Zealand are fortunate to have extensive support through The NZ Trustees Association (NZSTA), a national organisation that represents Boards of Trustees throughout New Zealand. The NZSTA has a major role in providing support services to Boards as they fulfill their responsibilities as trustees and provide excellent support on a range of governance responsibilities including curriculum, finance, industrial, personnel and property. They also provide an excellent training service on roles and responsibilities, charter and strategic planning as well as effective governance guidelines.

The school looks forward to welcoming returning and new members to the Board which begins its governance from 25 May 2010

Finally, thank you to the many parents who supported last week's performance week and the ANZAC commemoration service, held in the school's auditorium last Friday.

Kevin Gooch
Principal