

**23/02/2009**

Literacy Learning

At Elmwood Normal School we want to provide a school-wide focus on writing that has all children writing daily, focusing upon style, structure, grammar and accuracy. Like all NZ schools, we will be using national exemplars and benchmarks to assist us in checking our success levels. Literacy activity involving the school library remains an essential focus of our approach, as books, books and more books are an essential part of literacy learning! Our teachers are also very familiar with the enhancements to learning through a larger range of technologies that are available today.

We want to tap into the imagination and creativity in your children by immersing them in rich language experiences with their teacher and striving to produce finished work of high quality.

Later in the year we will be making good use of events such as 'Book Week' and poetry competitions and school-wide 'Read Arounds' to promote literacy learning.

From the education they receive this year we expect to see our children demonstrate greater fluency of thought, increase imagination in their written work, a conscience for correctness and ultimately develop their own voice as writers. We expect to see children who are competent, independent users of the library who read widely and enthusiastically for pleasure. With our teaching in writing we expect to challenge our children to write with creative flair whilst also understanding and using formal language conventions. We also expect children articulate ideas and opinions clearly and confidently in a range of meaningful ways.

An area that we acknowledge to be an improvement focus for our everyday teaching is in spelling words correctly and developing a spelling conscience in the children. You can help us at home by keeping your dictionary handy and encouraging your children to select the best words to clarify the meaning of what they are trying to communicate, both verbally and in their written work, and helping them to spell these correctly. Parents are asked to check with the teachers about those important words that are used most frequently in children's writing.

These are our objectives and our expectations to ensure your children achieve their fullest potential in literacy learning. You are helping us in the task by sharing your children's experiences at the end of each day, by listening to them reading and encouraging them in their creative writing.

Thanks you for your support.

Kevin Gooch,  
Principal