



LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

[30/05/11]

NATIONAL STANDARDS – MAKING GOOD PROGRESS!

The school has made good progress with the recently introduced Ministry of Education developed National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The teachers deserve much praise for their commitment to the challenge presented to them in 2010, and to their ongoing work this year to enhance reporting procedures. Their approach continues to be proactive and improvement focused. They certainly appreciate the positive support, acknowledgements and constructive feedback provided by the parents. At the March meeting of the Board, senior management provided a detailed report to share the achievement data summaries for the 2010 reporting year. This report identified trends and next steps for Reading, Writing and Mathematics and the school-wide priorities for 2011.

At the end of 2010 achievement data information of National Standard achievement showed that most Elmwood students were reading at or above the Standard for most age or year groups with large groups of students reading well above the Standard. A large majority of our Y6 children who left the school at the end of their time with us were reading material graded three or more years in advance of their chronological age. For the students across the school who were reading below the expected Standard, and need the most help, we are continuing with our endeavours to provide learning support in addition to their classroom teaching and learning programmes.

In Writing, fewer children were writing above expectation in comparison with the proportions of students who were reading above expectation. This was more apparent in the earlier years at school. However improved progress patterns were noted as the children move towards the Y6 level where our end of year data indicated the largest group of students writing above expectation. We know that we need to give stronger focus to those earlier years and we have made Writing the primary professional development focus for 2011.

In Mathematics, sizeable groups of children achieved above the National Standards. Teachers are using strategy grouping arranging throughout the school to assist them focus on the specific learning needs of the children within their learning levels. This approach is making a big difference to their teaching success.

Parents will be receiving achievement reports and progress information at times appropriate to the reporting timeframe requirements for the National Standards. Parents of children in Y4-6 classes can expect to receive a National Standards mid-year report at an interview during weeks 8-10 of this term, and a final report in December that will report on both the National Standards and all other essential learning areas. Y4-6 reporting compares achievement progress aligned to the year level expectations. However, for parents of children in Y1-3 the reporting benchmarks relate to the age of the child. Because the reporting requirement is 'age related' the parents of children in Y1-3 will be receiving reports on a rolling roster throughout the year when a child has completed around 20, 40, 60, 80, 100 or 120 weeks of instruction at school.

Teachers report on whether the child is working At, Above, Below or Well Below the expected level for their age (Y1-3) or class level (Y4-6). As a general guide the children working at their expected level will be working within the Standard for their age or class level. This does not mean that the child has mastered all objectives or parts, but does

mean they can successfully “do the work” within the Standard. The most valuable aspect about the reporting process will be the sharing of what the child can really do, the next steps and how parents can help at home. Teachers will be able to show parents the work samples and explain progress, trends and future learning focus areas.

Many thanks to parents who continue to acknowledge our efforts to “do the best we can” in working through the issues related to National Standards – we are pleased with our progress to date.

Kevin Gooch
Principal