



## LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

[31/05/10]

### Principal's Desk - Preparing for Interviews

[31/5/2010]

Teachers are now preparing mid-year reports to share at "Parent Interviews" that are scheduled for 23-24 June. Because these interviews start at 2pm parents should note that the school will be finishing at 2pm on both days.

Parents will be aware that the teachers will be reporting progress in relation to the benchmarks aligned to the National Standards, and that the progress statements will indicate where the child is at, the next learning steps to be taken, and how parents can support the learning at home. To inform parents more about reporting against the National Standards, the Senior Management Team (Kevin, Richard, Caro and Sandra) invite parents to attend one of two **information sharing meetings planned for Thursday 10th June at 7.00pm and repeated again on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 9:45am (after the Celebration Assembly)**. Both meetings will be held in the **Auditorium**.

The programme for the meetings:

- Introduction to National Standards
- The learning progressions
- How teachers will be making their overall judgements
- The Report format

While there has been a very short timeframe for teachers across the nation to prepare for National Reporting, our teachers have taken a positive and proactive approach towards implementing the Government's stated expectation. At this time there is a "rush" on the training that is being offered externally, and teachers have been under intense pressure to obtain the knowledge needed to prepare for a new approach to reporting. However, they have taken up the challenge and with the support of the senior and lead teacher, staff have engaged in their own self-review to learn what is needed to implement the new approach in time for mid-year reporting. Their training has primarily focused on aligning the National Standards to our current curriculum delivery strategy, and developing for themselves the evidence indicators they will use to assist them make overall judgments of a child's progress status for writing, reading and mathematics.

The training has involved:

- Aligning the Standards to the new curriculum document
- Understanding the Reading, Writing and Mathematics learning progressions Y0-6
- Strategies for gathering evidence of the learning
- Making the *Overall Teacher Judgment* (OTJ) to ascertain achievement levels
- Charting the progress growth and reporting to parents.
- New reporting format

We are expecting that parents will welcome the new form of reporting as it provides much clearer indicators of progress in relation to a set of national benchmarks. We are encouraging parents to bring their children to the parent interviews, as we believe the children's participation in the reporting process will foster a sense of personal ownership for their own learning pathways. The teachers are in a "trial mode" for this rather rushed expectation from Government and are hoping that parents will provide them with constructive feedback that will assist with any refinement or improvements that will add value for our reporting at the end of the year.

Kevin Gooch, Principal