

MOE CAPTIAL WORKS PROJECTS AND EARTHQUAKE REPAIR WORKS

The school has received final compliance documentation for the recently completed administration block upgrade. This project costing \$950,000 has provided for increased storage areas, an upgrade to the library and new reception and office spaces. The finished product certainly looks attractive and well appreciated by the staff, the children, parents and the many visitors we have at school. The project became rather bigger than first anticipated, with a significant number of variations required to gain the compliance certificates required. For example, the costing to upgrade the fire sprinkler system was an “expensive” exercise. The Ministry of Education contributed \$550,000 towards the major construction work and the Board also contributed approximately \$400,000 towards a number of variations - joinery, flooring covers, heat pumps, data, security and consultancy fees.

The school did have one further major building project to complete in the school's Property Works Programme that was planned for the next five year period. This Ministry of Education (MOE) funded project involved the refurbishment and upgrade of the two older junior classroom blocks. The intention was for the school to commence planning for this project later in the year with the view of completing the work by the end of 2012. However, the earthquake issues facing the city have caused significant disruption to the building programmes for all schools in Christchurch. The MOE has now suspended all expenditure on any 5 Year Agreement projects for schools located in Christchurch City, Kaiapoi and Rolleston. The MOE has also included uninsured repairs such as swimming pools, paving (including courts), walkways and boiler houses in this suspension.

This suspension will continue until the implications of the CERA reports on the school network have been fully ascertained. This approach provides time to align with the wider plans for the redevelopment of Christchurch.

Sadly, these decisions do impact on our situation at Elmwood Normal. Clearly, our proposed property project to enhance the older style junior classroom blocks is now on hold, along with any decision on the future of the school's swimming pool. The swimming pool is 100% owned by the Crown and therefore only the MOE can make decisions on its future. However, I guess we are much more fortunate than many other schools who have significantly greater repair needs than us. I will keep you informed of any further developments.