

**02/02/2009**

Welcome to Elmwood Normal School

Welcome to everyone who will be associated with the school for 2009. A special welcome to new families, children, and also Ben Cording, Robyn Forbes and Jo Bray who join our teaching staff.

The school opened today with a roll of 515. It is anticipated that the roll will climb to 580 by the end of the year as new entrants join the junior classes.

At Elmwood Normal School we will provide a secure, caring environment in which every pupil will be encouraged to reach his or her potential. We will promote the realising of individual potential through a motto "to be the best that we can". The school will celebrate ethnic diversity, individual differences and excellence for all children within their potential. Please check out our website later in the week to view the school's Annual Plan for 2009 and also the 2008 achievement report.

Elmwood Normal School's vision is to promote a happy environment where there is a culture of sound values reflecting responsibility, respect, passion and commitment. The focus will be to promote high expectations, academic standards and the delivery of quality teaching and learning programmes. The children will experience a wide range of extra curricula and sporting opportunities rich in challenge, and fun and varied learning chances.

Over the next few weeks parents will be given opportunities to involve themselves in the school's activities and meet the teachers. On the back of the newsletters the term calendar lists the important activities to be held throughout the term. For example, on Friday 13 the school invites the community to an evening family picnic commencing a 5.00pm and concluding at 7.00pm. This popular event provides a chance to meet the school community in a relaxing, fun environment. Bring all the family as well as your picnic and a rug. Further, on 11 February (Y1-3 and 12 February (Y4-6) parents will have a chance to attend a "Meet the Teachers Evening".

We have a hardworking PTA whose fundraising success in 2008 allowed them to complete much needed improvements to the junior playground facilities. They would love to hear from those parents who are interested in becoming a member of the PTA or becoming involved in the school through the various sporting codes we offer the children. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office on how you can do this, or check the PTA section of the website for contact names.

During 2009 parents will receive regular newsletters outlining the happenings in the school, listing the important events that are coming up and celebrating the successes of the children. Newsletters are emailed to parents every Monday (except for short weeks). Please be sure we have your up-dated-e-mail address. The school's website HYPERLINK "http://www.elmwood.school.nz" [www.elmwood.school.nz](http://www.elmwood.school.nz) also provides access to the newsletter and other items. Teachers use the website to share the activities of the classrooms and school-wide events. Please note the website is the school's main communication line to the community and we urge all parents to be regular visitors to it to gain the important information about the events of the school.

Kevin Gooch, Principal